Vaccination Resources Offer Guide to Meeting Seniors’ Needs

GSA’s National Adult Vaccination Program (NAVP) has yielded a series of new publications that provide clear recommendations for achieving the stated goals of this initiative — to improve adult immunization rates and deliver sustainable change.

The June issue of Gerontology News reported on an NAVP summit that brought together top immunization experts from around the country. Their ideas and suggestions have just been released in a white paper titled “Call to Action — Reaching the Healthy People 2020 Goals for Adult Vaccination: Proceedings of the National Adult Vaccination Program Scientific Summit, April 2012.”

These participants identified the need for a culture supportive of adult immunization, facilitated by national leadership, education, quality improvement, expanded policies and mandates that would promote adult immunizations, align incentives, and increase accountability.

“It’s great to see the products of our summit begin producing tangible dissemination of our ideas,” said NAVP Program Director and GSA member Stefan Gravenstein, MD, MPH. “The hard work that more directly improves vaccine uptake is still ahead of us, and we are well-positioned to push this agenda forward.”

The white paper will be highlighted during a symposium at GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego, “National Adult Vaccination Program: Charting New Frontiers Across the Aging Continuum.” It is taking place on Friday, November 16, at 3 p.m. in Ballroom 6C of the San Diego Convention Center.

“There are many challenges and clinical problems in aging that can’t be prevented. Conversely, there are numerous immunizations which are well known to prevent disease occurrence such as the flu and pneumonia vaccines among others,” said former GSA Health Sciences Section Chair Barbara Resnick, PhD, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, who serves on the

GSA Tackles Simultaneous Pain Projects

The Society is moving forward on several new initiatives designed to encourage optimal pain management for older adults. These include an online training module, an issue of GSA’s WHAT’S HOT newsletter, and a partnership with a coalition of stakeholder organizations.

Together, these projects showcase a knowledge base that incorporates the diversity of GSA’s multidisciplinary membership.

“Pain is a significant health problem that greatly interferes with quality of life for our aging society,” said GSA member Keela A. Herr, PhD, RN, AGSF, FAAN, an authority on pain in the senior population. “Addressing the complexity of pain in older persons is challenging and not readily accomplished by a single discipline. Bringing together the interprofessional expertise and experience of the membership of GSA provides an excellent opportunity to contribute to national efforts at improving pain care for older adults.”

Herr served as faculty reviewer on “Pain Management and Older Adults,” the first module in GSA’s new Silver Market Retail Pharmacy series, which is an online, multi-media training program. When completed, the series will consist of interactive multimedia courses on best practices for retailers and pharmacies who serve older consumers — with the ultimate goal of enhancing their ability to effectively provide services that meet the needs of older adults. Each course will be 20 to 25 minutes in length and

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From the Executive Director

Past Year’s Achievements Advance GSA’s Mission
By James Appleby, RPh, MPH
jappleby@geron.org

It’s my privilege to use this column once each year to share GSA’s top successes from the last 12 months. Since GSA members and volunteer leaders were instrumental in many of these accomplishments, I hope you will join me in celebrating them during our Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego!

GSA Welcomes New Family Member: In July, GSA became home to the Coordinating Center for the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence. This program works with several universities to enhance academic leadership in the field of nursing, and also supports nurse scientists and educators through a program of awards.

Meetings Numbers Reach New Highs: In 2011, we saw a record number of abstract submissions and then a record number of attendees at the Annual Scientific Meeting. In 2012, we received an even higher number of abstracts, and the San Diego pre-registration numbers are just as strong as they were for last year’s meeting — meaning GSA has set a new standard of success for itself.

Journals’ Influence Climbs: In this year’s Journal Citation Reports: Social Sciences Edition, GSA’s peer-reviewed journals took three of the top six ranked spots in the Gerontology category thanks to across-the-board increases in impact factor for each title. The Journals of Gerontology Series A took first place for the second consecutive year.

Vaccination Initiative Launches: GSA established the National Adult Vaccination Program, a multi-year national campaign that will raise greater public, provider, and payer awareness of the health benefits of adult immunizations, and ultimately, improve adult immunization rates.

GSA Hosts Entrepreneurship Event: More than forty thought leaders from the public and private sectors convened in Washington, DC, in late October for our New Engines for a New Economy Summit. Its goal was to build a cross-sector blueprint for research, programs, policies, and capitalization options to advance entrepreneurship and self-employment in mid-life and beyond. (Learn more in December’s Gerontology News!)

Domestic Alliances Increase: We teamed up with the National Council on Aging to release a white paper outlining recommendations for the Older Americans Act reauthorization, and to co-host a special day-long event at our Annual Scientific Meeting; the National Institute on Aging awarded us a three-year cooperative conference grant focused on the central nervous system and mobility in older adults; and we became an active partner in several new stakeholder groups, including the Pain Action Alliance to Implement a National Strategy, the Aging in Motion Coalition, and Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer’s Disease.

Partnerships Multiply Abroad, Too: We issued a Public Policy & Aging Report on age discrimination that was jointly prepared with AGE UK; we co-sponsored two aging conferences in China; and we worked together with the Pan American Health Organization on both World Health Day 2012 and a post-conference workshop at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Journalism Program Grows; Coverage Spreads: The MetLife Foundation Journalists in Aging Program expanded again this year to welcome 18 new participants. Its alumni have now produced over 140 stories inspired by the expertise and scholarship of GSA’s members, with even more to come from the San Diego meeting.

If we don’t get a chance to talk in person in San Diego, I still welcome member feedback on these and other relevant items. Please drop me a line at jappleby@geron.org anytime.

