Two Program Tracks to Debut at November Meeting

Attendees at GSA’s upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando will have the option to participate in two day-long, themed series of sessions — the Technology Track on November 20 and the Clinical Interventions Track on November 21 — both of which are new additions to the program for 2015.

Full GSA meeting registrants can attend these sessions at no additional cost; both tracks also offer the option for standalone registrations.

Technology Track
GSA’s Technology Track will encompass a full day of sessions focused on aging, technology, and innovation. Its lineup includes the release of a major federal report on aging and technology, panel discussions, poster sessions, and networking events, plus the Dolphin Tank — a unique opportunity for participants to pitch an idea that will improve the lives of older adults.

“This track provides an opportunity for GSA members to collaborate with researchers and entrepreneurs to develop evidence-based evaluations of technology which may impact older adults and their caregivers, said Quinn, a convener of GSA’s Technology and Aging Interest Group. “Especially important will be discussions of scientific methods and approaches which can address rapid changes in technology interventions.”

The Dolphin Tank session will feature two-minute pitches from six aspiring or experienced entrepreneurs about their aging-related product, leveraging technology and innovative partnerships between schools of social work and community members. Highlighted projects from among the many in progress at each center can be found at the conclusion of this article.

Social Work Centers Accelerate Practice Change

A nationwide transformation of social work education and practice is underway, thanks to ongoing efforts at centers enabled by a 2013 grant from The John A. Hartford Foundation to GSA. The three-year, $1.35 million grant created the GSA-based National Center on Gerontological Social Work Excellence, which subsequently selected five schools — Boston College, Hunter College, the University of Michigan, the University of Southern California, and the University of Washington — as the locations for Hartford Centers of Excellence in Geriatric Social Work.

Since their creation, each center has been committed to improving the link between social work practice and education to strengthen services that improve the health of older adults. To date, their activities — which have concentrated on underserved populations and are guided by community-based advisors and older adults who need services — have gained momentum by...
From the Executive Director

GSA Working to Expand Immunization Neighborhood

By James Appleby, BSPharm, MPH • jappleby@geron.org

Have you gotten your flu shot yet? Flu season in the Northern Hemisphere is just around the corner. I always get mine in early October and I urge all GSA members to consider doing the same. You will be protecting yourself, your loved ones, and your community.

In the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as many as 50,000 people—most of them age 65+—die each year as a result of vaccine-preventable illnesses and their complications. Pneumonia and influenza are the country’s fifth leading cause of death in older adults. These statistics were part of the impetus behind the development of GSA’s National Adult Vaccination Program (NAVP) in 2011.

Another driving force is the belief that increasing older adult immunization rates requires an interdisciplinary approach—something for which our Society is ideally suited. Just look at the complementary nature of our members’ work: those in the Health Sciences Section are likely to be the ones administering immunizations; many in our Biological Sciences Section have expertise in the research and development of innovative vaccines; some of our Behavioral and Social Sciences Section members research behaviors concerning medication use and immunizations; and some members of the Social, Research, Policy, and Practice Section are helping shape policies that could improve disease prevention efforts and immunization rates.

This fall, the NAVP is launching an e-newsletter and convening two major events: an Immunization Champions, Advocates, and Mentors Program (ICAMP) Academy designed to equip health care professionals from many disciplines to champion adult immunization practices in their health systems, and a summit that seeks to address key elements of the new U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ draft National Adult Immunization Plan.

During the summit, one of our objectives (among several) will be to expand the range of disciplines in the “immunization neighborhood” that advocate and facilitate older adults getting an annual flu vaccination.

The concept of the immunization neighborhood is something I feel GSA members should become familiar with, because you can be an active part of it. This term was coined by the American Pharmacists Association, which defines it as “collaboration, coordination, and communication among immunization stakeholders dedicated to meeting the immunization needs of the patient and protecting the community from vaccine-preventable diseases.”

By bringing new disciplines into the neighborhood, we can bring professionals together who may not have thought they had a role to play in increasing adult immunization rates. For example, 25 years ago, few people would have thought they’d be going to a pharmacist to get an immunization. Now it’s commonplace.

Where else can we make similar progress? I’m not suggesting that every gerontologist directly administer shots—but their education and experience make them excellent advocates for getting immunizations. For example, why can’t social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, or psychologists (to name a few) broach the topic with older adults they interact with? This is what it means to expand the immunization neighborhood.

And our efforts go beyond the flu, too. The program for the new ICAMP Academy focuses on five vaccines: influenza, pneumococcal, hepatitis B, combination tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap), and herpes zoster (also known as shingles).

Ultimately, any GSA member can be an advocate for ensuring that older adults get properly immunized. It can even be as easy as asking one short question: Have you gotten your flu shot yet?

