



## A SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ON AGING (CONA) EFFORTS

### Mission Statement

There shall be a Committee on Aging that shall concern itself with furthering the major purpose of APA to advance psychology as a science and profession and as a means of promoting health and human welfare by ensuring that older adults, especially the growing numbers of older women and minorities, receive the attention of the Association. Specifically, the Committee will pursue the following goals:

**Science:** Provide strong and visible advocacy for a scientific agenda on aging to policymakers and private and public funding agencies.

**Practice:** Promote the practice of psychology by advocating policies that enhance the availability and reimbursement of health and mental health services to older adults and their families.

**Policy:** Contribute to the formulation and support of public policies and associated regulations that promote optimal development of older adults, facilitate psychological practice with older persons, and expand scientific understanding of adult development and aging.

**Education:** Promote inclusion of knowledge about adult development and aging in all levels of education, including continuing education, training programs, and professional development of psychologists.

**Public Interest:** Promote the application of psychological knowledge to the well-being of older people, with special attention to the influences of gender, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, and family in science, practice and policy relating to older adults.

**Public Affairs:** Develop and disseminate information concerning the scientific findings and practice issues about older adults to psychologists, other professionals, policymakers, and the public.

**APA:** Serve as a visible focus for the coordination of information among groups within APA that address aging issues and offer consultation to relevant APA boards, committees, divisions, state associations, and directorates; also ensure that older members of APA receive the appropriate attention of the association.

### 2008

*Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP (Chair), Merla Arnold, RN, PhD, Leon Hyer, PhD, Chandra Mehrotra, PhD, Victor Molinari, PhD, ABPP, Michael Smyer, PhD, Dolores Gallagher Thompson, PhD, ABPP*

#### Science:

- CONA cosponsored a 2008 Convention symposium, *Responding to the Challenges of Aging: Lessons from Medicine, Psychology, and Law*, for President Alan Kazdin's Psychology's Contribution to the Grand Challenges of Society Presidential Initiative.
- CONA provided guidance to the Science Directorate in the development of a booklet on vitality and aging, a component of President Kazdin's Grand Challenges initiative.

- CONA chair, Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP, is a member of the APA/ABA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project Working Group.

**Practice:**

- CONA agreed to continue the work of the Presidential Task Force on Integrative Healthcare for an Aging Population (IHAP) convened by Past President Sharon Stephens Brehm, PhD. Board of Directors Discretionary Funds were received for the printing and dissemination of fact sheets on integrated health care for older adults targeting three audiences: older adult consumers and their families, policy makers, and graduate psychology faculty and training directors.
- CONA coordinated a Convention symposium with the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology, Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs, and Ad Hoc Committee on Psychology and AIDS titled, *Best Practices of Integrated Care: Opportunities and Challenges*.
- CONA successfully nominated Victor Molinari, PhD, ABPP to serve on the Task Force on Serious Mental Illness and Severe Emotional Disturbance.
- CONA nominated a geropsychologist to serve on the 2009 Presidential Task Force on the Future of Psychology Practice.

**Policy:**

- CONA maintained ongoing communication with and provided input throughout the year to Diane Elmore, PhD, MPH, Senior Policy Advisor, Public Interest Government Relations Office.
- Past CONA member and Presidential Task Force on Integrated Health Care for An Aging Population Co-chair, Toni Antonucci, PhD, was a presenter at a Congressional briefing for Older Americans' Mental Health Week. Cosponsored by APA, the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry, the National Association of Social Workers, and the Older Women's League.

**Education:**

- CONA and the Office of Continuing Education cosponsored an all-day continuing education program, *What Psychologists Should Know about Working with Older Adults* at Convention.
- CONA continued its *Priming the Geropsychology Pipeline Project* to expose more students to the psychological dimensions of aging through working with Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPPS) and Psychology Teachers in Community Colleges (PT@CC) to provide new resource materials and modify existing curricula on geropsychology topics and career opportunities.
- CONA met with Nina Levitt, EdD, Associate Executive Director, Education Government Relations Office, to discuss the need for the reinstatement of funding for the Graduate Geropsychology Education Program.

**Public Affairs:**

- The Office on Aging and CONA have successfully advocated for increased coverage of aging issues in the *Monitor on Psychology*.
- The 2008 APA Committee on Aging Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging was presented to Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD, in recognition of his substantive contributions to psychological theory, knowledge, and practice with older adults that have shaped and strengthened the field of professional geropsychology.

**APA:**

- CONA sponsored special programming and events to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the 2008 APA Convention including a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium, *Moving Psychology Forward in an Aging Society: Progress and Possibilities* presented by CONA member, Michael Smyer, PhD; an all-day, geropsychology continuing education workshop, *What Psychologists Should Know about Working with Older Adults*; the Presidential Symposium, *Responding to the Challenges of Aging: Lessons from Medicine, Psychology, and Law*; the symposium, *Best Practices of Integrated Care: Opportunities and Challenges*, and an Anniversary Celebration.
- CONA regularly comments on proposed APA new business items to assure that APA policies are informed by geropsychology principles and that the impact of proposed policies upon older adults is considered.
- CONA submitted nominations of psychologists with aging expertise for the 2008 Call for Nominations for APA Boards and Committees.
- CONA submitted a nomination for the Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest Award.
- CONA members met with APA leaders and governance groups at its meetings including: APA President Alan E. Kazdin, PhD, APA President-elect, James Bray, PhD and members of the Board of Directors to discuss issues of import to geropsychology.

