Preventive Services Report To Debut at Annual Meeting

GSA's upcoming Atlanta conference will serve as the venue for the release of “Promoting Preventive Services for Adults 50–64: Community and Clinical Partnerships,” a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), AARP, and the American Medical Association (AMA).

This resource will highlight an untapped opportunity to improve the health of individuals in a rapidly expanding age bracket, with a focus on broadening the use of potentially lifesaving preventive services. The report identifies a set of recommended preventive services, delineates successful strategies to promote and facilitate their delivery in community settings, and provides national and state-level data to monitor progress in ensuring these services reach this key population.

“Given the demographic forces, current economic and healthcare challenges, and important societal contributions of adults aged 50 to 64, the time is ripe for a well-planned public health response to enhance the delivery of preventive services throughout the nation,” said Lynda A. Anderson, PhD, director of the Healthy Aging Program at the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP). “This report highlights the strategies needed to increase preventive services for this age group.”

By 2015, one in every five Americans will be between the ages of 50 and 64, according to the report. Less than 25 percent of people in this demographic currently receive routinely recommended preventive services (i.e., influenza vaccination, colorectal cancer screening, and additionally for women, breast and cervical cancer screening).

GSA To Host Crash Course on Valued HRS Data Set

Attendees at GSA’s 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting will have a rare opportunity to get a concise introduction to the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) — a popular yet complex source of data on older people — during a pre-conference workshop on Wednesday, November 18.

This half-day session is designed as a condensed version of the annual week-long summer workshop on the HRS offered at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, which oversees the ongoing Study. The course will offer participants a chance to become familiar with the HRS, learn about the available data products and linkages, and experience a tutorial on how to access and begin working with the data.

The HRS surveys more than 22,000 Americans over the age of 50 every two years. With support from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Social Security Administration, it paints an emerging portrait of an aging America's physical and mental health, insurance coverage, financial status, family support systems, labor market status, and retirement planning.

“The HRS has been used in over 1,000 publications by over 1,000 different authors,” said HRS Director David Weir, PhD, one of the GSA workshop’s instructors. “All waves of the HRS are free and publicly available — making it a valuable resource for research.”

Among GSA's own journals, 15 articles published within the last year alone used data sourced from the HRS.

In 2007, the NIA released "Growing Older in America: The Health and Retirement Study," a report that describes the development of the HRS and offers a snapshot of its research findings. The publication brought widespread
From the Executive Director

An Atlanta Primer: 2009 in Review

By James Appleby, RPh, MPH

The Annual Scientific Meeting is the only time each year that many GSA members meet face to face. Naturally, the conversations there often turn to updates on what attendees have been doing in the intervening twelve months. Additionally, the conference provides a formal opportunity for the GSA leadership to report on the Society’s many accomplishments. In spite of the economic challenges facing the country, 2009 has been a good year for GSA and the field of gerontology. A short list of noteworthy happenings is provided below.

Membership Strengthened: From October 2008 to October 2009, GSA’s membership grew over five percent. That number is quite remarkable given that many professional societies are struggling to retain their members in the face of budget constraints at this point in time.

Journal Editors Appointed: It is vital that GSA’s premier journals continue to be steered by capable leaders. Two well-respected editors were appointed in 2009: Merrill Silverstein for the Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences and Rafael de Cabo for the Journal of Gerontology: Biological Sciences.

Journal Impact Factors Improved: The latest edition of Journal Citation Reports reported that over the last two years GSA’s peer-reviewed journals experienced significant increases in impact factor, a measure of the frequency with which a publication has been cited by others.

AGHE Directory Published: In October, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education released the eighth edition of “The Directory of Educational Programs in Gerontology and Geriatrics.” This unique product provides listings of aging-related offerings at nearly 300 institutions.

New Grants Awarded: The end of 2009 brought good news from two of GSA’s major funding partners. The John A. Hartford Institute extended its geriatric social work grant to continue the Hartford Faculty Scholars Program. Furthermore, the National Academy on an Aging Society received a new grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies to create an online clearinghouse for research and legislative proposals related to workforce and community engagement issues.

Civic Engagement Efforts Recognized: Under its Civic Engagement in an Older America Project, GSA has worked with like-minded organizations to expand service opportunities for older adults. These efforts were rewarded in April with the signing of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, several provisions of which provide volunteer opportunities for people over age 55.

Workforce Issues Addressed: The Society continued its work as a founding member of the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, a coalition devoted to ensuring that America has a sufficient number of adequately-trained care providers to meet the needs of its aging population. President Michéle Saunders serves as GSA’s representative to this group, participating in many advocacy activities in Washington, DC.

2017 World Congress Secured: In July, GSA placed a successful bid to serve as host organization for the 2017 World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, which will be held in San Francisco. This event will provide the Society and its members with the opportunity to share research with colleagues from around the world.

NIH Stimulus Funding Appropriated: The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act provided the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with over $10 billion in stimulus money. In September, President Obama announced that $5 billion has been used to fund scientific grants — representing the single largest boost to biomedical research in history.

I look forward to discussing these and many other items with GSA members at the Atlanta meeting. As always, I also welcome feedback at jappleby@geron.org.

James
Tinetti Wins MacArthur Genius Award

The MacArthur Fellows Program has bestowed its prestigious fellowship upon Marie Tinetti, MD, of Yale University, who is one of 24 recipients this year. This distinction, also known as the “genius award,” consists of a $500,000 prize given by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to U.S. citizens or residents, of any age and working in any field, who “show exceptional merit and promise for continued and enhanced creative work.” Tinetti was chosen for her accomplishments in understanding and preventing falls in the elderly. The fellowship has no application. People are nominated anonymously by a body of nominators who submit recommendations to a small selection committee of about a dozen people, also anonymous. The committee then reviews every nominee and passes along their recommendations to the president and the board of directors. An interview with Tinetti is available on GSA’s website in the Member Spotlight section at www.geron.org/Membership/member-spotlight.

