inside this issue:

• AGESW Award Recipients . .4
• Policy Series Primer . . . .5
• Mentoring/Networking at the Meeting . . . .6–7

Get Your Section Meeting’s Lunch Ticket Today!
During the upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, join colleagues at your Section Business Meeting and Award Presentation on Friday, November 22, to honor new awardees and learn about new developments specific to your GSA section. Act now to secure a ticket for the luncheon, which is available for a nominal fee of $15. Limited general seating will be available for those who do not wish to eat. The meeting registration form, accessible through www.geron.org/annualmeeting, includes an option to sign up for the meal. (Existing registrations also can be updated.)

Meetings Hotel Discounts End Soon
GSA Annual Scientific Meeting attendees have until October 31 to take advantage of reduced room rates at the Sheraton New Orleans and New Orleans Marriott. All meeting sessions will take place at these two properties, which are across the street from one another. GSA recognizes that you have a variety of choices when arranging accommodations for the Annual Scientific Meeting. The Society has made a major commitment to the conference hotels in order to secure the meeting space necessary to hold the scientific sessions. Please select from one of these official hotels when planning your accommodations. Take advantage of the discounted rates at www.geron.org/annualmeeting.

Change AGEnts Will Spur Health Care Practice Improvements

GSA has been awarded a $5 million grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation to launch and develop the Hartford Change AGEnts Initiative, a multi-year project designed to create change in the practice environment that will improve the health of older adults, their families, and communities.

For more than two decades, the Hartford Foundation has provided support to a dynamic group of researchers and clinicians in geriatric medicine, nursing, and social work. The Change AGEnts Initiative is an interdisciplinary effort that will capitalize on the collective strengths, resources, and expertise of this community of more than 1,000 grantees, scholars, and other health system leaders.

The initiative is headed by a leadership team, modeling the change in approach that is envisioned for the practice community. The team consists of the Hartford Foundation; GSA; SCP, a socially responsible communications consulting firm; and two national experts in interdisciplinary practice change, GSA Fellow Laura N. Gitlin, PhD, and former GSA President Nancy Whitelaw, PhD.

“By bringing together these top physicians, nurses, and social workers, we can harness their collective expertise to enhance the way health care is delivered in our aging society,” said Gitlin, who serves as the director of Center for Innovative Care in Aging at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

Journalism Fellowship Recognizes America’s Top Age Beat Reporters

GSA and New America Media (NAM) have selected 17 reporters for the MetLife Foundation Journalists in Aging Fellows Program, now in its fourth year. They represent a wide range of mainstream and ethnic media outlets, including several daily newspapers and NPR affiliates.

The fellows will convene during GSA’s Annual Scientific Meeting — scheduled for November 20 to 24 in New Orleans — and utilize over 400 presentations and 4,000 expert attendees to develop a major aging-focused story or series.

These proposed projects, to be published in 2014, will span such concerns as palliative care, abuses from health care aides, and retirement and work challenges for older immigrants.

“GSA’s meeting showcases the latest research on aging and our fellows provide an invaluable service by disseminating that knowledge to the American public,” said GSA Deputy Executive Director Linda Harootyan, MSW. “We provide a unique venue where these reporters can interact with experts to better understand scientific discoveries, social and policy debates, and solutions to the issues facing older people.”

The fellowship program is funded by a grant from the MetLife Foundation. And as a result of additional support from the John A. Hartford Foundation this year, one reporter has been designated as the John A. Hartford/MetLife Foundation Journalism in Aging & Health Fellow.

“The growing insecurity of elders, especially those from diverse communities, makes it essential that both ethnic and mainstream media tell their stories and expose the threats to their retirement future,” said NAM founder and
From the Executive Director

Numerous Things to Note in New Orleans This November

By James Appleby, RPh, MPH
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Thanks to a combination of partnerships and new resources, the upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans will be a memorable one! In addition to enhancing a terrific program, they demonstrate how productive the year has been for GSA and its members.

This month’s cover stories talk about two collaborations whose impact will be felt at the meeting. With funding from the MetLife Foundation, 17 new and 17 alumni journalist fellows will be covering our sessions in New Orleans. This group has already produced more than 200 stories largely based on GSA members’ research. And the John A. Hartford Foundation will sponsor the Opening Plenary Session to coincide with the launch of the Change AGents Initiative. Starting next year, this initiative will hold a conference for its constituents adjacent to GSA’s meeting, thus affording growth potential for GSA meeting attendance and new networking opportunities for our members.

With the support of the National Institute on Aging, we’re holding the second installment in our “Aging, the Central Nervous System, and Mobility” series of workshops, and the first in our series on “Accelerating Translation of Knowledge to Community Practices for Older Adults.” Additionally, GSA again is teaming up with the Pan American Health Organization for a Global Aging Forum on the final day of the meeting. Attendees can sign up for all three of these using the meeting’s registration form.

