

Public Health Without Borders

APHA 136TH ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPO
OCT. 25-29, 2008 • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



GERONTOLOGICAL HEALTH SECTION AWARDS CEREMONY

**Monday, October 27th, 2008
4:30-6:00 p.m.**

Manchester Grand Hyatt, Manchester Ballroom E



GREETINGS!

We have assembled an impressive awards portfolio that gives visibility to the issues in aging and recognizes those who have taken positive action in public health programs for older adults. These awards are associated with the Gerontological Health Section (GHS) Call for Abstracts. Further information regarding these awards, including submission procedures and deadline dates, are available on the APHA website at www.apha.org and the GHS website at <http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/gh/>



Caryn D. Etkin, PhD, MPH, Awards Chair
Jan Warren-Findlow, PhD, Co-Program Chair
Rachel Seymour, PhD, Co-Program Chair
Ashley S. Love, DrPH, MPH, MS, Co-Program Chair

GERONTOLOGICAL HEALTH SECTION

<http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/apasections/gh/>



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to stimulate public health actions to improve the health, functioning and quality of life of older persons and to call attention to their health care needs. Gerontological Health Section members fulfill that mission in part through research and advocacy aimed at reforming governmental health care programs, particularly Medicare and Medicaid. Section members are also active in administration, direct service, research and education in community health promotion, community organizing, program development and evaluation, and other ways of bringing public health innovations to older people. The Section is also concerned with the health and social needs of the younger disabled as they make their transition into the health care delivery system organized for the aged. Your expertise, involvement, and support are most welcome.

GHS is proud to celebrate its 30th anniversary as a Section of APHA!

ORDER OF AWARDS PRESENTATION

Presider.....Nancy Miller, PhD, Section Chair

Award for Lifetime Achievement

Winner.....Fernando M. Torres-Gil, PhD

Award for Lifetime Achievement – International

Winner.....Etsuji Okamoto, MD, LLB, MPH

Philip G. Weiler Award for Leadership in Aging and Public Health

Winner.....Caroll L. Estes, PhD

Aetna Award for Excellence in Research on Older Women and Public Health

Presented by Marcia Ory, PhD, MPH

Winner.....Leah Rohlfen, PhD

Aging and Rural Health Research Award

Presented by Nancy Miller, PhD

Winner.....Cindy Kerber, PhD, APRN, BC

Honorable Mention.....Said Abusalem, PhD, RN

Honorable Mention.....Elena Naumova, PhD

Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation
Presented by Nancy Miller, PhD

Winner....."Guided Care: Improving Chronic Care for High Risk Seniors"
Chad Boulton, MD, MPH, MBA

Honorable Mention....."People Exercising Program,"
formerly "Strong Living Program"
Jennifer Layne, PhD

Honorable Mention....."Seniors and Trauma Survivors Empowerment Program
(STEP)"
Xuan Le

Betty J. Cleckley Minority Issues Research Award
Presented by Carolyn Mendez-Luck, PhD, MPH

Winner.....Maria Elena Ruiz, PhD, RN

Honorable Mention..... Tekla V. Evans, MPH, CHES, PMP

James G. Zimmer New Investigator Research Award
Presented by Dana B. Mukamel, PhD

Winner.....Daniela B. Friedman, PhD

Honorable Mention.....Holly C. Felix, PhD, MPA

Retirement Research Foundation Student Awards
Laurence G. Branch Doctoral Study Research Award
Presented by Ashley S. Love, DrPH, MPH, MS

Winner.....Jyotsna Jagai, MS, MPH

Honorable Mention..... Kenneth Kwan Ho Chui, MS, MPH

**Masters Student Research Award
Presented by Irena Pesis-Katz, PhD**

Winner.....Chen Ling, MPH

Honorable Mention.....Alma Vega, MSPH

**Erickson Award Announcement
Presented by Connie Evashwick, ScD**

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Special Recognitions and Appreciation

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Award Sub-Chairs

Allan Goldman, MPH

Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation

Ashley S. Love, DrPH, MPH, MS

Laurence G. Branch Doctoral Study Research Award

Carolyn Mendez-Luck, PhD, MPH

Betty J. Cleckley Minority Issues Research Award

Dana B. Mukamel, PhD

James G. Zimmer New Investigator Research Award

Marcia G. Ory, PhD, MPH

Aetna Award for Excellence in Research on Older Women and Public Health

Irena Pesis-Katz, PhD

Masters Student Research Award

Joseph R. Sharkey, PhD, MPH, RD

Aging and Rural Health Research Award

Awards Program Editor

Jennifer L. Curry, MPH

Lifetime Achievement Award



Fernando M. Torres-Gil, PhD
University of California, Los Angeles

Fernando Torres-Gil is Acting Dean of the UCLA School of Public Affairs (SPA), where he also serves as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. He holds appointments as Professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy in the School and is the Director of the Center for Policy Research on Aging. Before joining UCLA, he was a Professor of Gerontology and Public Administration at the University of Southern California, where he continues as an Adjunct Professor of Gerontology.

Professor Torres-Gil is an expert in the fields of health and long-term care, the politics of aging, social policy, ethnicity and disability. He is the author of six books and more than 80 articles and book chapters, including *The New Aging: Politics and Change in America* (1992), and *Lessons From Three Nations, Volumes I and II* (2007). In recognition of his many academic accomplishments, he was elected a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America in 1985 and the National Academy of Public Administration in 1995. He also served as President of the American Society on Aging from 1989 to 1992 and is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance.

