Incoming President Outlines Global Aging Theme

Dear Colleagues,

The opportunity of serving as your president for this, the 62nd anniversary year of The Gerontological Society of America, is exciting, humbling and daunting!

The list of past GSA leaders is filled with the names of those who have made distinguished contributions to knowledge in the science of aging. The present time is rich with opportunity thanks to their and their colleagues’ dedication. Indeed, there has never been a more exciting time in the pursuit of understanding regarding just why we get old, as well as how we may age more successfully.

At this time of instant communication there are inequities in the distribution of longevity across the globe. Those of us in the industrialized world are living longer than ever before. Those in developing countries in many cases still contend with problems of infectious and other diseases which severely shorten life. Extended longevity provides opportunities to utilize, for both public and private benefit, the wisdom and skills accumulated over a lifetime. It also brings the probability of increased public expense for dealing with increased numbers of people requiring expensive long-term care. Our society and the annual GSA meeting offer the perfect opportunity for initiating discussion of these issues.

As a long-term member of GSA and as an attendee of more than 20 Annual Meetings, I have always been impressed by the international and multidisciplinary character of these meetings. The GSA is unique in both the breadth of gerontologic issues addressed and the truly global nature of the audience. With this in mind, the theme of the 2007 GSA Annual Meeting is “The Era of Global Aging: Challenges and Opportunities.” The theme will be highlighted by symposia featuring leaders and students from countries across the world, who will address problems and successful strategies related to improving the lives of the elderly in their countries. In addition, we will

Meeting Attendees Further Gerontological Imagination in Texas

Approximately 3,300 people descended upon the Adam’s Mark Hotel in Dallas, TX for GSA’s 59th Annual Scientific Meeting from November 16th – 20th. Over 500 separate sessions took place over the five day event, which included 1,162 individual posters.

The exhibit hall was packed with 101 booths and the hotel’s rooms were filled to capacity. The conference itself was featured in a comprehensive article on the front page of the business section of The Dallas Morning News. Over a dozen members of the media reported from the press room and thanks to news distribution services like UPI and Health Day News, research presented at the convention reached papers nationwide.

On the evening of Friday the 17th, hundreds of attendees made the trip to The Texas Chuck Wagon and Two-Step event at Eddie Deen’s BBQ, where they sampled the local cuisine and danced to live music until closing.

Photo highlights can be found on the middle four pages of this issue.

Special note: The Call for Papers for the 2007 Annual Meeting will soon be available both in the mail and on GSA’s website. Visit www.agingconference.com to download the abstract submission form. As usual, the deadline for the receipt of all abstracts is March 15th.
Continued from page 1

have state-of-the-art symposia discussing the latest science (stem cells, life-extension strategies, etc.) from biological, social and ethical points of view. All of this, in addition to our usual spectacular array of discipline-specific symposia and poster presentations. I am pleased to acknowledge the assistance in this program of colleagues Helen Hazuda and Rick Fortinsky, who are Program Co-Chairs for this meeting. Appropriately, all of this will take place in San Francisco, one of the most exciting and multicultural cities in the world. Your enjoyment of San Francisco and the area will be much facilitated by Darlene Yee, who has graciously accepted appointment as Chair of Local Arrangements. I hope you will all plan now to participate in the 2007 Annual GSA meeting (November 16-20, 2007) and consider, especially, developing symposia and abstracts related to the theme.

None of the achievements of GSA over the past years would have been possible without the enormous dedication of GSA staff. I would like you all to recognize the strong commitment over many years made by Carol Schutz, with the equally dedicated assistance of Linda Harootyan, Laurie Johnson, Johanna Merryman, Chris Yoder, Derek Stepp and Charles Clary. There are many others on the GSA staff whose work also enables the success of the Annual Meeting and the year-round resource our GSA constitutes. Please use every opportunity to join me in expressing to these individuals our thanks for the work they do. On occasions where you feel your GSA concerns have not been adequately addressed, I invite you to contact me directly (rjm28@psu.edu). I know the goal of all GSA staff is to serve you well and together we will continue to advance the mission of this great organization.

In closing, I anticipate joining all of you in San Francisco in November, 2007. There we will discuss problems facing the elderly in different countries and work together to develop strategies to enrich the lives of older men and women everywhere.

Roger McCarter
GSA President

AJN Video Emphasizes Hydration Importance

The American Journal of Nursing’s (AJN) latest webinar release in its “New Look at the Old” series discusses the significance of making hydration an integral component of all patient interactions and social activities. Such efforts can reduce many problems including UTIs and pressure ulcers. Under the title “The Delicate Balance: Older Adults and Hydration,” this report can be found online at www.nursingcenter.com/ajnolderadults.