**2007**

*Rosemary Blieszner, PhD (Chair), Merla Arnold, RN, PhD, Florence Denmark, PhD, Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP, Victor Molinari, PhD, ABPP, Michael Smyer, PhD*

**Science:**

- CONA provided comments that were incorporated into the APA formal response to the National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH) Strategic Plan.
- CONA provided comments that were incorporated into the APA formal response to the National Institute on Aging on *Living Long and Well in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Strategic Directions for Research on Aging*.
- CONA met with Patricia Kobor, Senior Science Policy Analyst, Science Government Relations Office, at both of its 2007 meetings to discuss current aging science policy issues.
- Dr. George Rebok represented CONA and geropsychology at the NIH Center for Scientific Review Behavioral and Social Science Workshop.
- CONA chair, Rosemary Blieszner, PhD, was one of the 100 scientists selected to participate in “Adventures in Advocacy,” the third annual APA Science Leadership Conference.
- Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP, is a member of the APA/ABA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project Working Group. The Working Group is currently developing *Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Psychologists*.

**Practice:**

- Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP, is a member of Dr. Sharon Stephens Brehm’s Presidential Task Force on Integrative Healthcare for an Aging Population (IHAP). The remaining members of CONA serve on its Advisory Panel.
- CONA met with Dr. Robert Roca, Chair of the American Psychiatric Association Council on Aging in order to establish a collaborative relationship between the two organizations’ “aging” entities
- CONA met with Diane Pedulla, JD, Director of Federal Regulatory Affairs in the Practice Directorate on key Medicare and other regulatory issues.

- The theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual CONA Conversation Hour held at the APA Convention was *Integrated Health Care for an Aging Population: Moving from Report to Real World*.
- CONA nominated geropsychologists to serve on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Stakeholder Group that develops evidence on the effectiveness of health care interventions.
- CONA met with Jessica Kohout, PhD, Director, APA Center for Psychology Workforce Analysis and Research to discuss the importance of capturing geropsychology data as surveys of workforce data needs are generated.

#### **Policy:**

- CONA maintained ongoing communication with and provided input throughout the year to Diane Elmore, PhD, Senior Policy Advisor, Public Interest Government Relations Office.
- Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP, was a presenter at the Public Interest Government Relations Office Congressional briefing for Older Americans' Mental Health Week. Cosponsored by APA, the Older Women's League, and the National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging, it was entitled, *Promoting the Mental Health of Older Adults: An Action Agenda for an Aging America*.
- CONA and the geropsychology community have worked for the past four years to support the efforts of the Public Interest Government Relations Office to advocate for enacting the Positive Aging Act. CONA is currently supporting efforts to enact Title II of the Positive Aging Act as part of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reauthorization. This would support integration of mental health services into primary care and community settings where older adults reside and receive services.

#### **Education:**

- CONA continued its *Priming the Geropsychology Pipeline Project* to expose more students to the psychological dimensions of aging through working with Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPPS) and Psychology Teachers in Community Colleges (PT@CC). CONA provided resource materials and modified existing curricula on geropsychology topics and career opportunities.
- CONA submitted a letter to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on the Future Health Care Workforce for Older Americans to urge the Committee to specifically address professional workforce needs related to mental health and to consider the inclusion of a geropsychologist on the Committee.
- CONA met with James W. Lichtenberg, PhD, Chair, Committee on Accreditation, and Susan Zlotlow, PhD, Director, Office on Accreditation, to express its long-standing interest in increasing the attention given to geropsychology in the accreditation process as one mechanism to ensure more exposure to this subfield.
- CONA met with Nina Levitt, EdD, Director of the APA Education Policy Office, to discuss the need for the reinstatement of funding for the Graduate Geropsychology Education Program.
- CONA successfully nominated two geropsychologists to serve on the Expert Reviewer Advisory Panel for the National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula.
- An all-day continuing education program, *What Psychologists Should Know about Working with Older Adults* is being planned for generalist psychologists at the 2008 Convention.

#### **Public Interest:**

- CONA received 2007 Council of Representatives Discretionary Funds to establish a Working Group on Cultural Competency in Geropsychology. The working group is currently developing a paper that will identify core principles of infusing cultural competency into geropsychology; set an agenda for achieving cultural competency in education and training,

practice, research, and policy; and provide resources for practitioners and researchers interested in this issue.

- CONA and BAPPI cosponsored a standing-room-only 2007 convention symposium, *Aging and Health Disparities: Cumulative Effects of Race, Gender, and SES*. CONA Chair, Rosemary Blieszner, PhD, chaired the symposium of luminaries including David Chiriboga, PhD; Barbara Yee, PhD; and James Jackson, PhD. Toni Antonucci, PhD, served as discussant.
- CONA nominated individuals to serve on the following Public Interest Directorate Committees: Ethnic Minority Affairs; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns; Socioeconomic Status; and on the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest.