James

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Reubin Andres, MD, who served as GSA's president in 1981, passed away on September 23. In 1977, he became the first clinical director of the newly formed National Institute on Aging. Much of his research focused on diabetes. He was responsible for the development of the glucose clamp, which created a means to measure glucose metabolism and quantify insulin sensitivity and insulin secretion in humans. Andres also was known for his controversial views on aging and weight gain — his studies concluded that a small amount of weight gain in later years may have protective effects. Among his many honors and distinctions, Andres was a recipient of GSA's Robert W. Kleemeier and Joseph T. Freeman awards, and the Albert Renold Award from the American Diabetes Association.

New Publications by Members


Members in the News

- In the June 2012 issue of McKnight’s Long-Term Care News, GSA Fellow Robyn I. Stone, PhD, was interviewed about her recent study looking at integrated and managed care for those in low income housing.
- An interview with GSA Fellow Linda P. Fried, MD, dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, appeared in the New York Times in June. She discussed the prevention of frailty and the transition to an aging society.

Member Spotlight

GSA’s website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on: Moon Choi, PhD

(a member of GSA’s Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization)

Visit www.geron.org/Membership/member-spotlight to ask questions and read previous interviews.

Colleague Connection

During September’s Membership Month, the Colleague Connection program was expanded to reward all individuals who referred new members to the Society.

See the complete list of participants on page 14. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion, which includes a chance to win free lodging at the Annual Scientific Meeting, visit www.geron.org/connection.

Davies Receives French Knighthood

GSA Fellow Kelvin J. A. Davies, PhD, DSc, was knighted on May 9 by an order of the president of the French Republic, which is among the highest civilian decorations awarded in France. He was decorated as a chevalier (knight) of l’Ordre National du Mérite (National Order of Merit). This order recognizes both French nationals and citizens of other countries, and serves as a civilian parallel to the military Legion d’Honneur (Legion of Honor). He was knighted at the Residence de France in Beverly Hills, and in September he traveled to Paris where the honor was again bestowed at a ceremony in the famous Napoleon Salon at the Luxembourg Palace, the seat of the French Senate. Davies currently is the James E. Birren Professor of Gerontology at the University of Southern California’s Davis School of Gerontology, and a professor of molecular and computational biology at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Patnaik Named to Director’s Post at Lipscomb

Beverly S. Patnaik, MA, has been appointed director of academics for the School for TransformAging at Lipscomb University. She is expected to expand the university’s TransformAging programs to serve those in the Nashville community and beyond, and to develop programs to integrate academic programs and learning opportunities with community service. Patnaik also currently serves as president-elect of the Council on Aging of Greater Nashville, for which she chairs its Leadership Council, and is on the advisory board of the Martin Center in Brentwood, TN. She was recently honored with the Applied Gerontologist Award by the Southern Gerontological Society for her lifetime achievement in the field of aging services.

GSA Members Among Alzheimer’s Challenge Finalists

GSA Fellow Hiroko Dodge, PhD, and members Jeffrey Kaye, MD, and Katherine Wild, PhD, were part of a team selected as one of five finalists for The Alzheimer’s Challenge 2012. This competition sought the development of simple, cost-effective, consistent tools that could be easily used to assess memory, mood, thinking, and activity level over time to improve diagnosis and monitoring of those who suffer from Alzheimer’s disease. The team’s entry, the ICHANGE (Intelligent Continuous Health Assessment with Noninvasive Gerotechnology) system, continuously and coincidently monitors signature activities and behaviors of those with Alzheimer’s disease that are readily assessed without the need to remember to wear or charge a device. An array of inexpensive sensors is used to unobtrusively measure key functions whose change has been associated with the progression of cognitive decline. Data are then aggregated and analyzed with prediction algorithms that are then streamed to stakeholders of interest (e.g., caregivers, doctors, clinical trialists), providing real-time reports of meaningful change. Each of the five finalist teams was awarded $25,000.
The quarterly Public Policy & Aging Report® explores policy issues generated by the aging of American society. Edited by Boston University policy expert Robert B. Hudson, PhD, each thematic issue is designed to stimulate debate, highlight emerging concerns, and propose alternative policy options.

Articles are informed, to the point, and provocative. 4 issues per year. $49 members; $60 non-members (additional fee for mailing international). Order your subscription today!

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With your subscription, you’ll also receive Public Policy & Aging E-Newsletter. This bimonthly newsletter (6 e-mails per year) highlights key developments in the field of aging policy.

Follow us on Twitter @Aging_Society
By GSA Policy Advisor Brian W. Lindberg, MMHS

Policy Prep 101:
Check Out These Sessions in San Diego

This column is devoted to informing you about the sessions that will be featured in GSA's popular Policy Series at the Annual Scientific Meeting. They reflect timely topics challenging the field of gerontology and feature some of the foremost researchers, policy analysts, and aging advocates in the nation. Not surprising given the fact that we will be convening in San Diego just days after the 2012 election, several of this year's Policy Series sessions will explore what lies ahead for aging and health policy.

The presentations will address entitlement reform, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Older Americans Act reauthorization, budget and appropriations issues, women's economic security issues, vaccinations for older adults, and much more. To find more policy-related sessions, be sure to search the online meeting planner, and remember to check your conference bag for the special yellow insert that details these and many other policy-focused sessions in San Diego.

Post-Election Analysis: Implications for an Aging Society
Wednesday, November 14 • 4:30 to 6 p.m. • Ballroom 6C (Convention Center)
The meeting is taking place the week following the 2012 election. What kind of history will those voted into office make? This bipartisan post-election session will provide insights into the political and policy landscape ahead. Find out how the results will influence your work as a researcher and an advocate. The session will be moderated by Washington, DC, policy expert Robert Blancato.