World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics
July 23 to 27, 2017
www.iagg2017.org

Next date to remember: April 1, 2016
Abstract submission period opens
New Books by Members


Members in the News

• On August 9, GSA Fellow Eric Kingson, PhD, wrote an article for the Asbury Park News about expanding Social Security and better protection from inflation in a piece titled “Social Security Works for Millennials.”

• Rose Ann DiMaria-Ghalili, PhD, RN, co-authored an article in the July/August issue of Today’s Geriatric Medicine. The piece, titled “Malnutrition Vigilance During Care Transitions,” discussed the importance of malnutrition screenings in hospital discharge procedures.

• Roger Fillingim, PhD, was interviewed for a Reuters article published on June 30. The piece, titled “Many Older Adults Have Persistent Pain After Car Crashes,” looked at how older adults fare with daily activities after a car accident.

Colleague Connection

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Suzanne Segerstrom, PhD
The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member (referred Paul Geiger, MS), was randomly selected using randomizer.org. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion visit www.geron.org/connection.

Member Spotlight

GSA’s website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on: Alan Stevens, PhD
Visit www.geron.org/membership to ask questions and read previous interviews. Connection promotion visit www.geron.org/connection.

Cutler Receives Fulbright Specialists Award

Former GSA President Stephen J. Cutler, PhD, an emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Vermont, has been selected for a Fulbright Specialists Project in Romania at the University of Bucharest in October 2015. Cutler will work with the faculty of sociology and social work at the university’s new master’s degree program on aging. Cutler is one of more than 400 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel aboard this year through the Fulbright Specialists Program.

Cullinane Tapped to Head Retirement Organization

Patrick C. Cullinane, MS, has retired as director of the University of California, Berkeley Retirement Center and is now president of the board of directors of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). AROHE is a network that advocates for, educates, and serves campus-based organizations for retired faculty and staff. The group promotes a culture that values and encourages retirees’ continuing contributions to campus and community life.

Davies Earns ‘Triple Crown’ Distinction

GSA Fellow Kelvin J. A. Davies, PhD, has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, completing what is known as the “triple crown” of British research recognition. In 2014 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and, in 2012, a fellow of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Davies is the chair of GSA’s Biological Sciences (BS) Section Fellowship Committee, chair-elect of the BS Section Membership Committee, and a member of the BS Section Executive Committee. He is also dean of faculty and of research at the University of Southern California’s Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. Davies’ research focuses on adaptive homeostasis declining or even failing in old age, which predisposes adults to a multitude of debilitating, degenerative diseases. Davies is mapping the mechanism(s) by which this occurs and looking for methods to delay or even prevent the decline.

Anderson Steps Down from CDC Post

Lynda Anderson, PhD, has retired from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after 30 years of service. She served as the director of the Healthy Aging Program in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at CDC since 2007. She is also an adjunct associate professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Anderson has produced more than 150 publications, including peer-reviewed manuscripts, book chapters, and invited articles. She served as the lead for CDC’s Healthy Brain Initiative, and co-led the development of two Road Maps in 2007 and 2013. She played a key role in developing the 2007 special issue of Alzheimer’s & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association titled “The Healthy Brain and Our Aging Population: Translating Science to Public Health Practice,” and the 2009 special issue of The Gerontologist titled “Promoting Cognitive Health in Diverse Populations of Older Adults.” Most recently, she served as the scientific lead of the Healthy Brain Research Network, a Prevention Research Center thematic research network.

GSAConnect Corner

Below are highlights from recent discussions on the GSA Connect online networking platform. Join the conversation at connect.geron.org! Here’s what members have been talking about:

• Ronica Rooks, PhD: “Try to connect with department and other university faculty members who have similar research interests to you. Ask them if they need some research help to gain experience working on research articles, in exchange for co-authorship. This effort could lead to some needed publications prior to going on the job market.”

• Yukari Hattori, MD: “If I allow all my patients to switch to apixaban from warfarin, the Japanese government will have more debt. Therefore, I often struggle and I wish I could just prescribe any medication for my patients without thinking about the costs.”
This column is devoted to the sessions that will be featured in GSA’s popular Policy Series at the Annual Scientific Meeting next month in Orlando. They reflect timely topics challenging the field of gerontology and feature some of the foremost researchers, policy analysts, and aging advocates in the nation.

In addition to presentations on developing effective aging public policy, workforce development and training, malnutrition, and skin health, we’re offering two sessions connected with recent issues of GSA’s policy quarterly, Public Policy & Aging Report.

