COMMITTEE ON AGING (CONA) 2025 Annual Report

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

2025 Members

Susan Krauss Whitbourne, Ph.D.,ABPP (chair), Rebecca S. Allen, PhD, ABPP, Lisa Lind, PhD, ABPP,
Cecilia Poon, Ph.D., ABPP, Joann M. Montepare, PhD, FGSA, FAGHE, FAPA, Ranak Trivedi, PhD, Cristina Pinheiro (graduate student member)

Science:

• CONA discussed science funding with APA Advocacy Office to promote research on aging and to advise on possible initiatives to expand aging-related research.

Practice:

CONA provided comments on a new draft of the APA Ethics Code: Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct

• CONA provided comments on APA Professional Practice Guidelines for Psychologists in the Assessment of Psychological Trauma in Adults
• CONA provided comments on APA Guidelines for Psychology's Role in Pediatric to Adult Health Care Transition
• CONA provided comments on APA Guidelines for Psychologists' Involvement in Pharmacological Issues

Policy:

- CONA wrote the Revised Ageism Resolution, which was passed by the Council of Representatives in August, 2025.

•• Rebecca Allen and Cecilia Poon submitted the revised Resolution on Palliative Care and End-of-life Issues to be reviewed at the February 2026 Council Meeting
• Ranak Trevidi and Susan Whitbourne coordinated ongoing updates of the revised Resolution on Family Caregivers

- 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, including the restructuring of the HHS's ACL.

• CONA provided comments on the 2017 APA Multicultural Guidelines: An Ecological Approach to Context, Identity, and Intersectionality and strongly recommended that at least one content expert in the adult development and aging field be appointed to the upcoming multicultural guidelines taskforce
• CONA provided comments on the Updated APA Resolution on Promoting Global Perspectives in U.S. Psychology
• CONA provided comments on APA Policy Statement on Reconciling Traditional Wisdom and Psychological Science
• CONA provided comments on APA Policy Statement on Disability Inclusion: Combating the Stigma and Discrimination of Ableism
• CONA provided comments on APA Policy Statement on Transgender and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents
• Cecilia Poon and Susan Whitbourne participated in the workgroup at Spring Consolidated Meeting to draft APA's Disability Inclusion Policy Statement; Cecilia Poon and CDIP member Rebecca Wilbur co-presented the policy statement at the APA Council town hall meeting before it was adopted at the August 2025 Council Meeting

Education:

- CONA collaborated with the APA CE office to develop a 3-part webinar series on the 2024 APA Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults which was presented in Fall, 2025,
- Lisa Lind, along with several other geropsychology colleagues, presented a CE-eligible Symposium at the APA Convention, titled "Innovation in Geropsychology and Long-Term Care Settings: Honoring Dr. Victor Molinari's Legacy"
- Cecilia Poon and Rebecca Allen presented a Skills-Building Session at the APA Convention sponsored by Division 43 (Society for Couple and Family Psychology) titled "How to Talk about Sexual Health with Older Adults"
- Cecilia Poon presented a Skills-Building Session at the APA Convention sponsored by Division 20 (Adult Development and Aging), titled "Reducing Ageism by Increasing Psychologists' Knowledge of Mental Health in Older Adulthood" along with the past president of Division 20 and their students

- Susan Whitbourne's research was featured in the APA e-publication, Perspectives on Aging: Psychology Across the Lifespan.
- Joann Montepare's work in the Age-Friendly University was referenced in the APA e-publication, Perspectives on Aging: Psychology Across the Lifespan.

Public Interest:

• Rebecca Allen contributed to an article for the Psychology Monitor, entitled "Medical aid in dying brings a compassionate close to life"
• CONA Chair and Chair-Elect met with APA Media to facilitate the publication of the free eBoolet titled, "Perspectives on Aging: Psychology Across the Lifespan"

Public Affairs:

• CONA collaborated with APA Media to update the Aging Topics page

APA:

• Rebecca Allen and Cecilia Poon met with President-Elect Candidate Linda Woolf, PhD, at APA Convention to discuss/promote additional attention to aging issues
- Susan Whitbourne contributed columns from the CONA Chair for the Society for Clinical Geropsychology newsletter

• CONA met with a board member from APA's Policy and Planning Board at SCM to discuss ongoing efforts related to aging
• CONA Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging was presented to Michele Karel, PhD, ABPP, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to education, practice, scholarship, public interest, and public policy in geropsychology.
• CONA Chair and Chair-Elect participated in monthly Geropsychology Leadership and Specialty Council Team meetings to enhance collaboration on shared priorities and ensure efficient use of resources in addressing those priorities
• CONA Chair provided updates to Division 20 and Division 12- Section II newsletters
• CONA Chair-Elect welcomed Wendy Rogers, PhD, and Elissa Kozlov, PhD as 2026-2028 CONA members and participated in their on-boarding/ orientation activities