#### **Public Affairs:**

- CONA and the Office on Aging have increased their efforts to advocate for additional coverage of aging issues in the *Monitor on Psychology*. This year CONA contributed to or was featured in eight articles.
- CONA is currently revising its *Life Plan for the Life Span*, a web-based brochure originally developed for psychologists ([http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/Life\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/Life_Plan.pdf)) for health and human service and aging network professionals.
- The 2007 APA Committee on Aging Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging was presented to Martha Storandt, PhD, in recognition of her significant research accomplishments including early demonstration that dementia is a disease condition outside of normal aging as well as her ongoing efforts to differentiate across types of dementia.

#### **APA:**

- CONA regularly comments on proposed APA new business items to assure that APA policies are informed by geropsychology principles and that the impact of proposed policies upon older adults is considered. This year comments were submitted for every item on the 2007 Cross Cutting Agendas.
- CONA submitted nominations of psychologists with aging expertise for the 2007 Call for Nominations for APA Boards and Committees.
- CONA began preparations for special programming and events to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the 2008 APA Convention.
- CONA members met with APA leaders and governance groups at its meetings including: APA President Sharon Stephens Brehm, PhD, APA President-elect Alan E. Kazdin, PhD, members of the Board of Directors, and Norman Anderson, PhD, CEO, to discuss issues of import to geropsychology.

#### **2006**

*Toni Antonucci, PhD (Chair), Rosemary Blieszner, PhD, Florence Denmark, PhD, Barry Edelstein, PhD, Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP, and Victor Molinari, PhD, ABPP*

#### **Science:**

- CONA met with Dr. George Niederehe, Branch Chief of the Geriatrics Research Branch of the National Institute on Mental Health to discuss aging research issues.
- CONA met with Sidney Stahl, PhD, Branch Chief of the Individual Behavioral Processes (IBP) Branch of the Behavioral and Social Research Program (BSR) of the National Institute on Aging to discuss expanded funding of geropsychology research and to solidify an ongoing relationship.

- CONA members, Barry Edelstein, PhD and Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP are members of the APA/ABA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project Working Group.
- CONA submitted nominations to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for its technical expert group on Age-related Dementia and Non-pharmacological Interventions for Depression.
- CONA provided comments that were incorporated in the APA formal response to the National Advisory Mental Health Council's Work Group on Services and Clinical Epidemiology of NIMH.

**Practice:**

- Drs. Antonucci and Lichtenberg were appointed as co-chair and member, respectively, of Dr. Sharon Stephens Brehm's Presidential Task Force on Integrative Healthcare for an Aging Population (IHAP). The remaining members of CONA serve on its Advisory Panel. IHAP will work to inform psychologists about how to enter and function within an integrated team for the care of older persons.
- CONA met with Randy Phelps PhD, and Diane Pedulla, JD, of the Practice Directorate to discuss ways the Committee could strengthen its relationship with the Directorate and how it might help advance geropsychology interests within the Practice community.
- CONA reviewed and provided comments to the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities draft Dementia Care Standards.
- CONA updated the web-based *Psychological Services for Long Term Care Resource Guide* ([http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/long\\_term\\_care\\_resource\\_guide\\_2006.pdf](http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/long_term_care_resource_guide_2006.pdf)).

**Policy:**

- CONA participated in the Public Interest Directorate Public Policy Office Federal Advocacy Training Day and Congressional visits. The Older Americans Act (OAA) was amended to include Title I of the Positive Aging Act and reauthorized after CONA's Congressional visits.
- *No Older Adult Left Behind: Public Policy and Aging* was the focus of the 2006 CONA Conversation Hour.
- CONA and Division 20 collaborated with other Public Interest committees and divisions to present the APA Convention symposium, *Intersecting Dimensions of Multicultural Issues in Disaster Response: Aging, Disability, Ethnicity and SES*.

**Education:**

- CONA obtained Council of Representatives 2006 Discretionary Funding for the National Conference on Training in Professional Geropsychology that was held in June 2006.
- CONA initiated its *Priming the Geropsychology Pipeline Project* and is working with Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPPS) and Psychology Teachers in Community Colleges (PT@CC) to provide new resource materials and modify existing curricula on geropsychology topics and career opportunities.

**Public Interest:**

- A workshop, *Self-Care for Aging Services Providers in the Aftermath of Katrina and Rita* was offered in both New Orleans and Baton Rouge.
- CONA established an Early Career Professionals slate for its 2007 nominees as one strategy to mentor early and mid-career geropsychologists for increased participation in APA Governance as well as a way to reach out to a younger cohort of geropsychologists who are more ethnically diverse than previous cohorts.
- CONA submitted a request for 2007 Council of Representatives Discretionary Funds to establish a Working Group on Cultural Competency in Geropsychology.

- CONA successfully nominated Chair-elect Rosemary Blieszner to serve on President Koocher's Presidential Task Force on Diversity Education Resources.
- CONA developed and updated its Diversity Plan.