The meeting will also see the release of a new Public Policy & Aging Report on the longevity dividend, a topic that will be further explored in the “Geroscience: Aging Biology as the Common Risk Factor for Chronic Diseases” symposium scheduled for Friday, November 22. The issue, a related press briefing, and plans for a Congressional briefing in early 2014 are being conducted in partnership with the American Federation for Aging Research.

Another item hot off the presses will be a white paper resulting from an August summit convened by GSA’s National Adult Vaccination Program. This will be tied to a Policy Series symposium, “What Works in Adult Vaccines,” also slated for November 22. Both will focus on best and promising practices and state and national policies impacting adult vaccination rates.

And GSA’s new project related to over-the-counter medication use among older adults — first reported in January’s Gerontology News and conducted with support from the Consumer Healthcare Products Association — has also resulted in a white paper from an April summit that will debut in New Orleans. A related symposium, “OTC Medication Behaviors of Older Adults: Results from a GSA Workgroup,” taking place on November 22. Furthermore, a white paper on over-the-counter sleep aids and sleep health in older adults also is scheduled for release at the meeting — the result of a summit GSA is conducting this month with support from Pfizer.

In 2012, GSA released a publication titled “Communicating with Older Adults: An Evidence-Based View of What Really Works.” (We mailed a copy to all members.) This year, coinciding with the timing of the Annual Scientific Meeting, GSA and its Association for Gerontology in Higher Education are rolling out a series of short online training modules related to the Communicating with Older Adults project. The first installments are geared toward those working in pharmacies, but can be used by any health care professionals and support staff working directly with older adults.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans. Our pre-registration levels are consistent with 2011 and 2012 — the two highest-attended meetings on record — so there’s a lot to be excited about.

James
**In Memoriam**

Robert Kastenbaum, PhD, passed away on July 24 at the age of 80. At the time of his death, he was a professor emeritus at Arizona State University in the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication. His research focused on the psychology of aging and death and he published the first textbook on the subject, which was titled “Death, Society and Human Experience” (1977). Kastenbaum also founded the first university-based center on death and dying — at Wayne State University in 1996 — and soon after founded and edited the *International Journal of Aging and Human Development* and *Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying*. He received several awards including GSA’s Richard A. Kalish Award and the American Psychological Association’s Lawton Award for Distinguished Contributions to Clinical Geropsychology.

**New Publications by Members**


**Members in the News**

- Adriana Perez, PhD, was quoted in an Arizona Capitol Times article published on May 3 regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the importance of providing education and resources about the act to Spanish-speaking individuals.
- A May 4 article in The Washington Times on baby boomers’ suicide rates included research conducted by GSA Fellow Ellen Idler, PhD, and Julie Phillips, PhD. They indicated the greatest danger for suicide is among those between the ages of 50 to 59, and that those without a college education are also at higher risk.

**Member Spotlight**

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

**Verna Zehner Ourada, PhD, PT**

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

**Colleague Connection**

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

**Steven Zarit, PhD**

The recipient, who became eligible after referring new member Neha Nagpal, was randomly selected using randomizer.org. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion, which includes a chance to win free lodging at the annual meeting, visit www.geron.org/connection.

**Former GSA Staff Member Turning 101**

This month, former GSA staffer Marjorie Meyer Adler turns 101 years old. Adler served GSA for 31 years as assistant to the editors, administrative secretary, and director of publications. In 1978, former GSA President George Maddox, PhD, interviewed Adler for *The Gerontologist*; Adler recalled the very first GSA annual meeting where just 75 people attended. In the interview, Adler also gave some wise words on aging: “There is no fountain of youth and gradual retirement is a good thing.” Happy birthday, Marjorie!

**Association for Computing Machinery Recognizes Czaja**

GSA Fellow Sara J. Czaja, PhD, the Leonard M. Miller Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami, was honored with an International Social Impact Award for her positive application of human-computer interaction research to pressing social needs in April in Paris. The award was presented by the Association for Computing Machinery’s Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction. Her award lecture, “Technology Systems to Support Older Adults: Opportunities and Challenges,” focused on the potential role of technology in supporting the independence and well-being of older adults, particularly in healthcare applications. At the University of Miami, Czaja also holds a secondary appointment in the College of Engineering’s Department of Industrial Engineering and develops innovative strategies and technologies to enhance the quality of life for older adults through research, education, service modeling and policy development. And in her role as scientific director of the Center on Aging at the Miller School of Medicine, she focuses on basic and applied research of diverse older adult populations and their families, emphasizing the importance of multidisciplinary care that integrates biomedical, behavioral, clinical, social, and human factors engineering.

**FCA Presents 2013 Leadership Award to Reinhard**

The Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) has honored Susan C. Reinhard, PhD, RN, with its 2013 Leadership Award. This distinction recognizes the contributions Reinhard has made in the fields of long-term care and caregiving. She currently is the senior vice president for public policy and the director of the AARP Public Policy Institute. The award was presented on May 9 at FCA’s Second Annual Thought Leader Roundtable and Award Dinner, “Caregiving at a Crossroads: New Models, New Opportunities.” Throughout her career, Reinhard has championed family caregivers and has incorporated their needs and issues in public policy development, in curriculum and nursing instruction, and in state administration of health and senior services. She is a nationally recognized expert in health and long-term care policy, and has extensive experience in conducting, directing and translating research to promote policy change.

