

The Clinical Geropsychologist

Society of Clinical Geropsychology

APA Division 12, Section II Volume 31, Issue 3

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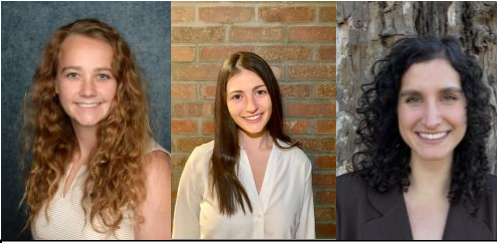
INSIDE

Editor Comments	2
Member Spotlight	2
Student Voice: SCG Trainee Travel Award	4
Research Roundup	6
Announcements & Member News	8
Committee Updates	8
GSA 2024	11
Did You Know?	13

Please contact your editors Victoria Behr at victoria.behr@va.gov, Rachel Best at rbest1@mail.yu.edu, and Melissa Zammitti at melissa_zammitti@pacificu.edu if you wish to comment on the contents of this newsletter.

Published articles do not necessarily represent the official views of Society for Clinical Geropsychology (Section II), Division 12, or APA

Comments from the Editors: Victoria & Rachel



Victoria Behr (left), Rachel Best (middle),
Melissa Zammitti (right)

Welcome to the Winter 2024 issue of the Society of Clinical Geropsychology Newsletter!

We would like to welcome Melissa Zammitti, our incoming co-editor of the newsletter! Melissa is currently in the Pacific University Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program concentrating in neuropsychology. Her research interests surround neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and risk factors for age-related cognitive impairment in older adults. She's especially interested in exploring strategies that promote healthy brain aging and

understanding psychosocial factors related to cognitive health in later life. She joined the Society for Clinical Geropsychology to build stronger connections with fellow researchers in geriatric psychology and to amplify their work and insights through our newsletters.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find some of our newsletter standards, such as our member spotlight and committee updates. Be sure to check out reflections from the SCG Trainee Travel Award winners on page 4 and **GSA** events and member presentations on page 12. As always, we are excited to celebrate the work and accomplishments of our SCG community (page 14)!

We'd love to hear any ideas you might have for how we can improve the newsletter. Please feel free to email us at any point: Victoria Behr (victoria.behr@va.gov), Rachel Best (rbest1@mail.yu.edu), or Melissa Zammitti (melissa_zammitti@pacificu.edu).

Member Spotlight: Valerie Abel, Psy.D.



Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

Current professional title and affiliation: VA NY Harbor Healthcare System, Brooklyn Campus, Chief Psychologist; Training Director Geropsychology Postdoctoral Residency

Why did you join the Society for Clinical Geropsychology (Division 12, Section II)?

12/II has always been the home of the community of geropsychologists in clinical practice. It has been a great way to share resources, keep abreast of professional issues in the specialty including advocacy, and continue to participate in the growth of the specialty area over the years. Since I am committed to training the next generation of geropsychologists, I especially appreciate the focus on training issues.

How has membership in the Society for Clinical Geropsychology assisted you with your professional activities? The listserv is a great resource to communicate with others in the field. I appreciate the willingness of other members to share information in terms of clinical issues, training challenges, and recent research that impacts practice.

How did you get interested in the field of aging? I went to graduate school in the 1990s before geropsychology was a recognized specialty in our field. Early in my career and without any previous

experience working with older adults with significant medical and psychosocial issues, I took a position working in skilled nursing facilities. In contrast to what I expected, I was immediately intrigued and fascinated about the possibilities of working clinically in this setting and with this population. I was struck by the overwhelming resilience of individuals and the ways humans work to find meaning even in the challenging circumstances that occur at the end of life. I felt honored to be able to learn from such a diverse group of individuals and to support them in their challenges and triumphs at this stage of life. I advocated for additional training and support with the agency and was determined to gain additional competence working with older adults. That was the beginning and I have never looked back!

Have you had an important mentor in your career? If so, how did they make a difference? When I realized I wanted to work with older adults early in my career, I sought out more support, consultation, and training to support my work as a private practitioner at that time. I was fortunate to find Dr. Donna Rasin-Waters and joined a workshop she was running to educate and support psychologists doing independent work in skilled nursing facilities. I would say that Donna has been the most influential mentor in my career as her passion and expertise in geropsychology continued to fuel and support my own growth in the field. That relationship started many years ago and has grown over the years. We have collaborated on many projects in both private practice and at the VA, including ones related to direct clinical practice and others involving psychology training of geropsychologists. Many years later I consider her still to be a mentor as well as a close friend and colleague.

