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Key Moment in History
1946: The first Annual Scientific Meeting is held in New York, NY.

Act Now To Pre-Register for AGHE’s Meeting!
Online registration for the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education’s (AGHE) 36th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference will end on Thursday, February 25. Join your colleagues at this influential conference to address emerging ideas and issues in gerontological and geriatric education. Former GSA President John W. Rowe, MD, will deliver the Opening Plenary Session keynote address, titled “Eldercare Workforce Challenge: Our Call to Arms.” The meeting will close with a unique living history portrait of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

New Orleans Plans Underway; Abstract Deadline Nears

Potential presenters for GSA’s 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting have until March 15 to submit their abstracts for approval. The conference will take place in New Orleans, LA, from November 19 to 23. Further details, including the complete Call for Abstracts, are available online at www.geron.org/2010.

As she discussed in the January issue of Gerontology News, GSA President Peggye Dilworth-Anderson has chosen “Transitions of Care Across the Aging Continuum” as the meeting theme. She urges submitters to keep this topic in mind when organizing their abstracts.

“As GSA celebrates its 65th year, I know our members’ work will once again result in an outstanding meeting program,” Dilworth-Anderson said. “Our interdisciplinary membership makes us the best organization to address the wide range of health care, social, psychological, and financial transitions older people face.”

The 2010 meeting schedule will differ from 2009 in that sessions will begin on a Friday (November 19) and conclude on a Tuesday (November 23).

Individuals who would like their abstracts to be considered for one of GSA’s many paper awards will have the opportunity to indicate their intent on the submission form. A listing of available awards can be found on page 11; for complete details, visit www.geron.org/Membership/Awards.

One Year Later, NIH Enjoys Stimulus Benefit

Twelve months after the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, said that this economic stimulus package has been very effective at furthering his agency’s mission.

In total, ARRA will have invested $10.4 billion in the NIH over two years. With an annual budget of over $30 billion, NIH is the single largest source of biomedical research funding in the world, and the catalyst for academic, clinical, and private work in the field.

To date, the NIH has issued or has committed to issuing grants for over 13,000 projects. This funded nearly 1,900 new investigators and resulted in approximately 50,000 new jobs, according to Collins.

He shared these figures during a recent meeting of the National Advisory Council on Aging.

“I think it’s particularly important to point out that NIH research is also a very effective way to encourage the economy and we need to be able to make that case,” Collins said. “Each grant we give out generates jobs — the recovery act dollars for instance, helped generate tens of thousands of jobs,” Collins said.

Continued on page 10
From the Executive Director

2010: A Year of Reflection and Partnerships

By James Appleby, RPh, MPH
jappleby@geron.org

GSA has reached the 65-year mark — a noteworthy milestone, especially among those in the population our profession serves. To commemorate the occasion, each issue of our journals in 2010 will feature retrospective articles and we will review key moments in the Society’s history in the newsletter. The Annual Scientific Meeting, too, will offer some special events surrounding the anniversary.

Those reflective activities will remind us how we came to reach this point. In this month’s column, however, I would like to talk about how GSA will move forward, at least in the short term.

2010 will be a year of collaboration between the Society and other organizations with similar interests. These alliances not only will increase our visibility, but also will bring widespread attention to the important work of our members. They also will reflect GSA’s interdisciplinary nature; I don’t think any other aging organization could partner as effectively with the diverse groups I’ll discuss below.

One of the forthcoming collaborations is detailed in the Policy News section on page five. Thanks to a new grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies — one of the Society’s longstanding external funders — we will team up with the National Council on Aging and Experience Wave to create a new policy network related to the issues of volunteering, older workers, and lifelong learning. GSA’s primary role in this endeavor will be to create an online research and policy action center. As a result, our website soon will house a robust clearinghouse for aging policy information.

GSA also will continue its relationship with pharmaceutical company sanofi-aventis, who in 2009 sponsored our annual meeting’s Opening Session and the premiere issue of the WHAT’S HOT newsletter. (If you haven’t read the issue yet, a free download is available at www.geron.org/WhatsHot). This year, we will develop a new resource on diabetes with financial support from sanofi-aventis.

This summer, GSA will work closely with the International Longevity Center-USA (ILC-USA) during that organization’s annual AgeBoom Academy. For the past ten years, long-time GSA member and ILC-USA Director Dr. Robert Butler has led this weeklong seminar where reporters are taught how aging increasingly is affecting political, economic, and social developments around the world. GSA’s presence here will position us to cultivate stronger relationships with representatives of the mainstream media, thus creating greater awareness for the research of our members.

In June, GSA will join forces for the first time with both the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) and the American Aging Association (AGE) to sponsor a symposium at the latter organization’s annual meeting in Portland, OR. The session will be titled “Biology of Aging: A Meeting of the Minds to Celebrate Award Winning Science.”

As significant as I know these partnerships will be, there is one further group that also deserves our attention. I refer to the diverse number of relief agencies that have committed themselves to aiding victims of the recent Haitian earthquake. As GSA’s international membership grows, we must play a stronger role in the global community. At www.geron.org/haiti, we have set up links to organizations that are accepting donations for the Haitian relief efforts. One of them, HelpAge USA, has partnered with the AARP Foundation to send aid to older victims in particular.

If you would like to share your thoughts on GSA’s activities for the new year — or your thoughts on the state of the Society in general — I continue to welcome member input at jappleby@geron.org.
In Memoriam

Jerome Kaplan, PhD, who held the office of GSA president in 1971, passed away on December 20, 2009. He was also a former editor-in-chief of The Gerontologist. An internationally renowned gerontologist, Kaplan also served as vice president of the World Congress of Gerontology, president of the Ohio Network of Educational Consultants in the Field of Aging, chairman of the Ohio Research Council on Aging, and secretary for the Center on Aging in Albany, NY. He was also executive director of Mansfield Memorial Homes and a delegate to three White House Conferences on Aging. His academic posts included professorships at Ohio State University, the University of Akron, and Heidelberg College. In his honor, the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education gives an annual award in his name to the most outstanding graduate paper at its annual meeting.