Breaking the Social Security Glass Ceiling: A Proposal to Modernize Women’s Benefits
Thursday, November 15 • 1:30 to 3 p.m. • Ballroom 6F (Convention Center)
The U.S. workforce looked very different in 1946, at the start of the Baby Boom generation, than it does today. A big part of this workforce transformation has been due to the contributions of women. Now, the concept of retirement must be strengthened to reflect the needs of today's generation of women — those currently in retirement, those nearing retirement, and those at the height of their wage-earning potential. This session will bring these concerns and policies to life by offering real solutions for Social Security reform. It will be co-chaired by former GSA President Carroll Estes and Diane Lifsey from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

National Adult Vaccination Program: Charting New Frontiers Across the Aging Continuum
Friday, November 16 • 3 to 4:30 p.m. • Ballroom 6C (Convention Center)
GSA's National Adult Vaccination Program (NAVP) is an interdisciplinary initiative aimed at addressing policy, improving adult immunization rates, and delivering sustainable change. This session will feature a call-to-action policy framework based on findings from GSA's NAVP April 2012 Scientific Summit in Washington DC. It will be co-chaired by NAVP workgroup members R. Gordon Douglas and Stefan Gravenstein.

Transforming Advanced Care for Older Adults
Friday, November 16 • 5 to 6:30 p.m. • Ballroom 6A (Convention Center)
Leaders in the area of advanced care, staffers from the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care, and policy experts will discuss the evolving field post-health care reform. Topics will include the work of leading health care providers, consumer advocates, and other stakeholders. The session, moderated by GSA Policy Advisor Brian Lindberg, will address best practices, obstacles to success in the field, and regulatory and legislative updates.

Congressional Aging Issues Update
Saturday, November 17 • 8 to 9:30 a.m. • Ballroom 6F (Convention Center)
Capitol Hill staffers, including those from the Senate Special Committee on Aging, will discuss this year's legislative developments and plans for aging and health policy for 2013. Topics will include the Older Americans Act reauthorization, income security, and health care reform implementation, entitlement reform, and what the 113th Congress will offer in terms of committee leadership and make up. GSA Policy Advisor Brian Lindberg will moderate this session.

Critical Aging Policy Discussions for the 113th Congress
Saturday, November 17 • 3 to 4:30 p.m. • Ballroom 6B (Convention Center)
This session will involve a discussion of key aging policy issues that the upcoming 113th Congress will need to address. It will also provide a perspective on how aging advocacy organizations develop their agendas, conduct and use research, and advocate on behalf of their members. GSA Policy Advisor Brian Lindberg will moderate this session.
GSA Innovation Fund

enables the Society to strengthen its commitment to fulfilling the needs of its members in the years ahead. The GSA Innovation Fund allows us to:

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funding to educate the public on the significance of research

EXPAND
the pipeline of the next generation of students

BUILD
programs to facilitate international collaboration

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Look what the GSA Innovation Fund has already supported:

TAKE ACTION WEEK
GSA provided members with the tools to be successful advocates as they visited congressional offices to urge support for aging-related legislative issues.

THINKING INSIDE THE BOX
This webinar taught GSA Annual Scientific Meeting participants strategic approaches to developing a poster session, tactics for ensuring optimum engagement and discussion, and tips on where to get additional help.

CAREERS IN AGING WEEK
Schools around the country were able to generate greater awareness and visibility for the wide-ranging career opportunities in aging and aging research.

LEARN WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH NIA GRANTS AND FUNDING
This webinar gave GSA members a direct line to NIA Director Richard J. Hodes, MD, as he discussed federal budget constraints, their impact on NIA, strategies his agency is employing to address them, and a look toward the future.

With your donation to the GSA Innovation Fund, you can make a positive impact on future generations.

Donate now at www.geron.org/giveback.
ESPO’s Guide to GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting

Thanks are given to Terrie Vann-Ward and the ESPO executive committee for their contributions to this installment of ESPO News.

GSAs 65th Annual Scientific Meeting is upon us. San Diego’s great weather and the Convention Center’s proximity to the airport and the Gaslamp Quarter restaurants make it an ideal location for the meeting. In this issue, we provide some suggested activities to help emerging scholars and professionals navigate the conference and make the most of their travel. Safe travels and see you in San Diego!

Planning Your Meeting Experience

The GSA website’s Meeting Planner can be used to create a customized schedule with the events and activities you wish to attend. It can be accessed at www.geron.org/2012. Below is a listing of special sessions ESPO members will find valuable.

Wednesday, November 14

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Pre-Conference Workshop, “How to Publish” (Room 17A, Conversion Center; advanced registration required)

4:30 to 6 p.m.: Task Force on Mentoring/ESPO Symposium, “Senior Mentors for Health Professions Students — An Intergenerational, Interdisciplinary Community-University Partnership” (Ballroom 6F, Convention Center)

Thursday, November 15

7 to 8 a.m.: New Member Meet & Greet (Catalina, Marriott Marquis & Marina; advance registration not required) New members are invited to attend a breakfast with GSA staff, officers, and members to learn more about GSA and how to navigate the Annual Meeting.

7 to 8:30 a.m.: GSA Fellows Mentor Program (La Costa, Marriott Marquis & Marina; advance registration required). Twenty mentees will be matched based on their section membership and interests with selected mentors. The goal is to establish a connection between mentor and mentee. The mentees are also invited to the GSA Fellows & International Reception for further exposure to fellows in the organization.