What is your current position and what are your key responsibilities? At the VA NY Harbor HCS Brooklyn Campus I provide clinical services in the neuropsychology clinic, the oncology/palliative care area, and on interdisciplinary medical teams in primary care. I am the training director of the Geropsychology Postdoctoral Residency program. I work closely with a great training committee that bring their specialty training in health psychology, neuropsychology, and geropsychology to train our next generation of geropsychologists. I feel particularly blessed to work at the VA as a geropsychologist given the continued growing community of colleagues across the country.

Tell us about your most recent activities. Recently, in collaboration with our interdisciplinary oncology team, we have developed an Age-Friendly Cancer program that has shifted the way we address the 4Ms (what matters, mentation, medication, mobility) to align care with our patient's values and goals. There are always a handful of new projects we are working on to improve our services for our older adult veterans, with a focus on improving quality of life as they age. This ability to collaborate interprofessionally is another reason I am grateful to make the VA my professional home.

Do you have any tips for emerging geropsychologists? The geropsychology community is one of the most welcoming and supportive group of psychologists with which I have been involved. Get to know them! Get involved in professional organizations that support those who work in aging. Forming interprofessional alliances is important as well. Above all, be curious and always willing to grow and learn from our patients.

What keeps you busy when you are not working with older adults? What are your non-professional aspirations and hobbies? As I live in Brooklyn, NY, I love having the opportunity to engage in so many of the activities the big city offers (and to people-watch). Here in Brooklyn, we also have access to beautiful parks and the ocean. I love being outside, hiking with our two (crazy) dogs, biking, running, and spending time with a great group of friends laughing!

The Student Voice

SCG Trainee Travel Award Winners and Reflections

Submitted by Kseniya Katsman, M.A. and Anna Symington

Congratulations to the winners of the inaugural SCG Trainee Travel Award!

Name: Dongjun Shin

School/training site: Ajou University

I am grateful to have been awarded the SCG Trainee Travel Award to attend the APA convention in August. This was my first time attending the convention, and I was thrilled to connect with other students, researchers, and practitioners in the field of clinical geropsychology. I enjoyed participating in sessions that helped me not only explore the topics of ageism and socioemotional experiences later in life but also contemplate a career in geropsychology. These sessions inspired me to study further how people with different identities experience the aging process. With the help of the award, I was also able to present my research poster titled “Trajectories of geriatric depression after spousal loss: Effects of sudden loss and social engagement.” The poster showcased how both social and cognitive factors influence geriatric mental health in bereaved Korean adults. Through this opportunity, I had a chance to connect with other researchers in the field and receive valuable feedback. If it had not been for the award, I would not have been able to attend the convention to learn more about clinical geropsychology. I am incredibly grateful for this valuable opportunity.



Name: Timothy K. Ly

School/training site: University of Alabama

I am honored to be a recipient of the SCG Trainee Travel Award. Receiving this travel award allowed me to be fully immersed at my very first APA conference. My participation at APA included co-chairing a critical conversation with Dr. Flora Ma on identifying barriers and facilitators towards diversifying the geropsychology training pipeline. Additionally, I attended several interesting symposiums, paper presentations, and critical conversations, including one on ageism by our very own Dr. Lindsey Jacobs and Dr. Michelle Mlinac. Being formally presented with the award during the SCG business meeting reminded me of how warm and tight knit the geropsychology community is. I feel fortunate to have spent parts of the conference with some of the movers and shakers of the geropsychology community as they discussed future directions for the discipline. With this award, I aim to continue to work towards being an active part of moving the discipline forward in an ever-evolving and increasingly diverse climate.



