45TH ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

A Balanced Approach:
Seeking Evidence-Based Holistic Strategies to Promote Healthy Aging

APRIL 2 - 6, 2024
GREENVILLE, SC

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Southern Gerontological Society (SGS), established in 1979, is a network of the South's most respected gerontology professionals, representing 14 southern states and the District of Columbia. The mission of SGS is to provide the bridge between research and practice, translating and applying knowledge in the field of aging. The SGS Annual Meeting and Conference focuses on advances in gerontological research and applied practice, bringing together those engaged in the field of aging to attend and/or present their latest research, programs, interventions, and workshops. Anyone with an interest in aging is encouraged to attend. The conference will include keynote speakers, panel symposia, workshops, best practices discussions, and both paper and poster sessions.

The 2024 Annual Meeting & Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Greenville. The Hyatt Regency Greenville offers guests the perfect balance of Southern hospitality and modern amenities. Located in the trendy downtown area of Greenville, SC, they are near the area's best dining, shopping, and entertainment. We are pleased to offer a conference room rate of $179/night for single/double occupancy and $189 for triple/quad occupancy. Limited government room rates are available for the prevailing per diem rate. All guestroom rates are subject to state and local taxes. Valet parking is available for $22 a day. City parking is available at Commons Garage adjacent to the hotel. Click here for rate information.

Get reservation information and learn more about Greenville, SC by visiting: https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/lodging.html

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An Invitation from the SGS President

The theme of the 45th Annual Meeting & Conference is *A Balanced Approach: Seeking Evidence-Based Holistic Strategies to Promote Healthy Aging*. Breaking down the title, I will start with evidence-based strategies. Evidence-based strategies are programs, practices, or activities that have been evaluated and the findings demonstrate improved outcomes.

Why holistic strategies? The Oxford Dictionary describes holistic as being characterized by the belief that the parts of something are interconnected and can be explained only by reference to the whole. In medicine, holistic strategies are characterized by the treatment of the whole person, considering mental and social factors, rather than just the symptoms of an illness.

What is healthy aging? Healthy aging is very individualistic and is highly influenced by the degree to which basic needs are met. For instance, ensuring proper nutrition and a safe environment in which to live impacts a person's ability to age healthfully. Similarly, addressing stress levels, depressive symptoms, and social isolation also impacts a person's health trajectory.

A critique of evidence-based practice is that it does not consider individual needs. This may be addressed by using a holistic approach to provide evidence-based practice. Evaluation, modification, and refinement can only enhance evidenced-based strategies that support healthy aging across the lifespan.

From a researcher's perspective, the theme highlights the development and ongoing study and improvement of interventions that support healthy aging. From a practitioner's perspective, the theme highlights interventions that have evidence of success. From an individual's perspective, the menu of evidence-based practices is just that, a menu that you can pick and choose from to implement in your own life to foster healthier aging.

We hope this balanced approach to attaining healthy aging practices stimulates SGS attendees to think both broadly - on a professional level - and locally about our own unique aging journeys.

Sincerely,

Bert Waters, Ph.D., FSGS

President, SGS (2022-2024)

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Abstract Instructions & Information

A wide variety of topics will be considered, including presentations reporting innovative research, research/practice collaborations, model programs for the future, and public policy discussions. Students are highly encouraged to submit abstracts for consideration as SGS conferences are a great place for students to share their work. **This conference welcomes everyone and you do not need to be a member of SGS to present or attend**.

Updates to the call for abstracts information can be found at:
https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/meeting-abstracts.html

The deadline for abstract submissions is January 8, 2024.

Required Registration

- Submitting a presentation implies that the presenting authors, as listed within the presentation submission, will register for the conference. Please visit the SGS conference website for registration rates and information.

- When submitting this presentation for consideration, please be sure to distinguish who will be presenting authors versus general contributing authors. Presenting authors will be required to register. CVs/Resumes and bios will be required for all presenting authors. Contributing authors will not be listed in the conference program but will be listed in the Book of Abstracts. You will distinguish an author as contributing by unchecking the presenting author box.

- This conference is structured to include numerous conference registration options including single day passes. Conference rates are generously discounted for members of the Southern Gerontological Society.

- At least one presenting author must plan to be in-person and registered. If additional authors are planning to present virtually, they are not required to register as long as the in-person presenter is registered. We will not be offering live virtual presentations without at least one in-person presenter. Presenters may work with SGS in the case of an unforeseen need to present virtually (i.e., family emergency, COVID diagnosis, etc.). The in-person presenter will be responsible for setting up a virtual platform (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, WebEx, etc.) to stream the virtual presenter. Internet access will be available in all rooms.

