GSA Adds Voice to AARP Cause

The GSA Council has agreed to support AARP’s new “Divided We Fail” Platform, a campaign advocating policies that will guarantee access to health care and long-term financial security for all Americans. Further details are available at www.dividedwefail.org.

Plans Take Shape for 2008 Conference

GSA’s 60th Annual Scientific Meeting is still nine months away, but now is the time for members to begin preparations. The Call for Papers is now available online at www.agingconference.com and print copies have been mailed. As announced in previous “GSA Announcements” listserv messages, President Lisa Gwyther has designated a theme of “Resilience in an Aging Society: Risks and Opportunities.” Potential presenters are urged to keep this topic in mind when organizing their abstracts. The final submission deadline is March 14th. For more information regarding any of these sessions, contact meetings@geron.org.

The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, MD — a newly completed facility adjacent to Washington, DC — will host the event from Friday, November 21st to Tuesday, November 25th. With 470,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, the Gaylord National is the largest combined hotel and convention center on the East Coast.

Search Committee Members Named

GSA President Lisa Gwyther has announced the lineup for the new Executive Director Search Committee. This body represents the leadership of all sectors of the Society and former President Jack Rowe will serve as chair. Members are encouraged to direct suggestions and comments to their representatives via e-mail.

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e-mail: jwr2108@columbia.edu

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e-mail: pstearns@geron.org

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GSA Elected Staff Representative: Derek Stepp, Director, AGHE
e-mail: dsteppe@aghe.org
The Gerontological Society of America is ringing in the New Year with an initiative aimed toward expanding its policy advocacy efforts in new and exciting ways.

At its 2007 mid year meeting, the GSA Executive Committee charged Executive Director Carol Schutz to develop a proposal for a GSA Policy Advocacy Program. In November, Carol recommended a phased implementation plan that included hiring a consultant who could help “pave the road” for a permanent program. Funding to hire a consultant for one year was approved by Council as part of the 2008 budget.

I am pleased to announce that the contracted consultant is Brian Lindberg, who brings 24 years of experience working in the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and with the Executive Branch. His career focus has been on aging issues. I have worked with Brian over the past 7 years to conceptualize and conduct the very successful Hartford Faculty Scholars Policy Leadership Institute. Brian also works closely with Greg O’Neill, director of GSA’s National Academy on an Aging Society, on the Civic Engagement Project funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies. Brian’s extensive experience and the many relationships he has built over the years will be invaluable to GSA.

We are very excited to be moving GSA’s Policy Advocacy Program forward. We have already begun to think about ways we can take advantage of our Capitol-area 2008 Annual Meeting to highlight policy issues. With the elections taking place just weeks before, the venue and the timing couldn’t be better. It will be a great opportunity to begin examining the impact of the election outcomes on policies affecting aging and gerontological research and education.

As we prepare to launch this new effort, we plan to actively engage the relevant GSA and AGHE committees and task forces, the Annual Meeting Program Committee, and you — our members. Updates will be carried in the forthcoming National Academy section of this newsletter.
APHA Awards Hegeman’s Efforts
Carol Hegeman, director of research at the Foundation for Long Term Care (FLTC), received an honorable mention award from the Archstone Foundation for the FLTC’s training program entitled “Growing Strong Roots: A Peer Mentoring Program for CNAs.” This distinction was given at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in November 2007. The training program prepares experienced CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistant) in nursing homes to mentor new CNAs in the caring skills essential to good care in nursing homes. The program is also intended to increase retention of new CNAs and has been successful in this area. When pre- (before the intervention) and post- (three months after the intervention) retention results were compared in 30 participating diverse nursing homes, the average improvement in retention was 17 percentage points. The training has also been used in assisted living; however, it has not been empirically tested in this area. More information on the training materials and the FLTC’s training services are available by contacting chegeman@nyahsa.org or (518) 449-7883.