And once again we’ll be joined by Capitol Hill staffers who will update our members on the year’s legislative developments and the outlook for 2016. With the presidential election to occur before our next conference in New Orleans, we’ll also have a panel explore relevant and politically viable proposals that a candidate could make a part of her or his policy agenda.

Make sure to check your conference bag for a special Policy Program insert that details these and many other policy-focused posters, papers, and symposia at our November meeting!

**International Perspectives on Workforce Development and Training for Older Workers**

**Thursday, November 19, 8:30 to 10 a.m. • Southern Hemisphere 4**

In an effort to ensure the adequacy of social welfare and pension systems and maintain continued economic growth, many countries have implemented policies to encourage people to remain in the labor force at older ages. For older workers to remain competitive in a knowledge based global economy, the provision of workforce development opportunities is essential. This session will discuss policies and practices implemented to encourage work at older ages and provide an overview of workforce development and training programs and policies in Australia, Germany, Sweden, the U.K., and the U.S. Labor market barriers to older workers’ participation in skills development and maintenance and public and workplace policies aimed at overcoming such barriers will be discussed. The benefits of participation in adult education programs will also be examined.

**Co-chairs:** Phyllis Cummins, PhD, Miami University and Scripps Gerontology Center; Philip Taylor, PhD, Federation University of Australia

**Speakers:** Juergen Deller, PhD, Leuphana University of Lueneburg; Bob Harootyan, MS, MA, Senior Services of America, Inc.; Suzanne Kunkel, PhD, Miami University and Scripps Gerontology Center; Clary Krekula, PhD, Karlstad University; Sarah Vickerstaff, PhD, University of Kent; Christopher Phillipson, PhD, The University of Manchester

**Understanding Patient and Caregiver Perceptions of Malnutrition**

**Thursday, November 19, 1:30 to 3 p.m. • Southern Hemisphere 4**

This session was developed by GSA and supported by Abbott.

This session will highlight the results of a recent national survey that explored patient and caregiver perceptions about malnutrition. The panel will share the survey findings, including insights about risk factors for malnutrition, its impact on patients and care providers, and ways that families, patients, and caregivers might be educated about the causes, consequences, prevention of and interventions for malnutrition. Copies of the survey-based report, “Profiles of an Aging Society: Malnutrition,” developed by GSA’s National Academy on an Aging Society, will be disseminated to the audience.

**Chair:** Nancy Wellman, PhD, RD, FADA, Tufts University

**Speakers:** Alex Lewin-Zwerdling, PhD, AARP Foundation; Rose Ann DiMaria-Ghalili, PhD, RN, CNSC, FASPEN, Drexel University; Lura Barber, MPP, NCOA; Robert Blancato, MPA, National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

**Re-Framing Aging: Why Is It So Hard To Get Traction On Policies Important To Older Adults?**

**Thursday, November 19, 3:30 to 5 p.m. • Southern Hemisphere 4**

Recent studies by the FrameWorks Institute have found a set of persistent, deeply held beliefs that inform public thinking on aging and older adults. Unfortunately, many of these perceptions do not comport with the realities of older adults as reported by experts. More importantly, some of these misunderstandings lead people to believe that public policies supportive of older adults’ well-being are futile or ineffective — therefore limiting support for policies that are vital to the well-being of older adults and the society of which they are part. This session will review findings from a series of cultural and communications studies. The panel will focus on the deep cultural understandings that shape public thinking on these issues and the implications of these ways of thinking about older adults for our collective. They will explore approaches that can be used to address these barriers to understanding as part of an effort to move towards more effective aging public policy. In addition, results from a complementary study that analyzes how the media, as well as members of aging organizations, frame issues of aging and older adults, will be presented. The research was inspired by a collaborative of leaders from eight national aging organizations, including GSA, and supported by seven foundations.

**Chair:** Laura Robbins, MBA, Laura A. Robbins Consulting, LLC

**Speakers:** James Appleby, BPharm, MPH, The Gerontological Society of America; Nathaniel Kendall-Taylor, PhD, The FrameWorks Institute

**Aging Policies and New American Families**

**Saturday, November 21, 8 to 9:30 a.m. • Southern Hemisphere 4**

This session considers two pressing questions about the alignment between old-age policies and family wellbeing in the U.S.: first, what does the growing diversity of families in the U.S. mean for aging policies? Second, what does the growing economic inequality among American families mean for aging policies? This panel will address
these questions, drawing on national and qualitative data to examine the strengths and vulnerabilities of traditional, multigenerational, single parent, and immigrant families. The panelists will explain what is at stake for these families as they contemplate public and private options for social, health and financial supports of their aging members. The panel also will discuss implications for specific aging policies (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.), key dimensions (e.g., eligibility, coverage, organization, and financing), and possible solutions. 