**Four GSA Members Receive IAGG Presidential Award**

During July’s World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in Seoul, Korea, the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) bestowed its Presidential Award to Isabella Aboderin, PhD, of the African Population and Health Research Center; Sung Jae Choi, BA, MSW, PhD, of Hanyang University; John Morley, MB, BCh, of St. Louis University Medical School; and Antoni Salvá, MD, of FICE Casa Convalescencia. This award is given to individuals who have contributed to the enhancement of IAGG in specific tasks and more generally in the promotion of gerontology and geriatrics around the world.
Older Czech Women at Risk for Poverty

Older women in the Czech Republic are more at risk for poverty than their male counterparts due to lower pensions when they retire, according to a July 9 article that appeared in the Prague Daily Monitor. The pensions of women are one-fifth lower than men in the Czech Republic, which has not changed since the year 2000. Although Czech women’s salaries are one-fourth lower than men due to types of professions that are often employed by women, women also receive lower salaries than men even when they occupy the same position. Due to these factors, in addition to the retirement age of women being lower than that of men, women receive less money from the state when they retire. A census in 2011 showed that 148,000 more pensions were paid to women than men. It was also reported that in 2010, nine out of 10 Czech people 65 years or older living in poverty were women. The Czech Republic is therefore the European Union country with the highest portion of women among old poor people, according to this article.

Asia’s Caring Traditions Evolving

According to a September 19 CNBC report, the influence of the Western culture combined with an increasing number of older dementia patients are contributing to the growth of retirement villages and assisted living centers in Asia. Traditionally, multiple generations have cared for aging parents in the family home. The article stated that it is becoming less common for older individuals to live with their children in China, where the concept of retirement villages is becoming better known. In Beijing and Shanghai, about 50 percent of seniors are empty nesters, and approximately 9.4 percent of China’s population is over the age of 65. However, the tradition of providing care in the home for aging parents is not changing very much in the Philippines, but the availability of having someone home in the household to perform care responsibilities is changing. Therefore, the development of retirement villages is in its infancy stage in the Philippines.

Majority of Older Koreans Living Alone Are Women

A recent article in The Korean Herald indicated that among the 65- and-older population living alone in Seoul, 77.6 percent are women. This figure comes from a report issued by the city’s government in late September. It also found that women in this age demographic who live alone earn 79 percent of what their male counterparts do. Female seniors living alone in Seoul were also more prone to illness than solitary older men, especially when they were older and had a lower income. About 44.9 percent of such women did not keep in contact with friends and 47.5 percent were isolated from their neighbors. The article indicated that the Seoul Metropolitan Government is developing policies to support these older women living alone and preparing specific measures in services needed by seniors.

**AGESW Names Pre-Dissertation Awardees**

The Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW), together with support from GSA, has announced Pre-Dissertation Initiative Awards to 10 social work doctoral students. The goals of this program are to support dissertation and career development in gerontological social work research and education. It designed to foster skill development by preparing an application for financial support of dissertation research; developing a career plan that integrates teaching and scholarship; and developing a course syllabus on gerontological social work.

The Pre-Dissertation Initiative Award provides a $1,000 stipend to attend the 2013 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans, where the recipients will receive input from nationally recognized leaders in social work. The awardees will also receive memberships within GSA and AGESW, a webinar on a substantive topic, and ongoing mentorship from an AGESW scholar.

The awardees are enrolled in the first or second year of a social work doctoral program in the U.S. They are sponsored by a faculty member who supports their application and who attests to their qualifications and interest in gerontological social work research and/or education. The awardees receive a matching stipend ($500) from their institution.
Policy Series Prep: What to Expect in New Orleans

Whether or not the federal government shuts down or defaults on its bills, the GSA’s 66th Annual Scientific Meeting offers a unique opportunity to be informed about the most pressing policy issues impacting older adults, as well as the latest ideas and innovations in aging research.

This column will inform you about several sessions that will be featured in GSA’s popular Policy Series. They reflect timely topics challenging the field of gerontology and feature some of the foremost researchers, policy analysts, and aging advocates in the nation. Presentations will address the Commission on Long-Term Care’s congressional report, person-centered care, state and national policies impacting adult vaccination rates, Social Security, Medicare, “unsolved mysteries in aging policy,” budget and appropriations issues (e.g. the National Institute on Aging), and much more!

Please remember to check your conference bag for a special policy program insert that details these and many other policy-focused poster, paper, and symposium presentations at our meeting in New Orleans.

Person- and Family-Centered Care: Protecting Your Rights
Wednesday, November 20 • 2:30 to 4 p.m. • Galerie 1 (Marriott)
This session focuses on person- and family-centered health care and decision-making, particularly for older persons with multiple chronic illnesses who need advanced care. Panelists will answer these questions: What is person-centered care and what happens when we fail to provide it? How does one get the right amount of treatment and avoid unwanted care? What are the best models for providing advanced illness care? What kind of political and policy environment is needed to move an advanced care agenda forward?