In Memoriam
GSA Fellow Herman Blumenthal, a former treasurer of the Society (1960-66) and active member since 1950, died November 5, 2007 at the age of 94. He was a former professor at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. In 1956, Time magazine reported on Blumenthal’s study that found emotional stress was the main cause of hardening of the arteries (arteriosclerosis), then the nation’s number one killer among diseases. At that time, most researchers and practicing specialists believed that arteriosclerosis came mainly from excess amounts of cholesterol. He received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers University. He received a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate in pathology and a medical degree, both from Washington University. In addition to his dedication to his field of medicine, Dr. Blumenthal was active in peace and social justice movements. His causes included nuclear disarmament and, most recently, universal health insurance.

Members in the News
• Several media outlets, including CBC News and UPI, recently quoted Texas A&M University’s Steven Riechman regarding an article from The Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences. He and colleagues at Texas A&M University conducted a study that showed high cholesterol may increase muscle gain from exercise.

New Publication by Members

Demonstration To Help AoA Beef Up Prevention Efforts
As part of U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt’s focus on prevention, HHS Assistant Secretary for Aging Josefina G. Carbonell has announced participation in a demonstration designed to help seniors stay healthy. Nine Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) programs and an Administration on Aging (AoA) Older Americans Act Information and Referral (I&R) program will participate in the Medicare Senior Risk Reduction Demonstration. The project is designed to evaluate whether health promotion and disease prevention programs currently offered by national private insurers and employers can be delivered by the Medicare program to encourage beneficiaries to engage in healthy lifestyles and practices that can help them maintain and improve their health and reduce the need for health care services for preventable illnesses, injuries, or complications. For more information about the Senior Risk Reduction Demonstration and the AoA programs participating, please visit http://www.aoa.gov/press/pr/2007/December/12_19_07.asp.

President Signs Omnibus Spending Package for Title VII Programs
Title VII Geriatrics Health Professions Programs will receive approximately $31 million in federal funds in fiscal year (FY) 2008 — about 1.7 percent less than the $31.5 million earmarked for the programs in FY 2007 — under a $555 billion omnibus budget package President Bush signed December 26. A few days later, he signed into law a Medicare bill that, among other things, delays a pending 10 percent physician fee cut that would have taken effect January 1. Although a Medicare demonstration program based on provisions in the proposed Geriatric Assessment and Chronic Care Coordination (GACCC) Act of 2007 had been under consideration for inclusion in the Medicare bill, the program was ultimately dropped from the legislation. It is possible that the demo program could be resurrected when the Senate Finance Committee drafts new Medicare legislation later this year. The Medicare measure also extends the State Children’s Health Insurance Program through March 2009 and makes several changes to the Medicaid program.

Colleague Connected!
This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Lydia Manning
She became eligible after referring new member Molly Prues. The winner was randomly selected using randomizer.org. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion, which includes a chance to win free lodging at the annual meeting, visit www.geron.org/ColleagueConnection.htm

Washington News
New Year’s Resolutions: ESPO 2008

The start of a new year leads many of us to ‘take stock’ of our selves and our lives; thinking about the experiences we have had, and who we have become in the last year. We also think about our goals for the year ahead; what we hope to do, and who we hope to become. New Year’s Resolutions are cultural and personal expressions of the belief that change is always possible; that growth is a choice we make each time we review and evaluate our actions.

So...how does this apply to each of us as ESPO members as we begin this New Year?

1. Before anything else matters, we matter;
2. ‘self’ reflection is critical to understanding ourselves. When we understand ourselves we can make professional and personal decisions that ‘feel right’ from the beginning. Decisions made ‘self’ reflectively represent an integration of our thoughts, our feelings, and the concrete realities of a situation;
3. ‘self’ evaluation is an act of personal courage—to appraise ourselves, honestly assessing what we have done well or poorly, didn't do but should have, or did do but shouldn't have—requires unflinching ‘self’ scrutiny. ‘Self’ evaluation is ‘self’ caring; it is taking responsibility for our own life(s) expressed through our actions, choices and decisions. We can only take care of our ‘self(ies) when we know who we are.

This is a new year for ESPO. We have begun to ‘self’ reflect and become. New Year’s Resolutions are cultural and personal goals for the year ahead; what we hope to do, and who we hope to become in the last year. We also think about our selves and our lives; thinking about the experiences we have had, and who we have become in the last year. We also think about our goals for the year ahead; what we hope to do, and who we hope to become.