GSA Members Rank Among New Policy Fellows

Three GSA members have been selected for the second cohort of the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program. Chad Boult, MD, MPH, MBA, Richard A. Marottoli, MD, MPH, and Margaret I. Wallhagen, PhD, GNP-BC, AGSF, FAAN, will spend the next twelve months working to shape a healthy and productive future for older Americans. Boult, of Johns Hopkins University, will spend his time in Washington, DC, while Marottoli and and Wallhagen will remain at their home institutions (of Yale University and the University of California, San Francisco, respectively) to focus on health policy projects. The program is open to physicians, nurses, and social workers at call career stages with a demonstrated commitment to health and aging issues. The fellows are chosen by a selection committee of the program’s National Advisory Board. Visit www.healthandagingpolicy.org for more information.

Hooyman Wins CSWE’s Lifetime Achievement Prize

GSA Fellow Nancy Hooyman, PhD, has been chosen as the Council on Social Work Education’s (CSWE) 2009 winner of the Significant Lifetime Achievement in Social Work Award. She is a professor and dean emeritus at the University of Washington School of Social Work. Under her leadership as dean for 14 years, the School of Social Work was ranked third out of 135 graduate programs by US News and World Report. Hooyman is the author of seven books and over 100 articles and chapters related to gerontology and women’s issues, and is a frequent presenter at conferences on gerontology, feminism, older women, and caregiving. She is currently principal investigator of the Hartford Geriatric Enrichment in Social Work Education Project, a national curriculum change initiative.

Levin Ascends to Multiple Baylor Posts

GSA Fellow Jeff Levin, PhD, has accepted a distinguished chair at Baylor University’s Institute for Studies of Religion (ISR), where he will serve as university professor of epidemiology and population health as well as director of ISR’s program on religion and population health. Levin will also serve as a professor of medical humanities at Baylor. He was previously an adjunct professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Duke University Medical Center. Levin will collaborate with ISR scholars on a number of different research initiatives and will direct ISR’s efforts in global population health research. His special emphases on religion and health research will include ethnic minority, aging and Jewish populations. His presence will significantly expand ISR’s interfaith efforts through his additional role as scientific chair of the Kalsman Roundtable on Judaism and Health Research at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.
This column is devoted to GSA’s upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta and its Policy Series. The conference fortunately is taking place during a period of intense national interest in issues related to aging and health care. Barely six months ago, we celebrated the passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act in which civic engagement and senior volunteer service figured prominently.

More recently, the opponents of the Elder Justice Act have been placated and the act has been included in the Senate Finance Committee health care reform legislation.

The health care reform movement has brought focus and attention to issues of care coordination, long-term care, and end-of-life care. Not all of the attention has been positive or supportive, but a harsh or critical dialogue is better than ignorance and disregard.

Rarely have I been so excited about or proud of a group of sessions at a conference. This series of policy sessions are an example of what makes GSA such a vital, timely, and important organization. The sessions reflect the latest information and advancements on many topical issues challenging the fields of gerontology and geriatrics, including long-term care policy, funding for biomedical research, end-of-life issues, retirement security, and, last but not least, health care reform. The speakers and presenters are the foremost researchers, policy analysts, and aging advocates in the nation. I urge GSA members and conference participants to attend as many of these sessions as possible. Please remember to look for a flyer at the conference registration area that will give you details on the times and places of these and other policy-related sessions. All events listed below are taking place at either the Hilton Atlanta or the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

**Long-Term Care Research and Policy in the 21st Century**

**Thursday, November 19 • 2:30 to 4 p.m. • Marriott International Salon 4–5**

This session will include three presentations summarizing assessments of research findings regarding the capacity of community-based care to provide comprehensive long-term care and the implication of these findings for the future of LTC policy and practice. The three presentations will focus on different dimensions of community-based vs. institutional LTC issues beginning with a review of several years’ worth of data demonstrating the capacity of community-based care to contain LTC costs over the long term. The second presentation will focus on the organizational factors that appear to be most critical in determining a state’s ability to create a more balanced LTC system featuring an array of community-based programs. The third presentation will examine the relative cost-effectiveness of several home- and community-based programs in a single state over a period of eight years. The panel will also include two discussants with extensive backgrounds in long-term care research, policy analysis, and implementation. The speakers include Larry Polivka, PhD, Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging; Charlene Harrington, PhD, University of California, San Francisco; Richard Browdie, MBA, Benjamin Rose Institute; and Rosalie Kane, MSW, PhD, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota.

**Promoting Prevention for Adults 50 to 64 — Clinical and Community Partnerships**

**Thursday, November 19 • 4:30 to 6 p.m. • Marriott International Salon 9–10**

This session is co-sponsored by GSA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Medical Association (AMA), and AARP. This session puts prevention at the heart of the health care reform debate. It will start with the recent report by the CDC, AMA, and AARP on building clinical and community partnerships to promote clinical preventive services for adults aged 50 to 64. This debate and dialogue session emphasizes the importance of using the community as a platform for increasing access to and use of clinical preventive services and building bridges between clinical and community settings in the light of the health care reform. Panelists will address challenges and potential roles for stakeholders to collaborate in the delivery of clinical preventive services and address health reform that promotes community-wide improvements in prevention. The speakers include Lynda Anderson, PhD, CDC; William Benson, CDC; Terrie Wetle, PhD, Brown University; Cheryl Matheis, JD, AARP; and Edward Langston, MD, AMA Board of Trustees.