Members in the News

• Dozens of news outlets carried a recent syndicated Health Day News story about an article lead-authored by Catherine Sarkisian, MD, in The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological and Social Sciences. She and her colleagues found that volunteering may help older people reduce the risk of frailty.
• Hector Gonzalez, PhD, was quoted in The Wall Street Journal on January 5. His recent research showed that few Americans with depression get any kind of care, and even fewer receive care in accordance with American Psychiatric Association practice guidelines.
• The January 11 edition of The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review featured a quote from Richard Schulz, PhD. He cited research showing that older people are becoming increasingly comfortable using technology such as the internet.

Monthly Poll Results

What social networking site do you use the most?

Facebook: 55.7%
Don’t Use: 28.3%
Twitter: 6.6%
LinkedIn: 5.7%
Other: 3.8%

Number of voters: 106
Vote in the newest poll at www.geron.org!

Member Spotlight

GSA’s website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. February’s spotlight shines on:
Anthony Kupferschmidt, MA
Visit www.geron.org/Membership/member-spotlight to ask questions and read previous interviews.

Colleague Connection

This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Ali Ahmed
The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Marjan Mujib, 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

Stevens Among Carter Award Recipients

GSA Fellow Alan Stevens, PhD, was among those who accepted the 2009 Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award — from the Rosalynn Carter Institute — on behalf of the partnership between the Central Texas Area Agency on Aging and Scott & White Memorial Hospital’s Program on Aging and Care, the latter of which Stevens is director. The Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award recognizes innovative partnerships between community agencies and caregiving researchers that bridge the gap between science and practice.

Lindenberger Wins Top German Research Award

GSA Fellow Ulman Lindenberger, PhD, has received the prestigious Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation). He was recognized for his work in the area of developmental psychology. Lindenberger is one of the world’s leading researchers in cognitive gerontology. He has redefined the potential for and limits of cognitive aging in an impressive number of studies, in which he successfully combined approaches from neuroscience, gerontology, and developmental psychology. Lindenberger is currently the director for lifespan psychology at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development.

Johnson Named AAAS Fellow

GSA Fellow Thomas E. Johnson, PhD, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is currently a professor in the Department of Integrative Physiology at the University of Colorado. Johnson was the first to apply genetic analyses to the study of the aging processes in Caenorhabditis elegans (nematode roundworm). He was also the 2002 winner of GSA’s Robert W. Kleemeier Award.

Naylor Receives Two Distinctions

Mary Naylor, PhD, RN, the Marian S. Ware Professor in Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and director of NewCourtland Center for Transitions and Health, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Quality Forum (NQF). NQF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of American healthcare. She also recently was selected by Sigma Theta Tau International, the nursing honor society, to receive The Baxter International Foundation's 2009 Episteme Award. At the University of Pennsylvania, she leads an interdisciplinary program of research designed to improve outcomes and reduce costs of care for vulnerable community-based elders.
Professional Development Through Conference Participation

It is time to prepare abstracts for GSA's 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting, which is being held this year in New Orleans, LA, from November 19 to 23. The theme is “Transitions of Care Across the Aging Continuum.” ESPO would like to encourage you to submit your current research and to participate in the conference. Meeting participation is an excellent avenue for professional development.

How Can Professional Development Be Achieved Through Conference Participation?

Professional development is the process by which skills and knowledge are attained both for personal development and career advancement. Throughout the year, professional development can be achieved through coursework, mentorship, seminars, coaching, work experience, and reflection. Presenting research at GSA’s annual conferences is an additional opportunity for professional development.

Preparing your abstract can help you to frame and further develop your research project. You should consider how your work fits with the theme of the upcoming conference. Your abstract should be concise so that it can be understood clearly by peer-reviewers. This process encourages you to take a step back and really examine your research from an outsider’s perspective. This is important, considering we are often deeply involved with our work and may not always see the gaps and inconsistencies that a reviewer may find. The feedback provided on your abstract, whether accepted or not, is useful for revising and improving your work.

The sharing of knowledge that takes place at GSA conferences is beneficial to emerging scholars and professionals. Annual conferences are safe places to have your research critiqued and often improved upon prior to submitting it for publication. Other scholars and professionals bring different perspectives to your work that you may not previously have considered and that may greatly contribute to your developing new research ideas. This is also an excellent way to begin networking with individuals interested in similar avenues of gerontological research.

Most importantly, conference participation allows you to share your most current research findings that ultimately advance the knowledge of professionals who seek to improve the lives of our global aging population. GSA’s annual conferences are international gatherings and provide participants a chance to share research that may ultimately have a global impact. Thus, your research is important and can provide pertinent information to scholars and professionals who are working towards similar personal and professional goals throughout the world.

What is the Process for Submitting an Abstract?

Below is a general list of rules and guidelines that need to be addressed for submitting an abstract:

• Choose one of GSA’s four professional sections that best categorizes your submission: Biological Sciences (BS), Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS), Health Sciences (HS), and Social Research, Policy, and Practice (SRPP)
• Choose a session format: paper, poster, or symposium
• Complete the abstract submission online: www.geron.org/abstracts
• Pay the session fee: $15 for student papers/posters
• Undergo review process: submissions are peer-reviewed on several criteria that include originality, specificity, clarity, relevance, and quality of the research
• Receive notification: August 2010

The abstract submission deadline is March 15. Please visit www.geron.org/abstracts to become familiar with the specific guidelines for submitting an abstract.