8 to 9:30 a.m.: ESPO Breakfast & Community Meeting (Marina Ballroom F, Marriott Marquis & Marina; advance registration not required). All ESPO members are welcome and encouraged to attend the breakfast meeting. Please join us in reviewing the year’s activities, honoring ESPO volunteer leaders, and discussing current business news for ESPO.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Meet the Expert: ESPO (GSA Booth, Convention Center)

1:30 to 3 p.m.: ESPO/Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section Symposium, “Charting New Frontiers in Long-Term Care: Exploring Alternatives to Institutionalization” (Room 2, Convention Center)

7:30 to 9 p.m.: ESPO Awards Presentation & Reception (Ballroom G, Marriott Marquis & Marina; advance registration not required) All ESPO members are welcome to attend an awards presentation recognizing winners of the ESPO interdisciplinary paper and poster awards. A wine-and-cheese networking event with GSA Fellows will follow afterwards.

Friday, November 16

8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Fellows/Emerging Scholars Mentoring Workshop (Ballroom E, Marriott Marquis & Marina; advance registration not required, all ESPO members welcome) Emerging scholars will join BSS fellows to discuss career development.

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.: Meet the Expert: Careers on Aging (GSA Booth, Convention Center)

1 to 2:30 p.m.: ESPO Presidential Symposium, “Charting New Frontiers in Function and Aging: A Multi-Disciplinary Perspective” (Room 6A, Convention Center)

3 to 4:30 p.m.: Campus Ambassadors Meeting (Rancho Las Palmas, Marriott Marquis & Marina; advance registration not required) Current and prospective GSA Campus Ambassadors and faculty advisors are invited to a meeting to discuss the promotion of gerontology across campuses and in communities.

5 to 6:30 p.m.: ESPO/Health Sciences Section Symposium, “Health Outcomes and Health Disparities in Older Adults: Societal and Cultural Factors” (Room 3, Convention Center)

5 to 6:30 p.m.: ESPO/Task Force on Mentoring/Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Professional Development Symposium Part 1: “Charting New Frontiers: Exploring Post-Graduation Opportunities across Disciplines: Insights from the Experts” (Room 11B, Convention Center)

Saturday, November 17

8 to 9:30 a.m.: ESPO/Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Symposium, “New Frontiers in Social Gerontology: Exploring Gerontological Theory Within and Across Disciplines” (San Diego Ballroom C, Marriott Marquis & Marina)

9 to 10 a.m.: ESPO International Task Force Informal Meet and Greet (ESPO Lounge, Room 9, Convention Center)

3 to 4:30 p.m.: Mentoring Consultancies for Emerging Scholars (Marina Ballroom D, Marriott Marquis & Marina; advance registration required) Students and junior faculty join experts and senior faculty to discuss challenges in research.

5 to 6:30 p.m.: ESPO/Task Force on Mentoring/Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Professional Development Symposium Part 2: “Charting New Frontiers: Exploring Post-Graduation Opportunities across Disciplines: Insights from Emerging Scholars” (Room 1A, Convention Center)

Visit the ESPO Lounge

All ESPO members are welcome to visit the ESPO lounge during the conference. It is a great place to take a break from the busyness of the conference, meet with colleagues, enjoy refreshments, and check your e-mail on the computers provided. (Room 9, Convention Center; Hours: Thursday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Stay Up to Date with Facebook and Twitter

On Facebook, search “GSA Emerging Scholars and Professional Organization” to join our group, and visit www.twitter.com/GSA_ESPO to follow us on Twitter.
Advancing the Aging Sciences

National Science Foundation funding will allow 17 new doctoral students to study aging over the next 3 years at Oregon State University. This Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) is the first and only IGERT program in the nation with a focus on aging sciences. The program provides a $30,000 stipend and support for tuition and research. Students will be mentored by faculty in existing research cores at Oregon State’s Center for Healthy Aging Research:

1) diet and genetics
2) musculoskeletal
3) psychosocial and
4) gerontechnology.

Students from diverse disciplines, including psychology, sociology, public health, nutrition, exercise sciences, engineering, computer sciences, chemistry, biology, design and other disciplines may apply now for Fall 2013. Dr. Karen Hooker is the program’s Principal Investigator. For more Information visit http://health.oregonstate.edu/igert/ or contact Anne.Hatley@oregonstate.edu.

RAND is pleased to announce the 20th annual RAND Summer Institute (RSI), which will take place in Santa Monica, CA, July 8-11, 2013.

The RSI consists of two conferences addressing critical issues facing our aging population: a Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 8-9) and a workshop on the Demography, Economics Psychology and Epidemiology of Aging (July 10-11). 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 2013 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: http://www.rand.org/labor/aging/rsi/.

For additional information, please contact: Diana Malouf at malouf@rand.org.

Translational Research in Aging Training Program

Three postdoctoral positions are available for the “Translational Research in Aging Training Program” starting between June and September, 2013. Harvard Medical School Faculty conducting aging research from a number of HMS teaching affiliates will mentor trainees. Two years of salary and educational support will be provided by an NIA funded National Research Service Award (T32 grant), awarded to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Research Mentors’ areas of interest include:

- Biology of aging and mitochondrial mutations
- Cerebrovascular and vascular aging
- Depression and dementia
- Delirium and dementia
- Epidemiology, genetics and nutritional aspects of bone and muscle
- Gait, balance, foot biomechanics and falls
- Health disparities
- Palliative Care / Health Policy
- Skeletal imaging

Candidates should submit a CV and Letter of Intent (1-2 pages) electronically by December 19, 2012 to: Lois Hartsough, lhartsou@bidmc.harvard.edu

The Letter of Intent should include the applicant’s area of research interest. Qualified applicants who do not have a mentor at Harvard Medical School will be matched with mentors. Applicants will submit a full proposal, due February 2013. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Trainees are eligible for loan forgiveness.