His academic accomplishments parallel his extensive government and public policy experience, including being appointed by President Clinton as the first Assistant Secretary for Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As the Administration's chief advocate on aging, Torres-Gil played a key role in promoting the importance of the issues of aging, long-term care, and disability, in consolidating federal programs for the elderly and in helping baby boomers

redefine retirement in a post-pension era. He also worked with HHS Secretary Donna Shalala in overseeing aging policy throughout the federal government, managing the Administration on Aging and organizing the 1995 White House Conference on Aging; in addition to serving as a member of the President's Welfare Reform Working Group.

He has also served as Staff Director of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Aging (1985-1987) – where he administered the legislative and oversight activities of the largest committee in the U.S. Congress; Special Assistant to Secretary of Health and Human Services Patricia Roberts Harris (1979-1980); and White House Fellow and Special Assistant to Joseph Califano, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (1978-1979). In 1978, President Carter appointed him to the Federal Council on Aging.

At the local level, Dr. Torres-Gil has served as the Vice President of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission (1989-1993) and as a member of the Harbor (1997-2001) and Taxi Commissions (1996-1997) for the city of Los Angeles. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa appointed him to the Board of Airport Commissioners and he was previously appointed by former Governor Gray Davis to the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Veterans' Homes and by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. He has served as a board member of the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California and currently sits on the Board of Directors of Elderhostel, The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the AARP Foundation, the Older Women's League and The California Endowment.

Dr. Torres-Gil was born and raised in Salinas, California, the son of migrant farm workers. He earned his A.A. in Political Science at Hartnell Community College (1968), a B.A. with honors in Political Science from San Jose State University (1970), and an M.S.W. (1972) and Ph.D. (1976) in Social Policy, Planning and Research from the Heller Graduate School in Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

Lifetime Achievement Award—International



Etsuji Okamoto, MD, LLB, MPH
National Institute of Public Health, Japan

Etsuji (also called AtoZ with affection) Okamoto started his APHA membership after his graduation from UCLA School of Public Health in 1988. He first attended the APHA annual meeting in 1992 in Washington DC, where the casual reunion with his former classmate (now his sister-in-law) led him to marry his wife, Joanne.

Dr. Okamoto's original academic interests were in health economics and law but he found himself inevitably involved in aging and long-term care issues as Japan's population was rapidly aging and the health care cost was increasingly spent for the care of the elderly. Much of his subsequent participations in APHA and GHS has focused on economic and legal aspects of long term care.

Starting from the mid-1990s, a nation-wide debate started in Japan as to how the country would cater to the need for long term care motivated by the introduction of new financing mechanisms in, for example, the United Kingdom and Germany. In the absence of firm evidence on how to measure the care needs of individual disabled elderly, he applied his mathematical skills to analyze health care costs to need assessment for the purpose of the new long term care insurance, which led to the first international investigator award at the 1996 annual meeting.

He continued to serve as an academic liaison to enhance communications among researchers of long term care in the US and other countries to share experience and opinions for betterment of long term care and its financing. In 2006 he was appointed as an editor of the International Journal of Integrated Care. As a sole editor representing Asia-Pacific region, the fastest aging region of the world, he is actively participating in the editorial work and peer review process.

After Japan's long term care insurance became fully operational in 2000, his focuses were turned to the practical and medical aspects of long term care, such as drug use and effectiveness of FLU vaccination for the disabled elderly. His current interest is in detection of drug adverse events and effective drug use review among the elderly using health insurance claims data. Many believe that the biggest risk factor of accidental falls and fractures of the elderly is osteoporosis but he demurs: he believes that inappropriate (such as duplicate) psychotropic drug use is the main risk and wants to develop effective drug utilization mechanism.

His long experience with health insurance rendered him a somewhat cautionary attitude to the long term care insurance based on his firm belief that "no financing mechanism is free from fraud and abuse". His somber prediction was painfully remembered in the last year, when an unprecedented fraud and abuse case jolted the country and Japanese government had to radically revise the need assessment and care management processes, some of which were just as what he had advocated (such as separation of care managers from service providers).

He was appointed as a chief of health service management of the newly established National Institute of Public Health in 2002 and is now teaching foreign students (many of them from Asian countries) of the international MPH course in English. As the Asian countries (more than half the world population) are going into the rapid aging process, the long term care issues are increasingly social and economical agenda of Asian countries. Recently he found himself visited by many colleagues from abroad, most notably from Korea, which had just started their long term care insurance in July this year.

He is grateful to the APHA and GHS for encouragement and international exchange, through which he came to know many colleagues. He is determined to reciprocate his thanks through his teaching to foreign students at his institute and to contribute to the long term care of their countries.