**Public Affairs:**

- CONA, with the support of Board of Directors discretionary funding, developed *Life Plan for the Life Span*, a web-based brochure for young, middle-aged and older psychologists ([http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/Life\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/Life_Plan.pdf)).
- CONA provided input to *Monitor on Psychology* staff on articles related to aging issues. In 2006 the following stories were printed: "Bracing for the Baby Boom: The White House Conference on Aging," "Geropsychology grants in peril," "Help wanted: Geropsychologists," "Retired and inspired" and "Teaching self-care to Katrina healers." The November cover story, *Aging Wisely: Keys to Longevity and Well Being* consisted of the following articles, "A healthy mind, a longer life," "Caring for caregivers," "A little help from your home," "The forgotten population" and "Better testing for impairment."
- The *APA Committee on Aging Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging* was presented to Dr. Antonette Zeiss in recognition of her significant contributions to geropsychology throughout her career, and for furthering the multiple missions of CONA.

**APA:**

- CONA proposed establishment of a reduced fee for full registration and/or a one day registration fee for APA members with Life Member status for the APA Annual Convention to the Board of Convention Affairs.
- CONA submitted comments on the following APA new business items: Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Girls and Women, National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula, Report of the Working Group on Internationalizing the Undergraduate Curriculum, the Task Force on Multicultural Training's Report on Psychological Aspects of the Hurricane Katrina, the proposed Center for Psychology Workforce Analysis and Research, and Task Force on Socio-economic Status' Draft Report.
- CONA members met with other APA Boards and Committees to discuss areas of mutual concern and potential collaborative efforts.
- CONA submitted nominations of individuals with aging expertise for APA Boards and Committees.
- CONA participated in President Gerald Koocher's Centering on Mentoring Presidential Initiative.

**2005**

*Gregory A. Hinrichsen, PhD (Chair), Toni C. Antonucci, PhD, Rosemary Blieszner, PhD, John C. Cavanaugh, PhD, Florence L. Denmark, PhD, Barry Edelstein, PhD*

**Science:**

- *The Science of Successful Aging: The Road Best Traveled* was the focus of the 2005 CONA Conversation Hour.
- CONA met with Steven Breckler, PhD, Executive Director of the Science Directorate to discuss ways the Committee could strengthen its relationship with the Directorate and how it might help advance the APA science agenda.

- CONA member Rosemary Blieszner, PhD, attended the first Science Leadership Conference held in December.

**Practice:**

- CONA members Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD and Barry Edelstein, PhD worked with the APA/ABA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project Working Group. The Project's first product, a document for practicing attorneys, *Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Lawyers* was published in March.

**Policy:**

- CONA's APA Resolution on the 2005 White House Conference on Aging was adopted as APA Policy.
- A Division 20/CONA symposium, *Psychology and Public Policy: Contributions to the 2005 WHCoA* received designation as a WHCoA Independent Aging Event. The post-event summary and APA Resolution were received by the WHCoA Policy Committee.

**Education:**

- Toni Antonucci, PhD, and John Cavanaugh PhD presented a symposium, *Choosing the older person you would like to be* as part of the Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools' APA convention programming.
- CONA met with Christopher McLaughlin of Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Health Professions to discuss the Graduate Geropsychology Education Program.
- CONA developed and submitted a request to the Council of Representatives for 2006 Discretionary Funding for the National Conference on Training in Professional Geropsychology.

**Public Interest:**

- CONA cosponsored with the Board for Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest an APA Convention symposium titled, *Older Adult Mental Health: Multicultural Infusion into Education, Training, Research, Practice and Policy*.
- Dr. Gregory Hinrichsen's presentation at a 2004 BAPPI-sponsored APA Convention symposium, *Implementation of Multicultural Guidelines* was published in *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*.

**Public Affairs:**

- CONA was a frequent contributor and resource to the *Monitor on Psychology*. In November, *Instilling skills for treating minority elders* was published.
- The *APA Committee on Aging Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging* was presented to Margaret Gatz, PhD in recognition of her longstanding dedication to research, training, professional service, and advocacy in geropsychology.

**APA:**

- CONA member Florence Denmark, PhD, and Merla Arnold, RN, PhD, Division 12-Section 2 liaison to CONA, advocated for the infusion of aging into all relevant APA divisions. As a result of their efforts, aging interest groups were established in Divisions 17, 35, 42, 52.

**2004**

*John C. Cavanaugh, PhD (Chair), Toni C. Antonucci, PhD, Barry Edelstein, PhD, Gregory A. Hinrichsen, PhD, Beth Hudnall Stamm, PhD, Leonard W. Poon, PhD*

**Science:**

- Former CONA chair Steve Zarit, PhD, CONA staff liaison, Deborah DiGilio, and Karen Studwell of the APA Science Policy Office, met with the Chief of the newly created Geriatric Treatment and Preventive Intervention Branch at NIMH.

**Practice:**

- Former CONA chair Forrest Scogin, PhD represented CONA at the Stakeholder Planning Conference on a National Evidence Based Practice Initiative for Older Adults sponsored by CMHS, SAMSHA, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, and the NRI Center for Mental Health Quality and Accountability.
- CONA held two events highlighting the APA/ABA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project at the APA Convention. *Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults: Psychological and Legal Perspectives* was the topic of the CONA Conversation Hour. A symposium, *Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults: An APA-ABA Collaboration* described the state-of-affairs of capacity in older adults from the legal and psychological perspective, and reviewed the recommendations for action steps that emerged from two APA/ABA meetings held in 2003.