- If you would prefer to present virtually, you can take advantage of our virtual presentation option. Virtual presentations will not be live. Presenters will submit pre-recorded sessions (we recommend 30 minutes or less) that will be made available to conference attendees. Virtual abstracts will be included in the Conference Program and the Book of Abstracts. There will be a $50 fee in place of conference registration.

- You will be asked to agree to a statement that you understand the registration requirements.

Presentation Logistics

Generally, conference sessions are scheduled to last 60 or 90 minutes.

- Panel symposium are sessions lasting 90 minutes, are organized by the author, and may include a panel of up to five presenters. It is important to note that abstracts for symposium must detail who will be the presenting panel members at the time of the abstract submission.

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- Paper sessions combine complementary presentations and may be 60 or 90 minutes with each paper receiving 15 - 25 minutes to present depending on the number of papers in that session.

- Technique or Tool Demonstration Workshops, Self-Care Wellness Workshops, and Best Practices Presentations are sessions lasting 60 minutes.

Room Set Up - Presentation rooms will all be equipped with a Windows-based laptop computer, a USB connection device, a projector, and A/V support equipment. The conference venue does have WI-FI and the computers will be connected. Depending on the size of the room and its acoustics, a podium microphone may also be installed. For presenters planning on utilizing audio or video feed, it is important to note this as a request for special equipment or room set-up during the submission process so that the program committee can determine if the request can be accommodated. Each conference session will have a moderator present to help guide the session, distribute handouts, and to keep presentations within their allotted time.

Posters - If you submit as a Student or Professional Poster, you will present during a poster session that will likely last 1.5 - 2 hours. You will be expected to share information about your poster with attendees as they move between posters. The poster board display area **will be no less** than a four-foot tall by six-foot wide surface area. Poster board displays are double-sided and they will be equipped with the appropriate means of adhering the poster to its surface (tacks or clips).

Simple On-Line Submission

Please be sure to read through these instructions and make sure you have all of the information needed before beginning. Submission online is quick and easy. This process will start at the Ex Ordo submission portal - https://sgs2024.exordo.com/ . Once a user account is created, the user will see a usage-disclaimer statement. While the Call for Presentations is open, authors may come back in and edit their proposals at any time.

SGS suggests that the first author (or lead presenter) prepare and submit the abstract information. Prior to beginning the online submission process, please have all of the contact information for all authors available. After you have selected your preferred conference track and presentation format, please enter Title of Abstract and the proposal abstract text. The body of the presentation proposal in the abstract text box should not exceed 250 words. While submitters will have an additional opportunity to elaborate on their session's diverse appeal, we encourage that the initial abstract proposal also be constructed in a way as to appeal to a very diverse audience. Abstract proposals may be edited by the presenter/author up until the abstract deadline of January 8, 2024. We strongly encourage that abstract text only be pasted into the window AFTER having all of its formatting removed (copy as plain text).

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NEW TO EX ORDO?

Email Address

albert.einstein@example.com

First Name

Albert

Last Name

Einstein

Password

******

Create Account →

LOGGED IN PREVIOUSLY?

Email Address

marie.curie@example.com

Password

******

OR

Login →   **Forgot your password?**

Once you are logged in, you will see an announcement with a link to submit your abstract.

SUBMIT PAPER

110 days
until submissions close

The submissions deadline is 23:59 on 8 January 2024 EST.
Please complete your submissions before this date.

If this conference has multiple submissions deadlines,
you'll see the other deadlines when you submit.

Submit Your Paper →

You will then enter the abstract submission workflow. Please review the instructions, scroll to the bottom, and click Next to begin.

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TRACK - You will be asked to choose a conference domain (referred to as a track in Ex Ordo). Please review these descriptions of the conference domains to determine your best fit.

Domain 1: Age-related Health and Wellness - America's persistent attention on disease-focused treatments often misses key aspects of quality of life and wellness that includes physical, mental and spiritual health, meaningful activity, prevention, social engagement, happiness and enjoyment/pleasure. This track welcomes submissions that address research, best practices, policy agendas/commentaries and local examples of community programming are welcomed on topics such as, but not exclusively limited to, chronic illness, oral health, social isolation and loneliness, sleep, mental health, and drug misuse/dependence.

Domain 2: Environment & Location: The Power of Place - As regional and state-based organizations focused on aging and older adults, we need to consider the influence of place, specifically region and the legacy of history and social institutions on older adults in our communities. Submissions that discuss the social history, shared community, diverse culture(s) or identity of the region with particular attention to the meaning of place (including housing and transportation) are encouraged.

Domain 3: Diversity Topics in Aging Communities - Inequality across many social groups (e.g., race, ethnicity, class, sex, sexuality, immigrant status) and the intersection of these differences have implications for older adults in almost all aspects of their lives. As the United States, as well as other countries attempt to cope with the challenges of a rapidly growing aging population, individuals and their communities are faced with inadequate resources. Submissions that address research, best practices, policy agendas/commentaries and local examples of community resilience are encouraged.