**GSA Business Meeting and Policy Forum: Health Care Reform — What Happened, What Did We Learn, and How Will It Impact Older Adults?**

**Friday, November 20 • 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. • Marriott Marquis Salon A**

This session will begin with the brief annual business meeting of the Society, followed by a forum of policy experts who will provide their views on how health care reform efforts will and won’t shape Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care, and retiree health coverage in the future. This interactive session will
include discussions of how key aging priorities fared, what’s next on the horizon, and a question and answer period. The speakers include John Rother, JD, AARP; Gretchen Alkema, PhD, LCSW, Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program; and Toni Miles, MD, PhD, Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program.

“Death Panels?” Euthanasia?: The Real Story On End of Life and Palliative Care Issues in 2009
Saturday, November 21 • 10 to 11:30 a.m. • Marriott International Salon 7
These panelists will cut through the media hype and bring us up to date on how health care reform and state policy and practice may alter the way we deal with end of life issues. Learn how advance care planning and palliative care have evolved in the last few years and the key challenges that lie immediately ahead. The speakers include Harry “Rick” Moody, PhD, AARP; Charles Sabatino, JD, the American Bar Association’s Commission on Law and Aging; Charles Fahey, Fordham University; and Diane Meier, MD, Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Capitol Hill Update: How Budget and Policy Decisions Are Shaping the Future of Medical Research
Saturday, November 21 • 12:30 to 2 p.m. • Hilton Grand Salon C
Reinvesting in medical research was one of President Barack Obama’s most prominent campaign themes and an early focus of his administration. This session will reflect on how much progress the President has made in fulfilling his campaign promise to increase significantly federal funding for research. It will explain the role Congress plays in making decisions about spending priorities. It also will explore emerging policy issues that are shaping the future of medical research, including a new report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concluding that the HIPAA Privacy Rule does not protect privacy as well as it should and is currently impeding important health research. The IOM report recommends an entirely new approach to protecting privacy in health research and also suggests a series of changes to improve the rule and the guidance that the Department of Health and Human Services provides on how to comply with the existing regulations. Participants in this session will gain an understanding of how they can use their expertise as researchers to advocate for and influence Congress and policymakers. They will learn about tools and resources that are available to help individual citizens monitor key legislative and policy developments affecting medical research. The speakers include Ari Gafni, PhD, University of Michigan; Greg O’Neill, PhD, The Gerontological Society of America; Mark Lively, PhD, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB); Sharyl Nass, PhD, Institute of Medicine; and Jennifer Zeitzer, FASEB.

Building the Evidence Base of Experience Corps
Saturday, November 21 • 12:30 to 2 p.m. • Marriott International Salon 6
In this session, researchers will overview two large research projects that focus on the Experience Corps (EC) program and update the audience on the current status of the evidence base. EC brings older adults into public elementary schools to improve academic achievement of students, through tutoring, small group academic help and assisting teachers. The session will begin with a paper that reviews the two research projects, highlighting designs, variables and study topics; and the samples of participating EC volunteers will be compared. Next, four different papers will be presented which represent the range of topics under investigation: the social marketing of the program, costs of operating the program, the effects of stipends, and health benefits of participation on the EC volunteers. The Vice President of Civic Ventures and former Director of Experience Corps will discuss the application of these findings. The speakers include Nancy Morrow-Howell, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis; Song-Iee Hong, PhD, National University of Singapore; Amanda Moore McBride, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis; Michelle Carlson, PhD, Johns Hopkins University; Erwin Tan, MD, Johns Hopkins Center on Aging and Health; and Kevin Frick, PhD, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Dimensions of Retirement Insecurity in an Economic Downturn: Causes and Options
Saturday, November 21 • 2:30 to 4 p.m. • Marriott International Salon 9–10
This recession has battered several of the supports that sustain security in retirement, including portfolios, the market value of owner-occupied housing, post-retirement health benefits, and access to jobs. This panel will begin with a presentation of a multidimensional standard for economic security and risk that proposes thresholds for five aspects of retirement security, demonstrating that risk is both widespread and unevenly distributed. When translated to the state level, the measure can be used to track the impact of state policies. The housing bubble induced some home owners to extract equity from housing assets for other purposes, and our second panelist presents evidence about the impact this has on economic security in retirement. Work choices over the life course affect the value of the assets available to fund retirement. Our third speaker will consider the role of work life trajectories in determining the distribution of economic wellbeing and risk in retirement. The final panelist will update us on the impact of this particular recession on retirement security, and the implications for public policy. The speakers include Christine Bishop, PhD, Brandeis University; James Schulz, PhD, Brandeis University; Melissa Hardy, PhD, Pennsylvania State University; George Mackenzie, AARP; Tatjana Meschede, PhD, Brandeis University; and Mauricio Soto, PhD, the Urban Institute.
Numerous sessions that boast GSA’s mentoring and networking resources are slated for the 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting in Atlanta, GA. All events will take place in either the Hilton Atlanta or Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

**Interest Group Meetings**
- **Wednesday, November 18** • 6:30 to 8 p.m. • Multiple locations
- **Thursday, November 19** • 6 to 7:30 p.m. 7:30 to 9 p.m. • Multiple locations
- **Friday, November 20** • 6:30 to 8 p.m. • Multiple locations

**Mentoring Consultancies**
- **Session I**: November 18 • 3 to 4:30 p.m. • Marriott Skyline 10th Floor
- **Session II**: November 20 • 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. • Marriott Skyline 10th Floor

**Biological Sciences Lounge**
- **Thursday, November 19 to Saturday, November 21** • 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Hilton 210

**New Member Meet and Greet**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 7 to 8 a.m. • Hilton 303

**GSA Fellows Mentor Program**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 7 to 8 a.m. • Marriott Atrium A701

**ESPO Lounge**
- **Thursday, November 19 to Saturday, November 21** • 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Marriott Marquis M202

**ESPO and Sigma Phi Omega Breakfast and Community Meeting**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 8 to 10 a.m. • Marriott Atrium A602