**Co-chairs:** Jacqueline L. Angel, PhD, University of Texas at Austin; Richard A. Settersten, Jr., PhD, Oregon State University

**Speakers:** Linda Waite, PhD, University of Chicago; Madonna Harrington Meyer, PhD, Syracuse University; Judith Treas, PhD, University of California, Irvine; Merrill Silverstein, PhD, Syracuse University

**Congressional Aging Issues Update**
Saturday, November 21, 1 to 2:30 p.m. • Southern Hemisphere 4
This session will provide an update on aging and health legislation in 2015. Speakers will address key issues such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act. The panel will also reflect on the policy outcomes of the 2015 White House Conference on Aging.

**Moderator:** Brian Lindberg, MMHS, GSA Policy Advisor

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**Skin Health: Partnerships, Research, and Policy to Promote Healthy Skin Across the Life Course**
Saturday, November 21, 3 to 4:30 p.m. • Southern Hemisphere 4
Join the Global Coalition on Aging for an interactive panel and audience discussion about skin health as a priority for 21st-century active aging. During the session, you will learn about new research on the importance of skin health, and the prevention, treatment, and management of skin conditions as a path to active aging. Through your participation, you can help shape the agenda for research, public policy, and innovation to ensure a life course of healthy skin.

**Chair:** Michael W. Hodin, PhD, Global Coalition on Aging

**Election 2016: How Should Candidates Better Address Aging Issues?**
Saturday, November 21, 5 to 6:30 p.m. • Southern Hemisphere 4
This session will frame the 2016 elections from the aging advocate’s perspective. The panel will discuss key issues that the next president and congress will face, and explore relevant and politically viable proposals that a candidate could make a part of her or his policy agenda.

**Moderator:** Brian Lindberg, MMHS, GSA Policy Advisor

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**Clinical Interventions Track**
The Clinical Interventions Track will feature the latest research findings to inform clinical practice and care for older adults, and offer up to seven continuing education credits.

To determine the lineup of sessions, Health Sciences (HS) Section Chair Meg Bourbonniere, PhD, RN, and Chair-Elect James Ashton-Miller, PhD, reviewed accepted abstracts for the meeting and selected those that would be valuable to individuals working in clinical settings. The program is intended to appeal to a broad range of clinicians, such as nurses, physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, and others — including non-GSA members based in Florida.

“The idea for this experimental track was initiated by HS Section leadership, based on our belief that GSA has a lot to offer clinicians by providing them insight into the latest research driving clinical interventions across disciplines,” Bourbonniere said. “We’d love to increase clinician membership in GSA.”

Attendees can expect to learn how to enhance patient care, discover the connection between research and practice, and network with multidisciplinary experts on aging.

The CME credits will be provided for the following types: Physicians Category 1 Credit, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, or a General Certificate of Attendance.

The topics that will be covered include fluid intake and dehydration; antibiotic prescribing and stewardship in nursing homes; behavioral interventions to prevent or slow decline in at-risk older adults, and hip fracture recovery among men and women; international studies of oral health; exercise to promote health; and the evidence behind prevention efforts for the older population.

To learn more about the sessions in the Clinical Interventions Track, visit www.geron.org/clinical.
Since 2000 and has supported more than 200 doctoral fellows and faculty scholars who are helping to build a workforce of social workers trained and educated in geriatrics.

“An estimated 220,000 licensed social workers provide services to older adults and their families in the U.S., but only five percent have specialized in gerontology,” Harootyan said. “Not only have the centers maintained the momentum of progress made by the GSWI, but they have had a tremendous impact on transforming social work education, training, and practice.”

The National Center has been steered by a National Advisory Board chaired by GSA Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section Chair Barbara Berkman, DSW, PhD, who also served as the national program director for the GSWI’s Scholars Program. The board’s members also include former GSA President Lisa Gwyther, MSW, LCSW, of the Duke University School of Medicine; GSA Fellow J. Taylor Harden, PhD, RN, FAAN, the program director of GSA’s National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence; former GSA Treasurer Nancy Kropf, PhD, MSW, of the Georgia State University School of Social Work; GSA member Ken Schmader, MD, of the Duke University School of Medicine; and GSA Fellow Nancy L. Wilson, MA, MSW, of the Baylor College of Medicine.

Hartford Center of Excellence in Geriatric Social Work at Boston College

Under the leadership of James Lubben, DSW, MPH, this center is committed to training future generations of social work practitioners and faculty; building bridges between academia and practitioners within the field; and providing leadership to utilize new research in shaping policy and practice.

Example project: BC Talks Aging
BC Talks Aging offers free access to a series of modules provided by established scholars in Boston College and practitioners in the field of social work. The primary aim is to provide learning opportunities for those who wish to gain knowledge and resources on the issues related to aging.