http://www.bidmc.org/CentersandDepartments/Departments/Medicine/Divisions/Gerontology.aspx

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School are Equal Opportunity Employers.
Health and Retirement Study Issues 2009 Wave Figures

The Health and Retirement Study has released data from its 2009 Health and Well-Being Study, which is the third wave of a multi-wave mail survey designed to track changes in prescription drug utilization and enrollment in Medicare Part D, the prescription drug benefit administered by Medicare. The baseline wave was administered in 2005 and was aimed at gathering information about prescription drug use, coverage, and satisfaction prior to the implementation of Medicare Part D, and the awareness of the new drug benefit and available subsidies. The second wave, administered in 2007, intended to capture similar information post-implementation of Medicare Part D. This 2009 wave continues to assess Medicare Part D utilization and satisfaction as well as prescription drug usage and expenditures. Information on experienced well-being was included as a pilot. The sample for 2009 included everyone from the 2005 and 2007 wave sample plus a 22 percent random sample of respondents who filled specific criteria. The final sample size for 2009 was 7,417 respondents. A total of 5,333 respondents returned questionnaires or completed a telephone interview, for a response rate of 75 percent (among eligible cases). Refer to hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/index.php for more information.

Online Database Allows Access to Nursing Home Inspections

Nursing Home Inspect is a new online database that allows the public to search and analyze reports of nursing home inspections. The reports are sourced from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which began offering them online in July. ProPublica, an independent, non-profit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest, created this new resource to make it easier to access the data within the reports. Users can search by keywords, city, and nursing home name, and can search across all reports at once. ProPublica reported that the CMS database covers nearly 118,000 deficiencies at 14,565 homes since January 2011 and that future inspection reports added by CMS also will be added to the Nursing Home Inspect tool as they become available. To access the reports from ProPublica, visit projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes.

NIH App Supports Women’s Health Year-Round

The National Institute of Health has released a new mobile application that allows women to learn more about their health over the course of a year. The app, 52 Weeks for Women’s Health, offers a year’s worth of health information, week-by-week, and is based on the “Primer for Women’s Health: Learn about Your Body in 52 Weeks,” which was published by the Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The app can help women identify health risks for themselves and their families, and offers questions to ask health care providers, a glossary of health terms, and health screening information and links to additional information from NIH institutes and centers. Some key features of this app that can be personalized are a health section for recording medications, medical conditions, and disabilities; a journal feature; and a personal goal-setting section for health and lifestyle details. Additional information can be obtained at 52weeks4women.nih.gov or orwh.od.nih.gov.

New Reports Added to DALTCP Website

The Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care Policy (DALTCP) has added a total of nine new reports online in 2012. These range from mental and substance abuse issues to homelessness. In addition to the new reports, older documents, some of which may have already been available online as only HTML versions, are being added to the website. The documents can be accessed at aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports.htm.

AARP Launches Redesigned Livable Communities Website

In September, the AARP Public Policy Institute (PPI) launched a redesigned Livable Communities website. This is a new resource intended for policymakers, researchers, and the public to learn more about the benefits of livable communities. The website showcases AARP’s policies and strategies that support the creation of places where people of all ages can live independently as they age. It also highlights research on housing, transportation and land use issues, all with a focus on the impact on older Americans. Topics that can be accessed on the website include publications on aging in place, the status of U.S. housing conditions for older people, universal design, and a PPI video about transit independence. The website, which also contains information about other livable communities, neighborhood assessments, and sample legislation related to aging in place policies, can be accessed at www.aarp.org/research/ffi/liv-com.html.

Census Bureau Insurance Coverage Estimates Now Contain 50–64 Age Segment

The U.S. Census Bureau has released 2010 estimates of health insurance coverage for each of the nation’s roughly 3,140 counties. Its Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) are a source for single-year estimates of health insurance coverage status for every county in the nation, and now include estimates at the county level for those in the 50 to 64 age group. (Previous versions only included estimates for all people under age 65.) The mapping tools available on the SAHIE website can also show regional trends in coverage. SAHIE is partially funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others in the health care field. The estimates are based on statistical models combining data from a variety of sources, including the American Community Survey, Census Bureau population estimates, administrative records (such as aggregated federal tax returns and Medicaid participation records), and 2000 Census statistics. For more information, visit www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/index.html.
Join the Growing Cadre of Gerontological Nurse Leaders

Accepting applications for the 2013 cohort of Patricia G. Archbold Predoctoral Scholars and Claire M. Fagin Postdoctoral Fellows

The Patricia G. Archbold Scholar Award Program is designed to support 2 years of doctoral study for nurses committed to careers in academic gerontological nursing.

The Claire M. Fagin Fellow Award Program provides for a 2-year fellowship for advanced research training to support doctorally prepared nurses committed to faculty careers in gerontological nursing.

Applications due: January 11, 2013

For more information about our applications, visit www.geriatricnursing.org/applications

This program is supported by the John A. Hartford Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies, and The Mayday Fund
Continued from page 1 - Vaccination Resources Offer Guide to Meeting Seniors’ Needs

Experts and evaluated for quality; and the user will also be linked to related resources and services relevant to their inquiry. In addition to the website, the project will engage the key audiences through public talks, forums and media outreach.

UCO Launches Gerontology Master’s Program

The University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) has revamped its gerontology program with the launch of its Master of Arts in gerontology degree. It is designed to educate and train the professionals who will care for, advocate for, and even develop technology for the aging population. UCO’s gerontology master’s offers students flexible, early evening classes along with an option to either write a thesis or complete practicum experiences. Elective courses cover topics such as the politics of aging, caregiver support, assisted living management and more. As the only gerontology master’s program in the state, UCO’s metropolitan location gives students access to the growing aging population in the state. The local area agency on aging district is the home to more than 25 percent of Oklahoma’s population aged 60 years and over.