Philip G. Weiler Award for Leadership in Aging and Public Health



Carroll L. Estes, PhD
University of California, San Francisco

Carroll L. Estes is one of the leading scholars in the public policy and aging. She has successfully maintained a high visibility in the political process, being frequently called on to testify and consult in both the legislative and executive branches of government. At the same time she has been at the forefront of developing critical perspectives in gerontology that expose how public policy and the economic system work against the interests of many older adults. Her first book on the topic, The Aging Enterprise, was published in 1979, quickly became a reference in the field and is still in print. She has since published an intimidating number of books and articles, many of which have won major awards, such as *The Long Term Care Crisis* which was one of *Choice Magazine's* Most Important Books in 1994. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, past President of the Gerontological Society of America, past President of American Society on Aging (ASA), past President of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), and past Vice President of the Older Women's League (OWL). Her work in the area of long-term care, health policy and aging, and most recently social security, has established her as one of the leading thinkers *and* "doers" in public health and aging arena.

Carroll's other awards include the highest research honor that UCSF gives, the Faculty Research Lecturer Award; the American Society on Aging Leadership Award; the Kent Award of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA); the Beverly Award for Research in Health and Aging; the Tibbitts Leadership Award in Gerontology (AGHE); the Hollis Turnham Advocacy Award; and the Helen Nahm Research Award of UCSF. In 1998 the League of Women Voters named her "A Woman Who Could Be President," and in 2006

Dr. Estes received the Lifetime Achievement Award of The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. In 2007 she received the Hall of Fame Award of the American Society on Aging, the UCSF Chancellor's Award for the Advancement of Women, the UCSF Doctoral Mentor of the Year Award in Nursing, and the Award for Feminist Scholarship and Advocacy of the Sociologists for Women in Society. Her current research is on long term care, mental health and aging, Social Security and Medicare. Carroll is vice-chair of the Board of Directors of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM) and is the co-founder of Concerned Scientists in Aging. She received her A.B. from Stanford University, her M.A. from Southern Methodist University, her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, San Diego, and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Russell Sage College.

Carroll has been a member of APHA-GHS since 1982, has been a regular contributor to the program, and has had a number of roles in the Association. Of particular note, Carroll and Philip Weiler were friends and colleagues. They coauthored a chapter on "Health Professions Education for the Care of the Elderly" in 1989 and had collaborated before that as well. A well written web page summarizing Carroll's career is available at http://nurseweb.ucsf.edu/iha/faculty/ESTES_LEGACY.htm.

**Aetna Award for Excellence in Research on
Older Women and Public Health
WINNER**



Leah Rohlfen, PhD
St. Lawrence University
Canton, NY

Dr. Leah Rohlfen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. She is currently involved with several research projects which examine chronic health conditions, functional health, and mental health among older adults. Her dissertation assessed gender differences in functional, mental, and self-rated health among older adults. Findings from her dissertation provide evidence of a new health paradox, in which females have the same or better self-rated health compared to males regardless of more physical limitations, acute and non-fatal chronic health conditions, and depressive symptoms. Dr. Rohlfen received her PhD in Sociology from Arizona State University in 2008. Other research she is involved in examines gender differences in suicide among the elderly, aging and the sense of control, and racial/ethnic differences in trajectories of functional health.

**Aging and Rural Health Research Award
WINNER**



Cindy Kerber, PhD, APRN, BC
Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University
Normal, IL

Dr. Kerber is an Assistant Professor at Mennonite College of Nursing, Illinois State University in Normal, IL. The focus of her research generally addresses mental health problems of older adults. Examples of recent research include: comorbid mental health problems among older adult pathological gamblers, depression treatment and under treatment among nursing home residents and factors precipitating delirium in nursing home residents. She is also collaborating with faculty at the University of Iowa, Iowa City to evaluate perceived access to and effectiveness of mental health care for comorbid psychiatric illnesses among older adults with addictions. Dr. Kerber received her PhD from Illinois State University in 2001. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in gero-psychiatric nursing from the University of Iowa in 2004.

**Aging and Rural Health Research Award
HONORABLE MENTION**



Said Abusalem, PhD, RN

University of Louisville, School of Nursing
Louisville, KY

Dr. Abusalem is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Louisville. He is currently involved with several research projects to assess resident safety cultures and communication in nursing homes, and working to develop quality of care indicators for nursing home residents. Dr. Abusalem received his PhD in Nursing from the University of Kentucky in 2006. His research interests include quality of care assessment and patient safety in healthcare. Dr. Abusalem publishes articles about care errors in home health, patient safety in nursing homes, and ways to evaluate quality of care based on health outcomes.

**Aging and Rural Health Research Award
HONORABLE MENTION**



Elena N. Naumova, PhD
Tufts University School of Medicine
Boston, MA

Elena N. Naumova is Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine, Department of Public Health and Family Medicine, Director of the NIH-sponsored Tufts Initiative for Forecasting and Modeling of Infectious Diseases (InForMID), and co-director of Tufts Institute of the Environment. Dr. Naumova's area of expertise is in modeling of transient processes with application in environmental epidemiology, infectious diseases, and aging. Her research on developing innovative analytical and computational tools to monitor immune responses to infections and to assess their intricate relations with the environment is funded by NIAID, NIEHS, and EPA. She is the PI for NIEHS funded grant project entitled "Gastroenteritis and Extreme Weather Events in Elderly" and a Co-PI for NIAID-funded project "Immune Function and Biodefense in Children, Elderly, and Immunocompromised Populations". Dr. Naumova is also promoting the use of novel data sources, including remote sensing and satellite imagery to better understand the nature of diseases and their sensitivity to climate variations and extreme weather events on local and global scales. Her research activities span a broad range of research programs in infectious diseases and environmental epidemiology, molecular biology and immunogenetics, nutrition and growth. Dr. Naumova is participating in a number of international projects collaborating with epidemiologists, immunologists, and public health professionals in India, Kenya, Ecuador, Japan, Canada, UK, and Russia

**Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in
Program Innovation
WINNER
“Guided Care: Improving Chronic Care for High Risk Seniors”**



Chad Boulton, MD, MPH, MBA

Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professor
Director of the Roger C. Lipitz Center for Integrated Health Care
Department of Health Policy and Management
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

About Dr. Boulton: Dr. Chad Boulton is the Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He directs the Roger C. Lipitz Center for Integrated Health Care and holds joint appointments on the faculties of the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Medicine and Nursing. A geriatrician for 20 years, he has extensive experience in developing, testing, evaluating, and diffusing new models of health care for older persons. His current research includes Guided Care, a novel, multi-disciplinary model of primary care for older people with multiple chronic conditions. Additional information is available at www.jhsph.edu/LipitzCenter and www.GuidedCare.org.

About Guided Care: The nation's health care delivery system performs well for people in good health who experience acute illnesses, but it often fails older Americans who have several chronic conditions and complex care needs. The scientific principles of seven successful innovations were translated into one high-tech, high-touch system of chronic care called Guided Care, which is designed to improve the quality, outcomes and efficiency of health care for high-risk older

persons. In Guided Care, a registered nurse, based in a primary care practice, partners with 2-5 physicians to provide comprehensive chronic care for 50-60 patients. The eight inter-related clinical processes of Guided Care combine scientific evidence with frail older persons' goals, values and priorities. Most primary care physicians who have at least 300 older patients in their practice have a minimum of 50-60 multi-morbid older patients who could benefit from the services of a Guided Care nurse.

In 2006, a 30-month, cluster-randomized controlled trial of Guided Care was launched in the mid-Atlantic region of the US for 904 older adults with complex chronic health conditions and 308 of their family caregivers. Six-month data show that Guided Care improves the quality of care, reduces health care costs, and produces high job satisfaction among physicians and nurses. If those savings continue throughout the RCT, this would provide a rationale for Medicare and other insurers to pay for Guided Care services. A dissemination strategy is being implemented to make Guided Care a national model for providing cost-effective health care to older patients with complex needs.

**Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in
Program Innovation
HONORABLE MENTION
“People Exercising Program” (formerly “Strong Living Program”)**



Jennifer Layne, PhD

The Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making
Northeastern University Bouve College of Health Sciences
Boston, MA

About Dr. Layne: Dr. Layne is a Research Associate for the Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making in Boston, MA. She is also the founder and director of the People Exercising Program (formerly the Strong Living Program), a public health initiative and longitudinal research study being conducted by Northeastern University to examine the effects of group strength training classes on physical function and quality of life among older adults. Dr. Layne received her Master of Science degree in Applied Anatomy and Physiology from Boston University and a PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism from Tufts University. She specializes in developing resistance training programs for both clinical research and community health. Dr. Layne has done extensive work with special populations including patients with osteoporosis, diabetes, chronic heart failure, arthritis, severe obesity, the frail elderly and HIV/AIDS. She is a lead author and co-author on several scientific papers that have been published in distinguished journals, including the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, and the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. Dr. Layne is a contributing fitness expert to several academic books, best selling fitness books, and women's health magazines.

About The People Exercising Program: People Exercising Program is a community-based strength training, balance and flexibility exercise class. The People Exercising Program is disseminated by both health professionals and peers or "laypersons" leaders who are trained and certified in day-long interactive

workshops. Leaders are given the tools they need to start, teach, and evaluate the program's success. The involvement of peer leaders makes the People Exercising Program unique and offers several advantages over traditional exercise programs. These benefits include the ability of peer leaders to serve as role models for other older adults and the opportunity for greater program implementation.

The People Exercising Program, formerly the Strong Living Program, started at the USDA Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University. Continuing under its new name, the program is now part of Northeastern University in Boston, MA, where it is run as an ongoing research study and public health initiative to increase access and opportunities for older adults to participate in low-cost, effective exercise programs in their local communities.

Exercise classes are offered at convenient locations including senior centers, community centers, churches, and municipal buildings. Exercises are performed with low cost dumbbells and ankle weights and have different levels of difficulty to accommodate the wide range of fitness abilities seen in older adults. Classes meet for approximately 1 hour and are offered in on-going 12-week sessions so that participants have the opportunity to continue exercising as part of a group for as long as they want.

The People Exercising Program is evidenced-based and has demonstrated success in helping older adults to maintain their independence by increasing their muscle strength and improving their balance and mobility. Equally important to these physical benefits are the social and emotional support that this program provides to both the older adults and leaders who participate. As of 2007, nearly 100 self-sustaining strength training classes have been established and more than 2,200 older adults ranging from 50 to 97 years of age have enrolled. Approximately 80% of all leaders who completed the training workshops, more than 200 dedicated leaders, have gone on to establish program sites and teach classes. These results and details of program were recently published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. Wide-spread implementation of the People Exercising Program could have a significant public health impact by reaching out to more seniors and increasing strength training participation by older adults at the community level and nation-wide.

**Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in
Program Innovation
HONORABLE MENTION
“Seniors and Trauma Survivors Empowerment Program (STEP)”**



Seniors and Trauma Survivors Empowerment Program (STEP) is a community-based program that helps Vietnamese older adults and their families recovering from post-war trauma and succeeds in establishing new lives in the United States. STEP has significantly increased access to mental health services for approximately 4,000 Vietnamese elders in Falls Church, VA, including some 1,000 “re-education camp” torture survivors and their spouses, who arguably make up the most neurologically impaired group of refugees ever resettled in this country and have little to no English proficiency. Despite documented mental health need, few of these torture survivors, and older Vietnamese in general, have been able to access mental health care because of the serious lack of linguistically and culturally appropriate services.

The overarching goal of STEP is to increase the capacity of our community to meet the multiple mental health needs of our target population, elderly Vietnamese refugees and trauma survivors of metropolitan DC area. Our project is designed to produce meaningful and relevant results that support SAMHSA’s (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) goals for the Older Adults Targeted Capacity Expansion (TCE) Grant Program. By design STEP is an evidence-based, community centered model. Boat People SOS, Inc, located in Falls Church, VA, continues to provide training and supervision for our in-house mental health counselor and will make current Falls Church peer companion graduates, peer companion curriculum, and the STEP – Falls Church replication manual available to our branch offices for replication, and to any other community interested in our program. A Clinical Psychologist assisted our project staff with evaluating clients and referring each of them to the most appropriate service. George Mason University Center for the Advancement of Public Health conducted both process and outcome evaluations.

This project built on BPSOS' three-year initiative to increase access to mental health service for Vietnamese adults and particularly torture survivors. With funding from Fairfax County, we established the first program for Vietnamese torture survivors in the DC metropolitan area. The three-year funding from SAMHSA then laid the foundation for our network of 14 branch offices to offer a specialized service: identification and certification of medical disabilities for naturalization purpose. From 2005 – 2008, the STEP project will soon complete a three year project, hallmarking the peer companion project, in the Falls Church, VA office under a grant from SAMHSA.

**Betty J. Cleckley Minority Issues Research Award
WINNER**



Maria Elena Ruiz, PhD, RN

Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, Oregon

Dr. Ruiz is an Assistant Professor at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon, teaching in the statewide Master in Public Health program. She has been involved with several Community Based Research Projects funded by the Northwest Health Foundation; to develop community based chronic disease management programs for hard to reach Latino communities in Oregon. She is currently directing a funded project with the Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, building advocacy, leadership and health policy development among Hispanic nurses.

Dr. Ruiz received her PhD in Medical Sociology from the University of Southern California (USC) in 2006, where she taught in the Department Nursing and developed the Latino Culture/Spanish Language program for Nursing and Physician Assistant students. Her research interests include aging, Latino health issues, health disparities, and cross cultural health care. Dr. Ruiz has published articles on intergenerational solidarity among Latinos, and cultural dilemmas encountered by Hispanic nurses in today's health environment.

**Betty J. Cleckley Minority Issues Research Award
HONORABLE MENTION**



Tekla V. Evans, MPH, CHES, PMP
American Cancer Society
Atlanta, GA

Under the supervision of the Directors of Behavioral Research Center, I coordinate and manage projects in the Behavioral Research Center. I serve as Project Manager of family studies projects, which include: ACS QOL Survey for Caregivers, Study of Informal Cancer Care, Hope Lodge Study, and Bereaved Caregiver Study. My duties vary across projects and include overall coordination and management of survey administration to patients and their family members at multiple study sites, data collection and management, providing supervision to interns, managing budget, assisting dissemination of study findings, and involvement in strategic planning. This position requires considerable independence, involving hospital and home visits and interacting with health care providers, patients, and family members.

I also serve as coordinator of 8 Research Analysts (RAs) in the department. In that role, I address the concerns of and manage project- and committee-related tasks of all RAs and interns and provide overall direction and leadership to them. Prior to joining the staff of the Behavioral Research Center in 2004, I worked as a Research Assistant in the Behavioral Science and Health Education Department at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, where I researched behavioral development among adolescents and its impact on their risk behaviors. I received a Master of Public Health degree from Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, concentrating in behavioral science and health education. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Psychology from Duke University, with minors in Sociology and African and African American Studies. I have also earned certifications as Certified Health Education Specialist by The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. and as a Project Management Professional from the Project Management Institute.

**James G. Zimmer New Investigator Research Award
WINNER**



Daniela B. Friedman, PhD
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC

Dr. Daniela Friedman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior at the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health. She completed a Bachelor's degree in Biology and Psychology at McMaster University and a Masters of Science and PhD in Health Studies and Gerontology at the University of Waterloo in Canada. Her research on the scope and difficulty level of cancer prevention messages in seniors' print media and older adults' comprehension of cancer information in the media earned her the APHA Gerontological Health Retirement Research Foundation Student Research Award in 2002. Dr. Friedman has been involved with several research projects evaluating strategies for communicating disease prevention information to older adults and individuals with limited health literacy. Her published research focuses on the importance of communicating about health in plain language and recognizing cultural diversity among older adults in the development and dissemination of mass media and Web-based prevention and risk messages. Current communication and aging research activities are as PI on a USC seed grant examining innovative methods for reaching older African-American men with prostate cancer messages and PI for year 3 of a CDC-funded special interest project assessing how culturally diverse audiences understand and think about aging and cognitive health, and communication strategies for promoting cognitive health messages ("Prevention Research to Promote and Protect Brain Health" project of the CDC Prevention Research Centers Healthy Aging Research Network).