One Year Later – Continued from page 1

The National Institute on Aging (NIA), located within the NIH, received stimulus funds totaling $273.3 million, according to NIA Director Richard Hodes, MD. In FY 2009, NIA awarded 1,441 research project grants, including 364 competing awards. The success rate for grant applications was 17.5 percent, which is slightly lower than the FY 2008 (20.3 percent) and FY 2007 (22.1 percent) figures. ARRA’s full impact on the NIH is explored at Investing in Recovery and Discovery, a new multimedia website located at www.investingindiscovery.com. This resource was developed by United for Medical Research, a coalition of the nation’s leading scientific research institutions, industries, and health and patient advocates.

“This [website] puts forward a lot of ... examples of ways in which ARRA has supported medical research and very exciting opportunities,” Collins said.

Investing in Recovery and Discovery has collected resources related to ARRA-supported NIH funding from scientific research institutions, industry, and health advocacy organizations. The site also includes a map tool where users can see how their state ranks in ARRA-funded NIH grants awarded.

In a recent interview with Reuters, Collins said that the NIH will turn its attention in 2010 to how investment in biomedical research impacts clinical science around the country. He said that demonstrating how patients can benefit from the research will be crucial to securing further funding.
It’s the New Year – and the Age4Action!

GSA is part of an exciting new initiative to add “action” to the policy world of civic engagement, older worker concerns, and lifelong learning. With funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies, this project has turned a group of just under 60 previously funded Atlantic grantees into a new collaborative effort: the Age4Action Network. It is a diverse and powerful group of organizations that will engage adults aged 50+ to be dynamic advocates, committed volunteers, and valued workers in today’s society. Age4Action will link organizations focused on the older workforce, civic engagement, lifelong learning, and advocacy, with common resources, knowledge, and tools so they can best leverage the talent of older adults.

Specifically, The Atlantic Philanthropies has funded three entities to work as partners to implement the Age4Action Network: GSA, the National Council on Aging (NCOA), and Experience Wave.

GSA’s role in this collaboration is to create a research and policy action center (RPAC) to which individuals and organizations can turn to participate in advocacy, particularly at the national level. The RPAC, directed by GSA’s Greg O’Neill, PhD, will be the central clearinghouse for research, practice, and policies related to these topics. It will feature references for background papers, links to legislative initiatives, talking points and other advocacy materials that can be used to contact members of Congress to enlist support for action, and regular updates on federal policy. The RPAC will be housed on the GSA website.

NCOA facilitates and administers the network component of Age4Action under the leadership of Sabrina Reilly, MA. This facet of the project involves support services, regular communications with the network members, outreach to other groups who care about these issues, and development of a grassroots advocacy initiative. We hope to grow the network from 60 to thousands of organizations and individuals during the next two years.

The third piece of the partnership is the policy and lobbying entity previously known as Experience Wave. I will lead a team of lobbyists who will track, analyze, and monitor legislative policies and administration activities that affect civic engagement and service programs, older workers, and lifelong learning. We also will educate, advocate, and lobby in support of improvements for these areas. Efforts will include work to secure funding for these programs, as well as the creation of new and better opportunities for older workers and volunteers.

The Age4Action Network will work together to stay on top of issues, disseminate alerts and updates, and direct groups and individuals to the RPAC for information and advocacy materials.

This network will continue to expand as organizations join and become involved nationally and locally.

The grassroots component of Age4Action — embodied in the local, hands-on programs and activities of the organizations in the network — will facilitate the sharing of success stories and strategies from the local level. Ultimately, that is what Age4Action is all about.

Why is now the Age4Action?

As GSA members know, more than 77 million baby boomers are reaching their 50s and 60s. These older adults have the health, education, and desire to work, serve, learn, and lead. Their talent, time, and energy are needed by our communities, our schools, and future generations. With President Barack Obama’s call to service and legislative action such as the passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, we are in the right place at the right time to expand the network of organizations and individuals that support service, education, and older worker issues. The Age4Action Network will connect diverse organizations working toward a common goal, and will provide the tools and inspiration to get involved and realize success as a coalition, as individuals, and as a movement.

Join Age4Action!

GSA members who are interested in joining the Age4Action Network should contact Sabrina Reilly at Sabrina.Reilly@ncoa.org. The Age4Action Network will be attending the 2010 NCOA/American Society on Aging conference in Chicago from March 15 to 19, where it will host a special program (March 16 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) that will focus on the genesis and evolution of the Age4Action Network; its action plan for the future; its strategy for connecting leaders, employers, community organizations, and older adults to drive social change; and how you and your organization can get involved. For more information or to join, contact Sabrina.Reilly@ncoa.org.
new resources

Study Tracks Assisted Living Facility Placement
A new report prepared by researchers at Harvard Medical School shows that where seniors live plays a large role in their access to assisted living facilities. The data show that assisted living facilities are disproportionately located in areas where people are wealthier and better educated, and where home values are higher — leaving low-income people, minorities, and people living in rural areas with relatively little access to housing and long-term care options. The authors found that the growth in assisted living has been fueled largely with private dollars, which is reflected in the distribution of facilities nationally, causing wide variation in access from state to state. Minnesota, Oregon, and Virginia have the highest rates of facilities, with more than 40 facilities per 1,000 people aged 65 and older. Connecticut, Hawaii, and West Virginia have the lowest, with fewer than 10 facilities per 1,000 elderly people. A downloadable version of the report can be found at http://www.rwjf.org/healthreform/product.jsp?id=53888.

GAO Report Explores Federal Nursing Home Sanctions
A new report compiled by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examines the federal government’s use of sanctions on nursing homes whose negligent practices are found to harm residents. The report specifically looks at the use of the federal government’s temporary management sanction, under which the administration of a troubled nursing home is replaced for a period of time in order to rapidly correct severe safety and quality deficiencies that are jeopardizing residents’ health. Temporary management sanctions for troubled nursing homes can be an effective approach to improving quality in the short term, but more should be done to provide guidance for implementing the sanctions and to ensure long-term quality improvements, according to the report. GAO gathered information from every state in which the federal temporary management sanction had been put into action between 2003 through 2008, finding that use of the sanction is very rare. During this time period, the temporary management sanction was applied only 14 times to nursing homes in ten states. Through analyses of facility compliance histories and interviews with state officials, GAO identifies the most common instances in which the sanction was used and whether it is effective in those instances. The report also finds obstacles to the use of the sanction. To view the report, visit www.aging.senate.gov/letters/gaonhtempmgmt.pdf.