Congressional Aging Issues Update
Thursday, November 21 • 3:30 to 5 p.m. • Galerie 1 (Marriott)
This session will present an update on aging and health legislation from the first session of the 113th Congress. Speakers will address key issues such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the Older Americans Act, and more. The panel will also provide the audience a sense of what can be expected during the second session in 2014.

The Impact of Cutbacks in Research Funding and What You Can Do
Thursday, November 21 • 5:30 to 7 p.m. • Galerie 1 (Marriott)
This session is sponsored by Friends of the National Institute on Aging. Unprecedented increases in age-related diseases as the population ages are one reason the Congressional Budget Office projects that total spending on health care will rise to 25 percent of the U.S. GDP by 2025. (It is 17 percent today.) Research that can be translated into effective prevention and efficient health care could help reduce this financial burden. Yet, research dollars at the National Institute on Aging have declined by more than 20 percent (in constant dollars) over the last 10 years. This forum, sponsored by the Friends of National Institute on Aging (FoNIA), a broad-based coalition of more than 50 national aging, disease, research and patient groups supporting the mission of NIA, will highlight some examples of the impacts on both research projects and on the pipeline of emerging scientists. FoNIA Chair Linda Harootyan, MSW, and Co-Chair Sue Peschin, MHS, will discuss what advocacy efforts FoNIA has been undertaking and what role researchers can and must play in communicating to Congress why an investment in aging research is so critical and makes financial sense.

What Works in Adult Vaccines
Friday, November 22 • 1 to 2:30 p.m. • Galerie 1 (Marriott)
This session is sponsored by GSA’s National Adult Vaccination Program with support from GSK, Novartis Vaccines, Pfizer, and Sanofi Pasteur. This session will present highlights from an August 2013 summit in Washington, DC, focused on best and promising practices and state and national policies impacting adult vaccination rates. The summit focused on the policy impact of the Affordable Care Act’s requirement for Essential Health Benefits and specifically how stakeholders are leveraging and maximizing the category of “preventive and wellness services.”

Reflections on and Reactions to the Commission on Long-Term Care’s Report
Friday, November 22 • 5 to 6:30 p.m. • Galerie 1 (Marriott)
This session is sponsored by GSA’s Social, Research, Policy, and Practice Section and GSA’s Public Policy Committee. This panel will explore the recommended reforms to the current long-term care system proposed by the Commission on Long-Term Care. Speakers will reflect upon and react to the Commission’s proposed solutions for three big issues—long-term care financing, delivery, and workforce challenges.

Unsolved Mysteries in Aging Policy
Saturday, November 23 • 1 to 2:30 p.m. • Galerie 1 (Marriott)
There’s a lot of talk in Washington about aging. But it’s almost all about the deficit and the cost of Medicare and Social Security. We need to broaden the conversation and be proactive. We need more constructive ideas. We should view the changing demographics not as a tidal wave to be feared but as an opportunity to be welcomed. To do so, we must tackle these issues — and the clock is ticking. Join AARP policy chief Deb Whitman and aging expert and advocate Bob Blancato for this interactive session that will explore the critical policy areas where we need more research and innovative solutions.

The Independent Payment Advisory Board and its Implications for Medicare
Saturday, November 23 • 5 to 6:30 p.m. • Grand D (Sheraton)
This session is sponsored by Pfizer. One of the most controversial features of the Affordable Care Act is the Independent Payment Advisory Board. Once constituted it could reshape Medicare policies and benefits with little ability by Congress to override its recommendations. The 113th Congress has bipartisan legislation pending to repeal IPAB with the support of a number of stakeholder groups. This panel will provide an update on the status of board and its repeal efforts from the standpoint of older adults, underserved populations, and the private sector.
Below we provide some suggested activities that emerging scholars may find valuable during their experience at the upcoming New Orleans conference. GSA’s online Meeting Planner (at www.geron.org/2013) will help you plan your schedule; a mobile version with live updates is coming soon. Additionally, you can get real-time conference news through our group on Facebook (by searching for “GSA Emerging Scholar and Professional Organization”) or our Twitter feed via www.twitter.com/GSA_ESPO. You can do the same for the main GSA accounts at facebook.com/geronsociety and twitter.com/geronsociety. Also be sure to look at the opposite page for a list of networking activities that will appeal to all GSA members.

ESPO/Health Sciences Section Symposium — “Optimizing Care of the Community-Dwelling Older Adult through Translational Research”
Wednesday, November 20 • 2:30 to 4 p.m.

ESPO Lounge
Thursday, November 21 • 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday, November 22 • 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, November 23 • 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The ESPO lounge provides a place for GSA’s emerging scholars and professionals to rest from the hectic conference pace, meet with colleagues and mentors, and learn more about ESPO. Please stop by for refreshments and access to free Internet!