We resolve to make opportunities to become seen and known as credible scholars and professionals, both at our home institutions and organizations and within GSA.

3. We resolve to be our own best friends, colleagues, and mentors; sharing with one another our time, ideas, support, career tips, etc. by e-mail (phone, in-person, if possible), building a national network of professional support for one another.

Suggested New Year’s Resolutions: As Emerging Scholars and Professionals

1. We want to become integral to GSA, building on the recognition that we are the future of the organization. We resolve to establish mentoring relationships that will support us in our scholarly and professional endeavors; and will distinguish us as credible voices in gerontology.
2. We believe that often opportunities come because we have created them. We resolve to make opportunities to become seen and known as credible scholars and professionals, both at our home institutions and organizations and within GSA.

Improving Practice Through Research In and About Assisted Living: Implications for a Research Agenda

- Rosalie A. Kane and Keren Brown Wilson

- Historical Evolution of Assisted Living in the United States, 1979 to the Present
- Keren Brown Wilson

- The Place of Assisted Living in Long-Term Care and Related Service Systems
- Robyn I. Stone and Susan C. Reinhard

- Definition and Classification of Assisted Living
- Sheryl Zimmerman and Philip D. Sloane

- Defining Quality in Assisted Living: Comparing Apples, Oranges, and Broccoli
- Catherine Hawes and Charles D. Phillips

- Dementia and Assisted Living
- Joan Hyde, Rosa Perez, and Brent Forester

- Physical Environments of Assisted Living: Research Needs and Challenges
- Lois J. Cutler

Families and Assisted Living

- Joseph E. Gaugler and Robert L. Kane

- Improving Health Care for Assisted Living Residents
- Robert L. Kane and John R. Mach, Jr.

- Assisted Living and Special Populations: What Do We Know About Differences in Use and Potential Access Barriers?
- Mauro Hernandez and Robert Newcomer

- Assisted Living and Residential Care in Oregon: Two Decades of State Policy, Supply, and Medicaid Participation Trends
- Mauro Hernandez

- Assisted Living Literature Through May 2004: Taking Stock
- Rosalie A. Kane, Jane Chan, and William Spector

- Developing a Research Agenda for Assisted Living
- Rosalie A. Kane, Keren Brown Wilson, and William Spector

Available for purchase through GSA’s online store at www.geron.org. All members will automatically receive a complimentary copy in the mail.
Ovarian Cancer Research Funding Directory Goes Online
The Gynecologic Cancer Foundation (GCF) has announced the availability of a new online directory intended to connect funding organizations and researchers interested in ovarian cancer. This new tool is now available to serve as a “match maker” between researchers and funding sources. The Ovarian Cancer Research Funding Directory, which contains a list of foundations and agencies that support ovarian cancer research, now is available on GCF’s website at http://www.thegcf.org.

NIH Offers Monies for Heart Disease Exploration
A new funding opportunity from the National Institutes of Health is encouraging the submission of investigator-initiated research applications on the role of nutrition and diet in the causation, prevention, and treatment of cardiomyopathies and heart failure. The overall goal is to develop a satisfactory science base for preventive approaches in high-risk individuals and for rational nutritional management of patients in various stages of heart failure. The deadline for applications is May 7, 2009 and more information can be found at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-136.html.

Government Grants Target Alzheimer’s Disease
The purpose of the National Institutes of Health’s Alzheimer’s Disease Pilot Clinical Trials initiative is to improve the quality of clinical research designed to evaluate interventions for the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease, mild cognitive impairment, and age-associated cognitive decline. The deadline for submissions is January 8, 2011 and more details are available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-062.html.

Arthritis Experts Sought at State Level
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for State Public Health Approaches to Arthritis. Visit www.grants.gov to search for this listing by number, which is CDC-RFA-DP08-806. This FOA marks the beginning of a new phase for state arthritis programs. Over the past 5 years, state health departments have successfully used CDC funding to build arthritis capabilities in state health departments, including collaboration with partners, increasing public awareness, improving their ability to monitor the burden of arthritis, and delivering evidence-based interventions on a limited scale. The purpose of this announcement is to build state arthritis programs that exponentially expand access and use of evidence-based interventions by embedding intervention programs into existing systems, conducting surveillance and partnerships that further program goals. State and local governments or their Bona Fide Agents are eligible to apply.