New Course Aims To Cultivate BSS Research Skills
Under a contract from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, the New England Research Institutes have developed an interactive, online course on research methods and tools for researchers engaging in behavioral and social sciences (BSS) research on health-related topics. This new resource is designed to advance the methodological skill set of new and established researchers using the latest research methods, approaches, and translation of BSS research. It also provides an easy means by which investigators can efficiently obtain answers to emerging methodological concerns. To view this course, visit www.esourceresearch.org.

meet the staff

A regular feature that goes behind the scenes at GSA headquarters

Todd Kluss
Communications Manager Todd Kluss, MA, has been on the GSA staff since April 2003. He is a native of Sanborn, NY, and a graduate of the Media and Public Affairs master’s degree program at The George Washington University. One of Kluss’ primary responsibilities at GSA is to serve as the editor and primary author of Gerontology News. Additionally, he works with the regular contributors and the design and print vendors to produce the newsletter each month.

Kluss is also GSA’s point of contact for journalists on the age beat. He maintains a growing database of reporters, and keeps them informed of research presented in GSA’s journals and at Annual Scientific Meetings through numerous press releases. Kluss also supervises the Press Room during the meetings, where he regularly collaborates with prominent Society members to conduct press briefings on new discoveries in the field.

An integral part of GSA’s media outreach program is the Expert Referral Service, which Kluss manages. This tool — a listing of members’ self-identified areas of professional expertise — allows him to put reporters in touch with authorities on nearly any topic related to aging. He also uses it to fulfill the general public’s inquiries about gerontology.

Kluss’ job requires him to act as a consultant on many other communications released from the GSA office, such as listserv messages, marketing collateral, business correspondence, and membership welcome and renewal letters; he also compiles the GSA Announcements e-newsletter and edits material for the Society’s web site.
Policy Fellows Program Prepares for Third Year
The Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program is now accepting applications for its third year. Supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies and directed by Harold Alan Pincus, MD (in collaboration with the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship Program), this national program seeks to provide professionals in health and aging with the experience and skills necessary to make positive contributions to the development and implementation of health policies that affect older Americans. The program offers two different tracks for individual placement: (1) a residential track that includes a nine- to-12-month placement in Washington, DC, as a legislative assistant in Congress or a professional staff member in an executive agency, policy organization, or state agency; and (2) a non-residential track that includes a health policy project and brief placement(s) throughout the year at relevant sites. Core program components focused on career development and professional enrichment are provided for fellows in both tracks. The program is open to physicians, nurses and social workers at all career stages with a demonstrated commitment to health and aging issues and a desire to be involved in health policy at the federal, state or local levels. Other professionals with clinical backgrounds (e.g., pharmacists, dentists, clinical psychologists) working in the field of health and aging are also eligible to apply. Under special circumstances, exceptions may be made for non-clinicians who are in positions that can impact health policy for older Americans at a clinical level. The program also has agreed to partner with the John Heinz Senate Fellowship in Issues of the Aging. The two initiatives have combined to create the joint John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellowship; each year, one individual will be designated the John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellow. The application deadline for the 2010 fellowship year is April 15. For further information, please visit www.healthandagingpolicy.org.

SAMHSA Funds To Further Mental Health Efforts
The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is soliciting applications for approximately $21.8 million in funding over the next three years for Mental Health Data Infrastructure Grants for Quality Improvement. The program will implement and strengthen the annual collection of the Uniform Reporting System measures, which include the National Outcome Measures, and will fund state mental health authorities to improve state and local data infrastructure for reporting and planning. This project also supports the Center for Mental Health Service’s Mental Health Block Grant program. It is expected that approximately 59 grants will be awarded for up to three years. State mental health authorities (including the District of Columbia) that are selected for the grants are eligible for up to $132,941 each year for three years. Applications are available at www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/SM-10-009.aspx. The deadline for the receipt of all materials is March 4.

Purpose Prize Welcomes New Round of Applicants
The Purpose Prize, directed by Civic Ventures and now in its fifth year, provides five $100,000 and five $50,000 awards to social innovators over age 60 in encore careers. It is the nation’s only large-scale investment in older social innovators. Nominations, including self nominations, are due March 5 and can be submitted at www.encore.org/prize. Each year, the initiative also recognizes dozens of other socially engaged leaders in encore careers as Purpose Prize fellows. To date, nearly 60 innovators have been named Purpose Prize winners, and hundreds more have been recognized as fellows.

Program To Foster Physicians from Disadvantaged Backgrounds
The Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program seeks to increase the number of faculty from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who can achieve senior rank in academic medicine and who will encourage and foster the development of succeeding classes of such physicians. Four-year postdoctoral research awards are offered to universities, schools of medicine, and research institutions to support the research and career development of physicians from historically disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to developing careers in academic medicine and to serving as role models for students and faculty of similar background. The program defines the term “historically disadvantaged” to mean challenges facing individuals because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or similar factors. To be eligible to apply, candidates must be physicians who are from historically disadvantaged backgrounds (ethnic, financial, or educational); are citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. or its territories at the time of application; and now are completing or have completed their formal clinical training. (Preference will be given to physicians who recently have completed their formal clinical training.) Up to eight four-year awards will be funded in this grant cycle. Scholars will receive an annual stipend of up to $75,000 each, complemented by a $30,000 annual grant toward support of research activities. Visit rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20910 for complete details. The deadline for the receipt of applications is March 17.
The Gerontological Society of America is deeply indebted to the following agencies, corporations, foundations, and individuals for their contributions to the Society and its activities during 2009.