Current Vaccination-Related GSA Publications

White Paper
“Call to Action — Reaching the Healthy People 2020 Goals for Adult Vaccination: Proceedings of the National Adult Vaccination Program Scientific Summit, April 2012”

Public Policy & Aging Report
“Vaccination, Prevention, and Older Adults” (2012)

WHAT’S HOT Newsletters
“Immunizations Across the Aging Continuum” (2012)

From Publication to Practice
“An Interdisciplinary Look at Strategies to Improve Immunization Rates for Older Adults” (2012)

“An Interdisciplinary Look at New Developments in the Prevention and Treatment of Influenza in Older Adults” (2011)

These are available at www.geron.org/navp.
The University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) School of Nursing (SON) in the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) seeks applications for the McNeill Distinguished Professor of Nursing. The McNeill Distinguished Professor of Nursing will advance evidenced-based nursing practice, interdisciplinary research, community partnerships, and health policies that promote Nursing care and the successful aging process in older adults across diverse populations and cultures. The UNCW SON is dedicated to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and public service to support the development of health care professionals who are leaders in providing quality health care in a variety of roles and settings to diverse populations. UNCW opened a state-of-the-art instruction, training and research facility for the SON in July 2010. The UNCW SON will be positioned to continue its extraordinary efforts to address the nursing shortage in the state and across the nation. More information can be found at http://www.uncw.edu/son.

The successful candidate should be actively involved in a program of scholarly teaching, research, and practice that promotes the successful aging process in older adults across diverse populations and cultures. The candidate should have an established record of external funding; be nationally and/or internationally known for service in professional and community organizations to advance the successful aging process; and be the recipient of honors or awards and innovations in improving health outcomes for older adults.

Requirements include: master’s degree in nursing; earned doctorate in nursing or health-related discipline; minimum of five years practice as a registered nurse or other health profession; a current unrestricted license as a registered nurse in North Carolina by the hiring date, academic credentials suitable for an appointment at the level of a full professor with tenure; five years experience in higher education; demonstrated program of research scholarly publications in gerontology journals related to older adults across diverse populations and cultures; and a distinguished record of mentoring students, faculty, and professional peers. Preferences include: a track record of external funding from grants, contracts, or sponsored programs; clinical practice expertise, and a track record of community engagement.

UNCW, one of seventeen constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina, has a student population of over 12,000 and for 13 consecutive years has been ranked in the top ten of public master's universities in the South by US News and World Report. For the seventh consecutive year, UNCW has received the “Best in the Southeast” designation by The Princeton Review. Further information about UNCW can be found at http://www.uncw.edu/facts and. http://uncw.edu/aboutuncw/aboutMission.html. Located in the historic, coastal, seaport community of Wilmington, the university is ideally situated between the Cape Fear River and Atlantic Ocean. Wilmington has an active arts, cultural, and business environment and nearby beach communities serve both year round residents and vacationers.

To apply, please complete the online application process available on the Web at http://consensus.uncw.edu. A letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and contact information for three professional references should be addressed to Dr. Jeanne K. Kemppainen, PhD, RN, Chair, Search Committee, and attached to the online application - not emailed, mailed or faxed. Attachments must be either Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF documents. For questions regarding the online application process, contact Ms. Annette Richards at 910-962-7410. Priority consideration will be given to completed applications submitted by November 1, 2012by 5.p.m. but applications will continue to be considered until a hiring decision is made. Appointment to the McNeill Distinguished Professorship is expected for January 2013 or negotiable employment date.

UNCW actively fosters a diverse and inclusive working and learning environment and is an equal opportunity employer. Qualified men and women from all racial, ethnic, or minority groups are strongly encouraged to apply.
Funding Opportunities

AHRQ to Issue Research Career Development Awards
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is soliciting applications for its Patient Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Pathway to Independence Award, which is designed to facilitate a timely transition from a junior non-tenure track faculty or a postdoctoral research position (or their equivalents) to a stable independent research career. The program targets investigators early in their careers to support their development in new sophisticated methodological comparative effectiveness research skills, interdisciplinary perspectives, and capabilities in PCOR to improve health outcomes by developing and disseminating evidence-based information to patients, clinicians, policy makers, and health care administrators. For purposes of this funding opportunity, PCOR is defined as the conduct and synthesis of research comparing the benefits and harms of different interventions and strategies to prevent, diagnose, treat and monitor health conditions, as well as the delivery of health care in “real world” settings. More information can be obtained at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-13-002.html. Applications are due December 17, 2012.

Federal Grants Seek to Improve Immunity Knowledge Base
The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the National Institute of Aging are inviting applications to define the mechanisms for induction, development, and maintenance of protective immunity in the elderly in response to infections with or vaccinations against emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The goal of this funding opportunity announcement is to develop a better understanding of the immune mechanisms involved during the aging process that contribute to impaired immune responses resulting in severe infections and dampened responses to vaccines in this population. Further information can be found at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AI-12-038.html. Applications are due February 20, 2013.

NIH Offers Support for Metformin Studies
A new funding opportunity from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will provide grants to support research projects that increase understanding about the clinical translational potential of metformin to delay deleterious aging changes or to extend healthy human lifespan. Emerging data from clinical studies of metformin in a variety of patient populations suggest that it may have other effects, besides being an antihyperglycemic agent, which warrant further attention in translational aging research. This includes identification of specific populations particularly likely to benefit, and/or to obtain information on metformin’s human physiologic and cellular effects that would be useful in identifying novel molecular targets. For more information, visit grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-271.html. The earliest submission deadline is January 5, 2013.