NIH Aims to Explore Behavioral/Genetic Roles in Disease
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued recently three Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to invite NIH-funded investigators to submit supplement applications to their currently funded research to study how interactions among genetic and behavioral/social factors influence health and disease. This announcement provides the opportunity for current NIH-funded grantees whose research is either (1) social and/or behavioral science-oriented research to add a genetic/genomic component or (2) genetic-focused research to add social and behavioral factors into their research plan. The three announcements are posted at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-065.html, http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-066.html, and http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-067.html.

Gates Foundation Encourages Global Research Thinking
Grand Challenges Explorations is a new five-year $100 million fast-track grants initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support innovative global health research. The initiative will support hundreds of early-stage research projects pursuing creative concepts for new global health solutions, including vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and other technologies for health problems disproportionately affecting poor countries. Projects will initially be funded at the level of US$100,000 each, with the opportunity for additional funding in the future for projects that show promise. The first call for proposals will be posted on the Grand Challenges in Global Health website http://www.gcgh.org in early 2008, along with the list of topics being addressed and application instructions.

Two Year Program To Bolster Mental Illness Knowledge
This National Institutes of Mental Health-funded two-year Postdoctoral Research Training Program provides fellowship training in health services research for older adults with mental disorders. The program is designed for psychiatrists, medical physicians, psychologists, nurses, and social/behavioral scientists who are committed to becoming independently supported mental health services researchers. The program utilizes a productive faculty, diverse patient populations, numerous community-based research sites, the training and research structures of the participating institutions, and a number of collaborating laboratories. The program provides rich opportunities for trainees to learn about mental health services for older adults and health services research methods in diverse community and healthcare settings. Fellows spend two years working with expert faculty mentors in mental health services research and participating in ongoing research; participating in local and national seminars with investigators and postdoctoral fellows at Dartmouth, Cornell and the University of Washington; participating in research presentations and conferences for postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty in mental health services research; developing their own research projects/grants under the mentorship of a faculty member. More details are available online at http://www.mededseminar.org.
"Taking the Next Step: Technical Assistance Workshop" is a 2-day interactive forum for pre and post-doctoral students and recent recipients of Ph.D., M.D. or related doctoral degrees who are members of groups under-represented in aging research. During the workshop, NIA staff and associated faculty members will present information and provide technical assistance on applying for NIA grants. Participants in the workshop, depending on career stage, will have an opportunity to make podium presentations of current or planned research projects, receiving feedback from peers and NIA staff. The Technical Assistance Workshop will be held immediately prior to the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, in Washington, DC on November 20th and 21st. Participation is by competitive application.

Applicants: Applicants may be new to the NIH application process or embarking on an independent program of research. Investigators who demonstrate a commitment to research careers related to minority aging issues are encouraged to apply. Transportation and lodging expenses will be provided for all selected applicants. First-time applicants will be given priority and a modest payment for preparation and participation. Applications must be completed and submitted by July 18, 2008 (postmarked). A recent C.V. must accompany all applications. Individuals who have conducted funded research for more than 5 years, are considered established investigators and/or are former Summer Institute participants are ineligible. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents. To request an application or additional information, please contact Ms. Jamie Gulin at 301-496-0765 or by e-mail at gulinj@nia.nih.gov.
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Mary Palmer
James Peacock
Victor Regnier
Sandra Reynolds
Arlan Richardson
Carolyn Rizza
Jack Rowe
Kenneth Schmader
James Schulz
Carol Schutz
Barbara Silverstone
Betsy Sprouse
Cynthia Stuen
Shirley Travis
Fox Wente
Nancy Whitelaw
John Williamson
Anne Wyatt-Brown
Darlene Yee-Melichar

Schwartz Award Endowment Fund 2007
2006-2008 John A. Hartford Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Scholars and Fellows
Donna Algase
Margaret J. Blum
Frieda R. Butler
Lois Evans
Charlene Harrington
Theresa Harvath
Sarah Kagan
Debra L. Schutte
Neville Strumpf
Margaret J. Wallhagen