Name: Kaitlyn Kauzor

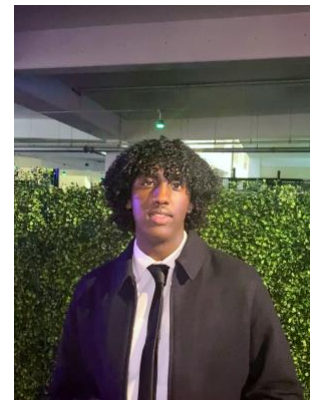
School/training site: San Francisco VA Health Care System

This year I had the privilege to present a poster at the APA 2024 conference in Seattle. This was my first time attending APA and first time participating in SCG events. Being new to this group, I was nervous about attending various meetings, but the SCG and larger APA community was incredibly welcoming. Further, I was able to fully relax and enjoy this conference because of the generous funding I received. I am so grateful for having the financial support, especially because I was in between internship and postdoc positions at the time of the conference. Through this conference I was able to meet and connect with many professionals with similar interests, learn about new research, and generate ideas for future conferences. I am really looking forward to the next conference!

Name: Khalid Yusuf

School/training site: Xavier University

Attending my first APA conference, thanks to the generous support from the SCG team, was a transformative experience. The opportunity to connect with students, engage in diverse sessions on aging and neuropsychology, and network with faculty from various institutions exceeded my expectations. This experience not only deepened my knowledge in geropsychology but also fueled my desire to become more actively involved in this field. I got the opportunity to participate in a professional setting that I had always aspired to be a part of. After attending the SCG professional meeting, my commitment to contributing to APA's divisions and various aging efforts has only strengthened. This travel award has truly furthered my academic and professional journey in geropsychology, and I look forward to continuing my involvement and growing into my professional identity.



Name: Rachel Best

School/training site: Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Yeshiva University

I am incredibly grateful for the SCG Trainee Travel Award, which made my participation in this year's APA conference possible. Presenting my CE talk, "*Integrating Psychological Treatment of Chronic Pain into Treatment with Older Adults*," was a rewarding experience that allowed me to share insights on an area I am passionate about, and it was only possible through SCG's generous support. One of the most meaningful aspects of the conference was attending the *Munching with the Mentors* brunch, where I had the privilege of meeting fellow students and faculty who share a dedication to geropsychology. I also attended the *Career Development Strategies for Emerging Geropsychologists* session, which provided valuable guidance on building a future in this field. It was inspiring to connect with members of the SCG community in person and feel a part of this warm and committed network. The experience strengthened my commitment to geropsychology, and I am deeply appreciative to SCG for this wonderful opportunity.



We look forward to receiving applications for the future SCG Trainee Travel Awards!

Research Roundup

Every issue, we ask SCG members to highlight recent publications of original research findings relevant to the SCG audience for the Research Roundup.

Plasma miRNAs Across the Alzheimer's Disease Continuum: Relationship to Central Biomarkers *Submitted by Ashley Allahand*

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common form of dementia, characterized by a gradual decline in cognitive function, particularly memory, thinking, and the ability to carry out everyday activities of daily living (ADLs). As the disease progresses, individuals may experience confusion, changes in behavior, and verbal difficulties. Understanding the biological markers associated with AD is crucial for early diagnosis and effective treatment. Biomarkers are measurable indicators of the disease, such as proteins or genetic material, that can help in assessing its presence and severity. Traditional methods for detecting these biomarkers often involve procedures like lumbar punctures and/or imaging techniques. Traditional AD biomarkers focus on amyloid-beta (A), tau (T), and neurodegeneration (N) indicators from cerebrospinal fluid or neuroimaging. However, these methods are often invasive and costly. A recent study conducted by Liu and colleagues (2024) explores the potential of plasma-based microRNAs (miRNAs), which are tiny RNA molecules involved in gene regulation and play crucial roles in protein synthesis and cellular functions, as blood-based biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease; these tests are less invasive and easier for patients compared to traditional methods that require spinal taps or expensive imaging.

The researchers analyzed plasma miRNAs in 803 individuals from the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) to identify miRNAs associated with the A/T/N biomarkers. They discovered distinct sets of miRNAs correlating with amyloid-beta, tau, and neurodegeneration positivity. Notably, nine miRNAs were linked with amyloid, two with tau, and eight with neurodegeneration. Functional pathway analysis revealed that amyloid-associated miRNAs are involved in estrogen signaling pathways, while neurodegeneration-related miRNAs showed a relationship with the insulin-like growth factor pathway, highlighting potential molecular mechanisms in AD progression. Further, the inclusion of these miRNAs in machine learning models improved the classification of A/T/N biomarker positivity, suggesting their potential to enhance AD detection accuracy. This study supports the utility of miRNAs as accessible, cost-effective biomarkers and offers insights into their molecular roles in AD. Such findings are promising for advancing geropsychological approaches to early AD diagnosis and management.