**Task Force on Minority Issues Award Presentation and Reception**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 5 to 6:30 p.m. • Marriott Lobby L401–L403

**GSA Fellows & International Reception**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 6 to 7:30 p.m. • Marriott Imperial Salon B

**Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Wine and Cheese & Fellows Meet the Students**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 7 to 8:30 p.m. • Marriott Imperial Salon A

**ESPO Lounge**
- **Thursday, November 19 to Saturday, November 21** • 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Hilton 210

**Biological Sciences Lounge**
- **Thursday, November 19 to Saturday, November 21** • 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Hilton 210

**New Member Meet and Greet**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 7 to 8 a.m. • Hilton 303

**GSA Fellows Mentor Program**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 7 to 8 a.m. • Marriott Atrium A701

**ESPO Lounge**
- **Thursday, November 19 to Saturday, November 21** • 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Marriott Marquis M202

**ESPO and Sigma Phi Omega Breakfast and Community Meeting**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 8 to 10 a.m. • Marriott Atrium A602

**Task Force on Minority Issues Award Presentation and Reception**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 5 to 6:30 p.m. • Marriott Lobby L401–L403

All members are invited to this event, which honors the 2009 winner of the Task Force on Minority Issues in Gerontology Outstanding Mentorship Award.

**GSA Fellows & International Reception**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 6 to 7:30 p.m. • Marriott Imperial Salon B

This reception is held annually to honor current and new GSA fellows, as well as international members of the Society.

**Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization Wine and Cheese & Fellows Meet the Students**
- **Thursday, November 19** • 7 to 8:30 p.m. • Marriott Imperial Salon A

This event provides an informal setting in which to network with other ESPO members as well as GSA fellows. The reception is open to ESPO members and GSA fellows only.

**Campus Ambassadors Meeting**
- **Friday, November 20** • 7 to 8 a.m. • Hilton 308

For those interested in representing GSA at a college or university, this brief informational meeting will allow attendees to learn more about the program and meet current campus ambassadors.

**BSS Fellows/Emerging Scholars Mentoring Workshop**
- **Friday, November 20** • 8:30 to 10 a.m. • Marriott Atrium A602

The goal of this mentoring workshop is to provide an informal, yet structured social setting that affords emerging scholars an opportunity to meet Behavioral and Social Sciences Section fellows and establish professional contacts.

**GSA Section Updates and Award Presentations: BS, BSS, HS, and SRPP**
- **Friday, November 20** • 12 to 1 p.m. • BS: Hilton 303–305, BSS: Marriott Imperial Salon B, HS: Hilton Crystal Ballroom, SRPP: Marriott Imperial Salon A

All GSA members are invited to attend the business meeting of their section. Each meeting features the section award presentations, activity reports, recognition of new GSA fellows, and the transfer of office.

**Fun Run/Walk**
- **Saturday, November 21** • 6 to 7 a.m. (Fee: $25) • Marriott Lobby

In partnership with the Health Sciences Section — to benefit The Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award — the Fun Run/Walk will take place at the famous and beautiful Centennial Olympic Park, a short distance from the meeting hotels.

**Letters to my Mentor**
- **Saturday, November 21** • 8 to 9:30 a.m. • Marriott International Salon B

This session will offer an opportunity for participants to discuss their mentoring experiences through the format of shared letters they compose to their own memorable mentors.
Dementia Guide To Debut at GSA’s Atlanta Meeting
The University of Michigan’s Institute of Gerontology, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors have teamed up to release a new publication titled “Implementing a Community-Based Program for Dementia Caregivers: An Action Guide using REACH OUT.” (REACH OUT is an evidence-based caregiver support system designed to promote the health and well-being of adults caring for persons with dementia.) The guide provides a step-by-step approach to using REACH OUT in communities of varying size and composition. Much of what appears in the publication can be applied to other evidence-based programs and is intended to facilitate expansion of caregiver interventions and promote their adoption into widespread practice. It will be available at GSA’s 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting at the CDC’s (110) and University of Michigan’s Institute of Gerontology’s booths (123). The guide can be accessed at www.iog.umich.edu/reachout/reachout.htm after December 1. For more information, please contact Michelle Brown at mbr6@cdc.gov or Lisa McGuire at lmcguire@cdc.gov.

Census Bureau Offers Free Copies of New Report
According to “An Aging World: 2008,” a new report issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, the average age of the world’s population is increasing at an unprecedented rate. The number of people worldwide aged 65 and older was estimated at 506 million as of midyear 2008; by 2040, that number will hit 1.3 billion. Thus, in just over 30 years, the proportion of older people will double from seven percent to 14 percent of the total world population. The publication, commissioned by the National Institute on Aging, examines the demographic and socioeconomic trends accompanying this phenomenon. The Census Bureau is offering free copies of the print edition; to make a request, contact Mary Beth Kennedy at mary.elizabeth.kennedy@census.gov or (301) 763-1371.

New ‘Annual Review’ Details Health Disparities
The latest edition of “Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics,” (Volume 29), titled “Life-Course Perspectives on Late Life Health Inequalities,” is slated for release during the month of November. This installment begins with an overview of the theoretical underpinnings of both the life span and the life course perspectives on health disparities in aging populations, and examines them in the context of a changing structure of society. The volume also focuses on morbidities in general as well as specific morbidities such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension, giving special attention to life-time influences on cognition and functional abilities. Finally, the publication addresses broader policy issues with relation to life span and life course perspectives on aging. Visit www.springerpub.com/prod.aspx?prod_id=05110 for further details.

ILC-USA Issues Vaccination Policy Resource
According to a new policy brief issued by the International Longevity Center-USA (ILC-USA), older Europeans are not well vaccinated and therefore not well protected against vaccine preventable diseases. Identifying and developing strategies for overcoming barriers to vaccination is therefore an important health policy goal for Europe. In the brief, the authors summarize evidence about policies and practices that promote the use of vaccination from all over the world and identify actions that policy makers should take to improve rates of vaccination and promote healthy aging. The full text is available for download at www.ilcusa.org/media/pdfs/Vaccination_and_Health_Brief.pdf.