ESPO Breakfast & Community Meeting
Thursday, November 21 • 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
All ESPO members are invited to come to this informational get-together. It will provide a chance to learn about past and current ESPO activities, network with your colleagues, meet volunteer ESPO leaders, and learn how to get involved.

ESPO/Social Research, Policy, and Practice Section Symposium — “Optimizing Care Transitions: Improving Services, Programs, and Policies for Vulnerable Older Adults”
Thursday, November 21 • 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Mentoring Consultancies for Emerging Scholars
Thursday, November 21 • 3:30 to 5 p.m.
In this consultancy, ESPO members will meet with senior faculty, researchers, and GSA leaders within a structured setting. Issues to discuss and to problem solve will include publishing, research methodology, and other concerns of a professional nature. Participants may sign up for this event using the meeting’s registration form.

ESPO Awards Presentation & Reception
Thursday, November 21 • 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Everyone in ESPO is encouraged to attend this event. It will begin with presentations of ESPO awards on interdisciplinary papers and posters. Afterwards, we will have a wine and cheese networking reception with GSA fellows.

Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Fellows/Emerging Scholars Mentoring Workshop
Friday, November 22 • 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
This event will allow for an informal but structured environment within which BSS fellows can discuss and share issues surrounding ESPO members’ developing careers.

ESPO/Successful Aging Research Group Symposium — “Successful Aging: Perspectives from Emerging Scholars”
Friday, November 22 • 1 to 2:30 p.m.

GSA Ambassador Program Meeting
Friday, November 22 • 2 to 3 p.m.
The GSA Ambassador Program has recently been reorganized and invites both current and prospective ambassadors to attend this meeting. Ambassadors will help promote awareness of GSA, ESPO, and GSA efforts like the annual meeting within their campuses and communities.

ESPO/Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Symposium — “Why Global Aging Matters: Motivations and Perspectives for Cross National Research, Theory and Practice”
Friday, November 22 • 5 to 6:30 p.m.

GSA Fellows Mentor Program
Saturday, November 23 • 7 to 8:30 a.m.
GSA Fellows will host this breakfast as a means to provide mentorship to interested ESPO members. Mentors will be assigned to mentees according to section membership and academic interests. The intent is to create a partnership that will begin at the meeting and continue beyond. (There is no fee to participate but pre-registration is required.)

ESPO International Task Force Informal Meet and Greet
Saturday, November 23 • 9 to 10 a.m.
Come meet and network with fellow ESPO members who share your interests in international gerontological research.

ESPO Presidential Symposium — “Total Professionalism in the Emerging Stages”
Saturday, November 23 • 1 to 2:30 p.m.

ESPO/Biological Sciences Section Symposium — “Evaluating Age-Related Decline in Muscle Function”
Saturday, November 23 • 3 to 4:30 p.m.

ESPO International Task Force/Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Symposium — “Exploring the ‘How’ of International Aging Research: Concepts, Data Sources, Measurements and Methods”
Sunday, November 24 • 8 to 9:30 a.m.
Meeting Agenda Features Ample Networking Activities

Numerous sessions that demonstrate GSA’s networking potential are slated for the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting in New Orleans. Visit www.geron.org/2013 to view the full program schedule. Please also note the mentoring activities listed on the opposite page for emerging scholars and professionals.

President’s Welcome Reception and Exhibit Hall Opening
Wednesday, November 20 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Help kick off the 2013 Annual Scientific Meeting with a stroll through GSA’s Exhibit Hall and a visit to the first poster session of the conference. Posters will be on display from 6 to 8 p.m. and presenters will be at their boards from 6 to 7 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres will be available.

Exhibit Hall
Wednesday, November 20 • 6 to 8 p.m.
Thursday, November 21 • 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Friday, November 22 • 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 23 • 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The Exhibit Hall affords participants opportunities for hands-on examination of new products, technologies, and publications; assessment of applied research; previews of multi-media programs; easy access to graphic displays and literature about programs and centers; and one-on-one consultation with the experts.

New Member Meet and Greet
Thursday, November 21 • 7 to 8 a.m.
GSA’s leadership will be on hand to discuss navigating the meeting, various networking opportunities, and how to become involved in the Society.

New Fellows Meet and Greet
Thursday, November 21 • 7 to 8 a.m.
Fellowship — the highest class of membership within the society — is an acknowledgment of outstanding and continuing work in the field of gerontology. In 2013, GSA welcomed 56 new fellows.

Task Force on Minority Issues Award Presentation and Reception
Thursday, November 21 • 5:30 to 7 p.m.
All members are invited to this event, which honors the 2013 winner of the Task Force on Minority Issues in Gerontology Outstanding Mentorship Award.

Interest Group Meetings
Thursday, November 21 • 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Friday, November 22 • 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 23 • 7 to 8:30 p.m.
These meetings provide excellent networking opportunities and a chance to talk informally with colleagues. Interest groups are formed around a topic or issue that cuts across disciplines and sections of the Society. The Program Book will contain a full list of groups and meeting times.

GSA Fellows & International Reception
Thursday, November 21 • 6:30 to 8 p.m.
This reception is held annually to honor current and new GSA fellows, as well as international members of the Society. (Open to fellows and international attendees only.)

