



# The Gerontological Health Section American Public Health Association 2009 Annual Report

## Chair's Message

As you can see from the GH Section committee reports, it has been an exciting and successful year for our Section. We initiated a new award, are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of our oldest award, and have planned an extensive and wide-ranging scientific program for the 2009 APHA Annual Meeting. For the first time in several years, we saw Section membership increase. Also, the Section added significantly to its Award Endowments and Enrichment Account, with *The Nation's Health* featuring our Section's Scientific Awards Portfolio this past April. Additionally, at least one newsletter article garnered national attention and our policy committee worked to bring the importance of prevention funding to the wider APHA membership. I look forward to continuing to work with you in bringing attention to the health and well being of older adults through GH Section activities. Of course, these activities would not be possible without the strong and ongoing support of our members.

Nancy A. Miller, PhD, GH Section Chair  
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## Committee/other reports

### *Awards Committee*

The Awards Chair for 2008/09 was Daniela Friedman, PhD. The Awards Subcommittee Chairs were: Caryn D. Etkin, PhD and Denys T. Lau, PhD (Retirement Research Foundation [RRF] Doctoral Student Award), Connie Evashwick, ScD (Erickson Foundation Research Award), Allan Goldman, MPH (Archstone Foundation 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 and Bruce Friedman, PhD (Aetna Award for Excellence in Research on Older Women and Public Health), Irena Pesis-Katz, PhD (RRF Masters Student Award), Joseph R. Sharkey, PhD (Aging and Rural Health Award), and Helena Temkin-Greener, PhD (Nobuo Maeda International Research Award). For our nine awards, we had a total of 20 award winners, including honorable mentions. This year we introduced the Erickson Foundation Research Award, established by Erickson Retirement Communities, for research that explores aspects of active, healthy aging, particularly creating healthy communities. The GH Section is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Philip G. Weiler Award for Leadership in Aging and Public Health, with this year's award going to Connie Evashwick, PhD. We awarded the Lifetime Achievement award to Joan Van Nostrand, PhD. The committee welcomes manuscript reviewers for the 2009/10 awards program.

Daniela B. Friedman, PhD, Awards Chair  
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## *Membership Committee*

Committee members for 2008/2009 were Hongdao Meng, Cindy Bryant, Priscilla Ryder, Sarita Bhalotra, Gerald M. Eggert, Keith Elder, Connie Evashwick, Carolyn Mendez-Luck, and Junling Wang. Our main activity last year was initiation of a campaign to work with other committees in contacting new members and following-up with lapsed members. Specifically, we promoted the call for abstracts for the annual research meeting as a way of boosting membership and meeting attendance. The committee sent out letters to new members as well as student members to encourage participation. As of June, 2009 the section had 409 paid primary members and 53 additional secondary members. (Seventy-three new members joined the section between October 2008 and September 2009.) While total membership (462) is slightly up from June 2008 (456), the GH share of APHA total membership remains stable at 1.7%. Next year the committee will recruit new committee volunteers and work with APHA's Committee on Membership to explore new approaches to membership recruitment, such as organizing new member networking events at the conference, enhancing the value of the membership, and personal phone calls to new and departing members. In the current economic environment, we believe membership recruitment and retention will remain challenging and will be subject to macro economic conditions.

Hongdao Meng, Ph.D., Membership Chair  
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## *2008-2009 GH Section Program Committee*

The 2008-2009 Program Committee began with Ashley Love as the primary Chair and PJ Desai as co-chair, with Jan Warren-Findlow as Chair Emeritus. Ashley needed to step down for personal reasons, and Nancy Miller and PJ completed the Program, with Jan and Rachel Seymour filling in as needed.

For the 2009 meeting there are nine poster sessions scheduled, one round table, and 15 oral sessions, with four being organized symposia. Session topics cover a diverse range of issues related to older adults, including Health Promotion and Prevention among Older Adults; Clinical Outcomes and Quality of Life; Environment and Aging: Building Lifelong Communities; Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Aging; Nursing Home Care and Utilization; and Rural Aging Issues, among others. About 12-15 abstracts that were accepted have subsequently been withdrawn, many due to funding and illness issues.

The Committee welcomes abstract reviewers for the coming year. Also, we are looking for another person to serve on the Program Committee and welcome inquiries.

