

COMMITTEE ON AGING 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERS

The members of the Committee on Aging (CONA) in 2017 were Margaret Norris, PhD (Chair), Walter Boot, PhD, Vonetta Dotson, PhD, Erin Emery-Tiburcio, PhD, ABPP, Patricia Parmelee, PhD, and Maggie Syme, PhD, MPH.

MEETINGS

The Committee on Aging held three meetings in 2017 on March 24-26 in conjunction with the APA Consolidated Meeting, on August 5th at the APA Convention, and on September 16th via Skype. CONA also had nine conference calls during the year.

ACTIVITIES

CONA activities in 2017 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.

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

- ❖ Cosponsored “Advocating for Older Adults: Translating Effectively from Science to Policy” symposium at the APA 2017 Convention. CONA members, Drs. Patricia Parmelee and Margaret Norris participated.
- ❖ CONA members Dr. Vonetta Dotson chaired, and Dr. Walter Boot participated in, “Procuring Federal Funding for your Research: An Interactive Mentoring Workshop” at APA 2017 Convention.
- ❖ CONA member, Dr. Parmelee participated in the Alliance for Aging Research Mental Health and Older Adults Roundtable, with support of the Public Interest and Science Directorates.
- ❖ Discussed psychological science issues and related APA efforts with Amber Story, PhD, Associate Executive Director, Science Directorate.
- ❖ Recommended experts for the 2018 Science Directorate conference, “Technology, Mind & Society.” Dr. Boot served on the Senior Program Committee and as a reviewer for the conference abstracts.
- ❖ CONA’s nominee Cameron J. Camp, PhD was the recipient of the Board of Professional Affairs’ 2017 Distinguished Professional Contributions to Applied Research.
- ❖ Submitted comments on United States Preventive Services Task Force Draft Research Plan on Screening for Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults for inclusion in APA’s response.
- ❖ Nominated four psychologists for the Board of Scientific Affairs Distinguished Scientific Lecture Program and the Master Lecturer Programs.
- ❖ Promoted the Science Directorate’s Undergraduate Science Research Summer Program and the March for Science.

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.

- ❖ Initiated a collaboration with the APA Advisory Committee on Colleague Assistance (ACCA) to discuss issues that may be salient to older psychologists as they prepare to update their [Tool kit](#), provided items for incorporation in their needs assessment survey, and assisted with the survey's distribution.
- ❖ CONA Chair, Dr. Margaret Norris, participated in the National Academy of Neuropsychology's "Summit on Population Health Solutions for Assessing Cognitive Impairment in Geriatric Patients."
- ❖ Provided input to the Council of Geropsychology Training Programs (CoPGTP)'s draft Foundational Knowledge Competencies in Geropsychology.
- ❖ Met with Elena Eisman, EdD, ABPP, Director of the Center for Psychology and Health to discuss the Center's activities and share existing resources to inform the Center efforts.
- ❖ CONA nominees Donna Rasin-Waters, PhD, Michelle Hilgeman, PhD and Richard Zweig, PhD, ABPP were selected for the Board of Professional Affairs, the Committee on Rural Health, and the CMMI/CMS Support and Alignment Network (SAN) grant to transform clinical practice Advisory Board, respectively.
- ❖ Maintained representation on the Aging Leadership and Geropsychology Specialty Council Team.
- ❖ Submitted comments to the Council of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP) on seven petitions for establishment or renewal of specialty status.
- ❖ Submitted nominations for the American Psychological Foundation's 2018 Gold Medal Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Practice of Psychology and the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) and Committee for the Advancement for Professional Practice (CAPP) Task Force to Review and Revise the APA Recommended Postdoctoral Education and Training Program in Psychopharmacology for Prescriptive Authority.
- ❖ Provided resources for incorporation in the Practice Organization sponsored webinar, "Geropsychology Practice: A World of Opportunity."

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.

- ❖ Met with Serena Davila, JD, Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer, Public Interest Government Relations Office (PI-GRO) to identify and discuss priority public interest aging policy efforts.
- ❖ Developed a proposal for a Congressional Briefing on Critical Mental Health Issues for Older Adults including content and potential speakers for consideration by PI-GRO.
- ❖ CONA member Dr. Erin Emery-Tiburcio met with HRSA representatives at the Education Directorate's Advocacy Breakfast related to psychologist participation in the Geriatric Workforce Education Enhancement Program.
- ❖ Met with Karen Studwell, JD, Associate Executive Director, Education Government Relations Office on geriatric workforce policy priorities.
- ❖ Met with Patricia Kobor, MS to discuss efforts of the Science Government Relations Office to promote federal funding for research in the basic and applied clinical science of psychology 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.

- ❖ CONA members Drs. Vonetta Dotson and Maggie Syme served as reviewers for the 2017 APA Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS) competition for High School Psychology Students: An Aging World.
- ❖ CONA member Dr. Maggie Syme wrote a blog, “The Future of Healthy Aging: A View from High School” highlighting interviews she conducted with of the 2017 TOPSS High School Student Essay contest winners.
- ❖ Began development of *Exploring Careers in Aging: An Educational Roadmap for Every Step of the Way*, an online resource for students from undergraduate through graduate level.
- ❖ Initiated a discussion with Eddy Ameen, PhD, Director, APA Office on Early Career Psychologists about collaborating to address ECP’s perceived competence in work with older adults.
- ❖ Cosponsored the 2017 pre-convention, full-day, CE workshop, *Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults* in collaboration with the APA Office of Continuing Education. It is now also available online.
- ❖ Encouraged the development and supported the submission of a new CE offering at the 2017 Convention, *Best Clinical Practices for Anxiety Disorders in Older Adults*.
- ❖ Recommended psychology and aging experts for APA Clinician Corner CE offerings.
- ❖ Provided comments to the APA Board of Educational Affairs on the need for inclusion of aging issues related to Diversity and Access and the Teaching of High School Psychology, and the Working Conference on Introductory Psychology.
- ❖ Met with Dr. Catherine Grus, Deputy Executive Director, Education Directorate to discuss dissemination of the [Curriculum for an Interprofessional Seminar on Integrated Primary Care](#). CONA Immediate past-chair, Brian Carpenter, PhD was a member of the curriculum development workgroup

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.

- ❖ Successfully advocated for the continuation the APA Working Group on End of Life under the auspices of CONA.
- ❖ Provided input to the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest on aging-related issues to consider when developing 125th Anniversary Convention programming on “Acknowledging American Psychology’s Past”
- ❖ Collaborated with members the Committee on Women in Psychology on the blog “Accepting Help is Hard: Here’s Why There’s No Shame in Getting a Personal Care Assistant.”
- ❖ Suggested consideration of the unique issues related to race, stress and aging in educational efforts related to race-related stress being planned by the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs.

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.

- ❖ Supported the submission of "Addressing Issues Facing a Diverse Aging Population: Scientific Perspectives for Practice and Policy" at the 21st IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics. It based on the May-June 2016 *American Psychologist* special issue conceived of by CONA in 2015.
- ❖ Encouraged faculty/student pairs to write blogs for the Public Interest Directorate's blog, [Psychology Benefits Society](#), on psychology and aging issues for older adults and the general public. Fourteen blogs on aging were developed in 2017.
- ❖ Successfully recommended Dr. Brian Carpenter for a [Speaking of Psychology](#) podcast: "Making talking about death easier" taped at the APA Convention.
- ❖ Updated the *Older Adults Health and Age-Related Changes: Reality Versus Myth* brochure.

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 CEO, Arthur Evans, PhD, President, Antonio Puente, PhD, President-elect, Jessica Henderson Daniel, PhD, Board of Directors member Jennifer Kelly, PhD, and senior staff of each Directorate to promote additional attention to aging issues.
- ❖ Expanded APAGENET to thirty-three Divisions (1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 52, 55 and 56) and others interested in aging issues. The goal of the network is to share resources and foster collaborations.
- ❖ CONA members, Drs. Boot and Norris provided input to APA Publications on the update of the *APA Publication Manual's* sections on Bias-Free Language specific to age.
- ❖ Commented regularly on 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 thirteen items including the APA Multicultural Guidelines: Reconsideration and Application.
- ❖ Nominated sixteen psychologists with aging expertise to APA boards, committees, and task forces to infuse aging issues broadly throughout APA and to ensure that older adults receive the attention of the Association.
- ❖ Created the guide, "Navigating the APA Elections Process" to support and guide CONA nominees for Boards and Committees through the APA Council of Representatives' Caucus endorsement process and disseminated to nominees.
- ❖ Provided a detailed response to the Board of Directors' request: "Boards and Committees: Tell us What You're Up To."
- ❖ Met with the following APA boards and committees to discuss opportunities for potential collaboration: American Psychological Association of Graduate Students, Committee on Early Career Psychologists, Advisory Committee on Colleague Assistance, Committee on Rural Health, Committee on Associate and Baccalaureate Education, Membership Board, and Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools.
- ❖ Met with the APA Membership Board to discuss and provide detailed input to the proposed changes to the APA Bylaws regarding Life Status membership focusing on how older APA members will be affected by the proposed change.

- ❖ Participated in quarterly meetings of the APA Geropsychology Leadership and Specialty Council Team, convened by the Office on Aging, to enhance collaboration on shared priorities and insure efficient use of resources in addressing those priorities.
- ❖ The 2017 CONA Conversation Hour, "Days of Future Past," featured six luminaries in the field of psychology and aging. They shared their perspectives on the field's past achievements and remaining challenges.
- ❖ The APA Committee on Aging Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging was presented to Barry Edelstein, PhD, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to education, practice, scholarship, public interest, and public policy in geropsychology.

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.
- ❖ Designated one of its six seats for an ECP member to encourage participation of early career psychologists in APA Governance.
- ❖ Maintained a diverse committee composition in 2017 consisting of five women and one man; one member has a disability, one member is an ethnic minority, and one identifies as a gay man. Two are at the senior career level, three are mid-career, 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.