Domain 4: Caregiving, Care Support, and Care Partnerships - Over a lifetime, everyone will need care, and most will provide it to others. his domain welcomes all submissions related or pertaining to topics which may include, but are not limited to, caregiving (formal or informal), caregiver self-care, awareness and prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation, veteran's care, respite services, intergenerational partnerships, therapeutic arts, tele-everything (medical, legal, smart-homes), and other creative programming.

Domain 5: Gerontological Education and Professional Development - As the population ages globally, there is a pressing need to maintain persistent education to all aging professionals beginning with a focus on students to help them to adequately prepare for a multiplicity of careers that would either benefit from gerontological expertise or directly address the needs and preferences of older adults. Sessions in this track will offer insight into pedagogical strategies that bring gerontology to the classroom, serve to bridge gerontology students from education to practice, and cater to all professionals wanting to accelerate or enhance their professional skill sets. Sessions that actively demonstrate teaching and learning strategies, marketing, and branding, interviewing skills, enhancing social media presence and general best practices in gerontological education are encouraged.

Domain 6: Advocacy For Or By Older Adults - Organizations play an important role in uncovering evidence, developing policy agendas and advocating for and with older adults. Local, state, national and international entities/units also impact advocacy. Submissions that discuss policy and advocacy agendas, financial planning, elder law and/or end-of-life planning, state aging plans, or grassroots efforts are encouraged.

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FORMAT - You will be asked to choose one of the following presentation formats:

- Student Paper Presentation
- Professional Paper Presentation
- Panel Symposium
- Technique or Tool Demonstration Workshop
- Self-Care Wellness Workshop
- Best Practices Presentation
- Student Poster Presentation
- Professional Poster Presentation
- Virtual Presentation (will not be live, must pre-record, will be included in Book of Abstracts and Conference Program, $50 fee in place of conference registration)

TITLE & ABSTRACT - Next, you will enter the title of your abstract and the proposal abstract text. Your title will be the first thing attendees see. Make it interesting and engaging to encourage attendees to come to your session. The body of the presentation proposal in the abstract text box should not exceed **250 words**. While submitters will have an additional opportunity to elaborate on their session's diverse appeal, we suggest that the initial abstract proposal also be constructed in a way as to appeal to a very diverse audience.

Abstract proposals may be edited by the presenter/author up until the abstract deadline of January 8, 2024. We strongly encourage that abstract text only be pasted into the window AFTER having all of its formatting removed (copy as plain text).

AUTHORS –

For the *first author,* provide the full name, title, affiliation (institution/company/organization), country, location (city and state), secondary e-mail address, and phone number. Due to the recent increase in security by many institutions, e-mails sent from ex ordo may be blocked. It is extremely important that submitting authors and presenters instruct their organizations to add notifications@exordo.com and admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org to their safe sender list so that our emails aren't quarantined. We ask for an alternative e-mail so that we may be able to reach you with important announcements or status updates on your submission if we do not receive a response.

You will be asked to agree to a statement stating you understand the presentation time limits and the registration requirements.

If there are co-authors, information for each author may be added as "additional authors".

Now that the details of all the authors have been added, you can now list the authors as corresponding or presenting authors. You can have more than one presenting author, but only one corresponding author. Simply click the empty box beside each option to decide. You can also add authors that are not presenting but be sure to uncheck presenting author.

Authors can also be re-arranged in their order. This is done by picking up the author's tile and moving it above, or below another author's tile. Alternatively, you can use the Re-Order option on the right-hand side of the page.

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BIOGRAPHY - A personal bio of 250 words or less will be required for all authors.

TOPICS - Ex Ordo requires authors to select at least one topic under the chosen domain. We have chosen not to use topics this year, but you will still be required to "choose" the topics statement to complete your submission.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - Authors will be asked to market the session to a diverse audience, provide three learning objectives, indicate understanding of the commercial interest/conflict of interest policy, share how their session connects with the conference theme, explain how their research is applicable to practice or policy (if applicable), and indicate any requests for special equipment or room set up.

Please send a CV or resume for all presenting authors to Amanda James at admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org. These will be used for continuing education application purposes. Your submission will not be considered complete until all CVs or resumes are received.

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Need Additional Assistance?

There are several useful resources on the SGS website which include specific examples on how a presentation abstract text body proposal looks and what it includes at https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/meeting-abstracts.html.

You can also email Amanda James at admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org or call 866-920-4660 with any questions.

What Happens Next?

We hope to make announcements by late January/early February. You will be given more details of next steps if your abstract is accepted.

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