Humanities and the Arts Film — “Amour”
Thursday, November 21 • 8 to 10 p.m. (Fee: $10)
Join fellow conference-goers for a screening of “Amour,” a film by Michael Haneke. The plot centers on Georges and Anne, who are in their eighties. They are cultivated, retired music teachers. Their daughter, who is also a musician, lives abroad with her family. One day, Anne has an attack. The couple’s bond of love is severely tested. This film was the winner of Best Foreign Language Film at the 2013 Academy Awards.

GSA Section Business Meetings and Award Presentations
Friday, November 22 • 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Fee: $15)
All GSA members are invited to attend their respective section meetings, which will feature award presentations, activity reports, and recognition of new GSA fellows. Participants may sign up for this event using the meeting’s registration form. The $15 fee covers the cost of the luncheon; limited general seating will be available for those who do not wish to purchase a meal.

Humanities and the Arts Committee Open Meeting
Friday, November 22 • 6:30 to 8 p.m.
This meeting and reception will allow attendees to mingle with committee members and others who share and interest in the humanities, arts, and aging. The organizers will focus the discussion on “The Past, Present, and Future of the Humanities and the Arts Committee.”

Fun Walk & Run
Saturday, November 23 • 6 to 7 a.m. (Fee: $25)
In partnership with the Health Sciences Section (to benefit the Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award), runners, joggers, and walkers of all skill levels are invited to participate in a fun-filled morning around the French Quarter. This event will start and finish from the New Orleans Marriott and will follow a 2 mile, 6 mile, or 9 mile route. Participants may sign up for this event using the meeting’s registration form.

Task Force on Minority Issues in Gerontology Concept Coffee
Saturday, November 23 • 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Join the Task Force on Minority Issues in Gerontology for its annual concept coffee. This year’s discussion will focus on learning of various career path options (public service, administration, academia, clinical, private sector) for minority members or those with an interest in working with older minority adults.

Global Aging Forum: Advancing an Agenda for Global Aging and Health
Sunday, November 24 • 11:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Fee: $30)
This workshop will focus on transnational research and educational efforts concerning global aging and health. It will include presentations on funding opportunities, international datasets, and exemplars in cross-cultural education and research, along with question-and-answer periods and roundtable discussions designed to facilitate networking and sharing of expertise. Participants may sign up for this event using the meeting’s registration form. Lunch is included.

October 2013 • gerontology news • 7
Grant Targets Occupational Health, Safety Research
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Mentored Research Scientist Development Award provides “protected time” for junior research scientists to facilitate their transition from the mentored to the independent stages of their careers in occupational health and safety research. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is inviting applications from advanced postdoctoral and/or newly independent research scientists (usually with a PhD or MD degree) in biomedical or behavioral sciences who are pursuing careers in research areas supported by the NIOSH. By providing support for the critical transition period between postdoctoral training and independent funding for non-clinical investigators, the NIOSH hopes to foster the careers of these investigators who are vital for the future excellence of the NIOSH research endeavor. Applicants must justify the need for a period of mentored research experience and provide a convincing case that the proposed period of support will substantially enhance their careers as independent investigators. Applications are due by November 12. Funds are available for up to $100,000 per year for a period of up to 3 years. For further information, see grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR13245.html.

Grant to Bolster Early Risk Factors Research
The National Institute on Aging is soliciting two-year research project grant applications that propose to explore the potential for midlife plasticity of biobehavioral or psychological systems affected by early life disadvantage. In order to speed the development of novel intervention strategies, applicants are encouraged either to use existing human cohort data to identify circumstances that mitigate or exacerbate the effects of early adversity or to use human and/or animal models to test the feasibility of developing interventions aimed specifically at increasing malleability in adulthood of risk persistence mechanisms.

Applications are due February 3, 2014. For more information, visit grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-14-006.html.

NEA Seeks Art Works Research Applications
The National Endowment for the Arts’ (NEA) Office of Research & Analysis has announced that grant application guidelines are available for Research: Art Works, a program that supports research that investigates the value of the U.S. arts ecosystem and the impact of the arts, either as individual components within the U.S. arts ecology or as they interact with each other and/or with other domains of American life. The NEA encourages applications from diverse research fields (e.g., sociology, economics, anthropology, psychology, medicine and health, education, communications, and urban and regional planning) in addition to projects that address a diverse array of topics concerning the value and/or impact of the arts. The NEA anticipates awarding up to 25 grants in the range of $10,000 to $30,000. The deadline for application submission is November 5 and projects can begin as early as May 1, 2014. This year, there have been several major changes to the Research: Art Works grant program: priority is given to applications that present theory-driven research questions and methodologies that will yield important information about the value and/or impact of the arts; the 2012 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts and the 2012 General Social Survey’s Arts Supplement are cited as secondary data sources of special interest to the NEA; and primary data collection is now an eligible activity type. Those projects may be of three years in duration. Other projects now may be of two years in duration. New sections of the guidelines address the responsible conduct of research, data management and sharing. There is a corresponding review criterion about applicants’ data management plans and grants require a match and indirect costs are allowed. Additional information may be obtained at arts.gov/grants/apply/Research.html.

