

COMMITTEE ON AGING 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERS

The members of the Committee on Aging (CONA) in 2016 were Brian Carpenter, PhD (chair), Lisa Brown, PhD, ABPP, Erin Emery-Tiburcio, PhD, ABPP, Margaret Norris, PhD, Patricia Parmelee, PhD, and Maggie Syme, PhD, MPH.

MEETINGS

The Committee on Aging held two meetings in 2016, in conjunction with the APA Consolidated Meetings, on April 1st - 3rd and September 23rd - 25th. CONA also had 10 conference calls during the year.

ACTIVITIES

CONA activities in 2016 addressed each of the goals in its 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 policy makers and private and public funding agencies.

- ❖ CONA member, Karen Roberto, PhD and CONA staff liaison, Deborah DiGilio, MPH were the scholarly leads of “Aging in America: Perspectives from Psychological Science,” the May/June special [issue](#) of the *American Psychologist*. The nine articles were based on white papers APA submitted to the 2015 White House Conference on Aging related to its four themes of long-term services/supports, retirement security, healthy aging, and abuse and neglect.
- ❖ Submitted a symposium, "Addressing Issues Facing a Diverse Aging Population: Scientific Perspectives for Practice and Policy," based on the *American Psychologist* special issue, that was accepted for the 21st IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics.
- ❖ Conceptualized and co-sponsored the APA 2016 Convention Collaborative symposium: “Brain Training for Older Adults: Is there consensus in the Scientific Community?”
- ❖ Co-sponsored *Money for You and Your Research: An Interactive Mentoring Workshop* in collaboration with Division 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology) and Division 20 (Adult Development and Aging), and the Committee on Early Career Psychologists at the APA 2016 Convention.
- ❖ CONA member, Margaret Norris, participated in a meeting with the Social Security Administration to discuss how psychology can assist in their efforts to identify and protect beneficiaries who are at risk for financial exploitation and abuse, including those with cognitive decline.
- ❖ Nominated Arthur Kramer for the 2016 Distinguished Scientist Lecture Program. He was selected and presented his lecture to the New England Psychological Association.

- ❖ Discussed psychological science issues and related APA efforts with Howard Kurtzman, PhD, Acting Executive Director, and Amber Story, PhD, Associate Executive Director, Science Directorate.
- ❖ Recommended experts for the Science Directorate conference on science, technology, and human factors to be held in spring 2018.
- ❖ Assisted the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS) in the dissemination of the call for papers and reviewers for the 2017 *Translational Issues in Psychological Science* issue that will focus on Geropsychology.

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.

- ❖ Met with Elena Eisman, EdD, ABPP, Director, Center for Psychology and Health, and Doug Tynan, PhD, the Director of Director, Integrated Health Care to discuss future areas of collaboration and share existing resources and geropsychology experts to inform the Center efforts.
- ❖ Met with Diane Pedulla, JD, Director of Regulatory Affairs of the Practice Directorate, to discuss Medicare Issues such as the inclusion of psychologists in the physician definition of Medicare and the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS).
- ❖ Provided detailed comments regarding the problems related to Medicare Advantage plans to the Practice Directorate and Center for Psychology and Health.
- ❖ Reviewed the Health Resources Services Administration's Dementia Curriculum for Health Care Professionals. Provided extensive comments on the need for psychological research, practice, and existing resources to be incorporated into the curriculum.
- ❖ Initiated a discussion of a potential collaboration with the Advisory Committee on Colleague Assistance (ACCA) regarding the issue of mild cognitive decline and dementia in practicing psychologists.
- ❖ Nominated two geropsychologists for the APA Advisory Steering Committee for Development of Clinical Practice Guidelines.
- ❖ Provided input to the Council of Geropsychology Training Programs (CoPGTP)'s draft Foundational Knowledge Competencies in Geropsychology effort and appointed a liaison to CoPGTP to promote geropsychology training opportunities for post-licensure psychologists.
- ❖ Maintained representation on the Geropsychology Specialty Council, a member of the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology.
- ❖ Submitted a symposium highlighting psychologists' roles on interdisciplinary teams to be presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America.

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.

- ❖ Conducted a pilot CONA In-district Advocacy Day, in collaboration with the Public Interest Government Relations Office (PI-GRO), pairing CONA members with students and early career psychologists to gain support for the Elder Justice Act and increased NIH funding. CONA hopes to expand this effort throughout the psychology and aging community.

- ❖ Met with Serena Davila, JD, Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer, PI-GRO to discuss priority aging policy efforts and provided suggestions for Congressional Briefings on aging topics of import.
- ❖ Worked closely with Patricia Kobor, MS on efforts of the Science Government Relations Office to promote federal funding for research in the basic and applied clinical science of psychology and aging.
- ❖ Provided input to Karen Studwell, JD, Associate Executive Director of Policy of the Education Government Relations Office related to supporting existing and expand training opportunities for psychologists via the Health Research and Services Administration (HRSA), encouraging additional specific focus on geropsychology funding within the Graduate Psychology Education Program, and her work as an APA Eldercare Workforce Alliance representative.

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.