Jordan Kosberg
Nancy Kropf
Phoebe Liebig
Nicole MacFarland
Kelly Mills-Dick
Ada Mui
Yunju Nam
Robert Newcomer
Frank Nuessel
Terry Peak
Atlantic Philanthropies
Donna Regenstrief
Sandra Reynolds
Virginia Richardson
Andrew Scharlach
Tracy A. Schroepfer
Edmund Sherman, Jr
Tazuiko Shibusawa
Nina Silverstein
Deborah B Smith
Robyn Stone
Cynthia Stuen
James Sykes
Kathleen Sykes
Annette Totten
Linda Vinton
Donna Wagner
Terrie Wente
Nancy Whitelaw
John Williamson
Nancy Wilson
Donna Yee

Carol A. Schutz ESPO Scholarship Fund 2007
Richard Adelman
Toni Antonucci
Marie Bernard
Robert Binstock
Harold Brody
Robert Butler
Neil Charness
Harvey Jay Cohen
Neal Cutler
Stephen & Karen Cutler
Rita & Edward Effros
Laura Feldman

SRPP Endowment Fund 2007
Gretchen Alkema
Barbara Berkman
Mercedes Bern-Klug
David Biegel
Robert Binstock
Elaine Brady
Kathleen Buckwalter
Sandra Sue Butler
Ruth Campbell
Leitha Chadiha
Caroline Cicero
Tanya Fitzpatrick
Patricki Fox
Z.D. Gellis
Judith Gonyea
Lisa Gwyther
David Haber
Barbara Hirshorn
Nancy Hooyman
Amy Horowitz
Robert Hudson
Sharon Keigher
Eric Kingson

To make a 2008 donation to these funds, please contact geron@geron.org.
2008 AGHE Distinguished Service Recognition
AGHE’s Awards and Executive Committees have designated six persons to be recipients of the 2008 Mildred Seltzer Distinguished Service Recognition. These are individuals who have either already retired or who are approaching retirement and who have, through the years, provided significant service to this Association. The 2008 honorees are:

John A. Belzer, PhD • University of Oklahoma
Elizabeth B. Douglass, MA • University of Maryland Baltimore County
Iris A. Parham, PhD • Virginia Commonwealth University
Novella Perrin, PhD • University of Central Missouri
Charles Schmidtke, PhD • Canisius College
Anthony Traxler, PhD • Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

2008 Administrative Leadership Award Recipients
AGHE’s staff and leadership congratulate Malinda Orlin, PhD, and Scott Bass, PhD, as this year’s Administrative Leadership Award recipients. Dr. Orlin is Vice-President for Academic Affairs & Dean, Graduate School at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Dr. Bass is Dean of the Graduate School and Vice-President for Research at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. The Administrative Leadership Award honors member-school administrators who have made exceptional efforts in support of gerontology or geriatrics education. Drs. Orlin and Bass will be formally recognized and presented their award at the Opening Plenary session of AGHE’s 32nd Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

Young People Envision Their Futures
AARP has announced the results in its "U@50" video contest, which challenged young people to envision what their lives would be like at age 50, and produce short videos that reflected that vision. The contest was sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and ran on YouTube.

The grand prize winner, Ilya Polyaakov, is a 20-year-old film major at Emerson College in Boston, MA. He received $5,000 for his video entitled "When I’m 50..." Second prize (and a $3,000 check) went to Jonathan Reed, 26, a film major at Georgia State University for his film entitled "Lost Generation." The third and fourth place winners are both students at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and produced their videos as an assignment for Prof. William Holt’s class on Adulthood and Aging. Patricia O’Connor, a 21-year-old psychology major, won $1,000 for "Me@50" and Jenny Carreiro, also 21 and a psychology major, won $500 for "Jenny at 50." The fifth place winner, Daniel Pawlik, is 19 and a pre-film and electronic arts major at California State University, Long Beach. He won $500 for his video "The College Years: Episode 50."

All the winning videos and the honorable mentions can be viewed at www.youtube.com/uat50.