This 30-minute video is based on AJN’s June 2006 article by Jane Mentes titled “Oral Hydration in Older Adults: Greater Awareness Is Needed in Preventing, Recognizing, and Treating Dehydration.”

This series represents a collaborative effort among the AJN, The Gerontological Society of America, and Trinity Healthforce Learning. It is funded by Atlantic Philanthropies with additional support from the Nurses Service Organization. The venture — designed to provide information and skills to improve the care and well-being of older adults — has already received several professional distinctions. Most recently it was bestowed the Silver Award for Best Feature Series from The American Society of Healthcare Publications Editors.

Correction: November’s issue of Gerontology News reported on an AJN webinar video outlining dignified bathing methods. Although financial support for the entire “New Look at the Old” series is provided by Atlantic Philanthropies, this particular project was based on an earlier training film funded by The National Institute on Aging, The National Institute of Nursing Research, The Retirement Research Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, HCR Manorcare, Extendicare, The Rothschild Foundation and Arjo, Inc.
EPGS Recognizes Glicksman
GSA Fellow Allen Glicksman, The Philadelphia Corporation of Aging’s (PCA) Director of Research and Evaluation, was awarded the Eastern Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society (EPGS) President’s Award at the organization’s annual meeting in December 2006. The honor is given to a member of the community who demonstrates excellence in identifying issues of aging and bringing them to the forefront and for current contributions to the field of gerontological research, especially in the Philadelphia area. Glicksman chairs GSA’s Informal Interest Group on International Aging and Migration.

Annual Meeting Spurs Media Mentions
Presentations at the recent Dallas conference attracted the attention of a number of reporters. A lengthy and comprehensive review of modern gerontology appeared in the *Dallas Morning News* during the meeting. It featured quotes from such prominent GSA members as Charles Longino, Robert Binstock, Robert Atchley, and Neal Cutler. The *Chicago Sun-Times* ran an article based on Leonid Gavrilov and Natalia Gavrilova’s presentation demonstrating children born to younger mothers tend to live longer. In addition, coverage was also given to several sessions related to articles (by authors Marco Pahor and Arthur Kramer) appearing in the recent special section of *The Journal of Gerontology: Series A* on exercise and aging.

Colleague Connected!
This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner:

**Neil Charness**
(He became eligible after referring new member Tiffany Jastrzembski.)

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

New Member Publications

**Improving Aging & Public Health Research: Qualitative & Mixed Methods**
edited by Leslie Curry, Renée Shield, and Terrie Welter. Published by the American Public Health Association. (Available for purchase at GSA’s online store at www.geron.org.)

**Family Relations**
(a special issue of *Family Gerontology*)

Just Released!

“Exercise: An Active Route to Healthy Aging”
A special section of the November issue of *The Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*

**Inside:**

- Editorial. A Little Exercise
  Luigi Ferrucci and Eleanor M. Simonsick
- Effects of a Physical Activity Intervention on Measures of Physical Performance: Results of the Lifestyle Interventions and Independence for Elders Pilot (LIFE-P) Study,
  The Life Study Investigators
- Aerobic Exercise Training Increases Brain Volume in AgingHumans
  Stanley J. Colcombe, Kirk I. Erickson, Paige E. Scalf, Jenny S. Kim, Ruchika Prakash, Edward A. McAuley, Steriomi Elavsky, David X. Marquez, Liang Hu, and Arthur F. Kramer
- Physical Activity Participation by Presence and Type of Functional Deficits in Older Women: The Women’s Health and Aging Studies
  Gerald J. Jerome, Thomas A. Glass, Michelle Mielke, Qian Li Xue, Ross E. Andersen, and Linda P. Fried
- Tai Chi Chih Acutely Decreases Sympathetic Nervous System Activity in Older Adults
  Sarosh J. Motivala, John Sollers, Julian Thayer, and Michael R. Irwin
- Glomerular Filtration Rate and Albumin Excretion After Maximal Exercise in Aging Sedentary and Active Men
  Jacques R. Poortmans and Michel Ouchinsk

Available through GSA’s online store at www.geron.org.
Congress Adjourns Before Finishing Work
The 109th Congress ended on December 8th and failed to act on the nine remaining FY 2007 appropriations bills. It did pass another Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government operating until February 15. This will mean that the new Democratic-controlled 110th Congress will finish up work on appropriations.