Healthy Generations Hartford Center of Excellence in Geriatric Social Work (at the University of Washington)

Under the leadership of Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, PhD, this center aims to reduce health disparities and promote quality of life of older adults and families in vulnerable communities — within a multigenerational context — through interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaborations in practice, education, policy, and research.

Example project: Hidden Strengths: Intergenerational Trauma Informed Kinship Care Practice Model and Training Initiative
This center has developed a training and practice model for Child and Adult Protective Services workers, the long-term goal of which is to eliminate the silos in human services and to serve families in ways that stop the cycle of passing traumatic experiences from one generation to another.

University of Michigan Hartford Center of Excellence in Geriatric Social Work

Under the leadership of Ruth Dunkle, PhD, MSW, this center aims to create and maintain community partnerships; to build bridges to local social service professionals who work in low income senior housing; to enhance quality of care for older adults statewide who are part of Michigan's Community Mental Health system; and to enhance quality of care to older adult patients and caregivers in large health care systems.

Example project: Training service coordinators
This program supports local social service professionals who work in low income senior housing, including the Village Model, to improve geriatric service delivery. This includes a partnership with the Hannan Foundation in Detroit, which currently employs or supervises 40 service coordinators in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-supported housing in select areas in Michigan, serving approximately 3,500 low-income senior residents.

University of Southern California Hartford Center of Excellence in Geriatric Social Work

Under the leadership of Karen Lincoln, PhD, this center collaborates with community-based agencies that serve historically underserved older adults — particularly those most vulnerable with low incomes and chronic physical and mental health conditions — to help advance evidence-based knowledge, practice, and policy related to wellness and aging.

Example project: Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) comprehensive educational town hall talk shows and health plan information clinics
These programs are designed to reach underserved seniors in high-need communities throughout Los Angeles County and to evaluate beneficiary experience with the CCI and outreach efforts. The town halls are held in a talk show format, which are immediately followed by a CCI Outreach and Engagement Health Plan Information Clinic that provide participants with one-on-one, personal information from representatives of the five participating Cal MediConnect health plans.

Silberman Aging: A Hartford Center of Excellence in Diverse Aging (at Hunter College)

Under the leadership of Carmen Moran, PhD, this center seeks to promote the health and wellbeing of underserved and underrepresented older adults and their families through community-engaged education, research, and advocacy. It is committed to building community partnerships and strengthening community capacity to achieve social justice for older adults in diverse, urban communities — by transforming services across systems to meet the complex and unmet needs of racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, and LGBT older adults.

Example project: Pilot grants program
This center has developed a funding opportunity to promote community-based research that advances psychosocial knowledge in aging and enhances direct and indirect practice with older adults and their families. Selected as part of a competitive process, two academic-community partnerships were awarded one-year grants of $7,500 to support innovative, community-engaged research projects that are consistent with the center’s mission and enhance the health and wellbeing of diverse, under-represented older adults and their families. The selected projects included A Collaboratively Designed Media Based Intervention to Address Memory and Aging Knowledge Gaps among Latino Older Adults in Urban Poor Communities, and Case Management for Frail Elderly: A Program Evaluation of a Social Work Model.
GSA 2015: ESPO Activities and Pre-Planning Tips

By Glenna S. Brewster, PhD, FNP-BC, RN, and Karen O. Moss, MSN, RN, CNL

GSAs Annual Scientific Meeting is taking place from November 18 to 22 in Orlando, Florida, under the theme “Aging as a Lifelong Process.” Below we highlight activities that ESPO members will find valuable. Visit www.geron.org/2015 to find room locations and access the online Meeting Planner.

**ESPO Events**

**ESPO Lounge**
Thursday, November 19, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday, November 20, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, November 21, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Don’t forget to visit the ESPO Lounge, where GSA’s emerging scholars can rest from the hectic conference pace, network with fellow ESPO members, meet with colleagues, enjoy refreshments, and check e-mail on the computers provided in the lounge.

**ESPO Breakfast and Community Meeting**
Friday November 20, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Members will learn about opportunities on how to get involved in ESPO leadership, meet the elected leaders, and network with colleagues. This year, **ESPO members in attendance will elect the 2015-2016 positions of chair-elect and communications chair, as both positions resulted in a tie during the spring elections.** At the beginning of the breakfast, members will cast their vote. The elected leaders will be announced during the breakfast.

**ESPO Awards Presentation and Reception**
Friday November 20, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

All ESPO members and GSA fellows are invited. Recipients of the ESPO Interdisciplinary Paper Award and Poster Awards will be awarded, and National Institute on Aging representatives will be in attendance. Reconnect with friends and meet new colleagues during the reception following the awards presentation.