Continued from page 1 - Initiative Will Spur Health Care Practice Improvements

“The collaborations we will foster will have a much greater impact than single individuals and organizations could achieve on their own.”

The Change AGEnts Initiative will have two main components. First, Hartford grantees will receive support, resources, and opportunities to mobilize for action through the development of the Change AGEnts Community. Secondly, small-group, interdisciplinary Change AGEnts Networks will be developed around priority areas related to improving the health of older adults. The first two will focus on caregiving for persons with dementia and patient-centered medical homes.

The overall project is expected to engage, connect, educate, and inspire the individual Change AGEnts —through participation in conferences, webinars, a Change AGEnts website, pilot grants, and the practice and policy-focused Change AGEnts Networks — to lead changes in health care delivery that will improve the health of older adults.

“The Change AGEnts Initiative will apply scientific knowledge to real world problems in health care practice, delivery, and policy related to older adults,” said GSA Executive Director and CEO James Appleby, RPh, MPH. “This is increasingly critical as our aging population places growing quality and cost pressures on Medicare and the health care institutions that care for older people.”

GSA has had a long history of successfully managing projects funded by the Hartford Foundation. It has administered the Hartford Geriatric Social Work Initiative since 1999 and was awarded a grant in 2013 to establish the Hartford/GSA National Center on Gerontological Social Work Excellence. In 2012, GSA became home to the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence.

“Older people are important contributors to our society, beloved family members, and our future selves. They don’t get the quality of health care needed to maintain their independence nor to minimize suffering at the end of life,” said Hartford Foundation Program Director Christopher Langston, PhD. “The John A. Hartford Foundation believes that we can do better for older Americans and their families, while saving health care dollars. The Change AGEnts program reflects our belief that the people in whom the Foundation has invested are the brightest hope for achieving the quality of life that we want for older people.”
Executive Editor Sandy Close. “The GSA conference provides reporters the research they need to inform the public and place these vital issues in context.”

In New Orleans, the fellows also will report on new discoveries in aging and participate in a day-long workshop, where experts will discuss the latest research and provide insight on key issues facing older Americans. Travel grants also are being provided to allow previous years’ fellows to participate in the meeting. A continuously updated list of stories generated by the program’s participants is available at www.geron.org/journalistfellows.

Harootyan co-directs the program with Paul Kleyman, senior editor of NAM’s ethnic elders newsbeat. Kleyman is also the founder and national coordinator of the Journalists Network on Generations, which includes more than 1,000 writers on aging.

The new fellows:

Jason Alcorn (InvestigateWest)
Fellowship topic: Inequalities in the delivery of health care and information about Alzheimer’s disease in Washington as steps are taken by the state to set future policy directions.

Matthew S. Bajko (Bay Area Reporter)
Fellowship topic: How San Francisco plans to fulfill recommendations of its LGBT Aging Policy Task Force report.

Jose de la Isla (Scripps Howard’s Hispanic Link News Service)
Fellowship topic: Immigrant Latino caregivers (often undocumented) working “off the books.”

Salim Essaid (ART America’s “The Bridge”)
Fellowship topic: Chronic conditions common among older Arabs how traditional Arab cultural values interact with American medical practice.

Joaqlin Estus (KNBA-FM, Anchorage)
Fellowship topic: The shortage of health care workers, new technologies, and aging in place in Alaska.

Christopher Farrell (Next Avenue)
Fellowship topic: Retirement and work challenges for older immigrants, specifically Chinese elders in San Francisco and Hmong seniors in St. Paul.

Elizabeth Isele (Next Avenue/Forbes)
Fellowship topic: Older middle- and lower-income seniors in the longevity economy.

Colleen Ann Keane (Navajo Times)
Fellowship topic: Profiles of three traditional Navajo artisans preserving heritage for new generations.

Yanick Rice Lamb (MSNBC’s theGrio.com)
John A. Hartford/MetLife Foundation Journalism in Aging & Health Fellow
Fellowship topic: Guides for caregiving and dementia-care for African Americans.

Jennifer Margulis (AARP The Magazine)
Fellowship topic: National shortage of home health aides and the growth of abuses by unchecked aides.

Melinda Miller (The Buffalo News)
Fellowship topic: Gambling addiction among elders and casinos that target them.

Wallace Roberts (NAACP’s The Crisis Magazine)
Fellowship topic: Racism in long-term care and Medicaid for African American seniors.

Gary Rotstein (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)
Fellowship topic: The experience and perceptions of death and dying among the older population, how that has changed over time, and what present trends hold for the future.

Connie Sexton (Arizona Republic)
Fellowship topic: A look at how seniors from varying cultures confront decisions on palliative care, end of life, and pain management.

Alice Thomas-Tisdale (Jackson Advocate Newspaper)
Fellowship topic: Nursing home care in Mississippi’s inner city and rural facilities.