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Sanofi-Aventis
The Sanofi-Aventis Foundation
The Sanofi-Aventis Foundation
Senior Service America Inc.

The Gerontological Society of America's Civic Engagement in an Older America Project

The Atlantic Philanthropies

WHAT'S HOT newsletter
sanofi-aventis

2009 Annual Meeting of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education

AARP office of Academic Affairs
Quinnipiac University
Radford University
University of Texas, Health Science Center, San Antonio

Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Designated Fund

Ronald Abeles
Kathryn Adams
Steven Albert
Toni Antonucci
Jane Banaszak-Holl
Rosemary Blieszner
Nancy Brostoff
Kathleen Buckwalter
David Chiriboga
Philippa Clarke
Martha Crowther
Nicholas Danigelis
Gordon DeFrise
Margaret Gatz
Deborah Gold
Jennifer Gray-Stanley
William Haley
Karen Hooker
Ellen Idler
Rebecca Logsdon
Kyriakos Markides
Julie Masters
Lisa McGuire
Carlos Mendes de Leon
Taryn Patterson
Karen Roberto
Nancy Schoenberg
Judith Sugar
Aloen Townsend
Carol Whitlatch
Frank Whittington
Janet Wilmoth
Linda George
Deborah Gold
Carol Schutz
Judith Sugar
Terrie Welter

Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Designated Fund

Yeonjung Lee
Sandie Weisfeld

Joseph T. Freeman Award Endowment Fund

David Reuben

GSA Contributions in Memory of Charles F. Longino Jr.

Ronald Abeles
Jacqueline Angel
Lucille Bearon
Mary Fennell Lyles
Kenneth Ferraro
Linda George
Fred Harkins
Cleta Jordan
Cary Kart
Nancy Schoenberg
Frank Whittington

Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Award Endowment Fund (including contributions made through the Fun Walk/Run at the Annual Scientific Meeting)

Dawn Alley
Elaine Amella
Melissa Asegale
Cynthia Beel-Bates
Marie Boltz
Melissa Brostoff-Richard
Frieda Butler
Joan Carpenter
Dana Carthron
Janice Crist
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Senaida Fernandez
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Ruth Garrett
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Caitlin Haase
Marilyn Hammer
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Yumi Hashizume
Keela Herr
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Joan Hyde
Ann Kolanoowski
Leanne Lefler
Heather Leutyler
Becca Levy
Shu-Chen Li
Jennifer Margrett
Diane Martinez
Cynthia McDaniel
Katherine McGilton
Karen Melillo
Mathy Mezey
Todd Monroe
Janice Palmer
Sherry Pomeroy
Janet Purath
Sara Rahman
Barbara Resnick
Conrad Rios
Pamela Roach
Carol Rogers
Paul Sacco
Anthony Sarmiento
Nancy Schoenberg
Elena Siegel
Carole Smyth
Eileen Sullivan-Marx
Hilaire Thompson
Christina Victor
Frank Whittington
Kathy Wright
Heather Young
DeAnne Zwicker

Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section Designated Fund

Kathryn Hyer
Robert Binstock
Elaine Brody
Letha Chadiha
Kyong Hee Chee
Caroline Cicero
Carroll Estes
Iris Freeman
Lisa Gwyther
Elaine Jurkowski
Caroline Cicero
Carroll Estes
Iris Freeman
Lisa Gwyther
Elaine Jurkowski
Eric Kingdon
Nancy Kropf
Robert Kropf
Robert Newcomer
Frank Nuessel
Terry Peak
Debra Pierce
Donna Regenstreif
Sandra Reynolds
Nina Silverstein
Cynthia Stuen
James Sykes
Terrie Wele
John Williamson
Researchers and the general public have a new resource for information on the health and intimate relationships of older people, thanks to a new supplemental issue of *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological and Social Sciences* (Volume 64B, Supplement 1).

Based on the groundbreaking National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP), the supplement’s 14 articles focus on demographic characteristics; social networks; social and cultural activity; physical and mental health, including cognition, well-being, illness, medications, and alternative therapies; history of sexual and intimate partnerships; and patient-physician communication.

“The NSHAP represents an extraordinary contribution to the study of aging, and published findings from it have already shed new light on critical issues in social gerontology — from abuse to sexuality,” said *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* Editor Kenneth F. Ferraro, PhD, of Purdue University. “A truly distinctive feature of the study is the collection of several biomeasures on a national sample.”

The NSHAP is a unique, interdisciplinary effort to collect social data alongside biological indicators in a population-based sample of older adults. The study collected 13 biomeasures, including the assessment of respondents’ weight, waist circumference, height, blood pressure, distance vision, smell, touch, and mobility. NSHAP also collected blood spots, saliva, oral fluid for HIV testing, and, from female respondents, a self-administered vaginal swab.

Sexuality among older adults tended to vary with age and gender. At all ages in the study, men were more likely than women to have a partner, more likely to be sexually active with that partner, and tend to have more positive and permissive attitudes toward sex.

Similarly, men were more likely than women to report alcohol use, potential problem drinking, and ever having smoked. Alcohol use and smoking were also lower among older age groups.

This information can provide physicians and public health policy makers with a scientific base of knowledge for advising older people about positive social and intimate relationships, as well as designing health programs to capitalize on and promote these relationships.

The NSHAP is based on data gathered from interviews of 3,005 community-dwelling older adults (aged 57 to 85) across the U.S. between July 2005 and March 2006. Blacks and Hispanics were oversampled, as were the oldest old, providing adequate cases for analyses by age, gender, and race/ethnicity. This study was supported by the National Institutes of Health, including the National Institute on Aging, the Office of Research on Women’s Health, the Office of AIDS Research, and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.