Educational Funding Opportunity
HP Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative
The HP Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative is designed to support the innovative use of mobile technology in K-16 education, and to help identify K-12 public schools and two- and four-year colleges and universities that HP might support with future grants. Thursday, February 14, 2008 is the deadline for submitting proposals. See www.hp.com/hpinfo/grants/us/programs/tech_teaching/index.html.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ARCHSTONE FOUNDATION AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROGRAM INNOVATION

As of November 1, 2007, the Gerontological Health Section of the American Public Health Association began accepting nominations for the 2008 Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation. The Award was established in 1997 to identify best practice models in the field of health and aging, to provide recognition for best practice models and to provide an opportunity to highlight best practice models at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association.

Programs that effectively link academic theory to applied practice in the field of public health and aging are eligible for nomination. Nominees should have documented results and can not have been in operation more than ten years. Preference will be given to nominees who have not received prior awards or special recognition.

The program nomination summary must be typed, single-space, and not exceed two pages. The narrative is to include information about the problem being addressed, the population served, the project’s design, partnerships or collaboration, funding, measurable benefits and outcomes. Only one program may be nominated per agency or organization. Please include an electronic copy of the program nomination on disk or CD, readable in MSWord or Word Perfect.

An independent panel will review all nominations. The criteria for award selection will include:
• Creativity in project design;
• Documented outcomes and benefits of the program;
• Replication potential;
• Evidence of collaboration and partnerships; and
• Dissemination strategy.

The winner is expected to register and attend the 136th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in San Diego, California, October 25-29, 2008, and make a professional presentation. In recognition of this achievement and to assist with the travel expenses, the winning organization will receive a $1,000 cash award. Honorable Mention may also be awarded to one or more nominees submitting distinguished programs as judged by the review panel. Each Honorable Mention will receive a $250 cash award.

Nominations are to be postmarked by April 1, 2008 and may be sent or e-mailed to:

Allan Goldman, MPH, Chair, Archstone Foundation Awards Committee
Georgia Division of Aging Services
Assistant Director
Two Peachtree Street, NW, 9th Floor
Atlanta GA 30303
Phone: (404) 657-5254
E-mail: abgoldman@dhr.state.ga.us
Experts in Senior Housing Sought
With funding from the national Alzheimer’s Association, the Central Valley Health Policy Institute, California State University Fresno, and the Foundation for Long Term Care (a research and education entity based in Albany New York) are exploring attitudes of senior housing experts and housing managers about the aging-in-place of residents with dementia and how senior housing programs are addressing racial and ethnic diversity. GSA members with this expertise are requested to complete an on-line survey in this area. The survey is accessible at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XrB_2fj3uP5jZy_2fTdkynUEsNg_3d_3d. Results from this survey will contribute to a report intended to lead a national discussion in the topic. Individual responses to the survey are confidential. Your name and organization will not be identified in reports without explicit written permission from you. Aggregate findings and an analysis, however, will be published and respondents will receive a copy. The survey will close on February 28, 2008.

Video Portrays Alzheimer’s Patients Describing Conditions
A recent gathering of baby boomers with early-onset Alzheimer’s Disease was filmed by PBS. Organized by those affected by the illness, the forum served as a coping device and an educational tool for researchers. To view the video and read the transcript, visit http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/health/jan-june08/alzheimers_01-10.html.

Nationwide Directory Adds New Data
The National Center on Caregiving at Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) has announced the addition of new and updated data in its online Caregiving Across the States resource. The database includes a separate profile for each state and the District of Columbia. Profiles contain the state’s background characteristics related to caregiving and aging, as well as information on publicly-funded caregiver support programs. This interactive database, accessible in map format on the FCA website, is a valuable resource to inform state administrators and policymakers about support programs for family caregivers of adults with chronic illnesses or disabilities. It also allows caregivers and service providers to access information they need to seek assistance and benefits for themselves or their clients. To learn more about the family caregiving landscape in your state, visit FCAs website at http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=12720.

Report Outlines IT Developments
The Alliance for Health Reform’s latest toolkit is designed to report how health information technology is slowly changing health care, and how analysts disagree about the value of some technologies. It offers an introduction to issues such as protecting patient privacy and the cost of new technologies. This resource also offers story ideas for reporters, selected experts with contact information, selected websites of interest and a glossary. To download the toolkit, visit http://www.allhealth.org/publications/Health_information_technology/Toolkit_Health_Information_Technology_78.asp.