The CR funds a majority of domestic agencies at the lower of either the FY 2006 level or the House-passed FY 2007 level. This will create difficulties for agencies hoping to start new programs in FY 2007 (which began October 1, 2006). Also, freezing spending at 2006 levels means that funds for some student-aid programs and for scientific research will fall after inflation is factored in. The maximum Pell Grant award will remain level at $4,050, and the number of research-project grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health will fall.

Title VII not To Be Addressed Until 2007
The aforementioned Continuing Resolution passed by Congress leaves Title VII Geriatrics Health Professions Programs, which include the Geriatric Education Centers (GECs), without funding for the first part of the new fiscal year, because Congress zeroed out FY 2006 allocations for the programs in December 2005. Without an infusion of funds in FY 2007, Title VII programs will lose even more ground and may be forced to rebuild from scratch once funding is ultimately restored.

NIH Reauthorization Bill Enacted
In its final hours, Congress enacted the NIH reauthorization bill (H.R. 6164), a three-year reauthorization substantially overhauling the $28 billion agency. This bill was passed without the Senate holding a single hearing on NIH reauthorization in the 109th Congress. Additionally, the only hearing held to specifically address this issue was held in October 2003. According to a statement made in September, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) said the bill’s primary objective is to “get the politics out of research and let the experts at the NIH be the ones to decide their priorities, rather than have politicians tell them what they should be. Very few are scientists and the determination of how to allocate research funding is best left to those who truly know and understand the needs of the research community.” Negotiations between the House and Senate yielded several modifications to sections of the House-passed version of the bill addressing the common fund (e.g. there will no percentage set-aside). The reauthorization bill reduced the reauthorization from five years to three and calls for NIH to received budget increases of 6% and 8% in 2007 and 2008, respectively. It creates a common fund for novel ideas and trans-NIH projects—a mechanism that is already up and running as part of the Roadmap Initiative—and calls for its share to grow to 5% of NIH’s total funding as the overall budget rises. The bill, which President Bush is expected to sign soon, also sets in motion a review of NIH’s current structure of 27 institutes and centers, with a report to Congress in 18 months.

NIH Seeks Proposals on Biobehavioral Methods to Improve Outcomes
Maintaining positive health outcomes over time and across a variety of populations and settings requires understanding interactions among biological, behavioral, and social risk factors as well as other variables that influence behavior. Biobehavioral science deals with links between biological, psychological, and behavioral factors and health. The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR), the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Diseases (NIDCD) are seeking applications from institutions/organizations that propose to foster biobehavioral research and develop innovative research designs, methods of measurement, and data analysis techniques. Designs and methods that examine the impact of biological and behavioral variables on individuals’ health outcomes and quality of life are encouraged. January 5, 2007 is the earliest date an application may be submitted to www.grants.gov. For more information see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-072.html.

Apply NOW!
Applications for the Hartford Faculty Scholars and Hartford Doctoral Fellows in Geriatric Social Work Programs are due February 1, 2007. For more information, visit www.gswi.org.
The Gerontological Society of America’s 59th Annual Scientific Meeting
November 16 - 20, 2006 • Dallas, Texas

Opening Night

Thomas Kirkwood of the University of Newcastle presents the keynote address on Thursday evening.

President Charles Longino and his wife Loyce prepare to enter the Opening Plenary Session.

Incoming President Roger McCarter joins Kirkwood after his speech.

Meeting Program Chairs Frank Whittington (L) and Ken Ferrara (R) enjoy their front row seats as the evening gets underway.

Longino shares a lighthearted moment with Local Arrangements Chair Peggy Higgins.

The vocal talents of the Seasoned Saints Community Choir brought a lively start to the convention.
Welcoming Receptions

Past GSA presidents gather prior to the opening session.

(From L to R) Richard Sprott, McCarter, Timothy Kauffman, and Carolyn Marshall discuss plans for the year ahead.

(From L to R) Molly Trauten (noted in the October 2006 issue of Gerontology News for her internship with Marilyn Gugliucci), Jennifer Brunk, and Stephanie True represent a group of attendees from the Miami University of Ohio.

The Exhibit Hall

The New Horizons band brought jazzy musical melodies to the hall's grand opening.

Staffers confer at the GSA booth.

Visitors were greeted by representatives at over 100 booths.
The Sessions

(From L to R) Emily Greenfield, Jinkuk Hong, Benjamin Shaw, Irene Yen, and Angela O’Rand prepare for their session on “Childhood Predictors of Physical Health and Psychological Outcomes in Adulthood.”