E-Newsletter Fosters Aging Research Discussions
The Population Reference Bureau (PRB) is offering free subscriptions to its “Today’s Research in Aging” e-newsletter, which is intended to increase awareness of research results and their applications to major public and private decision making. Funding for this newsletter series and related articles and webcasts has been provided by the National Institute on Aging’s Behavioral and Social Research Unit, through a grant from the University of Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging. Visit the PRB website at www.prb.org/TodaysResearch/TodaysResearchEmailSignup.aspx to subscribe to the e-newsletter.

NASUA Study Finds Aging Programs Hit by Economic Downturn
A recent survey conducted by the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) found that although additional funding was provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, more than 20 percent of states still must cut services for older individuals. Nearly 80 percent of states have waiting lists for home-delivered meals, and more than half have waiting lists for personal care, homemaker services, and respite care. Despite the increased need, more than 30 percent of states face cuts of between six and 10 percent for FY 2010. A report on the survey is available at www.nasua.org/EconomicSurveyJune2009.pdf.pdf.

Government Report Details Reform Benefits for Seniors
A new report from the White House, titled “America’s Seniors and Health Insurance Reform: Protecting Coverage and Strengthening Medicare,” outlines how reform can strengthen health care for America’s older adults. The document asserts that rising health care costs, persistent gaps in the use of recommended services, and the threat of Medicare insolvency all undermine the current health care that Medicare beneficiaries require. It concludes by listing ways that health insurance reform will improve access, quality, and affordability for America’s seniors. The report is available at www.healthreform.gov/reports/seniors/index.html.
During September’s Membership Month, GSA awarded a $25 Amazon.com gift card to any current member who referred a colleague to join the Society. As a result, 127 new people were recruited. GSA congratulates all the participants and extends a warm welcome to its newest members! The gift card winners are listed below:

Rebecca Allen (referred Courtney Worley)
Lisa Barry (referred Diane Martinez)
Anne Basting (referred Sally Chivers)
Sherry Beaudreau (referred Tiffany Rideaux)
Lazelle Benefield (referred Carol Stewart)
Kate Bennett (referred Laura Soulsby)
Cindy Bergeeman (referred Stephen Tueller)
Barbara Berkman (referred Shadi Martin)
Roger Bermingham (referred John Crawley)
Patricia Berry (referred Lauren Clark)
Megan Bewernitz (referred Sandra Winter)
Barbara Bowers (referred Ju Yoon)
Kenneth Brummel-Smith (referred Lisa Maynard)
Lucinda Bryant (referred Colleen McMilin)
Laura Bush (referred Emily Roberts)
Robert Butler (referred Amoke Alakoye)
Brian Carpenter (referred Sarah Zoller)
Laura Carstensen (referred Tammy English and Josephine Menkin)
Nicholas Castle (referred Jamie Ferguson)
Habib Chaudhury (referred Atiya Mahmood)
Katie Cherry (referred Silva Brown and Ashley Newman)
Iris Chi (referred Ling Xu)
Edward Cisek (referred Susan Rosendahl-Masella and Michael Phillips)
Phillip Clark (referred Geoffrey Greene)
Teresa Cooney (referred Chih-Chun Chuang)
Connie Corley (referred Catherine Macdonald)
Eleanor Krassen Cowan (referred Lauren Segur)
Angela Culf (referred Christy Nickolaus)
Tonya Elliott (referred Lauren Popham)
Elizabeth Farrington (referred Alexandra Leichthammer)
Robert Ficke (referred Jon Burkhardt)
Lisa Fredman (referred Sherri Stuver)
Terry Fulmer (referred Stefanie Russell)
Colleen Galambos (referred Marjoire Skubic)
Todd Goldberg (referred Judy Petersen)
Roma Hanks (referred Carey Driskell)
Theresa Harvath (referred Melissa Bosworth)
Oliver Hautoz (referred Emily Robins)
Jim Hinterlong (referred Kristin Brown)
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (referred Kay Haubenreiser)
Barbara Holtzclaw (referred Jo Azzarello)
Sheena Hornig (referred Christina Vair)
Wei Huang (referred Michael Chi Phi Tong)
Eunjoo Hwang (referred Ann Ziebarth)
Cheryl Irmiter (referred Joanne Schwartzberg)
Cynthia Jacelon (referred Shoshana Gladstone)
Rona Karasik (referred Jean McGuire)
Tina Kruger (referred Tiffany Clinkinbeard)
Helen Lach (referred Joanne Langan)
Margie Lachman (referred Stefan Agrigoroaei)
Josh Lang (referred Maggie Wallendal)
Amanda Leggett (referred MaryJon Barrineau)
Teresa Lewis (referred Valerie Cooke)
Mark Luborsky (referred Christine Green)
Judith Lucas (referred John Bowblis)