**ESPO International Task Force Networking Event**
Saturday, November 21, 9:30 to 11 a.m.

All international junior scholars and those interested in international aging research are invited. Attend the event to meet other ESPO members interested in international aging issues.

**Section Symposia**

**ESPO/Biological Sciences Symposium: “The Fires of Aging: Aging and Energy Metabolism”**
Thursday, November 19, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

**ESPO/International Task Force Symposium: “Transition and Progress of Community-Based Programs”**
Thursday, November 19, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

**ESPO/Health Sciences Section Symposium (Technology Track): “Gerotech: The Future is Now”**
Friday, November 20, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

**ESPO Presidential Symposium: “Learning is a Lifelong Process: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Successful Transitions Across a Gerontology Career”**
Friday, November 20, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

**ESPO/Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section Symposium: “Investing in the Direct Care Workforce: A Critical Investment at a Time When Care is in High Demand”**
Saturday, November 21, 8 to 9:30 a.m.

**ESPO/Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Symposium: “The Importance of Gerontological Education Starting Early: Framing the Educational Needs of the Future”**
Saturday, November 21, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

**Mentoring Events**

**Mentoring Consultancies for Emerging Scholars**
Friday, November 20, 3:30 pm to 5 pm

The mentoring consultancies bring students and junior faculty members together with senior faculty, experienced researchers, and GSA leaders to focus on publications or research methodological challenges, share experiences, and develop problem-solving strategies. Pre-registration is required.

**GSA Fellows Mentor Program Breakfast**
Saturday, November 21, 7 to 8:30 a.m.

Thirty mentees will have the opportunity to interact with GSA Fellows in discussing key topics to help foster interdisciplinary connections. E-mail Elena Volpi at evolpi@utmb.edu for more information.

**BSS Fellows/Emerging Scholars Mentoring Workshop**
Saturday, November 21, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

During this informal yet structured workshop, emerging scholars and Behavioral and Social Sciences Section fellows will have an opportunity to discuss strategies in preparing for successful scholarly and professional careers.

**Pre-Planning Tips**

Attending a large conference in such an exciting location can be overwhelming even for the most seasoned conference attendees. Here are a few helpful tips:

- **Create a personal schedule for the conference using the online Meeting Planner.**
- **If possible, identify and arrange in person meetings with potential mentors and collaborators.** Know what you desire from the meeting, then prepare key questions to help clarify whether the individual will be ideal as a mentor or collaborator.
- **Reconnect with colleagues and friends.** GSA is a great place to also meet new peers. This form of networking is hugely important to your personal and professional development.
- **Plan your rest in between attending presentations and exploring Orlando.** Research things to do in Orlando and take advantage of the discounted offers on the GSA website.
- **Most importantly, have a wonderful time at GSA in “The City Beautiful!”**
Funding opportunities

NIH Seeks Time-Sensitive Obesity-Related Proposals
Several federal agencies are sponsoring an accelerated review/award process to support time-sensitive research to evaluate a new policy or program that is likely to influence obesity-related behaviors (e.g., dietary intake, physical activity, or sedentary behavior) and/or weight outcomes in an effort to prevent or reduce obesity. The National Institutes of Health (NIH), along with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Cancer Institute, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, and the National Institute on Aging, intend to support research where opportunities for empirical study are, by their very nature, only available through expedited review and funding. All applications to this must demonstrate that the evaluation of an obesity-related policy and/or program offers an uncommon and scientifically compelling research opportunity that will only be available if the research is initiated with minimum delay. For these reasons, applications in response to this time-sensitive announcement are not eligible for resubmission. It is intended that eligible applications selected for funding will be awarded within four months of the application due date. The first of many due dates is December 10, with a letter of intent due 30 days prior to the application receipt date. Visit 1.usa.gov/1YzmTbQ for more information.

Proposals for Alzheimer's Caregiving Research Welcomed
A funding opportunity announcement from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), also issued by the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Nursing Research, invites applications for basic and translational research on caregiving for individuals with Alzheimer's disease (AD) at the individual, family, community, and population level. The scope of this funding opportunity includes support for applications that propose the following: interventions to reduce caregiver burden and improve patient outcomes across various settings; population- and community-based research on the scope and impact of AD caregiving; improved characterization of informal and formal caregiving and the burden of caregiving across the full spectrum of the disease, including differences among socioeconomic, racial/ethnic and geographic sub-populations; and research addressing the unique challenges related to the provision of advanced AD care, including disparities in access to care. The due date for applications is December 11. To find out more, visit 1.usa.gov/1JmZUoW.