Michael Masternak highlights his research findings in the poster hall.

Nearly 1,200 posters were on display during the Annual Meeting.

Dozens of attendees gathered to hear (from L to R) Bruce Carnes, Robert Butler, Edward Masoro, and Leonard Hayflick discuss “Is Aging a Disease?”
Conference-goers mosey up to the buffet line for a chance to sample the BBQ offered by Eddie Deen’s Ranch.

Grilled vegetables were served in possibly the world’s largest skillet.

Joan Smith-Sonneborn and Karissa McNiven of the University of Wyoming pose for the camera before hitting the dance floor.

Authentic(ish) Texans were on hand to greet diners.

The Final Word

Longino congratulates McCarter as he hands the new president the official gavel.
November’s Gerontological Society of America meeting in Dallas, Texas gave Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization (ESPO) members opportunities to become more involved with the organization as well as be recognized for their hard work and achievements.

ESPO’s Business meeting had a new roundtable format this year. Members were given the opportunity to brainstorm on how to make the section stronger, more visible within the larger organization, and more useful to its members. Ideas included a more active listserv with information about jobs and funding opportunities, mentorship programs, and a stronger Campus Rep program that could share information about GSA with individual campuses. We were also very pleased with the turnout for Friday evening’s Wine and Cheese. Many members were seen interacting informally with each other and with GSA Fellows.

The business meeting gave us the opportunity to thank those who have served ESPO through 2006 and welcome the officers for the coming year. Congratulations to the 2007 ESPO officers:
- Kelly Niles-Yokum - Chair
- Sarah A. Ruiz - Chair-Elect
- Lisa C. Barry - Immediate Past Chair/Finance Committee
- Karon L. Phillips - Secretary
- Benjamin A. Bensadon - Technology Chair/Task Force on Technology
- Shannon L. Bowles - Humanities & Arts Committee
- Whitney L. Mills - Humanities & Arts Committee
- Brianne L. Winston - Membership Committee
- Anthony L. Kupferschmidt - Membership Committee
- Sarah A. Ruiz - Program Committee
- Kathy Wilson - Public Policy Committee
- Emily Bower - Public Policy Committee
- Emily A. Greenfield - Publications Committee
- Samantha Solimeo - Publications Committee
- Lindsey A. Martin - Research, Education and Practice Committee (GSA)
- John S. Fecondo - Research, Education and Practice Committee (AGHE)
- Erica K. Husser - Task Force on Interest Groups
- Sarah J. Yarry - Task Force on Interest Groups
- Almas Dossa - Task Force on Minority Issues
- Paul A. Cernin - Task Force on Minority Issues
- Christine E. Collins - Task Force on Women
- Kelly G. Fitzgerald - ESPO Representative (AHGE)
- Lauren B. Sloane - Biological Sciences Section
- Natalie LeLand Wiatrowski - Health Sciences Section
- Shayna E. Rich - Health Sciences Section
- Katherine S. Morris - Behavioral and Social Sciences Section
- Douglas L. Welsh - Behavioral and Social Sciences Section
- Jerrilynn M. Quinlan - Social Research, Policy and Practice Section
- Kelly A. Mills-Dick - Social Research, Policy and Practice Section
- Caroline O. Robinson - Chair, Student Paper Award

Congratulations are also in order for ESPO members who received paper and research awards at GSA’s annual meeting. The following members were honored:
- BSS Student Research Award (Pre-Dissertation) - Flavia Cristina Drumond Andrade
- BSS Student Research Award (Dissertation) - Miles Taylor
- SRPP Student Research Award (Undergrad/Master’s Level) - Kayla O’Malley
- SRPP Student Research Award (Doctoral Level) - Jeong Young Park
- ESPO Interdisciplinary Paper Award - Rebecca D. d’Angelo
- ESPO Poster Awards - Amanda Lehning, Debra Sietsema and Kushang Patel
- Civic Engagement in an Older America Paper Awards - Keiko Katagiri

As this is my last article, I have the pleasure of introducing the new ESPO Secretary, Karon L. Phillips from the University of South Florida. I certainly look forward to her insight and ideas over the next year!
The Ohio State University College of Dentistry Section of Orthodontics

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The Ohio State University College of Dentistry Section of Orthodontics invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with expertise in bone biomechanics and skeletal biology. This position is intended to complement current research programs within the Section, College and University. Applicants must hold a doctorate and will be expected to develop and obtain externally funded research and assist in the teaching and research missions of the Orthodontic Residency program. Preference will be given to those with established records or substantial promise in research and teaching.