**New Orleans Planning – Continued from page 1**

The November 2009 meeting of the Society’s Program Committee also generated many plans to make the New Orleans conference a unique experience. In the coming month, *Gerontology News* will contain details on the Opening and Closing Session speakers.

The program will feature several presidential symposia, with one devoted to the interests of each of GSA’s four professional sections, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, and the Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization.

The meeting will continue the popular Policy Series and, for a second year, a day-long business and aging forum will also be held. All events will take place at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel. This property boasts has 130,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space and is located three blocks from the city’s French Quarter.

The French Quarter in New Orleans

The Hilton New Orleans Riverside
In order to be considered for the following awards, nominations must be submitted by May 3. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

**Society Wide**

**Donald P. Kent Award:** This award is given annually to a GSA member who best exemplifies the highest standards for professional leadership in gerontology through teaching, service, and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society.

**Robert W. Kleemeier Award:** This award is given annually to a GSA member in recognition for outstanding research in the field of gerontology.

**M. Powell Lawton Award:** This award carries a $2,500 prize and is presented to an individual to honor contributions from applied gerontological research that have benefited older people and their care.

**Maxwell A. Pollack Award for Productive Aging:** This award carries an $8,500 prize in recognition of instances of practice informed by research and analysis, research that directly improved policy or practice, and distinction in bridging the worlds of research and practice.

**Margaret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award:** This award carries a $1,000 prize and acknowledges outstanding early career contributions in behavioral and social gerontology.

**Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award:** This award carries a $300 prize and is presented to a GSA member who has a record of outstanding and sustained contribution to geriatric nursing research.

**Task Force on Minority Issues in Gerontology Outstanding Mentorship Award:** This award recognizes individuals who have exemplified outstanding commitment and dedication to mentoring minority researchers in the field of aging.

**Gene D. Cohen Creativity and Aging Research Award:** This award, given in association with the National Center on Creative Aging, recognizes a professional whose research clearly shows that creative activities, particularly arts programs, can maintain and even improve the physical, emotional, and cognitive well-being of older adults.

**Theoretical Developments in Social Gerontology Award:** This $2,000 award, sponsored by American University, solicits original papers that provide an interdisciplinary perspective on social gerontology theory, new theoretical frameworks that cross disciplinary boundaries, and the single disciplinary theoretical paradigm. (Please note this award’s submission deadline is the first Monday in September.)

**Biological Sciences Section**

**Nathan Shock New Investigator Award:** This award is given annually for innovative and influential publications. It carries a $1,500 prize and is designed to acknowledge outstanding contributions to new knowledge about aging through basic biological research.

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Section**

**Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award:** This award is presented annually to an individual whose contributions over the course of his or her career have articulated a novel theoretical or methodological perspective or synthesis that addresses a significant problem in the literature.

**Distinguished Mentorship in Gerontology Award:** This award is given to individuals who have fostered excellence in, and had a major impact on, the field by virtue of their mentoring, and whose inspiration is sought by students and colleagues.

**Richard Kalish Innovative Publication Award:** This award, which is accompanied by a $500 prize, recognizes insightful and innovative publications on aging and life course development in the behavioral and social sciences. Any empirical or conceptual publication that represents state-of-the-art thinking in aging and life course development is eligible, provided it is in English and was published in the last three years.

**Health Sciences Section**

**Joseph T. Freeman Award:** This award carries a $250 prize and is given for lectureship in geriatrics to a prominent physician in the field of aging, both in research and practice.

**Student Research Awards**

In order to be considered for the following awards, applicants must submit their abstracts for presentation at GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting. The deadline is March 15; visit www.geron.org/abstracts for details. Once the abstract has been accepted, GSA’s awards coordinator will contact presenters for the required materials.

**Biological Sciences Section**

**George Sacher Student Award:** This $500 award is given to the best student presentation by a GSA member from the Biological Sciences Section at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

**The AustinBloch Post-Doctoral Fellow Award:** This $400 award is designed to encourage research and to foster interest among students in the Biological Sciences Section (and the Health Sciences Section on alternating years) to play an active role in the Society’s annual meetings. The $400 award is given to the best post-doctoral fellow presentation by a GSA member from the Biological Sciences Section at the Annual Scientific Meeting. Late breaking posters will be eligible for this award.

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Section**

**Student Research Awards:** These awards are given for completed empirical studies dealing with a topic of relevance to GSA’s Behavioral and Social Sciences Section. There are two levels: (1) The Dissertation Level, which is a $1,000 award is presented to an exemplary paper written by a student member who received a doctorate no more than 18 months before the submission deadline; and (2) The Pre-Dissertation Level, a $500 award is presented to an exemplary paper written by a student member who has yet to attain their doctoral degree.

**Health Sciences Section**

**Research Award:** This $1,000 award is given to a new investigator in the Health Sciences Section. It is designed to encourage postdoctoral research and encourage participation in the Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Person-in-Training Award:** This $500 award is given for an exemplary paper written by a student member of the Health Sciences Section.

**Student Research, Policy, and Practice Section**

**Student Research Awards:** These manuscripts must address a significant research, policy, or practice topic and be research-based, conceptual or analytical, and contribute to the body of knowledge. There are two levels: (1) The Carroll L. Estes Senior Scholar, a $500 award is presented to an exemplary paper written by a student member who received a doctorate no more than 18 months before the submission deadline; and (2) The Elaine M. Brody Junior Scholar, a $250 award presented to an exemplary paper written by a student member who has yet to attain their doctoral degree.

**Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization**

**Interdisciplinary Paper Award:** This $250 award is given for the best interdisciplinary research paper on an aging-related topic by a GSA ESPO member. Papers may be empirical or theoretical.

**Poster Award:** ESPO offers five awards for exemplary posters.
The following awards were given at the time of GSA’s 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

The Society salutes the outstanding researchers below for their contributions to gerontology and thanks the selection committees for their time and efforts in choosing the winners.