Terry Lum (referred Kari Danso)
Ellen Mahoney (referred Dorothy Zirkle)
Hannah Marston (referred Marielle Beringen)
Joohong Min (referred Han-Jun Ka)
Carmen Morano (referred Daniel Rosen)
Nancy Morrow-Howell (referred Jason Echols)
Jennifer Moye (referred Elizabeth Archambault)
Adam Moylan (referred Cary Speidell)
Tracy Mroz (referred Eva DuGoff)
Jean Munn (referred Kristin Brown)
Anita Myers (referred Brenda Vrklijan)
Danielle Nadoroff (referred Michael Nadorff)
Robert Newcomer (referred Teresa Scherzer)
Debra Oliver (referred Iraida Carion)
Denise Orwig (referred Jennifer Lloyd)
Sharon Ostwald (referred Kyler Godwin and Karen Janssen)
Marti Parker (referred Josephine Heap, Gunilla Ringback-Weitoff, Ingrid Schmidt, Par Schon, Stefan Fors, and Carin Lennartsson)
Ginette Pepper (referred Lynn Underwood)
Mary Quinn (referred Ginger Fidel)
Atossa Rabiee (referred Dariush Elahi)
James Raymo (referred Eric Vogelsang)
Douglas Reed (referred Darla Lorenz)
Andrew Revell (referred Ashley Couteau)
Chandra Reynolds (referred Leslie Martin)
Sandra Reynolds (referred Sonia Swearingen)
Carol Roan (referred Julia Goldberg and Yu Wang)
Rachel Rodriguez (referred Kate Martin)
Wendy Rogers (referred Jenay Beer, Anne Adams, and Marita O’Brien)
Robert Roush (referred Catherine Meriano)
Laura Schaap (referred Henrike van der Ploeg)
Laura Sevora (referred Melinda Heinz)
Nancy Sheehan (referred Claudia Oakes)
Nancy Sherman (referred Rebecca Michel)
Martin Sliwinski (referred Allison Reamy)
Merideth Smith (referred Sarra Nazem)
Marieke Snijder (referred Noor Heim)
Amanda Sokan (referred Tina Kruger)
Denise Sparks (referred Lowell Krook and Glenda Connolly)
Mary Ann Stephens (referred Rachel Hemphill)
Elsa Strutmeyer (referred Kira Leishear)
Lee-jen Suen (referred Ming-Chu Lin)
Feiyang Tang (referred Yeonjung Lee)
Pamela Teaster (referred Laura Stephenson)
Marlene Thornton (referred Kathy Magilvy)
Geoffrey Tremont (referred Jennifer Davis)
Paula Usita (referred Holly Shakya)
Linda Vinton (referred Kristin Brown)
Kris Weyman (referred Tara Gregory)
Janet Wilson (referred Helen Farrar)
Diana Woods (referred Wendie Robbins)
Wendy Woods (referred John Bowblis)
Tracy Jing Xu (referred Neil Drummond)
Heying Zhan (referred Baozhen Luo)
Sarah Frey is the program manager for the National Academy on an Aging Society, GSA's public policy branch. She is a native of Edina, MN, and joined the staff in July 2008. Frey is a graduate of Davidson College, where she received a bachelor's degree in gerontology. Her senior thesis was “Creating Pathways To Promote Older Americans’ Civic Engagement.” Thus, her background ideally suits her to the recent policy work of the Academy.

She is responsible for compiling the “Public Policy & Aging E-Newsletter” and “Civic Engagement E-Newsletter.” Additionally, she supervises production of the quarterly Public Policy & Aging Report.

Furthermore, she administers GSA’s Civic Engagement in an Older America Project and Public Policy and Advocacy Initiative, and assists in the planning of the Public Policy Series at GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting.

Frey also works closely with the Public Policy Committee and the Task Force on Women, and acts as the staff liaison to GSA’s Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization.

Earlier this year, she spearheaded the compilation of the application that resulted in GSA’s successful bid to serve as host organization for the 2017 World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics.

Outside of GSA, Frey serves on the board of the Shoreview, MN-based Ecumen Foundation, which supports the management of senior communities and home- and community-based services. She also is a founding member of Giving WoMN, a grantmaking organization in Minneapolis, MN, that educates women about philanthropy.

Preventative Services Report - Continued from page 1

“Disparities in the receipt of preventive services and their impact on health and quality of life are a crucial issue for this age group, which is increasingly comprised of individuals representing an array of racial and ethnic populations,” said Wayne Giles, MD, director of the Division of Adult and Community Health within the NCCDPHP.

Among the health disparities highlighted in the report are age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, and insurance status.

“One of every four adults aged 50 to 64 is uninsured or has inadequate insurance coverage,” said Cheryl Matheis, JD, senior vice president of health strategy at AARP. “Ensuring that these millions of boomers have access to preventive care can improve their health.”

“Promoting Preventive Services for Adults 50–64” is unique because it — for the first time — provides an easily-referenced compilation of national and state-by-state data on key indicators related to recommended preventive services. These indicators include screening for four diseases, two immunizations, six risk factors, and two composite measures that combine selected clinical preventive services.

The report also highlights proven, science-based programs, policies, and strategies essential for achieving broader coverage of preventive services among those aged 50 to 64 in the U.S. Additionally, its calls to action highlight existing gaps, barriers, and opportunities for the delivery of multiple preventive services.

Building on the report’s contents, Anderson will chair a debate and dialogue session at the Annual Scientific Meeting to emphasize the importance of using community as a platform for increasing access to and use of clinical preventive services, building bridges between community and clinical settings, and health reform. Matheis is also among the speakers. They will be joined by Bill Benson of Health Benefits ABCs; former GSA President Terrie Wetle, PhD, of Brown University; and Edward Langston, MD, RPh, ABFM, of the AMA Board of Trustees. This symposium will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, in International Salon 9 and 10 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

That same afternoon, “Promoting Preventive Services for Adults 50–64” will be available in hard copy to meeting attendees at the CDC Booth (#110) in the Exhibit Hall, as well as electronically on the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/aging). An interactive online version will launch in early 2010, with updates at regular intervals.

Crash Course - Continued from page 1

attention about the Study to a broad range of researchers, policymakers, media, and organizations concerned with health, economics, and aging. This and other similar resources are available on the University of Michigan’s HRS website at hrsonline.isr.umich.edu.

