

**Committee on Aging (CONA)
2021 Annual Report**

Board/Committee Members:

Kelly Trevino, PhD (Chair)
Jameca Woody Cooper, PhD
Karen Fingerman, PhD
Mary Beth Morrissey, PhD, MPH, JD
Katherine Ramos, PhD
Bonnie Sachs, PhD, ABPP

Staff Liaison(s):

Lauren Caldwell, PhD, JD (January - June)
Latrice Vinson, PhD, MPH (July - December)

Equity Flattens the Curve (EFTC) Initiative

As a component of the EFTC Initiative CONA created fact sheets on Ageism and COVID-19 that provided content on research regarding how older adults are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and experienced greater rates of hospitalization and mortality than younger adults. The fact sheets also discussed the disparities that exist among older adults of color. The fact sheets also address ageism and how the messages and priorities related to older adults, particularly with COVID vaccines, may have generated and perpetuated resentment and ageist assumptions.

Psychologists Against Ageism Initiative

CONA began the Psychologists Against Ageism initiative to reduce ageism within APA and the field of psychology by providing webinars and resources on identifying and combating ageism. CONA is partnering with the Gerontological Society of America to provide workforce education and training to address a range of stereotypes and cultural attitudes about growing old in America, more specifically, forms of implicit and explicit ageism, age discrimination, and more virulent forms of hatred and violence that marginalize older adults and limit their opportunities for human flourishing and full participation in the society.

Guidelines for the Evaluation of Dementia and Age-Related Cognitive Change

CONA commissioned a Task Force on the Evaluation of Dementia and Age-Related Cognitive Change to revise the 2011 Guidelines. The Taskforce revised and updated Guidelines and submitted them for approval by the Council of Representatives at its February 2021 meeting. CONA is leading the plans for disseminating the guidelines, including developing a Clinician's Corner three-part webinar series on the updated guidelines for 2022.

Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults

Committee on Aging (CONA) 2021

CONA appointed a six-member Task Force to revise the 2013 Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults. CONA identified members that were subsequently approved by BAPPI. The work of the task force is ongoing.

APA Convention 2021

For the 2021 Convention CONA co-sponsored a conversation hour and virtual meet and greet with Division 20 and Division 12/2 – Society for Clinical Geropsychology. This included a virtual networking session where attendees were placed in breakout rooms to socialize with their fellow aging colleagues. The CONA Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging was also awarded during this event. Douglas Kimmel, PhD. was the 2021 CONA Awardee. Dr. Kimmel dedicated his career to addressing the needs of LGBT older adults through research, education, and social service. Perhaps most notably, he was a co-founder of SAGE – Advocacy and Services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders. SAGE started as a direct service organization in NYC and has grown into the nation's largest advocacy and service organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults.

APA Communications Team

CONA met with representatives from the APA Communications Team. They provided an overview of the communications services and how to potentially partner with CONA on their workplan items related to ageism and the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Dementia and Age-Related Cognitive Change

Geropsychology Leadership and Specialty Council Team

CONA is participating in the Aging Leadership Team and Geropsychology Specialty Council which brings together the leading psychology related groups within and outside of the organization to encourage ongoing communication among psychology and aging constituent groups. The team serve as a rapid response team to provide psychology's perspective and input to quickly moving issues both internal and external to APA, as well as provides a ready forum for discussion of potential collaborations. Through this Team CONA was able to contribute to the revision of the training taxonomy for Geropsychology.

Impact on APA's Strategic Priorities

The Committee's advocacy efforts fit squarely within the APA strategic plan and contribute to numerous goals including (i) expanding the public's perception of psychology to accurately reflect the full breadth of the field, (ii) making psychological science accessible and understandable to the public and key decision makers; and (iii) increasing the impact of APA's legislative, regulatory, marketplace, and social welfare advocacy