In summary, the exploration of plasma-based microRNAs (miRNAs) as potential biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease (AD) presents significant implications for the field of neuropsychology and geropsychology. Early and accurate diagnosis is paramount in managing neurodegenerative disorders, and the shift towards less invasive, cost-effective methods aligns well with geropsychological goals of improving patient outcomes and enhancing the quality of care. By integrating miRNAs into diagnostic frameworks, practitioners can facilitate earlier interventions, leading to better cognitive and emotional support for patients and their families. Additionally, understanding the molecular mechanisms associated with these biomarkers enriches the comprehension of AD, paving the way for more targeted psychological strategies and interventions. As research continues to evolve, the incorporation of novel biomarkers like miRNAs could transform geropsychological practices, ultimately fostering a proactive approach to the assessment and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Liu, S., Park, T., Krüger, D. M., Pena-Centeno, T., Burkhardt, S., Schutz, A. L., Huang, Y. N., Rosewood, T., Chaudhuri, S., Cho, M., Risacher, S. L., Wan, Y., Shaw, L. M., Sananbenesi, F., Brodsky, A. S., Lin, H., Kronic, A., Blusztajn, J. K., Saykin, A. J., Delalle, I., ... Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (2024). Plasma miRNAs across the Alzheimer's disease continuum: Relationship to central biomarkers. *Alzheimer's & dementia : the journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, 10.1002/alz.14230. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.14230>

A Systematic Review of Educational Interventions for Informal Caregivers of People Living with Dementia in Low and Middle-Income Countries

Submitted Duyen Chan

A Brief Description

Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are undergoing rapid demographic shifts, leading to a significant increase in the size of the older adult population, including people affected by dementia. More than two-thirds of the global dementia population live in LMICs. In these countries, where formal care systems are limited, most people with dementia are cared for at home by informal caregivers such as family members. Caregiving in these contexts often leads to increased emotional, physical, and financial strain, exacerbated by the lack of public health infrastructure and the stigma associated with dementia in the community. Therefore, developing and implementing educational interventions to support informal caregivers of people with dementia is crucial. Although some educational interventions have been tested in LMICs, little is known about their effectiveness. Evans and colleagues (2024) recently conducted a systematic review to assess the potential effects and quality of these interventions and provide recommendations for future research in LMICs.

Evans and colleagues searched studies in four databases, assessed study quality using the Downs and Black checklist, and compared intervention characteristics, educational components, and outcomes. The review included 16 interventions from 11 countries spanning four continents. Studies were published between 2004 and 2022 and had sample sizes ranging from 16 to 159, with an average of 65 participants. Among the interventions, four were focused on education, while the remaining 12 either had multiple components that included education or had a primary emphasis on peer support or therapy. Educational delivery methods were categorized into five types: didactic, written, discussion, interactive, and individualized. The educational content covered five areas: dementia knowledge, caregiving skills, behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia, self-care, and local resources. Only one study provided content in all five areas, while the others covered various combinations of two to four. All studies reported at least one significant outcome or effect.

This review concluded that caregiver interventions incorporating educational content delivered regularly in group settings over shorter time frames and sessions show promise, with significant positive outcomes reported. In terms of intervention dosage, weekly or biweekly sessions with a total average of approximately 12 hours appeared to be optimal for caregiver benefits. Multicomponent interventions generally had higher quality ratings. Lower-rated studies often lacked randomization or blinding, had unclear intervention adherence, or were insufficiently powered to detect a clinically meaningful effect.

Only a few interventions reported on intervention adherence, provided feasibility data regarding recruitment and retention, and included follow-up on outcomes, perhaps because most were preliminary studies. More comprehensive evaluations are needed to draw clearer conclusions and examine long-term outcomes. Additionally, none of the studies examined the cost of intervention delivery, which is a significant factor for feasibility in LMICs. Furthermore, there was little exploration of the underlying active mechanisms or core components that contribute to positive outcomes; identifying these components would ensure interventions include essential elements and exclude unnecessary ones. Finally, none of the studies included qualitative evaluations, which could offer insights into caregivers' experiences, preferences, delivery methods, and beneficial content to create interventions that meet both universal and culturally specific needs.