**Policy:**

- CONA developed an action plan to assure the consideration of mental health issues by The 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) including development of an APA Resolution, nominating geropsychologists to serve as WHCoA delegates and advisors, and planning a WHCoA Independent Aging Event with Division 20 at the APA convention, *Psychology and Public Policy: Contributions to the 2005 WHCoA*. Recommendations from the symposium were forwarded for consideration to the WHCoA Policy Committee.
- CONA continued its efforts to promote enactment of the Positive Aging Act of 2004 in conjunction with the APA Public Policy Office. CONA members met with their legislators to garner their support for the Positive Aging Act and the Geropsychology Education Program funding.
- CONA successfully advocated for the creation of a new APA Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer position, whose portfolio includes aging policy.

**Education:**

- A student fact sheet, *Geropsychology it's YOUR Future!* and a poster that highlights the range of potential career opportunities in geropsychology practice and research were developed. The materials were sent to all undergraduate departments of psychology, human development, and family studies, and to American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS) campus representatives for distribution on their campuses.
- CONA continued to be active in APA Education Policy Office efforts related to funding of the Graduate Geropsychology Education Program.

**Public Interest:**

- CONA representative Forrest Scogin, PhD presented a paper at the APA 2004 Convention titled, *The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on the Mental Health of Older Adults*. The presentation was part of a BAPPI symposium.

**Public Affairs:**

- CONA provided input to a new brochure, *Psychologists Make a Significant Contribution: Psychology and Aging*, developed with funding from the Research Retirement Foundation and disseminated to policymakers.
- A news release, *Psychology and Aging* was developed and distributed nationwide by the North American Precis Syndicate. The release described the mental and behavioral health issues that many older persons face, and how psychologists can help address these issues. Ordering information for a free copy of the brochure, *Psychologists Make a Significant Difference: Psychology and Aging* was also provided. In the first two months of its six-month release period, 140 newspaper articles were generated in 20 states with a total readership of 7,249,808.
- CONA and the Office on Aging were frequent contributors and a resource to the *Monitor on Psychology*. Articles were published on Expanding Geropsychology Training, the APA/ABA Capacity Assessment Project, CONA's Roadmap to Aging Project, and the 2005 White House Conference on Aging.
- The APA *Committee on Aging Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging* was presented to George Niederehe, PhD in recognition of his pivotal role in the development of the field of geropsychology resulting from his broad perspective on scientific, clinical, and educational issues.

**APA:**

- CONA members John Cavanaugh, PhD and Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD were members of the *Retiring Psychologist Presidential Initiative Workgroup* chaired by APA President Diane Halpern. The group's focus was on determining what resources older psychologists need and want as they move toward and into retirement.
- The APA Board of Directors allocated a portion of its 2005 Discretionary Funds for CONA's Roadmap to Aging Project. The funds supported a spring meeting at which experts from each of the above domains translated the wealth of empirical evidence in the research literature into practical steps to guide psychologists and others along the road to aging.

**2003**

*Forrest Scogin, PhD (Chair), John C. Cavanaugh, PhD, Gregory A. Hinrichsen, PhD, Beth Hudnall Stamm, PhD, Leonard W. Poon, PhD, Antonette Zeiss, PhD*

**Science:**

- Former CONA chair and representative Steve Zarit, PhD, represented APA at the NIMH Advisory Council Meeting in September 2003. He presented comments on the Council's report, *Mental Health for a Lifetime: Research for the Mental Health Needs of Older Americans*. Dr. Zarit recommended that NIMH consider reinstating the Aging Branch and increasing funding for aging research and training.

**Practice:**

- CONA chair Forrest Scogin, PhD, presented a paper, *The Underuse of Evidence-based Psychological Interventions with Older Adults* at the APA Convention.
- CONA and the American Bar Association's Commission on Law and Aging commenced a project on competency assessment and older adults. Two meetings were convened (May and December) at which attorneys, judges and psychologists discussed the contours of competence and capacity assessment of elders. It was determined that the first collaborative product of the project would be a handbook for lawyers

- CONA's *Medicare Local Medical Review Policies (LMRPs) Tool Kit* was completed. The purpose of the tool kit is to assist psychologists in understanding Medicare provisions for psychological services and in providing input into their development. It can be accessed at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/lmrp/>.
- CONA members provided input to the *Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults* developed by the Division 12-Section II and Division 20 Interdivisional Task Force on Practice in Clinical Geropsychology.

**Policy:**

- CONA was successful in working with the APA Public Policy Office and the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry to modify the Positive Aging Act introduced by Senator John Breaux and Representative Patrick Kennedy to reflect an interdisciplinary model of mental health care for older adults that is inclusive of psychology.
- CONA provided input to The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.
- CONA provided input to APA in identifying priority areas for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to assist in their development of an Action Agenda to implement the Commission's recommendations.
- The Office on Aging and CONA received a grant from the Retirement Research Foundation to develop materials to promote *The Contribution of Geropsychology to an Aging World*. The materials, targeting policymakers, document the contribution of geropsychology to the health and well being of older adults, their families, and caregivers.