AJN Releases Latest in ‘Try This’ Series
The American Journal of Nursing has announced the newest two entries in its “How To Try This” series. To read or view the articles and videos featured this month, go to www.NursingCenter.com/AJNelderadults.

Recognition of Dementia in Hospitalized Older Adults • By Katie Maslow, MSW, and Mathy Mezey, EdD, RN, FAAN
Many hospital patients admitted with an underlying dementia have either never been diagnosed, or have no diagnosis in their records. Because of the numerous increased risks for poor outcomes associated with dementia, the absence of this information is problematic for the patient and for the interdisciplinary team. Recognition of Dementia in Hospitalized Older Adults is a tool that incorporates patient behavior trigger that should alert staff to a possible dementia, and a brief family questionnaire that can better determine functional status and need for further work-up. This article describes the Try This approaches, how to implement them, and how to incorporate them into a hospital’s current admission procedures. For a free online video demonstrating the use of these approaches, go to http://links.lww.com/A216. This video also includes an interdisciplinary discussion outlining specific interventions to improve safety and care of the patient during hospitalization; information to help the family cope with the likelihood of post-operative delirium and the specific plan staff has developed to address that problem; and issues to address in order to manage discharge to home.

Delirium Superimposed on Dementia • By Donna Marie Fick, PhD, APRN,BC, and Lorraine C. Mion, PhD, RN, FAAN
Delirium is common in older adults who have dementia, but too often nurses confuse the symptoms of delirium with those of dementia and it goes unrecognized and untreated. Delirium can signal a serious underlying condition such as infection or dehydration and can increase the risk of falling and the length of hospitalization. This article presents an algorithm meant to guide nurses in the assessment and treatment of delirium superimposed on dementia. For a free online video on delirium demonstrating the use of this algorithm, and the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) go to http://links.lww.com/A209. This video presents two case studies: one a patient with delirium and the other with delirium superimposed on dementia. Viewers will learn key characteristics of behaviors associated with delirium and the urgent nature of identifying and treating the etiology, as well as better understanding how to distinguish delirium from dementia.

“How To Try This” is a collaborative project of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at NYU’s College of Nursing and the American Journal of Nursing. Two topics from the series will be made available each month through December 2008 in cost-free, Web-based resources including demonstration videos and companion articles in the AJN.
Position Description

We are seeking a Director for the Basic Science Section of the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care, who will serve as a leader for an academic unit currently conducting research related to basic mechanisms of atherosclerosis and Alzheimer’s disease with a particular focus on lipoprotein structure, function, and metabolism. Specific qualifications and attributes will include:

• An earned PhD, MD, or equivalent doctoral level degree with a track record of providing leadership for a team of scientists conducting NIH-funded basic research related to aging, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease, or other age-related disorders.

• Academic and professional qualifications that qualify for appointment as an Associate Professor or Professor with tenure, or Tenure-Earning, within the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care.

• A record and reputation for integrity in actions, decisions, and publications, and a commitment to the values of the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care: excellence in the accomplishment of research, education, and service activities; teamwork and the acceptance of responsibilities by all Division members; educating others; developing knowledge in areas relevant to the problems and challenges of the aging population; and providing a supportive work environment that recognizes and encourages innovation and initiative.

• Credentials that support the ability of the candidate to provide visionary and strategic leadership for a basic science research group, with an understanding of how such a group can grow and develop in collaborative and synergistic ways to foster interdisciplinary basic and translational research, research training, education, and service programs that support the mission of the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care, the Department of Medicine, and the School of Medicine.

Environment of Excellence for Basic Science Within the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care

The UAB Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care serves older adults and patients with advanced or life-threatening illness by providing leadership and core faculty for innovative models of clinical care; teaching and instructing students, fellows, and trainees; and conducting research that generates new knowledge contributing to the advancement of science and the quality of life. We carry out these activities in an interdisciplinary and caring manner that always respects the dignity of those we serve.