NIA Grant Targets Health Disparities in Alzheimer’s Disease
The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is offering a funding opportunity announcement for studies of health disparities in Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and related disorders. Health disparities research related to AD should include the study of biological, behavioral, sociocultural, and environmental factors that influence health disparities; addressing the challenges faced by informal/family caregivers from diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds that are associated with the growing population of individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease; and understanding the disparities in access to and utilization of formal long-term supports and services for those with dementia. Details may be obtained at 1.usa.gov/1Fd5gby. Applications are due December 17.

Federal Funds Slated for Multisensory Processing Research
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is welcoming research grant applications that elucidate the mechanisms and/or behavioral outcomes of multisensory processing, the integration or processing of at least two distinct types of sensory input as defined by distinct receptor-type transduction, neural pathways, and cognate perceptual quality. Specifically, multiple sensory inputs may include the major traditional modalities of hearing, vision, taste, smell, balance, and touch. Additional submodalities of body senses include but are not restricted to thermosensation, body position and proprioception, pain, itch, and general visceral sensation. The funding opportunity is intended to encourage basic, behavioral, and/or clinical research projects examining the interactions between other neural systems, such as cognitive, affective, or motor processes, and multiple sensory modalities. Applications are due January 5, 2016. Details can be found at 1.usa.gov/1L3acmD.

NIA Calls for Proposals on Stress, Resilience to Address Health Disparities
The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is offering funds to stimulate interdisciplinary health-disparities research related to aging that considers the role that stress, stress response, and stress resilience play in differential health outcomes in priority health disparity populations in the U.S. In particular, this funding opportunity seeks applications proposing to clarify pathways linking stress and aging-relevant health outcomes (e.g., mortality, cognitive impairment, multiple chronic conditions, disability, quality of life) through the investigation of links between environmental, sociocultural, behavioral, and biological factors. Letters of intent are due December 13 and applications are due January 13, 2016. See 1.usa.gov/1NRh7yR for further details.

RRF Accepting Applications for Projects in Aging
Through a responsive grants program, The Retirement Research Foundation (RRF) supports direct service; advocacy; education and training programs for professionals working with elders; and research to seek causes and solutions to significant problems of older adults. The RRF is currently seeking proposals for locally focused projects from organizations based in seven states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin, or Florida. Advocacy, training, and research projects of national relevance are considered from organizations located anywhere in the U.S. The proposal application deadline is February 1, 2016. To learn more, please visit www.rrf.org or e-mail info@rrf.org.
Government of Thailand Creates New Agency for Older Adults

Thailand's Social Development and Human Security Ministry has established an Elderly Affairs Department to run welfare programs for the country's older adult population, according to the *Bangkok Post*. One of the department's missions will be to open social welfare and development centers across Thailand for citizens aged 60 years or older. To be eligible for benefits, an individual must not be under investigation or being prosecuted for criminal offenses. The regulations also specify that beneficiaries must also not be addicted to drugs or alcohol, nor be diagnosed as mentally ill. Each service center will offer to arrange housing for the older adults. To qualify, applicants must prove they are impoverished, homeless or have no one on whom they can rely for help. Three types of housing will be available: living quarters provided for the elderly free of charge; dormitories where seniors must pay rent at a rate fixed by the department; or living quarters built by an applicant on service center property.

Germany Looks to Immigrants to Stem Demographic Tide

According to an article published in the *Washington Post*, Germany is seeing potential opportunity in the refugee crisis from Syria and other areas of conflict and poverty. The nation is not only confronted with the increase of older adults and therefore decreases in working-age individuals; it is also experiencing a decline in birthrate. Germany has become a large host in Europe for the wave of migrants, with over 800,000 applications expected this year, and government leaders are saying they can manage 500,000 newcomers. Along with industrial leaders interested in the influx in working-age migrants, some German universities are allowing refugees to audit classes for free. The government is offering classes teaching German to migrant children and adults. Due to the expected changing population demographic, with a projected decrease of 13.2 million people in the German population by 2060, the refugees could help Germany confront its long-term battle with population decline.