**Education:**

- CONA advocated for funding of the Graduate Training in Geropsychology program.
- The *Psychotherapy and Older Adults Resource Guide* joined four existing web-based resource guides, developed by CONA members, on the Office on Aging website.

**Public Interest:**

- CONA member, Beth Hudnall Stamm, PhD, presented *The Biopsychosocial Effects of Rural Poverty on Aging* at the APA Convention. Her expertise related to practice issues specific to rural populations was highlighted in the June *Monitor on Psychology*.
- *Fighting and researching ageism* was featured in the May *Monitor on Psychology*. The role of geropsychologists in addressing this issue and the need for increased training opportunities in the field were highlighted.

**Public Affairs:**

- The *APA Committee on Aging Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging* was established to recognize professional leadership and distinguished achievements in research, practice and education in the field of geropsychology, and to promote an awareness and understanding among psychologists of this growing area of psychology. The award was presented to its first recipient, Norman Abeles, PhD, for his pivotal role in institutionalizing a presence and voice for geropsychology by championing the establishment of a continuing APA Committee on Aging and the APA Office on Aging.

**APA:**

- CONA formed an Aging Leadership Team as a result of discussions at the CONA Conversation Hour at the APA Convention. Members include the CONA Chair and Presidents of APA Divisions 20 and 12-Section II. Its objectives are to create a mechanism for increased and ongoing communication between these three groups and ensure a coordinated, timely and effective response to issues of import to geropsychology.

**2002**

*Antonette Zeiss, PhD (Chair), Bob G. Knight, PhD, Martita Lopez, PhD, Leonard W. Poon, PhD, Forrest Scogin, PhD, Beth Hudnall Stamm, PhD*

**Science:**

- CONA chair-elect Forrest Scogin, PhD, was an attendee and presenter at the NIMH workshop, *Career Development and Training in Geriatric Mental Health* focused on the growing need for more mental health researchers specializing in aging.
- CONA staff liaison Deborah DiGilio was invited to present at a meeting of the NIMH Coordinating Group on Aging Issues.
- CONA Chair Antonette Zeiss, PhD and staff liaison, Deborah DiGilio were invited participants to *Suicide Prevention in Later Life: an NIH Scientific Consensus Process*.

**Practice:**

- CONA's Medicare Local Medical Review Policies (LMRPs) Project began work to develop a LMRP Tool Kit. The purpose of the tool kit is to equip psychologists with the information necessary to advocate for increased availability of psychological services for older adults under Medicare.
- CONA reviewed and worked, unsuccessfully, to secure APA endorsement of a consensus statement, *Improving the Quality of Mental Health Care in America's Long-term Care Facilities: Management of Treatment of Depression and Behavioral Disorders Associated with Dementia*.
- CONA convened an interdivisional Conversation Hour at Convention to discuss a background paper developed by the Office on Aging that described and quantified the amount of clinical service and care that psychologists are providing to address the mental, behavioral and physical health needs of older adults and their families.

**Policy:**

- An APA Congressional Briefing, *Contributions of Geropsychologists to an Aging America: Promoting Health and Quality of Life...Preventing Elder Abuse, Depression and Suicide*, was held in collaboration with the Education Policy Office. This March briefing launched the Graduate Training in Geropsychology (GTG) Appropriations Initiative.
- CONA and The Office on Aging assisted the Public Policy Office (PPO) in preparing APA's statement in response to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health recommending the inclusion of the mental health needs of older adults.
- CONA members developed and modified existing Congressional briefing sheets in conjunction with the Education Policy Office.

**Education:**

- A conference, *The Aging of America: Implications for the Health Workforce*, was attended by the Chair of CONA, Antonette Zeiss, PhD, Cynthia Belar, PhD, Executive Director of the APA Education Directorate, and Deborah DiGilio. Additional written commentary and data was provided for inclusion in the final report.
- CONA sponsored an APA Convention continuing education workshop, *Psychosocial Treatment of Sleep Problems in Older Adults* presented by Ken Lichstein, PhD.

**Public Interest:**

- CONA members participated at two BAPPI symposia at the APA Convention, Antonette Zeiss, PhD was a presenter for *The Disproportional Impact of September 11 – How Has the World Changed since September 11 and How These Changes Affected Public Interest*

*Constituencies* and Bob Knight, PhD presented during *Diversity and Psychological Services – Preparing Psychology for the Demands of a Changing World*.

**APA:**

- CONA's Resolution on Ageism was adopted by the Council of Representatives.
- CONA members Antonette Zeiss, PhD and Beth Hudnall Stamm, PhD were contributors to the APA Board of Directors Task Force on Promoting Resilience in response to Terrorism. Dr. Zeiss worked with the subcommittee on older adults and Dr. Stamm with the subcommittee on rural issues to author fact sheets on these topics.

**2001**

*Bob G. Knight, PhD (Chair), Jacqueline D. Goodchilds, PhD, Martita Lopez, PhD, Forrest Scogin, PhD, Anderson Dodd Smith, PhD, Antonette Zeiss, PhD*

**Science:**

- CONA representative Stephen Daniels, PhD, attended SAMHSA's Strategic Plan for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues Facing Older Adults stakeholders meeting.
- CONA member Bob Knight was selected as a member of the expert panel for the Rosalyn Carter Institute's Science to Practice Advisory Panel on Caregiving.