Academic rank and salary will be based on the candidate’s qualifications and experience. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. For additional information concerning the Section of Orthodontics, contact Dr. Sarandeep Huja, 4088E Postle Hall, College of Dentistry, 305 W. 12th Avenue, PO Box 182357, Columbus, OH 43218-2357.

The Ohio State University is an EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER. Qualified women, minorities, Vietnam-era veterans, disabled veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. It is the policy of The Ohio State University to limit access to communications and to letters of reference to those directly involved with the selection process. However, the status of this policy under the Ohio Open Records Act is unclear. Those seeking confidentiality should indicate that desire in all communications and the University will make every reasonable effort to honor that request within the limits of Ohio law.

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Pre and Post Doctoral Training Program in Minority Aging and Health

The Sealy Center on Aging at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas has openings for both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral positions for the 2007/8 academic year. These positions are for research focusing on the health of older minorities, with an emphasis on older Hispanics. Fellows collaborate with any of more than 15 Center faculty who have over $42 million in research pertaining to minority health and aging in the areas of medical outcomes, health service utilization, social epidemiology, psychosocial stress, and health promotion. Aging-related research initiatives at UTMB include a Center for Population Health and Health Disparities, a Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center, and the Hispanic Established Population for Epidemiologic Studies of the Elderly. Pre-doctoral fellows earn a Ph.D. degree in sociomedical sciences or health services research in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, or other doctoral programs at UTMB. These fellowships are funded by a grant from the National Institute on Aging. The pre-doctoral stipend is approximately $20,000; post-doctoral stipends range from $36,000-$51,000. All fellows receive full health care benefits. Screening of applications begins December 1, 2006 and continues until positions are filled. All fellows must be U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents. See our website at http://www.utmb.edu/scoa for more information.

UTMB Aging faculty

James S. Goodwin, M.D. (Harvard, Medicine) Professor, Geriatric Medicine, Director, Institute of Clinical and Translational Research
Kyriakos S. Markides, Ph.D. (Louisiana State, Sociology) Professor and Director, Sociomedical Sciences
Ronald A. Carson, Ph.D. (Glasgow, Ethics) Professor, Institute for the Medical Humanities
Karl Eschbach, Ph.D. (Harvard, Sociology) Associate Professor, Geriatrics
Thomas P. Erlinger, M.D., M.P.H. (University of Chicago, Medicine; Hopkins, Epidemiology) Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine. Director of Clinical Research Development
Daniel H. Freeman, Ph.D. (North Carolina, Biostatistics) Director, Office of Biostatistics
Jean L. Freeman, Ph.D. (Yale, Public Health/Epidemiology) Professor, Geriatrics and Health Services
James J. Grady, Dr.P.H. (North Carolina, Biostatistics) Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Yong-Fang Kuo, Ph.D. (Ohio State, Biostatistics) Associate Professor and Senior Biostatistician, Geriatrics
Glenn V. Ostir, Ph.D. (UTMB, Public Health/Epidemiology) Associate Professor, Geriatrics
Kenneth J. Ottenbacher, Ph.D. (Missouri-Columbia, Special Education/Mental Retardation) Director, Division of Rehabilitation Sciences
M. Kristen Peek, Ph.D. (Duke, Sociology) Associate Professor, Sociomedical Sciences
Billy U. Phillips, Ph.D. (Oklahoma, Public Health) Professor and Director, Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Mukaila Raji, M.D., M.S.C. (Ife, Nigeria, Medicine; Alberta, Pharmacology) Director, Memory Loss Clinic
Elizabeth Reifsnider, M.S.N, Ph.D. Professor and Associate Dean, School of Nursing
Elena Volpi, Ph.D., M.D. (Perugia, Italy, Applied Pathophysiology, Medicine and Surgery) Associate Professor, Geriatric Medicine
Gayle D. Weaver, Ph.D. (SUNY/Stonybrook, Psychology) Associate Professor, Rehabilitation Sciences
Susan C. Weller, Ph.D. (California-Irvine, Social Science) Professor, Sociomedical Sciences
William J. Winslade, Ph.D., J.D. (Northwestern, Philosophy; Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute, Psychoanalysis; UCLA, Law) Professor of Philosophy of Medicine, Institute for Medical Humanities

Applicants should send a letter stating research interests, relevant prior training, and a curriculum vitae to:

Karl Eschbach, Ph.D.
Sealy Center on Aging
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas 77555-0460

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