Aging Prisoners Draw Attention from UK Ministry

According to an article on BBC news, the British government's Prisons and Probation Ombudsman Annual Report reveals that the prisons will need to adjust to address the quickly aging inmate population. The report indicates that natural cause deaths of prisoners increased by 15 percent from 2014 to 2015. The report points out that this increase in older prisoners can be due to longer sentences and additional prosecutions later in life for sexual offences. A Justice Select Committee report in 2013 indicated a national strategy was needed to provide for the needs of older prisoners. Currently, the Ministry of Justice said it was looking at adapting prison regimes appropriate for older prisoners.
Purdue Pharma Releases Team Against Opioid Abuse Website
Purdue Pharma has introduced the Team Against Opioid Abuse website, which is designed to help healthcare professionals and laypeople alike learn about different abuse-deterrent technologies and how they can help in the reduction of misuse and abuse of opioids. Public health experts have stated that opioids with abuse-deterrent properties are an essential component of a comprehensive, evidence-based strategy to reduce opioid abuse that requires coordinated and sustained efforts from the healthcare team along with multiple other players, such as manufacturers, policymakers, regulators, educators, and law enforcement. The 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health reported that, among persons age 12 or older in 2012 to 2013, approximately 68 percent of people who used prescription pain relievers for nonmedical purposes said they got the medicines from a friend or relative, for free, by purchase, or by theft. Using clear graphics and easy to understand language, the website features sections about why it’s critical to deter abuse and how all the members on the healthcare team can make a difference. It also outlines the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) 2015 Guidance on Abuse-Deterrent Opioids — Evaluation and Labeling, which informs drug developers about the agency’s current thinking on what kinds of testing potentially abuse-deterrent opioids should undergo. The Team Against Opioid Abuse website can be accessed at teamagainstopioidabuse.com.

Voters Strongly Support Federal Funding for Cancer Research
Nearly three in four American voters (74 percent) favor increasing federal funding for cancer research, according to the results of a new national survey conducted on behalf of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). The survey results were recently released in conjunction with the AACR’s fifth annual Cancer Progress Report. The report highlights how federally funded research can power progress against cancer and urges Congress and the Obama Administration to implement a strategy for providing annual budget increases of at least seven percent for the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in fiscal year 2016 and thereafter. The AACR Cancer Progress Report 2015 also contains a special section showcasing the advances made against cancer in the previous five years. It emphasizes that although extraordinary advances are being made against cancer, the disease continues to exert an immense personal and economic toll, both nationally and internationally. Additional information can be obtained at www.cancerprogressreport.org and bit.ly/1OfXoIX.
Feds Award $35.7 million to Improve Care for Older Adults

More than $35 million in awards will go to 44 organizations in 29 states to support quality care for older Americans through the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program, a new initiative from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In order to prepare the healthcare workforce to respond to the needs associated with advancing age, awardees identify the specific interprofessional geriatrics education and training needs of their communities and develop a program responsive to those needs. The Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program aims to improve the quality of healthcare for older Americans by changing clinical training environments into integrated geriatrics and primary care delivery systems; training providers who can assess and address the needs of older adults and their families or caregivers at the individual, community, and population levels; and delivering community-based programs that will provide patients, families, and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to improve health outcomes and the quality of care for older adults. Visit the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program webpage at 1.usa.gov/1Ob1eQX to learn more and to see the complete list of grant awards.

Development of Hip Fracture Program Underway in Rochester

With support from the John A. Hartford Foundation, the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) and the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs (ADGAP), the Division of Geriatrics & Aging at the University of Rochester and the Geriatric Fracture Center of Highland Hospital will develop plans for the launch of a national program designed to replicate a collaborative co-management geriatric care model for older adults hospitalized with hip fractures. With geriatrics principles at its core, the program holds promise for improving person-centered care outcomes for older people with osteoporotic fractures nationwide. The initiative will be spearheaded under the direction of Daniel Ari Mendelson, MS, MD, FACP, AGSF, CMD, of Highland Hospital and the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry, with GSA Fellow Richard W. Besdine, MD, of Brown University as principal investigator. William J. Hall, MD, of the University of Rochester co-wrote and sponsored this proposal. The work conducted by AGS and ADGAP will include engaging potential sites for the co-management intervention and refining specific models and tools to integrate geriatrics and orthopedics care delivery, much like what is in place at the Highland Geriatric Fracture Center.

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Meeting the Unique Needs of Older Consumers

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*Funded by a grant from the Winter Park Health Foundation

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**B-CU job posting for Instructor for Aging Studies Program**

**Department:** Bethune-Cookman University, located in Daytona Beach FL, is seeking full-time Assistant Professor for the Petrock College of Health Sciences, Aging Studies Department. This position is ideal for person with a desire to work in a dynamic Gerontology program committed to approaching elder issues and health disparities through teaching, research and outreach.

**Qualifications:** Ph.D. or Doctorate in Gerontology, Aging Studies or related field, or at least a minimum of a Master’s degree in same. Qualified applicant demonstrates a dedicated affiliation with Gerontology through preparation, academic experience, research and leadership.

**Application Procedure:** Interested persons may apply online via the general HR website: [www.cookman.edu/facultyStaff/hr/index.html](http://www.cookman.edu/facultyStaff/hr/index.html). Review of application will begin immediately upon receipt.

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October 2015
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