Moving forwards, more high-quality research, including randomized controlled trials, is needed to examine dementia caregiver interventions in LMICs, especially focusing on identifying the active components of interventions. Collaboration between HICs and LMICs, as well as between researchers and caregivers, is recommended to promote global health equity for dementia.

Evans, I., Patel, R., Stoner, C. R., Melville, M., & Spector, A. (2024). A systematic review of educational interventions for informal caregivers of people living with dementia in low and middle-income countries. *Behavioral Sciences (Basel, Switzerland)*, 14(3), 177. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bs14030177>

Announcements and Member News

This section of the newsletter highlights announcements relevant to the membership and the accomplishments of the Section's members. If you have received any local or national awards, or want to let the Section know about recently accepted publications, or recently published books, please email updates to Victoria Behr victoria.behr@va.gov, Rachel Best rbest1@mail.yu.edu, or Melissa Zammitti melissa_zammitti@pacificu.edu.

Recent Member Books & Publications

- Driscoll, C., Hill, J., Torre, A., & Pachana, N.A. (2024). Exploring the relationship between persons with hearing loss/Deafness and their hearing dogs. *Animals*. 2024 May 22;14(11):1527. doi: 10.3390/ani14111527.
- Schmidt, N. E., Carpenter, B., & Steffen, A. M. (2024). Brief aging education affects continuing education preferences and behaviors of mental health providers. *The Gerontologist*, 64(9), gnae085.
- Schmidt, N. E., Cottone, R. R., & Steffen, A. M. (2024). Working with older adults impacts training preferences of counselors. *Gerontology & Geriatrics Education*, 45(1), 86-91.
- Schaefer, L. A., Farrer, T. J., & Dowling, D. J. (2024). Improving the effectiveness of collaboration between neuropsychology and primary care. *The Primary Care Companion for CNS Disorders*, 26(5), 57459. <https://doi.org/10.4088/PCC.24nr03766>

Member Announcements

- Dr. **Kim Van Orden**, Director of the HOPE Lab (Helping Older People Engage) shared about her lab's work using EMA to measure changes in social connection after a coaching intervention and the association between social disconnection and suicidal thoughts in dementia caregivers at the GSA annual meeting in Seattle. The lab is [recruiting a postdoctoral fellow](https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/labs/van-orden/join-the-lab.aspx) to join these projects. Learn more here: <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/labs/van-orden/join-the-lab.aspx>

Committee Updates

Diversity Committee

Submitted by Stacy Yun, Ph.D

We are always looking for passionate and dedicated individuals to serve on our committee! If you or someone you know has an interest in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging issues and would like to meaningfully contribute by serving on the diversity committee, please reach out to our committee chair, Stacy Yun (stacy.wonkyung.yun@gmail.com). We hope to recruit more members to continue this important work/component of SCG.

SCG Diversity Committee:

Stacy Yun, Ph.D.

Cathryn Goldman, Psy.D.

Timothy Ly, M.S.

Lifelong Learning Committee

Submitted by Jessica Strong, Ph.D., ABPP

The Lifelong Learning Committee is taking action on the results of the Gerodiversity survey that we did together with the Diversity Committee in 2023. Results showed us that members of SCG feel the least comfortable in the area of cultural considerations in death and dying. We are currently working on developing a quarterly webinar with continuing education credits for 2025 with a focus on cultural considerations for death, dying, grief, and bereavement. Stay tuned!

A reminder that video recordings from our 4-day assessment workshop in 2022 are available on the SCG website.

And lastly, if you are interested in joining the Lifelong Learning Committee, we would love to have you!

SCG Lifelong Learning Committee

Jessica Strong, Ph.D., ABPP (Chair)

Julia T. Boyle, Psy.D.

Eliza Morgan, B.A.

Chris Nguyen, Ph.D.

Natalie Regier, Ph.D.

Lynn Shaefer, Ph.D.

Mentoring Committee

Submitted by Brenna Renn, Ph.D.