**Practice:**

- CONA's Medicare Local Medical Review Policies (LMRPs) Project's was initiated with a nationwide review and analysis of LMRPs for Psychiatric and Psychological Services.

**Education:**

- CONA identified undergraduate education in psychology and aging as a key element of its goal to increase the number of researchers and applied psychologists in the field of geropsychology. To address this issue, CONA initiated its *Preparing Psychology for an Aging World Initiative* with an APA Convention symposium, "Training Psychologists to Work with Older Adults in the 21st Century."
- CONA planned a survey of undergraduate programs to ascertain the current level of educational effort in the teaching of psychology and aging.
- CONA member, Anderson Smith, PhD and CONA representative, Susan Krauss Whitbourne, PhD were selected as members of the APA Textbook Guidelines Initiative of the Committee on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training in Psychology (CEMMRAT2) Task Force. The Task Force's mandate to infuse diversity into the development and production of introductory psychology textbooks was expanded to include aging and disability issues.
- CONA collaborated with the APA Education Policy Office and the Public Interest Policy Office to launch an appropriations initiative related to the Graduate Training in Gerontology provisions of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

**APA:**

- In February, Deborah DiGilio, MPH, was hired as APA's second Aging Issues Officer.
- CONA hosted a luncheon at the APA Convention of representatives of key geropsychology groups including Divisions 12-II, 20, Psychologists in Long-Term Care, and the Interdivisional Geropsychology Practice Coalition.
- Deborah DiGilio, the Aging Issues Officer represented CONA at the Committee on Legal Issues' Subcommittee on Facilitating APA/ABA Relations in October. An outcome of the meeting is that the Psychology/Law Topical Index distributed at the meeting was modified to incorporate an Elder Law category.

- CONA provided input and support to the Ad Hoc Committee on End-of-Life Issues. The LMRP Project's report, *An Overview of the Role of Psychologists in Hospice Care under Medicare*, was presented to the Ad Hoc Committee at its fall meeting.
- CONA and the Ad Hoc Committee collaborated on the development of an item for the Committee on the Advancement of Professional Practice's agenda entitled, *Improving Medicare Coverage for Psychological Services*.

## **2000**

*Anderson Smith, PhD (Chair), Michael Duffy, PhD, Jacqueline D. Goodchilds, PhD, Bob G. Knight, PhD, Martita Lopez, PhD, Steven Zarit, PhD*

### **Practice:**

- CONA met with Diane Pedulla from APA's Government Relations Office to discuss activities of the Practice Directorate related to reimbursement for practitioners working with older adults.
- A planning meeting was held to discuss progress and needs in the field of geropsychology, and to discuss the need for a national conference on training psychologists to work in aging at future APA Conventions.

### **Policy:**

- CONA received advocacy training from the Public Policy Office on how to advocate for improved mental health services for older adults under the Older Americans Act.

### **Education:**

- CONA and Division 20 co-sponsored an APA Convention symposium, *The Aging Dimension in Undergraduate Psychology Courses: Suggestions for Integration*.
- CONA met with Cynthia Belar, PhD Executive Director of the Education Directorate to discuss education and training issues in geropsychology.
- CONA began development of web based resource guides on aging topics.
- CONA discussed the problem of lack of representation of aging and older people in undergraduate psychology textbooks. The initial plan of action to address this problem was to examine undergraduate abnormal psychology textbooks, and funds were requested from the Board of Directors to fund this research. CONA instead decided to work with the newly formed CEMMRAT2 Textbook Guidelines Initiative Task Force to address this issue.

### **APA:**

- CONA worked on strengthening its liaisons with other APA committees to improve the flow of information and to identify topics where its input may be useful.

## **1999**

*Steven Zarit, PhD (Chair), Michael Duffy, PhD, Margaret Gatz, PhD, Jacqueline D. Goodchilds, PhD, Manuel Miranda, PhD, Anderson Smith, PhD*

### **Policy:**

- CONA developed an APA resolution in support of the United Nations International Year of Older Persons, which was adopted by APA's Council of Representatives.

### **Science:**

- CONA met with Richard Suzman, PhD, new Associate Director for Behavioral and

Social Research of the National Institute on Aging to discuss the research priorities and initiatives of this division and the opportunities for psychologists to obtain research funding.

- CONA organized a special presentation on successful aging at the APA Convention by Robert L. Kahn of the University of Michigan.

**Practice:**

- CONA met with Russell Newman, PhD, Executive Director of the Practice Directorate to discuss ways to support initiatives for expanding mental health services to older adults.
- CONA members attended the Board of Directors meeting on the Impact of the Changing Health Care Scene on Psychology.

**Education:**

- CONA discussed the problem of lack of representation of aging in psychology textbooks. An initial action to address this problem was to cosponsor an APA Convention symposium with Division 20 on incorporating aging into the teaching of psychology.

**Public Interest:**

- CONA proposed nominees for the 2000 APA Public Interest Award and the BAPPI public member slate.
- CONA provided suggestions for the *Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Clients* on inclusion of issues regarding older clients and their special needs.

**Policy:**

- CONA provided input on geropsychological issues to Ellen Garrison, PhD of the APA Public Policy Office for the White House Conference on Mental Health.