**James G. Zimmer New Investigator Research Award
HONORABLE MENTION**



Holly C. Felix, PhD, MPA
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Little Rock, AR

Dr. Felix is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). She is currently involved in two controlled trials to assess the translation of an evidence-based behavior weight loss program to community members using lay health educators, with one trial targeting older adults in community-based senior centers. In addition, Dr. Felix is involved in several evaluation projects, including one which is evaluating a state-wide nursing home transition program. Dr. Felix graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a PhD in public policy, health policy specialization. She has a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Dr. Felix aims to focus future research on the long-term care system, with special focus on home and community-based alternatives to institutionalization and the impact of obesity on the long-term care system.

**Laurence G. Branch Doctoral Student Research Award
WINNER**



Jyotsna Jagai, MS, MPH

Tufts University
Boston, MA

Jyotsna Jagai is a PhD candidate at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and a research assistant in the Department of Public Health and Family Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine. Jyotsna is working on her doctoral dissertation research exploring the seasonal patterns of waterborne diseases on a three different geographical scales, global, U.S. national and at the watershed level. Her research will also consider various environmental associations including meteorological factors, large scale animal production facilities, and hydrological parameters. Her research interests also include impacts of climate change on waterborne disease and implications for intervention and adaptation strategies. She is also an active member of Tufts Initiative for the Forecasting and Modeling of Infectious Diseases. (www.tufts.edu/med/informid)

**Laurence G. Branch Doctoral Student Research Award
HONORABLE MENTION**



Kenneth Kwan Ho Chui, MS, MPH
Tufts University
Boston, MA

Kenneth Chui is a PhD candidate at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and a research assistant at the Department of Public Health and Family Medicine, School of Medicine, Tufts University. After graduating from the MS/MPH dual degree (Food Policy and Applied Nutrition/Epidemiology & Biostatistics) program from Tufts, he worked for the Shape Up Somerville, a community-based obesity prevention project targeting at 1st to 3rd graders as a data coordinator for three years.

Currently Kenneth is working on his doctoral project investigating the seasonal patterns of hospitalizations related to various infectious gastrointestinal diseases among the US elderly, and their possible association with extreme weather events. His research interests include applications of time series analyses and geographic information system in nutrition and public health researches, as well as data visualization for efficient graphical presentation. He also enjoys teaching and is an active member of Tufts Initiative for the Forecasting and Modeling of Infectious Diseases. (www.tufts.edu/med/informid) Kenneth's PhD study is supported by the project "Gastroenteritis and Extreme Weather Events in the US Elderly - GEWEL." (Principal investigator: Elena Naumova, PhD; funded by: NIEHS R01-ES013171)

**Master's Student Research Award
WINNER**



Chen Ling, MPH
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY

Ms. Ling received her Master degree in Public Health program from Stony Brook University in 2008. Her study concentration is evaluative science which aims to educate public health professionals with the analytical and statistical skills necessary to evaluate health improvement initiatives in community and health care settings. She has finished the major courses: biostatistics, data management and informatics, clinical outcome and health service research and health system performance etc. Her research interests are the prevention of chronic disease and cost-effectiveness of health promotion programs. The recent projects include “program participation in community health promotion programs among Medicare beneficiaries”, “implementation of telemedicine intervention in underserved pediatric community”, and “dietary mineral intake in prevention of risk of hypertension”.

**Master's Student Research Award
HONORABLE MENTION**



Alma Celina Vega, MSPH
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Alma Celina Vega is a doctoral student in the Department of Demography at the University of California, Berkeley. Her current research examines the sociodemographic characteristics of Mexican immigrants in the U.S. who reverse migrate in old age and their use of Social Security. Her previous research experience includes managing the data for a physical activity research study aimed at raising older Latina/os' expectations on aging and assisting in the research functions of the California Health Interview Survey. Vega received her master's of science degree in Public Health from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research interests include Social Security and Medicare policy and utilization, immigration, and aging.

AWARD REVIEWERS

Caryn D. Etkin, PhD, MPH
Awards Chair

**We would like to thank the following individuals for assisting with the
Review process:**

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* Indicates Chair of a review sub-committee

Award reviewers are needed for 2009.

***If you are interested, please contact Caryn D. Etkin, PhD, MPH,
Caryn_Etkin@rush.edu***

The GHS would like to welcome its new members.

November 2007 – September 2008

Said K. Abusalem, PhD, RN
Dawn Alley, PhD
Shannon Andrzejewski, MPH/MSW
Jennifer Bellot, PhD, RN, MHSA
John M. Bennett, MD, MPH
Rosanna Marie Bertrand, PhD
Stephanie Schneider Bowers, MPH
Jean J. Branin, PhD
Wessye Brown
Daisy Carreon, MPH
Frederick Carrick, PhD
Wen-Chiung Chang
Jocelyn Chen, MPH, MSW
Stephanie Yu-Ching Chen, Ed.D
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Melissa Nicole Dattalo, MPH
Guey-Ing Day, PhD
Angela DeMano, M.S.
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Carolinda Douglass, Ph.D.
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Nancy Takahashi, MPH, MSW
Mary E. Tinetti, MD
Jennifer Lee Tylka, MPH
Alma Celina Vega, MSPH
Megan Elizabeth Ward, B.S.
Pamela Wasserbly, MD, MPH
Ji Won Yoo, MD
Tingjian Yan
Valerie Jean Yontz, RN, MPH, PhD
Debbie Zeldow, MBA

Formative History of the GHS

At the 1974 Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, of all the hundreds of program sessions, there was only one relating to aging. That session was sponsored by the Public Health Nursing Section. Maggie Kuhn, head of the Gray Panthers, was the Speaker who evoked enthusiasm in the audience.