- ❖ CONA chair, Dr. Brian Carpenter served on the APA Presidential Working Group convened by APA President Susan McDaniel, PhD to develop a curriculum for an Interprofessional Seminar on Integrated Primary Care (IS-IPC).
- ❖ Offered two 2016 pre-convention, half-day, CE workshops, *Behavioral Strategies for Dementia Prevention* and *Expanding Your Practice to Include Work with Older Adults* in collaboration with the APA Office of Continuing Education. .
- ❖ Encouraged the development and supported two new CE offerings to be offered at the 2017 Convention: the all-day, preconvention workshop, *Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults* and half-day workshop, *Best Clinical Practices for Anxiety Disorders in Older Adults*.
- ❖ Conducted a “Continuing Education on Aging and Psychology” survey of State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Associations’ members and leadership to learn about their needs and preferences for continuing education related to aging and psychological issues.
- ❖ Developed a poster, *What is Psychology and Aging?* as a mechanism to raise awareness of career opportunities in aging at the recommendation of Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPPS).
- ❖ Provided guidance on the focus and criteria for the 2017 TOPPS High School Student Essay on the topic of aging.
- ❖ Hosted a Geropsychology Internship Networking Event for students applying to and faculty who supervise Geropsychology internships in collaboration with the Council of Professional Geropsychology Training Programs (CoPGTP).
- ❖ Provided input to the Geropsychology Specialty Council’s petition for the renewal of Professional Geropsychology as a specialty recognized by the Council for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP).
- ❖ Submitted comments on three petitions being considered by CRSPPP.

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.

- ❖ Brian Carpenter, PhD, CONA chair served as a member of the APA Working Group on End-of-Life Issues and Care convened by BAPPI.
- ❖ CONA members served on the End of Life Working Group Selection Panel.
- ❖ CONA member, Maggie Syme, PhD, MPH participated in the British Psychological Society's Psychology of Sexualities Section twitter chat on Ageing & Sexualities, along with colleagues from the Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity and the Public Interest Communications Office.
- ❖ Met with BAPPI liaison April Harris-Britt, PhD and the Committees on Children, Youth and Families, Women in Psychology, and Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity to discuss collaborative efforts.
- ❖ Initiated discussions with other Public Interest Committees to develop blogs at intersections of age and other diversity issues.
- ❖ The 2016 CONA Conversation Hour, "Faster, Higher, Farther...Older: The Masters Sports Movement," featured an award winning photographer, Rob Jerome, and a discussion of the importance of sports for older adults beyond the obvious physical benefits.
- ❖ *The APA Committee on Aging Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging* was presented to Forrest Scogin, PhD, in recognition of his multiple outstanding contributions to the science and practice of clinical geropsychology.

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

- ❖ Wrote and encouraged faculty/student pairs to write blogs for the Public Interest Directorate's blog, [Psychology Benefits Society](#), on psychology and aging issues for consumers. Thirty blogs on aging have been posted.
- ❖ Recommended student and early career psychologist tweeters for the APA convention to support the transfer of scientific findings to the public.

APA: Serve as a visible focus for the coordination of information among groups within the 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.

- ❖ Met with members of APA leadership including President, Susan McDaniel, PhD, President-elect Antonio Puente, PhD, Board of Directors members Jennifer Kelly, PhD, Richard McGraw, PhD, and senior staff of each of Directorate to promote additional attention to aging issues.
- ❖ Expanded APAGENET, a network of twenty two divisions (Divisions 1, 2, 3, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 24, 27, 33, 35, 36, 39, 40, 43, 44, 45, 47, 52, 55 and 56), past CONA members, and other psychologists, including early-career psychologists interested in aging issues, to foster association wide collaboration and interest in aging.
- ❖ Commented regularly on the majority of cross-cutting agenda items to ensure that APA policies are informed by the latest research in aging, and that the impact of proposed policies upon older adults is considered. This year comments were submitted on eighteen items.

- ❖ Provided input to the update of the *APA Publication Manual's* sections on Bias-Free Language specific to age.
- ❖ Nominated psychologists with aging expertise to APA boards, committees, and task forces in order to infuse aging issues broadly throughout APA and to ensure that older adults receive the attention of the Association. This year's CONA nominee, Cameron J. Camp, PhD was selected as the recipient of the Board of Professional Affairs' Distinguished Professional Contributions to Applied Research, and Michelle Hilgeman, PhD, was selected for the Committee on Rural Health.
- ❖ Submitted an item to the Board of Convention Affairs for reduced convention fees for Life Members, in collaboration with President-elect Puente, to facilitate mentoring, collaboration, and conversation across generations.
- ❖ Met with the following APA boards and committees and staff from other Directorates to discuss opportunities for potential collaboration: American Psychological Association of Graduate Students, Committee on Early Career Psychologists, Committees on Legal Issues, Committee on Psychological Tests and Assessments, Committee on Rural Health, Committee on Associate and Baccalaureate Education, and Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools.
- ❖ Developed an article for the Society for the Clinical Geropsychology's newsletter encouraging early career psychologists to consider taking on a leadership position in APA and other geropsychology and aging organizations.
- ❖ Participated in quarterly meetings of representatives of the APA Aging Leadership Team, convened by the Office on Aging, to enhance collaboration on shared priorities and insure efficient use of resources in addressing those priorities.
- ❖ Prepared a memo thanking the *Monitor on Psychology* for its increased coverage of aging issues over the last two years.

Diversity Issues, Training and Representation

- ❖ Worked to ensure the inclusion of age as an essential component of diversity and attention to the increasing diversity of the aging population in all APA efforts.
- ❖ Continued to include attention to diversity in each of its ongoing initiatives (e.g., develop and maintain the workforce to serve older adults, promote the health and well-being of the diverse aging population).
- ❖ Designated one of its six seats for an ECP member in order to encourage participation of early career psychologists in APA Governance.
- ❖ Maintained a diverse committee composition including five women and one man; one member with a disability and one member who identifies as a gay man. Four are at the senior level, one is mid-level, and one is an early-career psychologist. In addition, CONA members' clinical and research foci related to diversity include expertise in working with diverse older adult and caregiver populations.