**APA:**

- CONA presented BAPPI a proposal related to ageism noting that it represents a hidden and pervasive bias within the psychological community and that it should be included as part of BAPPI's ongoing focus on diversity.
- CONA worked on strengthening its liaisons with other committees to improve the flow of information and to identify topics where its input might be useful.
- CONA members provided support to APA staff in developing an implementation plan for the National Arthritis Action Plan.
- CONA met with John Anderson, PhD, staff liaison to the APA Working Group on Assisted Suicide and End-of-Life Decisions.

**1998**

*Steven Zarit, PhD (Chair), Michael Duffy, PhD, Margaret Gatz, PhD, Jacqueline D. Goodchilds, PhD, Manuel Miranda, PhD, Anderson Smith, PhD*

**Science:**

- CONA met with staff from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research to explore opportunities for psychologists to receive funding for research on older adult issues.

**Practice:**

- CONA met with Paul Wohlford, PhD, Center for Mental Health Services, to explore funding opportunities for research and service programs for psychologists.
- CONA met with David Nickelson, PhD of the Practice Directorate to discuss issues

related to reimbursement of psychologists by Medicare, such as “incident to” services and the need to include geropsychology expertise in Medicare managed care programs. In addition, establishing an effective liaison with the Practice Directorate was discussed.

**Policy:**

- CONA discussed APA public policy activities with The APA Public Policy Office.

**Education:**

- CONA met with Nina Levitt, EdD, of the Education Directorate to explore possible initiatives for increasing content on aging issues in psychology at every level of education.
- CONA disseminated two recent publications, *What Practitioners Should Know About Working with Older Adults*, and *Older Adults’ Health and Age-Related Changes: Reality Versus Myth*.
- CONA assisted in the development of an Office on Aging public education brochure, *Elder Abuse and Neglect: In Search of Solutions*.

**Public Interest:**

- CONA provided input on age-appropriate language for Cross-Cutting agenda items.

**Public Affairs:**

- CONA reviewed the plans for developing a Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Health to assure that psychology generally and geropsychology in particular will be represented in the report.

**APA:**

- The first meeting of the APA continuing Committee on Aging (CONA) was held on March 20 - 22.
- Weldon Bagwell was appointed the first APA Aging Issues Officer.
- CONA met with Peter Walker, PhD, the United Nations APA NGO Representative to explore how CONA could provide support of activities related to the UN International Year of Older Persons.

**1997**

**Ad Hoc Committee on Issues of the Older Adults**

*M. Powell Lawton, PhD (Chair), Michael Duffy, PhD, Margaret Gatz, PhD, Manuel Miranda, PhD, Denise Park, PhD, Michael Smyer, PhD, Barbara Yee, PhD, Steven Zarit, PhD*

**Science:**

- APA President, Norman Abeles, PhD convened the APA Presidential Task Force on the Assessment of Age-Consistent Memory Decline and Dementia. Task Force members, Thomas H. Crook, III, PhD (Chair), Glenn J. Larrabee, PhD, Asenath LaRue, PhD, Barry D. Lebowitz, PhD, Martha Storandt, PhD, and James Youngjohn, Ph.D, crafted the *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Dementia and Age-related Cognitive Decline*, which were adopted by the Council of Representatives.

**Practice:**

- Dr. Abeles convened the APA Working Group on the Older Adult Brochure. Working Group members, Susan Cooley, PhD, Irene Deitch, PhD, Mary S. Harper, RN, PhD, Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD, Martita A. Lopez, PhD, and Victor A. Molinari, PhD developed, *What Practitioners Should Know About Working with Older Adults*.

**APA:**

- The Ad Hoc Committee on Issues of the Older Adult met for its second and final year.
- The Ad Hoc Committee conducted a survey of APA governance groups, division, staff offices, and state psychological associations to develop a complete listing of current APA activities relevant to aging.
- A proposal for a continuing Committee on Aging was included on the cross-cutting agenda for review by all APA boards and committees during the March Consolidated Meetings.
- At its May meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee considered comments and developed a revised mission statement. It also developed a proposed agenda for the work of a continuing Committee on Aging.
- In August, The Council of Representatives amended the APA Association Rules to establish a continuing Committee on Aging effective January 1998.

**1996**

**Ad Hoc Committee on Issues of the Older Adult**

*M. Powell Lawton, PhD (Chair), Michael Duffy, PhD, Margaret Gatz, PhD, Manuel Miranda, PhD, Denise Park, PhD, Michael Smyer, PhD, Barbara Yee, PhD, Steven Zarit, PhD*

**APA:**

- The Ad Hoc Committee on Issues of the Older Adult was established by the Council of Representatives in February.
- The Ad Hoc Committee convened in September with the charge to “recommend APA program strategies and administrative structures to prepare the field of psychology for heightened demand for research and clinical expertise relevant to aging processes and their implications for preventive and rehabilitative interventions with older adults.”
- The Ad Hoc Committee recommended a permanent Committee on Aging and drafted its mission statement and rationale.
- The Ad Hoc Committee recommended that a 6-member committee be administered in the Public Interest Directorate and report to the Council of Representatives through the Board for Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest.