

COMMITTEE ON AGING 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERS

The members of the Committee on Aging (CONA) in 2018 were: Erin Emery-Tiburcio, PhD, ABPP (Chair), Norman Abeles, PhD, Walter Boot, PhD, Vonetta Dotson, PhD, William Haley, PhD, and Maggie Syme, PhD, MPH.

MEETINGS

The Committee on Aging held two face-to-face meetings in 2018 - on March 23-25 in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the APA Consolidated Meeting and on August 9th at the APA Convention. On September 23rd an all-day meeting was held remotely via Zoom. CONA also had 10 monthly conference calls during the year.

ACTIVITIES

CONA activities in 2018 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.

- ❖ Translated key psychological science findings to promote optimal aging by updating the public education brochure, [Life Plan for the Life Span](#).
- ❖ CONA members Vonetta Dotson, PhD, chaired, and Walter Boot, PhD, presented at the “Skill-Building Session: Getting Funded w/o Getting Burned Out” in collaboration with Division 40 at the APA Convention.
- ❖ Met with and discussed psychological science issues and related APA efforts with Howard Kurtzman, PhD, Acting Executive Director, Science Directorate.
- ❖ Met with and discussed national psychological science issues with Vijeth Iyengar, PhD, Presidential Management Fellow (STEM), U.S. Administration for Community Living.
- ❖ Responded to NIH’s request for age-related chronic diseases/conditions that should be considered in planning the 3rd Annual Geroscience Summit.
- ❖ 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.

- ❖ CONA member Vonetta Dotson, PhD was the presenter of an APA Clinician Corner CE Workshop on *Changes in the Aging Brain: The Influence of Positive and Negative Modifiers*.
- ❖ CONA member Maggie Syme, PhD, MPH coordinated and chaired a governance collaborative program, “Am I Special? Challenges, Benefits, Resources for Developing a Specialty Area Across the Career Path”, in collaboration with the Committees on Associate and Baccalaureate Education (CABE), Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CECP),

and Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP).

- ❖ Past CONA Chair, Margaret Norris, PhD was an author of the proceedings of the National Academy of Neuropsychology's *Summit on Population Health Solutions for Assessing Cognitive Impairment in Geriatric Patients* at which she represented APA and CONA.
- ❖ CONA nominee Paula Hartman Stein, PhD was the recipient of the Board of Professional Affairs' 2018 APA Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Independent Practice.
- ❖ Met with Lynn Bufka, PhD, Associate Executive Director, Practice Research and Policy, Practice Directorate to discuss practice issues with relevance for older adults.
- ❖ Provided input of the USPSTF Draft Recommendation Statement and Draft Evidence Review for Public Comment: Screening for Intimate Partner Violence, Elder Abuse, and Abuse of Vulnerable Adults.
- ❖ Submitted comments to the Council of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP) on five petitions for establishment or renewal of specialty status.
- ❖ Provided continued input to the APA Advisory Committee on Colleague Assistance (ACCA) on issues salient to older psychologists for incorporation in their updated [Tool kit](#).

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 CONA In-district Advocacy Campaign, in collaboration with the Public Interest Government Relations Office (PI-GRO), pairing CONA members with students and early career psychologists to participate in advocacy training, then seek appropriations for Kevin & Avonte's Law to protect individuals with dementia and those with intellectual disabilities who wander.
- ❖ Met with Serena Dávila, JD, Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer, Public Interest Government Relations Office (PI-GRO) to plan the in-district Congressional advocacy campaign.
- ❖ Met with Patricia Kobor, MS, Senior Science Policy Analyst Science Government Relations Office (Science-GRO) to identify and discuss priority science policy efforts.
- ❖ Met with Karen Studwell, JD, Associate Executive Director, Education Government Relations Office (ED-GRO) on geriatric workforce policy priorities. Based on that meeting, CONA Chair, Erin Emery-Tiburcio, PhD, ABPP met with Joan Weiss, PhD, RN, Chief, Geriatrics and Allied Health Branch Health Resources and Services Administration about opportunities for psychologists in the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program grant mechanism.

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.

- ❖ Launched and disseminated the [Exploring Careers in Aging: An Educational Roadmap for Every Step of the Way](#), an online resource for students from undergraduate through graduate level.