PJ Desai, PhD, Program Co-Chair  
Jan Warren-Findlow, PhD, Program Chair Emeritus  
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## Fundraising

This has been a very successful year for the GH Section's fundraising endeavors. In spite of the poor economy, more than 15 donors have contributed over \$10,000 to our Award Endowments and to our Section Enrichment Account. While major universities are reporting record declines in their funds, our endowment has been steadily increasing for the past 15 years. This is due to the generosity of our many donors as well as the conservative investment practices of APHA. Our Section, under the leadership of Nancy Miller, has trimmed our Award payouts and other Section expenses to meet the challenging fiscal times we face in 2009 and beyond. Only through the continuing generosity of our many donors will the GH Section continue to lead all APHA Sections in recognizing Scholarship, Research and Leadership. Many thanks to our very generous donors for their foresight and good judgment in selecting our GH Section for their scarce charitable dollars.

Gerald M. Eggert, PhD, Development Chair  
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## Newsletter

There were three newsletters in the past year. At least one of our newsletter entries was picked up by an advocacy organization and disseminated nationally. The newsletter stresses recent grants and awards, reports from conferences, employment opportunities, and related issues. We are developing subeditor roles and special theme issues. We welcome your news items.

Steven Albert, PhD, Newsletter Editor  
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## GH Section Budget

Thanks to the generosity of our members, the GH Section is in good financial shape, as reflected by the below balance sheet. Only the Section Chair approves expenditures and recommends their payment to APHA's chief financial officer. Permanently restricted funds represent the core endowments and are invested by APHA (with an 18 month return of 1.49%). Only temporarily restricted funds can be used to pay for awards and for expenses.

### Gerontological Health (GH) Special funds analysis

As of: 9/30/2009

	328017 Section	328063 Enrichmt A/M	390019 New Inves Zimmer	390020 Internatl Research Nuobo	390022 Innovative Program Archstone	390023 PG Weller Ldrshp Awd (fmrly Key Pharm)	390024 Student Retiremt Research	390026 Minority Cleckley Award	390027 Older Women Actna	390029 Rural Health	390032 2008 Student Retiremt Research	390034 Erickson RHA	TOTAL ALL GH FUNDS
<b>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</b>													
Temp Restricted		-	11,237	7,696	5,441	492	39	10,376	10,919	5,782	3,500	10,030	65,513
Perm Restricted		11,071	30,489	23,799	50,000	13,098	17,571	40,252	55,242	15,760			257,280
Adj in process		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,071</b>	<b>41,726</b>	<b>31,495</b>	<b>55,441</b>	<b>13,589</b>	<b>17,610</b>	<b>50,628</b>	<b>66,161</b>	<b>21,542</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>322,793</b>
<b>FY YTD Activity</b>													
Revenue/Grant	1,963							-					1,963
Revenue - Interest based on CD interest payment			96	75	158	41	56	127	175	48			777
Expense		50											50
<b>Net Activity</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,690</b>
<b>Fund Balance End of Year</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>11,021</b>	<b>41,822</b>	<b>31,570</b>	<b>55,599</b>	<b>13,631</b>	<b>17,665</b>	<b>50,755</b>	<b>66,336</b>	<b>21,591</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>325,483</b>

#### Note:

\* 2009-10 Budget 1,963

The operating account may be over stated because we are still in the process of closing the month of September.

390032 - New 10 years student research award from The retirement Research Foundation at \$6,000 per year starting November 2008.

According to the award, any grant funds not expended or committed for the purpose of the grant, or within the period stated above, will be returned to the foundation.

## Policy Committee

Committee members for 2008/2009 consisted of various section members who provided background materials and/or drafts of GH Section focused policy. Our main activity last year was the drafting and submission of a policy statement to APHA on increased funding for prevention. We also supported other Sections' policy initiatives that touched on GH Section issues. Additionally, in conjunction with APHA's request for review of policies for potential archiving, we reviewed the policies related to aging. Throughout the year section members were invited to make use of APHA's automated policy advocacy mechanism known as Convio (formerly known as Capwiz) which is located at <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/>. Next year the committee will continue to support APHA's efforts to advocate for a public option in the ongoing healthcare reform debate as the development of legislation on this topic continues. As always, this committee is in need of members and everyone in the section is welcome to participate and, in particular, to draft aging related policy promoting healthy and active aging for which APHA can advocate!

Karen E. Peters, DrPH, Policy Chair  
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## Nominating

We had an excellent slate of candidates this year! Thanks to those of you who agreed to place your name on the ballot. Elected were: Lené Levy-Storms, PhD, MPH (Chair-Elect), Caryn D. Etkin, PhD, MPH (Secretary), Charles Mouton, MD (Governing Council), and Patricia Alt, PhD, MA and Allan Goldman, MPH (Section Councilors).

Susan C. Miller, PhD, GH Section Chair Elect  
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