Funds Slated for Fatigability Research
The National Institute on Aging and the Office of Research on Women’s Health has issued a funding opportunity announcement for research on fatigability. They invite applications proposing to investigate the role of specific bio-energetic factors in increased fatigability, reduced activity, and diminished sense of well-being in older persons; test the effects of interventions targeted at such factors on performance capabilities, functional status, and other outcomes that relate to quality of life; or develop and evaluate measures of fatigability applicable for observational and/or interventional studies. Fatigability, in parallel with fatigue, is defined here as a phenotype describing the change in the feeling of tiredness as a function of the duration, intensity, and/or frequency of activity; or the decline in performance as a function of the duration, intensity, and/or frequency of activity. Fatigability may be a target for interventions aimed at reducing fatigue-related activity limitations in older adults. Moreover, fatigability may be a more important consideration in evaluating the efficacy of such interventions than fatigue alone. Additional details can be found at grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-225.html. This funding opportunity expires on September 8, 2015.

Institutes Earmark Grant Monies to Examine Juvenile Protective Factors
The National Institute on Aging and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development have issued a funding opportunity announcement to invite descriptive studies to identify putative juvenile protective factors, experimental studies to test hypotheses about their effects on aging, and translational studies to explore the potential risks and benefits of maintaining or modulating the level of juvenile protective factors in adult life. Juvenile protective factors are physiological factors that maintain or enhance certain functions across all or some stages of post-natal maturation, but which diminish or disappear during transitions between developmental stages (e.g., infancy, adiposity rebound, adrenarche, puberty, growth cessation). This announcement is uniquely focused on studies which involve comparisons between post-natal developmental stages or pre- vs. post-maturational changes to identify potential juvenile protective factors and their effects on aging. Studies in vitro, in laboratory animals, or in humans may be proposed. Further information may be obtained from grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-218.html. This funding opportunity expires on July 6, 2015.

Beeson Awards Aimed at Emerging Faculty
The National Institute on Aging, working in part with funds contributed by the John A. Hartford Foundation and The American Federation for Aging Research, is accepting applications for the Paul B. Beeson Clinical Scientist Development Award in Aging. This grant is intended to encourage and assist the development of future leaders in the field of aging by supporting clinically trained (primarily physician) faculty members early in their careers to gain additional research training and to establish independent programs in aging research. The closing date for submissions is December 6. See grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-13-011.html for more details.
Membership Drive Extends GSA Family

During September’s Membership Month, GSA awarded a $25 Amazon.com gift card to anyone who referred a new member to join the Society. As a result, 88 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 Morgan Eichorst)  
Mary Altpeter (referred Tiffany Shubert)  
Georgia Anetzberger (referred Carol Miller)  
Jacqueline Angel (referred Terrence Hill)  
Toni Antonucci (referred Anna Domaradzka-Widla)  
Greg Arling (referred M.E. Lee)  
Kristin August (referred Melanie Nugent)  
Anne Barrett (referred Alexandra Raphael)  
Elizabeth Beattie (referred Truong Quang Trung)  
Christina Bell (referred Gotaro Kojima)  
Qi Benling (referred Ping He)  
Rosemary Blieszner (referred Bradford Wiles)  
Robin Bonifas (referred Christie Kramer)  
Michelle Carlson (referred Charles Jonassaint)  
Dawn Carr (referred Benjamin Kail)  
Iris Chi (referred Yu Zhang)  
Janice Ciesielski (referred Robert Nagele)  
Philippa Clarke (referred Min Hee Kim)  
Maria Claver (referred Reath Melendez)  
Kelly Cotter (referred Daniel Rodda)  
Eileen Crimmins (referred Carolee Winston)  
Sean Curran (referred Percy Genyk, Raven Weaver, and Shanshan Pang)  
Anna Dahl (referred Ola Sternäng)  
Nancy Daugherty (referred Hanna Thurman)  
Jennifer Davidson (referred Nels Oscar)  
Joan Davitt (referred Dexia Kong)  
Brian de Vries (referred Carmen Lee)  
Carroll Estes (referred Daniel Adcock)  
Howard Fillit (referred Penny Dacks)  
Jennifer Greenfield (referred Shanondora Billiot)  
John Hennon (referred Julie Klinger)  
Thomas Hess (referred Julie Hafer)  
Gwi-ryung Hong (referred Sang Hee Jeon)  
Nancy Hooyman (referred Bernadette Jeffrey)  
Jinping Hu (referred Lin Ge)  
Susan Hurt (referred Tom Hurt)  
Shannon Jarrott (referred Neda Norouzi and Raven Weaver)  
Alan Jette (referred Daniel White)  
Yves Joannette (referred Joanne Goldberg)  
Theodore Johnson (referred Thomas Price)  
Sung-Wan Kang (referred Ming Sheng Wang)  
Julie Kaufman (referred Irene Frye)  
Jacqueline Kerr (referred Kari Wasilenko)  
JooHyun Kim (referred Jeong Hwa Lee)  
Myoung-Yong Kim (referred Yeon Sook Eom)  
Kristopher Kimbler (referred Ashley Harris)  
Steven Kohn (referred Kerry Hinkle)  
Suzanne Kunkel (referred Tiffany Major)  
David Le Couteur (referred Aisling McMahon)  
Frank Robert Lin (referred Lingsheng Li)  
Yujun Liu (referred Timothy Rhoades)  
Jennifer Lodí-Smith (referred Jack Bauer)  
Michael Maddens (referred Khaled Imam)  
George Martin (referred Elliot Bergman)  
Elva Dolores Arias Merino (referred Neyda Ma. Mendoza-Ruvalcaba and Martha Elena Vazquez Arias)  
Arnold Mitnitski (referred Olga Theou)  
Nancy Morrow-Howell (referred Stephanie Herbers)  
Margaret Neal (referred Debra Boggis)  
Stacy Ogbeide (referred Jason Sibson)  
Marguerite Riles Parzen (referred Jennifer Johnson-Muskat)  
Michelle Pastrano (referred Minda Miyamoto)  
Diane Patterson (referred Patty Mouton)  
James Powers (referred Laurence Solberg)  
Melissa Powers (referred Michelle Gray)  
Thomas Prohaska (referred Kenneth Hoggard)  
Jon Pynoos (referred Bradley Williams)  
Janet Ramsey (referred Katherine Luci)  
Julian Montoro-Rodríguez (referred Sacramento Pinazo-Hernandis)  
Mathieu Roy (referred Méliès Généreux)  
Jane Szczyński (referred Sara Angleman)  
Tina Savla (referred Laura Butner)  
Patricia Simone (referred Jessica Zigterman)  
Adam Spira (referred Christopher Kaufmann)  
Masami Takahashi (referred Michelle d’Anjou, Therese Hlavin, Paul O’Malley, Ayesha Woodland, and Jane Wuelner)  
LaDora Thompson (referred Dawn Lowe)  
Judith Treas (referred Zoya Guberanskaya)  
Robert Weech-Maldonado (referred Josue Patien Epame)  
Muriel Wheatley (referred Connie Hoskins-Maratea)  
Diana White (referred Margaret Manoogian)  
Su Zhang (referred Wen Wang)
GSA Tackles Simultaneous Pain Projects