For information on how to apply for GSA’s awards, visit www.geron.org/Membership/Awards.

**Society-Wide**

**Gene D. Cohen Creativity and Aging Research Award**
(given in cooperation with the National Center on Creative Aging)

Gene D. Cohen, The George Washington University

**Theoretical Developments in Social Gerontology Award**
(sponsored by American University)

Anne E. Barrett, Florida State University
“Life Course Patterns and Perceptions: A Theoretical Development of the Subjective Life Course”

Deborah Gray, University of Massachusetts
“Determinants of Wealth Decumulation Later in Life: A Multiperspectival Perspective”

Ernst Bohlmeijer, University of Twente
“Narrative Foreclosure in Later Life: Preliminary Considerations for a New Sensitizing Concept”

William Randall, St. Thomas University
“Narrative Foreclosure in Later Life: Preliminary Considerations for a New Sensitizing Concept”

Thijs Tromp, Relief
“Narrative Foreclosure in Later Life: Preliminary Considerations for a New Sensitizing Concept”

Gary Kenyon, St. Thomas University
“Narrative Foreclosure in Later Life: Preliminary Considerations for a New Sensitizing Concept”

**Biological Sciences Section**

**George Sacher Student Award**

Marlene Satcher, University of Kentucky
“IL-1β Mediates Age-Associated Over-Production of IL-6 in the Adipose Tissue”

**Behavioral and Social Sciences Section**

**Student Research Award – Pre-Dissertation**

Frank Infurna, Penn State University
“Examining Dynamic Links between Mastery and Health: Longitudinal Evidence for Differential Linkages in Midlife and Old Age”

**Student Research Award – Dissertation**

Bang Hyun “Bryan” Kim, Temple University
“The Effects of Guided Relaxation and Exercise Imagery for Older Adults with a Fear of Falling”

**Health Sciences Section**

**Person-In-Training Award**

Shayna E. Rich, University of Maryland
“Association between Support Surface Use and Pressure Ulcer Incidence in Elderly Hip Fracture Patients”

**Research Award**

Jennifer Gray-Stanley, Northern Illinois University
“Work Stress and Burnout Among Direct Care Workers Serving Adults Aging with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities: The Role of Work Social Support and Locus of Control”

**Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section**

**Elaine M. Brody Award – Junior Scholar**

Eun Ha Namkung, Washington University in St. Louis
“Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Ethnic and Household Differences in Health and Service Use”

**Carroll L. Estes Award – Senior Scholar**

Nayoung Kim, Wayne State University
“Who Can Afford Private Long-Term Care Insurance?”
2009 awardees

Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Interdisciplinary Paper Award
Frank J. Infurna, Penn State University
“Examining Dynamic Links Between Mastery and Health: Longitudinal Evidence for Differential Linkages in Midlife and Old Age”

Poster Award
Bang Hyun “Bryan” Kim, Temple University
“Effects of Exercise Imagery for Older Adults with Fear of Falling”

Shayna E. Rich, University of Maryland
“Association Between Support Surface Use and Pressure Ulcer Incidence in Elderly Hip Fracture Patients”

Nayoung Kim, Wayne State University
“Who Can Afford Private Long-Term Care Insurance?”

Stacy Ogbeide, Forest Institute
“Attitudes toward Aging Among a Population of Clinical Psychology Students”

Yeonjung Lee, University of Pittsburgh
“Relationship between Social Network and Social Support and Aging in Place Planning”

Civic Engagement in an Older America Initiative
Junior Scholar Award – First Place
Julia Rozanova – Brown University
“Unequal Social Engagement for Older Adults: Constraints on Choice”

Junior Scholar Award – Second Place
Song-Iee Hong, National University of Singapore
“Health Outcomes of Experience Corps: A High Commitment Volunteer Program”

international news

Report Quantifies World’s Aging Population
A new report from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs concludes that the number of elderly people worldwide will outnumber children for the first time in 2045. According to “World Population Ageing 2009,” 22 percent of the world’s population will be older than 60 years within 40 years — a jump from 11 percent in 2009 and 8 percent in 1950. A trend of low birth rates perpetuated worldwide with the ascendency of contraception and abortion has caused the elderly population to increase by 2.6 percent per year — three times faster than the overall world population growth. The 60+ age group will triple in size from the beginning of the millenium, reaching two 2 billion by 2050. The UN noted that the imbalance will have a major impact on the worldwide working-age community — upon whom it will fall to support the disproportionately aged population. The dramatic shift in demographics, the report said, will impact life in various aspects, including economic growth, investment, consumption, pensions, taxation, and health care.

Denmark Leading Way in Digital Care
The New York Times reports that in Denmark, nearly all primary care physicians and nearly half of all hospitals use electronic records. Several studies, including one forthcoming from the Commonwealth Fund, conclude that the Danish information system is the most efficient in the world, saving doctors an average of 50 minutes per day in administrative work. A 2008 report from the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society estimated that electronic record keeping saved Denmark’s health system as much as $120 million a year.

Some U.K. Workers Planning on Early Retirement
The Money section of the MSN U.K. website has indicated that, according to a report from that country’s Department of Work and Pensions, one in four older U.K. workers plans to retire early, with 43 percent intending to work on into their late 60s and 70s. A survey of workers found that around 26 percent of people aged over 50 who have not yet retired hope to give up work before they reach the state pension age. But 25 percent plan to work for a few years after being able to claim their state pension, while 12 percent say they will work for a long time after this date, and 6 percent will leave their current jobs but will look for work that suits them better. Only 31 percent of those questioned said they planned to retire when they were able to pick up their state pensions. Approximately 28 percent said they planned to work longer due to financial considerations, with 26 percent saying the recession changed their retirement plans.
Missouri School To Explore Elderly Chiropractic Treatments
The Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis, MO, has received a $1.2 million grant — the largest the school has ever received — from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a three-year investigation into how chiropractic care impacts low back pain and balance in the elderly. Researchers from Logan and St. Louis University will assess low back pain and balance in a study population of more than 400 older adults, and then compare the effectiveness of manual therapy, stabilization exercises, and conventional therapy. The goal of the research project is to establish a new standard of care for this patient population that includes research-based non-surgical, non-pharmaceutical options to help older adults enjoy an improved quality of life. The randomized, controlled clinical trial will be conducted at the Saint Louis University Hospital and the VA Medical Center Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center at Jefferson Barracks.