A big thank you to Dr. Ira Yenke and the Mentorship Committee for co-organizing the successful **APA Munching with the Mentors brunch at the recent APA 2024 Convention in Seattle, WA**. This professional development and networking event was co-hosted by SCG and APA Division 20 (Adult Development & Aging) and organized by the respective Mentorship Committees. Brunch was provided alongside a panel discussion and meet-and-greet to provide insight into mentor/mentee relationships and foster connections among psychologists and trainees working with older adults in clinical, academic, and research settings.



CONA Committee

Submitted by Christopher Nguyen, Ph.D., ABPP

Dear SCG Colleagues,

On behalf of the Committee on Aging (CONA), I'm pleased to share this update on our work to enhance resources and advocacy for aging issues within the APA.

First, I want to remind you about CONA's listserv—a platform designed to facilitate discussions on aging-related topics and help members build connections across APA divisions. We hope this listserv will become a central hub where members can share insights, ask questions, and stay updated on research, advocacy efforts, and developments in aging. If you or others in your network are interested in joining, please contact me at christopher.nguyen@osumc.edu, and we'll make sure you're added.

Looking towards 2025, our work plan emphasizes advocating for aging-related issues, fostering cross-committee collaboration, and expanding resources to support aging populations. A top priority is enhancing the APA's Aging Topics webpage. To gather input, we recently hosted a CONA Conversation Hour, and we'll work with the APA to integrate your feedback. Additionally, we're planning webinars to promote the *Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults* and raise awareness of aging issues across the APA and beyond. Another key part of our mission is ensuring APA's policies on aging remain relevant and impactful. Currently, our primary focus is the revised *Resolution on Ageism*. We value your perspectives and encourage you to provide feedback on the draft. To participate, please visit the APA comment portal to submit your input by November 17, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Stay tuned for our upcoming call for nominations! We'll be seeking candidates to fill three CONA membership vacancies for terms beginning January 1, 2026. We are looking for individuals whose expertise will enhance our work in the following areas: (1) research, practice, or policy focused on human rights and discrimination issues for older adults; (2) basic or translational aging science outside clinical or counseling psychology, such as cognitive, developmental, or social neuroscience; and (3) a graduate student eager to help advance CONA's mission within the APA. We encourage SCG members to consider nominating themselves or colleagues who meet these criteria and are passionate about supporting aging-related priorities within APA.

CONA remains committed to addressing the challenges created by recent structural changes within APA, including the reclassification of the Office on Aging to a portfolio level and the absence of a dedicated director. For details on these changes, I encourage you to review Dr. M. Lindsey Jacob's President's Column in the SCG Spring 2024 newsletter issue. To better advocate for the field, CONA and representatives from allied groups submitted a letter to APA leadership, voicing our concerns and holding discussions with the APA Presidential trio at the Spring Consolidated Meeting in Washington, D.C., with follow-up conversations continuing. We are committed to continued advocacy for resources and strengthening collaborations focused on aging initiatives. As we advance these efforts, I encourage SCG members to follow Dr. Jacob's recent call to action by self-nominating or seeking endorsement for open APA positions, connecting with APA council representatives, and broadening your network and advocacy efforts within APA and beyond. *These actions will help boost the representation of aging-focused professionals within the organization.* Our committee is here to support you—please feel free to reach out anytime.

Thank you for being committed to advancing the field of aging and enhancing the lives of older adults.

Warm Regards,

Christopher Nguyen, PhD, ABPP
2024 Chair, Committee on Aging

GSA 2024

SCG Student Representatives are teaming up with the Council of Professional Geropsychology Training Program (CoPGTP) Student Representatives to bring you a **Student Social** on **November 14th from 5-7:30 PM** in beautiful **Seattle, WA!**

If you're heading to GSA's annual conference this fall, we'd love for you to join us in person for a fun evening of networking and connection with fellow SCG and CoPGTP members. We'll gather at **Rumba** (1112 Pike St., Seattle, WA 98101)—a quick **5-minute** walk from the Seattle Convention Center.

What's in store?

- **One free drink and delicious hors d'oeuvres** for all student members!
- **An exciting SCG Student Book Raffle** featuring geropsychology-related books generously donated by our amazing professional members (many are signed by the authors themselves!). Students will have the chance to win these incredible resources throughout the evening!