Continued from page 1 -

developed from evidence-based science; the installment on pain management is expected to be released by the end of the year.

This module was developed with support from Purdue Pharma, as was the latest issue of GSA’s WHAT’S HOT newsletter, “Pain Bioethics and Older Adults.” The latter will be mailed to all GSA members in November.

In the past year, strategies to address the management of pain care in the U.S. have been at the forefront of discussions by GSA as well as other leading entities and organizations. As such, the current WHAT’S HOT highlights some of the national discussion, ranging from a look at the impact of pain on the individual to national policy considerations. The issue presents snapshots of prominent research presented at key annual meetings, successful national stakeholder initiatives, and articles published in preeminent scholarly publications.

“Older adults represent a large proportion of the 100 million Americans who suffer from chronic pain,” said GSA Executive Director and CEO James Appleby, RPh, MPH. “These new projects demonstrate GSA’s unique qualifications to be a national leader in addressing this subject area.”

As part of its ongoing commitment to advancing the science of pain management, GSA recently became a member of the newly formed Pain Action Alliance to Implement a National Strategy (PAINS), which was established to advance recommendations made in a June 2011 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, “Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Care, Education, and Research.”

This report called for a transformation in the way pain is understood, assessed, treated, and prevented, and provided a blueprint for proceeding with the transformation. However, the IOM has no specific authority or resources to implement the recommendations — thus, PAINS was formed. It is a non-profit coalition of professional societies, patient advocacy organization, policy groups, and others committed to working together to transform the way chronic pain is addressed.

PAINS’ stated goals are to have a comprehensive national plan to address chronic pain supported by policy leaders at the state and national levels; to build a national movement in infrastructure for people living with chronic pain that will drive changes in the perception of pain and how it is treated; and to promote additional research, including basic, translational, and social science research, and make existing data more accessible to the public and policy makers.

GSA also had an earlier follow-up to the IOM report with the release of “An Interdisciplinary Look at Advancing Pain Care, Education, and Research — Responding to the IOM’s Call to Action to Improve Pain Management,” which was a 2011 installment in the From Publication to Practice series.

Welsh Commissioner Working to Improve Services for Older Residents

The older people’s commissioner for Wales recently issued a list of 50 areas in which small changes could significantly help the country’s 710,000 older people. These include items such as transportation and public toilets. According to BBC News, the commissioner, Sarah Rochira, indicated that local authorities could be taken to court if they do not comply with guidance that will become law next year. A commission’s work program to improve services to older persons was recently published to improve various services. Action points in this report include ensuring all residents in care homes have someone to advocate on their behalf, monitoring hospital care, and delivery of essential information, support, and necessary care. Additionally, the Welsh Local Government Association, which represents local authorities, is working with the commissioner to address key services such as social care, housing, meals on wheels and active aging programs.

Greater Wellington Receives Predictions for Its Aging Population

A report from the University of Waikato predicts that New Zealand’s Greater Wellington region will have more people over age 65 than those less than age 15 by 2026. On October 1, The Dominion Post reported that currently there are six older people for every 10 children in the region; by 2031, there will be 12 older people for every 10 children. The report indicated that more than three-quarters of the region’s total population growth for the next two decades is expected to be among people over the age of 65, and this demographic change will eventually lead to a scenario in which deaths exceed births for the first time in the country’s history. The Greater Wellington Regional Council recently approved its Positive Ageing Policy, which aims to provide planning direction for the impact of an aging population across all of its activities.

Current Pain-Related GSA Publications

WHAT’S HOT Newsletters
“Pain Bioethics and Older Adults” (2012)
“Pain Management in Older Adults” (2011)

From Publication to Practice
“An Interdisciplinary Look at Advancing Pain Care, Education, and Research — Responding to the IOM’s Call to Action to Improve Pain Management” (2011)

“An Interdisciplinary Look at Labeling Changes for Acetaminophen and the Implications for Patient Care” (2011)

What is the issue with this data? No issue detected.