The Division currently includes twenty-seven physicians, eleven PhD basic scientists, and seven PhD social-behavioral scientists who work together to achieve their common goal of becoming one of the best such programs in the United States. The Division consists of four sections (Geriatric Medicine, Palliative & Supportive Care, Social & Behavioral Science, and Basic Science) and works closely with other UAB programs in aging such as the Center for Aging, Center for Translational Research on Aging and Mobility, Center for Palliative Care, Geriatric Education Center, Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, Geriatric Psychiatry, Southeast Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine, and the Gerontology Education Program.

Division basic biomedical research initiatives include studies of cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in atherosclerosis, thrombosis, and Alzheimer’s disease including the role of monocytes and macrophages, endothelial cells, apolipoproteins, triglyceriderich lipoproteins, dietary factors, postprandial hyperlipidemia, and the anti-atherosclerotic and anti-inflammatory activity of peptide mimics of apolipoproteins. Other faculty members are active in clinical and social-behavioral research programs that focus on mobility, urinary incontinence, interventions to improve dementia care and outcomes in longterm care, nutrition, geriatric heart failure, end-of-life care, functional outcomes of geriatric health care, and quality improvement.
Reporting Relationships:
The Director of the Basic Science Section reports to the director of the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care. Dr. Richard M. Allman, MD, has served as the director of the Division since 1990 and also is the director of the UAB Center for Aging (www.aging.uab.edu).

Roles and Responsibilities
The Basic Science Section director will be responsible for developing a section-specific strategic plan in support of the Division’s mission and goals. The director will be responsible for overseeing section-specific research, education, service, and community outreach and development programs to ensure that they are maximally productive and of the highest quality possible. The section director will provide at least annual face-to-face reviews for the faculty members assigned to the Basic Science Section.

Whenever possible, the Basic Science director will work with other Section directors to coordinate and integrate activities that will create synergy and success for the Division as a whole. In many cases, the section director will find that collaborations outside the School of Medicine may be required. The section director will work to develop and enhance collaborative programs with the VA Medical Center and other collaborative universities or programs, as required.

The Basic Science Section director will meet regularly with the Division Director and other Section Directors as a member of the Executive Committee to discuss Division-wide issues and strategies, to provide guidance for the overall direction of the Division, to identify high priority collaborations, and to address cross-cutting administrative issues.

The Section director will work with the Division Director to ensure that space, equipment, and financial and human resources are managed in such a way as to support the overall mission of the Division, as well as the faculty members of the Basic Science Section.

Other specific responsibilities will include: recruiting, retaining, and promoting the academic careers of high quality faculty and staff; development and support of scholarly research, including encouragement, advice, and assistance with faculty in obtaining extramural research support; ensuring that research training and other educational programs meet the needs of students and trainees; ensuring compliance with all UAB and School of Medicine policies and procedures; providing timely advice and counsel to the Division Director on matters related to research, education, and service programs; and assisting in enhancing the reputation and increasing community awareness of activities in the Section and the Division.

Compensation
Compensation arrangements are competitive and commensurate with the experience and achievement of the successful candidate matched with the responsibility of the position. UAB is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is particularly interested in minority candidates and women.

INTERESTED CANDIDATES
Please forward an electronic version of your curriculum vitae (CV) and bibliography and a brief letter citing the alignment of your background and experience with the requirements and expectations of the position to:

Ms. Denise Goska
Administrative Associate
dgoska@uab.edu

Interested candidates should submit their materials as soon as possible. Interviews for potential candidates are expected to start in January 2008. The proposed start date for the successful candidate for this leadership position will be March 1, 2008.

UAB is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Female and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.
Be sure to check out the latest Public Policy & Aging Report, “Global Aging: Rise and Consequences”

- Demographic Change, Fiscal Sustainability, and Macroeconomic Performance
- Global Aging: Opportunities and Threats to American Security
- Global Aging and the Demographic Divide
- Graying of the Global Population

Authors:
David E. Bloom
David Canning
Mark L. Haas
Carl Haub
Adele M. Hayutin

Copies of this Public Policy & Aging Report, as well as copies of past issues, may be ordered online by visiting the National Academy on an Aging Society’s web site at www.aging society.org or by calling 202-842-1275