During GSA’s workshop, particular emphasis will be placed on new initiatives to collect physical measure, biomarker, and psychosocial data. At its conclusion, attendees will have the knowledge to construct an analytic file and begin to conduct analyses. The HRS will also have a dedicated booth in the Exhibit Hall at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

For more information on pricing and other available pre-conference workshops, please visit www.geron.org/am. The full lineup consists of:

• Introduction to the Health and Retirement Study (HRS)
• Assisted Living in the Context of Alternate Housing Options
• Evaluating Programs Delivered at Multiple Sites: Integrating Results in a Geriatrics Education Center Context
• Methods for Studying Older Persons at the Neighborhood Level
• The Science of Translation: Can Implementation of Evidence-based Interventions into the Community also be “Good Science?”
• Using, Adapting, and Modifying Existing Measures for Studies of Diverse Population Groups
Tips for Successful Conference Posters & Presentations

Being new to presenting at conferences can be a bit intimidating. At some universities, students organize a practice day at which they rehearse presentations for faculty and peers in order to get feedback. If you don’t already have this opportunity, you may want to suggest developing such a program to someone in your department, or just practice for a few friends or fellow students.

Poster Sessions
The maximum poster size allowed at GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting is eight feet wide by four feet high. Use a font size large enough for people to read from a distance of about three feet away. This means you may have to cut back on the amount of text you use. In general, you want to use as few words as possible. Try using bullet points instead of complete sentences. Use clear headers to separate the sections of your poster. Colorful figures or charts are a great way to communicate information and get attention! Dark and contrasting colors contribute to the poster’s readability. Be sure to give credit to your co-authors, your institution, and grants that funded any part of your research.

Arrive at the session a few minutes early to set up your poster, and be sure to remove it promptly afterwards to make space for the presenters in the next session. It is not polite to put your poster up and then leave the room. If you want to look around at other posters, ask a co-author to take turns with you standing by the poster. Practice giving a brief presentation of your poster to prepare for people stopping by. Be prepared to answer questions about your poster. You may want to have handouts and/or business cards available for people who want more information. Poster tubes often can be purchased at art supply or business supply stores. This makes it easier to carry your poster around, and will help you avoid wrinkling or tearing it.

Posters sessions are good ways to network and chat with large numbers of people in a short period of time. The sessions last 90 minutes.

Paper Sessions
Paper sessions usually have four to five presentations centered around a common topic. You should prepare to speak for about 12 minutes and leave three minutes for questions or discussion. Try not to go over your time so your co-presenters get the same amount of time to present. This requires planning and practice; try timing yourself while practicing in front of a friend or colleague. Be aware that often when we are nervous, we speak too quickly. A general rule of thumb is to use one presentation slide for each minute of your talk, so that means keep it brief! You may have to choose one or two main results to highlight and only touch on the remaining results if there is extra time at the end or in the question and answer portion.

Think of the talk like a preview. Entice the audience to want to read the full paper. Have business cards, handouts, or full versions of the paper available for audience members who may want more information. Like with posters, make sure your slides are clear and visible from a distance. Use large font sizes and avoid putting too much information on any one slide. Try using bullet points instead of complete sentences. Identify your slides with straightforward headings to let the audience know where you are headed. Use clear and descriptive graphs or illustrations. Do not simply read off your slides, as this makes for a very boring talk. When you get questions at the end, it is a good idea to repeat the question back to make sure everyone has heard it before you answer.

You can assume that your audience will be college educated and generally familiar with aging as a research topic. Because GSA is a very diverse organization, however, do not assume that your audience shares the same terminology, disciplinary knowledge (e.g. psychology, medicine, policy), or familiarity with research methods.

Visit this website for specific instructions and guidelines for posters and presentations given at the GSA annual meeting: www.geron.org/Annual%20Meeting/abstract-and-presenter-information.
NIH Funds To Enhance Academic-Community Ties
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced the availability of $30 million provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to support the development of partnerships between academic research centers and community-based organizations. This funding opportunity, developed in collaboration with the Administration on Aging, supports the development of infrastructure and staff for productive and sustainable academic-community research partnerships. Academic research centers must take the lead in applying for these grant funds, but they are required to have a full collaboration with community-based organization(s). NIH anticipates awarding 30 or more grants with a funding maximum of $1 million per applicant. Letters of intent are due November 12 and the application due date is December 11. Visit grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-010.html for complete details.

AFAR Solicits Applications for Latest Grants
The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) has announced the availability of its 2010 round of AFAR Research Grants. The organization provides up to $75,000 for one- to two-year awards to junior faculty to conduct research that will serve as the basis for longer term research efforts. Projects investigating age-related diseases or mechanisms underlying common geriatric functional disorders are encouraged. The application deadline is December 15. It is anticipated that approximately 15 grants of up to $75,000 each will be awarded in 2010. Visit http://afar.org/afar99.html for complete details.

Ellison Grants To Bolster Novel Research
Applications are being sought for the 2010 Julie Martin Mid-Career Awards in Aging Research, sponsored by The Ellison Medical Foundation, to encourage outstanding mid-career scientists who have not been engaged in aging research but whose research is relevant and could lead to novel approaches to aging. Two four-year awards of $550,000 will be awarded. Proposals — in areas where National Institutes of Health awards or other traditional sources of funding are unlikely because the research is high risk — are particularly encouraged if they have the potential for leading to major new advances in our understanding of basic mechanisms of aging. Projects investigating age-related diseases or mechanisms underlying common geriatric functional disorders will also be supported. Visit afar.org/Ellison%20Mid-Career.html for more information. The application deadline is December 15.

NIA Seeks To Expand Shock Centers
The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is inviting applications for monies that will support the development of Nathan Shock Centers of Excellence in Basic Biology of Aging. These grants will provide funding for research and training activities that belong within the areas supported by the Division of Aging Biology of the NIA. They are intended for institutions that can demonstrate a substantial current investment in and commitment to research on the basic biology of aging. The application deadline is December 11. See grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-10-009.html for complete details.