- ❖ Collaborated with the Association of Geriatrics in Higher Education to highlight the Exploring Careers in Aging Roadmaps as part of the 2018 Careers in Aging Week.
- ❖ CONA members Drs. Emery-Tiburcio, Boot and Dotson presented a symposium, *Introducing a New Tool to Help Mentors Guide Students to Critical Careers in Aging* at the APA Convention regarding the Exploring Careers in Aging Roadmaps.
- ❖ CONA members Drs. Vonetta Dotson and Maggie Syme hosted a psycCareers LIVE presentation, *Why and How to Expand Your Work to Include Older Adults* at the APA Convention.
- ❖ CONA member Maggie Syme, PhD, MPH led the development effort and provided the voice over for the CONA/Office on Graduate Student and Early Career Affairs' "Hall of Knowledge" whiteboard video, [*Five Reasons to Work with Older Adults*](#).
- ❖ Met and collaborated with Eddy Ameen, PhD, Associate Executive Director, Office on Graduate Student and Early Career Affairs, on addressing ECP's perceived lack of competence in work with older adults.
- ❖ CONA members Drs. Walter Boot and Maggie Syme wrote an article based on the *Exploring Careers in Aging Roadmaps* for the Education Directorate's *Psychology Students Network* newsletter.
- ❖ CONA member Maggie Syme, PhD, MPH and her student began filming a video to capture the career paths of psychologists with established careers in aging for inclusion in the Careers in Aging Roadmap website. It will serve as the template for future videos.
- ❖ Cosponsored the 2018 pre-convention, full-day CE workshop, *Psychosocial issues in palliative and end-of-life care: Considerations for psychologists* with the APA Office of Continuing Education.
- ❖ Commented on HRSA's proposed revisions to GPE grants including how the program can help address the opioid epidemic.

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.

- ❖ The APA Working Group on End of Life Issues and Care continued its work under the auspices of CONA.
- ❖ Completed an in-depth Self Study for the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI).
- ❖ The 2018 CONA Conversation Hour, *Social Connection + Aging: What Can Psychologists Do?* focused on the role psychologists can play in enhancing the social connectedness of older adults with the aim of improving health and wellbeing.
- ❖ Coordinated the 2019 APA governance collaborative symposium, *Taking Care of our Own: Diversity in Caregiving Across the Life Span* with the Committees on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), Committee on Aging (CONA), Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP), and Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF).
- ❖ Met with BAPPI liaison, Jacqueline Gray, PhD and BAPPI chair, Susan Opatow, PhD, Chair, at the March meeting.
- ❖ Met with Kristi E. Gamarel, PhD, EdM, Member, Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA) to discuss areas of mutual interest.

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.

- ❖ CONA members, Walter Boot, PhD wrote “Could Technology Be the Key to Reducing Social Isolation as We Age?”, Vonetta Dotson, PhD wrote “Is Losing Interest and Motivation Inevitable as We Age?” and Drs. William Haley and Walter Boot wrote “Making your Voice Heard Beyond the Ballot Box” for the Public Interest Directorate’s blog, [Psychology Benefits Society](#). In addition, CONA encouraged faculty/student pairs to write additional blogs for the on psychology and aging issues for older adults and the general public, resulting in thirteen blogs on aging in 2018.
- ❖ The APA Committee on Aging Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging was presented to Neil Charness, PhD, in recognition of his extensive and distinguished commitment to research, training, service, and advocacy in psychology and aging.

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.

- ❖ Successfully nominated Michael (Mick) Smyer, PhD for the Citizen Psychologist Award for his innovative Graying Green project. CONA also nominated a second psychologist.
- ❖ Met with members of APA leadership including CEO, Arthur Evans, PhD, President, Rosie Phillips Davis, PhD, President-elect, Jessica Henderson Daniel, PhD, Board of Directors member Jennifer Kelly, PhD, and Senior Directorate staff.
- ❖ Met with and provided President-elect Daniel with detailed input and data regarding older adults and deep poverty and expressed CONA’s commitment to working with her to dispel the myth that older adults are universally financially secure and address this issue.
- ❖ Expanded the psychology and aging network, APAGENET to thirty-four Divisions (1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 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.
- ❖ Welcomed Emily Trittschuh, PhD, the CONA liaison from Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (APA Division 40) to the March meeting.
- ❖ Provided input to APA Publications on the update of the *APA Publication Manual*’s sections on Bias-Free Language specific to age and provided APA Publications feedback on a request from the National American Geriatrics Society/Reframing Aging Initiative related to this same issue.
- ❖ 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 twelve agenda items including the National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula, Model Curriculum in Psychopharmacology for Prescriptive Authority and Related Policies, and the Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Depression in Children, Adolescents, and Young, Middle-aged, and Older Adults.
- ❖ Nominated ten psychologists with aging expertise to APA boards and committees to infuse aging issues broadly throughout APA and to ensure that older adults receive the attention of

the Association. CONA successfully nominated Barry Edelstein, PhD for the BEA Task Force to Develop Education and Training Guidelines for Psychological Assessment in Health Service Psychology Training.

- ❖ Provided detailed comments orally and in writing regarding the proposed APA Strategic Plan.
- ❖ Provided APA Books and Magination Press with book ideas with positive conceptualizations of aging.
- ❖ Provided a detailed response to the request for input on Board of Directors' characteristics.
- ❖ Met or corresponded with the following APA boards and committees to discuss opportunities for potential collaboration: American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS), Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CECP), Advisory Committee on Colleague Assistance (ACCA), Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity (CSOGD), Committee on Psychology and AIDS (COPA), Committee on Associate and Baccalaureate Education (CABE), and Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools (TOPSS).
- ❖ Wrote articles for the Division 20 and Division 12-Section II newsletters.
- ❖ Participated in quarterly meetings of the APA Aging Leadership and Geropsychology 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.

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 2018 consisting of three women and three men; 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, education and research foci related to diversity include expertise in working with diverse older adult and caregiver populations across settings.