For any questions, feel free to reach out to your student representatives, Anna Symington (arobert4@uccs.edu) or Kseniya Katsman (kkatsman@fordham.edu).

We can't wait to see you there for a night of great conversations, raffle, and fun!

See you in Seattle!

Kseniya & Anna



GSA Member Presentations

- **Friedland, H.,** Stripling, A., & Crocker, J. (2024, November 15) *Prolonged grief disorder in adults over 65: A review in light of post-COVID-19 losses*. Poster will be presented at the Gerontological Society of America Conference, Seattle, WA.
 - *Time:* November 15, 2024; 2:00 – 3:15 PM
 - *Location:* Exhibit Hall 4AB
 - *Learning Objectives:*
 1. To articulate the prevalence rates, risk factors, and interventions for prolonged grief disorder in adults over 65 as a means to inform care following the COVID-19 pandemic.
 2. To translate findings to specific research and clinical recommendations focused on improving assessment and provision of lifespan-adapted prolonged grief disorder interventions for adults over 65.
- Heys, J. & **Strong, J.** (2024, November) *How do family relationship patterns impact caregiving burden in adult child caregivers?* Poster will be presented at the Gerontological Society of American Conference, Seattle, WA.
- **Ju, C.H., Lohmar, S.,** Fenstermacher, E.A., Owsiany, M.T., & Edelstein B.A (2024, November). *Personality traits as predictors of burnout in sandwich generation caregivers*. Poster will be presented at the Gerontological Society of America Conference, Seattle, WA.
- **Lohmar, S.,** Fenstermacher, E.A., Owsiany, M.T., Ju, C.H., & Edelstein B.A (2024, November). *Sandwich generation caregiving: Negative relationship quality and burnout*. Poster will be presented at the Gerontological Society of America Conference, Seattle, WA.
- **Lohmar, S. & Fiske, A.** (2024, November) *Use of virtual reality for treatment of depression in Parkinson's Disease: A case study*. Poster will be presented at the Gerontological Society of America Conference, Seattle, WA.
- **Stone-Bury, L. E., & Segal, D. L.** (2024, November). *The Alternative Model of Personality Disorders: Longitudinal psychometric properties in older adults*. Poster will be presented at the Gerontological Society of America Conference, Seattle, WA.
- **Strong, J.** (2024, November) *Strength of attachment to religious beliefs decreases negative attitudes toward older adults*. Poster will be presented at the Gerontological Society of American Conference, Seattle, WA.
- **Zammiti, M.** (2024, November) *Acting with awareness and visuospatial learning in Mild Cognitive Impairment*. Poster will be presented at the Gerontological Society of America Conference, Seattle, WA.
 - *Time:* November 16, 2024; 2:00-3:15 PM
 - *Location:* Exhibit Hall 4AB
 - *Learning Objectives:*
 - To gain a new perspective on the acting with awareness facet of mindfulness in relation to visuospatial ability in older adults.
 - To better understand the importance of investigating acting with awareness and its role in interventions for older adults with cognitive impairment

- **Zammiti, M.** Bower, E., Chenoweth, C., Colombawala, F., Gehling, J., & Harris, S. (2024, November 13) *All in how you look at it: Attitudes, affect, and ability in the assessment of subjective cognition*. Symposium will be presented at the Gerontological Society of America Conference, Seattle, WA.
- **Dr. Kim Van Orden**, Director of the HOPE Lab (Helping Older People Engage) shared about her lab's work using EMA to measure changes in social connection after a coaching intervention and the association between social disconnection and suicidal thoughts in dementia caregivers at the GSA annual meeting in Seattle. The lab is recruiting a postdoctoral fellow to join these projects. Learn more here: <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/labs/van-orden/join-the-lab.aspx>

Did You Know...

- The Society has a [Facebook page](#) for all members?
- All the archived newsletters are available [here](#) on the Society website?
- That you should encourage your colleagues and students to join the Society? Please forward them the [membership application](#) from the website (or, simply forward them this newsletter!).
- We want to publish your achievements? Send announcements of your achievements in research (publications, grants, awards), clinical work (awards, recognition), teaching, and public policy to either [Victoria](#), [Rachel](#), or [Melissa](#).