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
Interdisciplinary Pre and Post-Doctoral Fellowships
Unique interdisciplinary fellowship training opportunities in Geriatrics/Gerontology and Health Services Research are available at Brown University for MDs, PhDs and those seeking doctoral training in health services research or epidemiology. The position requirements for a post-doctoral fellowship are: MD and continuation of basic clinical training, or PhD in health services research, sociology, epidemiology, economics or other related field. Qualified candidates for doctoral training in health services research/clinical epidemiology are also eligible. Physicians seeking a post-doctoral appointment may opt to pursue an MPH degree. Pre-and post-doctoral fellows will have the opportunity to participate in on-going research in one or more substantive areas, including chronic disease management, health promotion and prevention, long-term care, community-based systems of care, health care organizations and methodological approaches to health services research.

Term of appointment is for one year, renewable contingent upon funding. Screening for post-doctoral positions will continue until all successful candidates have been identified or the search is closed while pre-doctoral applications are subject to standard application deadlines for graduate study. Brown University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Contact Michele Swallow for program description and application at: Michele_Swallow@Brown.Edu or (401) 863-3211.
One in Eight Britons Working Beyond Retirement-Eligibility Age

One in eight British people now works beyond the retirement-eligibility age, either because they seek to save more for their pension or simply because they enjoy their jobs, according to figures from the UK’s Office for National Statistics. This research found that 12 percent of men and women aged over 65 and 60, respectively, were still employed, compared with eight percent in 1992. Demand to work beyond the default retirement age has forced the government to bring forward a review of the law, which requires employees to apply to their manager if they wish to carry on working.

Mexican Government Reacts To Age Boom

USA Today has reported that the Mexican government has initiated a series of programs to support the nation’s aging citizens. The population age 60 and older is growing twice as fast as in the United States. In an affluent area of Mexico City, where elementary schools have closed or shrunk because families are having fewer children, the city government opened a university in April only for people age 60 and older. The university offers degrees in psychology and business administration. Its 1,545 students pay between $3.75 and $18.80 per class. Additionally, the city has launched a network of gerontology clinics that dispense free Viagra, along with hundreds of other medicines. In February, the federal government opened the Geriatric Institute to train doctors. People age 60 and older now make up about 9 percent of Mexico’s population of 111 million — up from 5.7 percent in 1975.

One Quarter of Japanese Women Now Elderly

The BBC reports that one-quarter of Japanese women are aged 65 or over, based on figures provided by the government of Japan. According to estimates, more than 16 million Japanese women have reached age 65, the highest number since record keeping began in 1950. Nearly one-fifth of men are 65 or older, meaning elderly people account for 22.7 percent of the population. Japan is also expected to face a shortage of workers as the population ages. Japan now has 28.98 million elderly residents (i.e., those age 65 or older, according to the World Health Organization) out of its population of 127 million an increase of 800,000 since 2008.

Senior Australians Facing Increased Assaults

According to The Sydney Morning Herald, a rise in the number of assaults against older people in the Australian state of Victoria has prompted police to launch a campaign to address this trend. Law enforcement authorities there have reported a rise in assaults by family members on females age over 60. The figures show that almost half of all assaults on these women were committed by a family member. As a result, the campaign will spread awareness about this issue. As part of the effort, 15,000 postcards will be delivered across the state to senior Victorians through Meals on Wheels. The postcards include personal safety tips and are designed to encourage elders to contact police when they feel at risk, threatened, or unsafe.

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AGHE Releases Updated Institutional Directory

AGHE now is taking advance orders for the eighth edition of “The Directory of Educational Programs in Gerontology and Geriatrics.” This valuable resource contains information about formal credit and post-doctoral gerontology programs in aging that are offered at almost 300 institutions nationwide and around the world. A special member rate is available through GSA’s online store. See the ad below for ordering and pricing information.

Arkansas Nurses Receive Grant Support

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Nursing has received a $250,000 grant to raise the number of college-educated geriatric nurses in Arkansas nursing homes. The funds were awarded by the national Partners Investing in Nursing's Future program. The two-year grant will be matched by several Arkansas sources, including the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care. The money will be used to support efforts to unify the state’s fragmented geriatrics nursing education system and draw certified nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses working in geriatric long-term care into college nursing degree programs.

Stimulus Grant To Foster Florida School’s Movement Research

The University of Florida (UF) will receive $29.5 million in federal stimulus funds over the next two years from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) to begin a six-year study on whether a program of structured physical activity can prevent or delay major movement disability in older adults. When completed, funding for the project is expected to total more than $60 million from the NIA, including the $29.5 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The total will amount to the largest federal award UF has ever received, and will fund the largest study to date to prevent mobility disability in seniors. The new project, called the Lifestyle Interventions and Independence for Elders (LIFE) Study, will involve a randomized controlled trial of 1,600 sedentary adults ages 70 to 89 who are at risk of mobility disability.

AFAR Receives Monies To Continue MSTAR Program

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) has been awarded a $200,000 grant from the MetLife Foundation for its Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) program. The funding will provide 50 medical students with the opportunity to participate in an eight- to twelve-week research, educational, and clinical mentorship program alongside top experts at some of the leading academic institutions in the country. The MSTAR program was launched to attract more physicians to geriatric research, teaching, and clinical practice by providing early exposure to the field and reinforcing students’ interests throughout their medical education. Since 1994, the program has trained approximately 1,350 medical students representing almost all of the medical schools in the U.S. Students train at nationally renowned training centers supported by the National Institute on Aging (another sponsor of the program), or in some cases, at their home institution.

The Directory of Educational Programs in Gerontology and Geriatrics

Contains information about formal credit and post-doctoral gerontology programs in aging that are offered at almost 300 institutions nationwide.

Programs include those awarding degrees, credit certificates, specializations, and fellowships in aging at all educational levels, and those identified as clinical or research sites in aging.

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