Dawn M. Williams (Senior News 50 and Better!)
Fellowship topic: Healthy aging through physical activity and good nutrition.

Veronica Zaragovia (KUT Public Radio, Austin)
Fellowship topic: Contrast between health care access in rural and urban Texas, resources for Vietnam veterans suffering from mental distress and addiction; and challenges facing older same-sex couples.
Recruiting for Faculty Position with Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR)

The University of Texas Medical Branch School of Health Professions is recruiting candidates for a tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant/Associate Professor level, depending on experience, scholarly record, and external funding history. The successful candidate will collaborate with other faculty on research in the newly created Center for Patient-Centered Outcomes Research in the Elderly as well as develop his/her own patient-centered outcomes research program. Experience with qualitative and mixed methods techniques is required, as is experience with stakeholder engagement in the development of research and dissemination and implementation of research findings.

Qualifications include a research or clinical doctoral or nursing degree, expertise in qualitative research methods and stakeholder engagement, and a demonstrated ability to collaborate with other investigators.

The University of Texas Medical Branch is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications from women and individuals from diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds are encouraged.

Interested individuals can contact Stephanie Burt at stburt@utmb.edu for more information. They can apply online at http://jobs.utmbhealth.com, Job ID 34574.

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NCIN Scholarships Designed to Remedy Nursing Shortage
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) Scholarship Program has awarded $10,000 scholarships to select students who are making a career switch to nursing and are members of a group underrepresented in the field. A total of 400 scholarships were granted across 52 schools. The grant addresses national needs cited in a report by the Institute of Medicine, which recommended increasing the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree or higher and increasing the diversity of students. The accelerated program enables students with a bachelor’s degree in another field to complete the bachelor’s degree in a year of full-time study. Students are then eligible to take the national Registered Nurse Licensure Examination. Scholarship recipients participate in a year-long mentoring program where they work to develop leadership skills, strategic vision, risk taking, and communication effectiveness. They also will enter a pre-entry immersion program to help them learn study, test-taking, and other skills that will help them manage the challenges of an accelerated program. The scholarship program was launched in 2008 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Since 2008, the NCIN program has distributed 3,117 scholarships to students at more than 125 nursing schools.

Gerontology and Nursing Programs Among New Online Programs Developed at Montana State University
Montana State University (MSU) has announced the development of new online programs, including nursing and gerontology. The programs were selected from those suggested by MSU faculty in response to a university-wide push to expand MSU’s service via distance learning, according to MSU Provost Martha Potvin. Funding will support development of courses needed for the new doctor of nursing practice degree. The first cohort will begin their coursework this fall. This is a practice-focused program that will educate practitioners who will provide direct primary care and lead the improvement and transformation of health care, particularly in Montana’s rural areas. Also, a new 18-credit undergraduate certificate in gerontology is being developed to meet the needs of both on-campus and distance students. This program will provide an opportunity for health and human development majors on campus, working health professionals and family caregivers to focus on the knowledge and skills needed to meet the needs of an aging population. Coursework will cover physical activity, nutrition, caregiving, economics and related areas. For more information about MSU’s online programs and initiatives, visit www.montana.edu/online.

NCOA, UnitedHealthcare Release Aging Survey Results
Relationships with friends and family outweigh financial concerns among older Americans seeking fulfillment in their senior years, according to the second annual United States of Aging Survey. When asked what is most important to maintaining a high quality of life in their senior years, staying connected to friends and family was the top choice of 4 in 10 seniors, ahead of having financial means (30 percent). For the 2013 edition of The United States of Aging Survey, the National Council on Aging (NCOA), UnitedHealthcare, and USA TODAY surveyed 4,000 U.S. adults including a nationally representative sample of seniors ages 60 and older. This year, for the first time, the survey also included a nationally representative sample of adults ages 18 to 59 to provide contrasting perspectives on aging and explore how the country could better prepare for a booming senior population. The results of the 2013 survey were released at the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) 38th Annual Conference in Louisville in July, as part of a broader effort led by n4a, NCOA, UnitedHealthcare, and USA TODAY to educate seniors and stakeholders in communities across the country and support further awareness and understanding of senior perspectives on aging. For complete survey results, visit www.ncoa.org/UnitedStatesofAging.

AARP Releases Report Highlighting Sources of Transportation Funding
The AARP Public Policy Institute recently released “Weaving It Together: A Tapestry of Transportation Funding for Older Adults,” a report highlighting the major sources of federal funding providers can tap to fund transportation for the senior populations. Federal sources of funding include those from the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Administration for Community Living, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. “Weaving it Together” describes in detail (by using case studies of seven geographically diverse transit systems) both the enormous challenge of funding and the sustained entrepreneurialism required to develop efficient, convenient transportation for older Americans and people with disabilities. As there is no comprehensive data set that tracks state and local expenditures on specialized transportation, the studies of local providers from around the country to illustrate how they combine federal, state, and local funding to put quality service on the street.
Optimal Aging Through Research


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For more information, visit geron.org/2013.

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