Anne Zimmer spoke from the audience and asked those present to sign up if they felt that they would support an effort to add public health issues of the elderly to the agenda of APHA. Anne took those names and the issue to the APHA Action Board who designated an Action Board Task Force on Aging. Anne Zimmer was named Chairperson of the group for 1974 and again in 1975. In 1976 & 1977, the Executive Board approved the Task Force on Aging, again with Anne Zimmer as the Chair. The Executive Board action brought more visibility and funds. During those years the Task Force was very active. Participation by seniors was actively sought. Support was also obtained from: The National Institute on Aging; The Maryland Office on Aging; The Gerontological Society of America; The National Council on Aging; Staff from Congressional committees on Aging; and Geoff Gordon and Alana Davidson from APHA.

There was no one more influential in these efforts than Philip Weiler, MD, MPH, MA. He contributed essential inside knowledge of the workings and advocacy within APHA, and he contributed on the Governing Council and the Executive Board. He gave of his knowledge, his wisdom and most of all, his energy. He was always there with unflagging counsel, problem solving and influence. Without his efforts, it is likely that the Gerontological Health Section would not exist.

During those years the Task Force persevered in focusing attention on the public health issues related to aging, not only the elderly. Priorities included providing a visible resource on issues related to aging within APHA and interacting with other APHA sections to bring attention to the multi-disciplinary nature of aging and public health. We also: contributed to The Nation's Health; developed 3 to 5 scientific sessions at APHA annual meetings; set-up a booth in the Exhibit area; made additional efforts to increase the understanding and visibility of issues of aging within APHA; organized year round efforts to increase membership; and pushed for Section status.

Philip created a network of knowledgeable individuals able to analyze legislation and help prepare testimony. Our move toward Section status meant overcoming the opposition of some of the professional leadership of APHA who expressed concern that aging was lacking widespread interest, and professed that section status was not a good idea because they were protecting us from the embarrassment of not being able to develop and maintain the required 500 members.

In 1978, through advocacy by Philip Weiler, Anne Zimmer, as Task Force Chair, was invited to present a report to the Program Development Board. It was at that time that the issue of creating the Gerontological Health Section was allowed to proceed to the Governing Council, although the Executive Board did not endorse the proposal. It was with great glee that we witnessed a very supportive Governing Council vote establishing the Section.

Developments in the GHS

The Mission of the Section has remained consistent over the years--to improve the health, functioning, and quality of life of older people and to bring public attention to their unmet health and long term care needs. The Section has several avenues to fulfill this Mission.

First, we encourage scholarship through competition for eight awards made at each Annual Meeting of APHA. These Awards include best papers on older person's health and long term care needs; women, minorities, persons who live in rural areas, and persons who live outside the US (international). We also make awards for best papers by "new investigators" (persons within 5 years of their last degree) and students. To promote excellence in practice, we have an award that recognizes innovative practice in public health for the older population. Our most publicized recognition goes to those who show outstanding leadership in the field of public health and aging and to those who have demonstrated a sustained career of scholarship and/or public service in the field.

Second, the GHS section has an active scientific program at the APHA Annual Meetings. Many of our members who are leaders in research, practice, and policy, present their work at those meetings. We also foster the development of the next generation of leadership in the field by being open and inclusive in our scientific program and section governance. As a moderately sized section, we are able to provide many opportunities for informal mentorship and advancement to junior scholars.

Finally, we promote knowledge about public health and aging through communications beyond our section. In 2005 the APHA focused on aging issues in its national publicity for Public Health Week. The APHA newspaper, *The Nation's Health*, has regularly drawn on the expertise of section members for articles on aging issues. The APHA scientific journal, *American Journal of Public Health*, has devoted several special sections to public health issues of the elderly.

The Section is governed by its members through a democratic process of annual elections, business meetings at the Annual APHA Meeting, and regular conference calls. Our Section membership has been steady for the past several years at around 500 persons. Section members have been recognized by APHA for both outstanding scholarship and outstanding leadership, both within APHA and in the larger academic community.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the Gerontological Health Section is its advocacy and research aimed at improving breadth and scope of the Medicare and Medicaid

Programs. These are the primary means of "health" support for Older Americans. We also advocate for "community based long term care coverage" for all disabled adults under the federal Medicare Program. Our Section has long prided itself for bringing financing and service delivery innovations to the public health arena. Our future is bright due to the quality of the scholarship and advocacy of all of our Members. The Mission of the Gerontological Health Section will remain unfulfilled as long as older Americans remain unable to remain in their own homes or apartments for as long as medically possible.