Collaboration To Improve Care for Underserved Populations
Weill Cornell Medical College is overseeing a new research center that will seek to improve medical care in ethnically diverse and medically underserved communities in New York, NY. The Comprehensive Center of Excellence in Disparities Research and Community Engagement (CEDREC) was created through an $8 million grant from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities within the National Institutes of Health. Organized as a consortium between five metro-area institutions — Weill Cornell Medical College, Hunter College School of Nursing, City University of New York, Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, and the Center for Healthful Behavior Change at NYU Langone Medical Center — CEDREC will engage in collaborative research and outreach aimed at redressing health disparities in medically underserved and ethnic minority populations in New York.

Dental School Gift Largest Ever
Herman Ostrow, DDS, has donated $35 million to University of Southern California School of Dentistry. In recognition of the gift — believed to be the largest individual donation to a dental school in the U.S. — the school has been renamed the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC. The institution’s academic offerings include a gerontology program. The gift has been designated to provide resources to renovate and improve clinical facilities, to bring in new faculty members, to continue to support dental and craniofacial research, to enhance service programs in downtown Los Angeles, CA, and to attract and retain the best students.

Yale School of Public Health
Yale University School of Medicine

Tenure-Track Faculty Position in Social Gerontology and/or Epidemiology of Aging
The Social and Behavioral Sciences Program and the Division of Chronic Disease Epidemiology in the Yale School of Public Health seek a scholar of social gerontology and/or epidemiology of aging for an Assistant or non-tenured Associate Professor position. Applicants with a research interest in inequalities, psychosocial factors, or cardiovascular health are especially encouraged to apply. The Search committee will consider applicants with interests in other areas as well. Opportunities exist to collaborate with investigators in the Yale School of Public Health (http://www.med.yale.edu/obrs/), and other departments at Yale, such as psychology, sociology, psychiatry, and medicine. The successful candidate can take advantage of a number of resources, including the Yale Program on Aging (http://geriatrics.yale.edu/research/).

Applicants should have a doctorate degree in psychology, epidemiology, sociology or a related field, with a specialization in mental and/or physical health of older individuals. Also, applicants should have teaching experience, a record of research and scholarly accomplishments, and will be expected to develop an externally funded research program.

Review of applications will begin March 15, 2010 and will continue until a successful candidate is identified. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, statement of research and teaching interests, three reprints, and three reference letters to:
Becca R. Levy, Ph.D., Search Committee
Yale School of Public Health
60 College Street, Room 408, P.O. Box 208034
New Haven, CT 06520-8034

Yale University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action and equal access employer that values and actively seeks diversity in the work force. Minorities and women are strongly encouraged to apply.

RAND is pleased to announce the 17th annual RAND Summer Institute (RSI), which will take place in Santa Monica, CA, July 12-15, 2010. The RSI consists of two conferences addressing critical issues facing our aging population: a Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 12-13) and a workshop on the Demography, Economics and Epidemiology of Aging (July 14-15). The primary aim of the RSI is to expose scholars interested in the study of aging to a wide range of research being conducted in fields beyond their own specialties. We invite all interested researchers to apply to attend the 2010 RSI. Applicants may apply for fellowship support to pay for registration, travel, and accommodations.

Both the Mini-Med School and the workshop are described more fully at our web site: www.rand.org/labor/aging/rsi/.

For additional information, please contact Diana Malouf (malouf@rand.org).

RSI is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health.

Eighteenth Annual Summer Training Course in Experimental Aging Research
June 8-13, 2010
Barshop Institute, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio
The Summer Training Course provides intense exposure to current concepts in experimental aging research for 15-20 research scientists. It is designed primarily for junior faculty and advanced fellows with at least two years postdoctoral experience in cell or molecular biology or a related field. Senior scientists who wish to learn about current aging research are also welcome.

Application deadline: March 15, 2010
For complete details, visit www.buckinstitute.org/TheScience/training/default.asp
Preserving independence takes compassion and expertise.

Yale-New Haven Hospital has long been a place for cutting-edge research to keep older persons as independent and safe as possible. Each year, the American Geriatrics Society recognizes the nation’s top researcher in Geriatrics. Four of these physicians have come from Yale-New Haven.

Yale-New Haven researchers have made major advances in such areas as preventing falls and episodes of confusion, improving driving performance, and reducing functional decline and disability. The physicians at Yale-New Haven Hospital are redefining how we age. Most importantly, they are providing new insights into how we can live better - with hope and dignity.
CAREERS IN AGING WEEK
April 4-10, 2010

Bringing greater awareness and visibility to aging and aging research.

Get involved—visit www.careersinaging.com or e-mail claw@geron.org

36th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference
Association for Gerontology in Higher Education
March 4-7, 2010 • Reno, Nevada

Join us March 4-7, 2010 in Reno, Nevada for AGHE’s 36th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference. This influential conference will address emerging ideas and issues in gerontological and geriatric education.

Don’t miss the Opening Plenary: Eldercare Workforce Challenge: Our Call to Arms with keynote presenter John (Jack) W. Rowe.

Dr. Rowe will call your attention to the looming national health care crisis in the quality and organization of the health care workforce for tomorrow’s older adults.

Register Today at www.aghe.org/am