

Committee on Aging (CONA)
2023 Annual Report
American Psychological Association

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Mission

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.

Meeting Dates

Recurring Meetings (All Virtual):

- January 23, 2023
- February 27, 2023
- March 17-18, 2023
- April 24, 2023
- May 22, 2023
- June 26, 2023
- July 24, 2023
- August 28, 2023
- September 25, 2023
- October 23, 2023
- November 27, 2023
- December 18, 2023

Membership

Jameca Woody Cooper, PhD (*Chair*)
Mary Beth Morrissey, PhD, MPH, JD
Christopher Nguyen, PhD
Ann Steffen, PhD, ABPP
Rebecca S. Allen, Ph.D., ABPP
Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Ph.D., ABPP

Statement of Diversity Representation within the Committee

The current composition of CONA consists of one African American female, one Asian male, four White females. There are four early career members, one mid-career member, and one late career member.

Major Activities

There was a total of 22 activities that CONA participated or initiated in 2023.

Table 1

Type of Activities	# of Activities
Presentations	3
Comments	11
Publications	0
Recognitions	1
Resolutions and Guidelines Creation/Development	1
Advocacy	1
Collaborative Meetings	5

Presentations***Advancing Your Clinical Practice with Older Adults: Culturally Responsive Psychotherapy Workshop***

CONA member, Ann Steffen presented at the 2024 APA Convention on 8/2/23

Panel Discussion on promoting health aging

CONA Chair, Jameca Woody Cooper, served as a moderator at the 2024 APA convention on 8/3/23

Aging at the Intersection webinar

CONA member, Ann Steffen presented a webinar on 11/3/23

Comments

CONA monitors activities, projects, and policies as they are developed by other groups within the Association, with the goal of ensuring aging issues are fully and equitably represented.

Comments #1

Proposal to Extend APA Specialty Guidelines in Forensic Psychology

Comments #2

APA BEA Racial Disparities Task Force Report: Racism and Bias: Their Role in Maintaining Racial Disparities in Education

Comments #3

The Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology, Master's Degree Programs

Comments #5

Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults

Comments #6

Trauma Psychology Specialty Petition (new)

Comments #7

Forensic Psychology Specialty Petition (renewing)

Comments #8

Geropsychology Specialty Petition Update info - ABGERO (Criterion III)

Comments #9

2014 Edition of the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing, (AERA, APA, NCME)

Comments #10

American Board of Professional Neuropsychology's renewal application

Comments #11

Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain in Adults.

Recognitions

2023 CONA Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging – *Dr. Benjamin Mast*

Resolutions and Guidelines Creation/Development

CONA is overseeing a six-member Task Force to revise the 2013 Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults.

Advocacy

APA's Senior Director, Congressional and Federal Relations, Serena Davila, JD, joined CONA's monthly meetings to provide the Committee with updates on APA's state and federal advocacy work relevant to aging issues.

Collaborative Meetings**CM#1**

CONA members attend monthly meetings with the Geropsychology Leadership and Specialty Council Team

CM#2

CONA members meet with Division 20 members to discuss anti-ageism efforts at APA and other organizations

CM#3

CONA members meet with other committees to discuss collaboration opportunities regarding future projects

CM#4

CONA member met with APA's advocacy partners to discuss CONA's Bias, Stigma and Discrimination initiative.

CM#5

CONA co-sponsored a joint social hour with Division 20 titled "Social for the Ages".

CM#6

CONA played an intricate role in helping plan the Science Summit: The Science of Aging at the 2024 Convention