GHS Section Chairs

1978 – 1980 Tom Hickey, DrPH (thickey@umich.edu)

1980 – 1981 Anne Wilder Zimmer, MS (annenicol@aol.com)

1981 – 1982 Stanley J. Brody, JD, MSW

1982 – 1983 Philip G. Weiler, MD, MPH

1983 – 1984 Laurence G. Branch, PhD (lgbranch@hsc.usf.edu)

1984 – 1985 Pearl German, ScD, MA (psgerman@hsr.jhsph.edu)

1985 – 1987 James G. Zimmer, MD, DTPH (james_zimmer@urmc.rochester.edu)

1987 – 1989 Joan F. Van Nostrand, DPA (jvan_nostrand@hrsa.gov)

1989 – 1991 David L. Rabin, MD, MPH (rabind@gunet.georgetown.edu)

1991 – 1993 Marcia G. Ory, PhD, MPH (mory@srph.tamhsc.edu)

1993 – 1995 Susan L. Hughes, DSW, MSW (shughes@uic.edu)

1995 – 1997 Robert H. Binstock, PhD (rhb3@po.cwru.edu)

1997 – 1999 Gerald M. Eggert, PhD, MSW (gmeggert@aol.com)

1999 – 2001 Richard Fortinsky, PhD (fortinsky@nso1.uchc.edu)

2001 – 2003 Connie Evashwick, ScD (cevashwk@csulb.edu)

2003 – 2005 Steven P. Wallace, PhD (swallace@ucla.edu)

2005 – 2007 Robert Burke, PhD (hsmreb@gwumc.edu)

2007 – 2009 Nancy A. Miller, PhD (nanmille@umbc.edu)

2009 – 2011 Susan C. Miller, PhD (susan_miller@brown.edu), Chair Elect

RECIPIENTS OF APHA AWARDS

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

2003 Laurence G. Branch, PhD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CITATION

2002 Gerald M. Eggert, PhD, MSW

RECIPIENTS OF GERONTOLOGICAL HEALTH SECTION AWARDS

PHILIP G. WEILER LEADERSHIP AWARD IN AGING & PUBLIC HEALTH

2007 Honorable Barbara B. Kennelly
 2006 Nancy Persily, MPH
 2005 Richard H. Fortinsky, PhD
 2004 The Archstone Foundation, Joseph F. Prevratil, JD, President & CEO

GERONTOLOGICAL HEALTH SECTION LEADERSHIP AWARD

2003 Susan L. Hughes, DSW
 2002 Retirement Research Foundation, Marilyn Hennessy, President
 2001 John W. Rowe, MD
 2000 James J. Callahan, Jr., PhD

KEY PHARMACEUTICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

1999 Dennis L. Kodner, PhD	1991 Laurence G. Branch, PhD
1998 Robyn I. Stone, DrPH	1990 James G. Zimmer, MD, DTPH (Lond)
1997 Judith Feder, PhD	1989 Pearl S. German, ScD
1996 Terrie "Fox" Wetle, PhD	1988 Robert L. Kane, MD
1995 Bruce C. Vladeck, PhD	1987 Stanley J. Brody, JD, MSW
1994 Joshua Wiener, PhD	1986 Anne W. Zimmer, MS
1993 Joan F. Van Nostrand, DPA	1985 Philip G. Weiler, MD
1992 Robert H. Binstock, PhD	1984 T. Franklin Williams, MD

AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

2007 Bledwyn Davies, OBE, AcSS, DPhil, MA and David L. Rabin, MD, MPH
 2006 Gerald M. Eggert, PhD, MSW and Nobuo Maeda, PhD
 2005 Robert H. Binstock, PhD
 2004 Pearl S. German, ScD
 2003 James G. Zimmer, MD, DTPH (Lond.),
 2002 T. Franklin Williams, MD, and Carter Catlett Williams, MSW
 2001 Martha McSteen

CHAIR'S CITATION

2006 Stuart H. Altman, PhD
 2005 Donna Cox, PhD, MA, Lakitia Mayo, BSW, Donna Wright, and Kris Krisberg
 2004 Brenda R. Wamsley, PhD
 2002 Nancy A. Miller, PhD

In Memoriam

Nancy Persily , MPH



Nancy A. Persily, MPH, a longtime public health educator and health care consultant, died March 12, 2008 at the age of 67.

From 2002 to 2006, Persily served as associate dean for academic affairs, assistant provost for health affairs and clinical professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior at the University of Albany State University of New York's School of Public Health. She retired from the University of Albany in 2006 to devote her attention to treatment for metastatic breast cancer.

Over the years, Persily held various roles in the public and private sectors. In 1993, she was named associate dean of George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services. She also served as director of the university's Wertlieb Educational Institute for Long Term Care Management and as director of strategic planning and managed care for the university's Medical Center.

Ms. Persily had over thirty years of management and leadership experience in the fields of public health, health care administration, managed care, health care planning, academic medicine, and eldercare. Ms. Persily published two books on the

role of hospitals in delivering care to the elderly and one of integrated delivery systems and the continuum of care. She wrote extensively on issues related to Medicare and managed care; healthcare leadership; integrated delivery systems; and educations for public health professionals. She directed policy studies in aging and public health educations issues. She was a mentor to several faculty members whose primary focus was aging and long term care. Ms. Persily held leadership positions in the Gerontological Health Section of the American Public Health Association and the Association of Schools of Public Health, where she was the founding co-chair of the Aging Council and held the position for seven years.

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