

# Building Bridges:

## *Collaborations and Communities in Aging*



## 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 Dinner Table of the South"



- Upbeat, thriving music scene
- Ground zero for the Civil Rights Movement
- World-class golf courses and sporting venues



**There is something for everyone in Greater Birmingham!**

**ABSTRACT DEADLINE IS JANUARY 10, 2025**

## **LODGING/CONFERENCE VENUE**

Experience the best of Birmingham at Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, ideally located in the heart of uptown, the hotel is within walking distance of popular attractions such as the Birmingham Zoo and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

2101 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd N,  
Birmingham, AL 35203

Single/Double occupancy rooms: \$185.00 a night\*

Triple/Quad occupancy rooms: \$205.00 a night\*

Parking Information - Self-Parking \$29 Daily, Valet \$39 Daily, Oversized \$45 Daily.

*\*Hotel's room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 17.5% plus \$3.00 per room night fee) in effect at the time of check-out.*

You can make your room reservations at <https://book.passkey.com/go/SouthernGerontologicalSociety>.

A select number of government-rate rooms are available. Please contact Amanda James at [admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org](mailto:admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org) for more information.

**The discounted rate is available until March 20, 2025, or until room block is sold out, whichever comes first.**

All SGS Annual Meeting & Conference events will take place in the East wing of the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex. The complex is connected via skywalk to the Sheraton Birmingham. The complex is also accessible via the public street. For those not staying at the conference hotel, there are several BJCC parking options available. Learn more about BJCC parking [here](#).

2100 Richard Arrington Jr Blvd N, Birmingham, AL 35203

## An Invitation from the SGS President



The Southern Gerontological Society's 46<sup>th</sup> annual regional aging conference will be held in the historic city of Birmingham, Alabama. Our theme is ***“Building Bridges: Collaborations and Communities in Aging.”*** As President of the Southern Gerontological Society, I would like to extend an invitation for you to attend and contribute to our meeting being held on April 3-6, 2025.

Known for its welcoming and friendly atmosphere, Birmingham exemplifies Southern hospitality. Conference-goers can expect a warm reception from locals, great food, and a generally positive environment for both learning and networking.

Birmingham is a city with a significant history, especially in relation to the Civil Rights Movement. Visiting Birmingham for a conference gives you the chance to explore historical landmarks such as the **Civil Rights Institute**, **16th Street Baptist Church**, and **Kelly Ingram Park**, offering valuable context and understanding of social justice and history.

The focus of our 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference, ***“Building Bridges: Collaborations and Communities in Aging”*** starts by “bridging” with the University of Alabama Birmingham’s Minority Health & Health Equity Research Center’s longstanding UAB Health Equity Research Symposium. In place of providing pre-conference intensives, we invite you to register and attend this symposium on Thursday, April 3, 2025. We will have an exciting joint event that evening which will serve to “bridge” our two events as a “community collaboration” for clinicians and researchers.

Starting Friday, April 4, 2025; ***“Building Bridges: Collaborations and Communities in Aging”*** will open with topics that explore the different types of aging communities and the key themes surrounding them through podium and poster presentations.

Connecting communities with older adults is crucial for several reasons, as it fosters mutual benefit, strengthens societal bonds, and addresses critical challenges that both groups face. The conference presentations will address many of these challenges such as 1) combating loneliness and isolation; 2) intergenerational learning; 3) building stronger social relationships; 4) promoting health and well-being and 5) addressing ageism and misconceptions.

We are organizing the conference into **five** domains to drive session creation in ways that ensure that researchers, practitioners, clinicians, policy advocates, and older adult consumers create linkages in terms of networks, sharing ideas to forward the agenda of connecting communities and improving older adult quality of life. The DOMAINS are (1) Age-related Health and Wellness, (2) Diversity Topics in Aging Communities, (3) Caregiving, Care Support, and Care Partnerships, (4) Gerontological Education and Professional Development, and (5) Advocacy for or by Older Adults. We hope you will join us and share your important work at the Birmingham, AL 2025 meeting.

Sincerely,  
Ethlyn McQueen-Gibson, DNP, MSN, RN-BC  
President, SGS (2024-2026)

# 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 10, 2025.**

## 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 one day registrations. 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, illness, 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 (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.

- 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.
- Workshops/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 will be equipped with the appropriate means of adhering the poster to its surface (tacks or clips). We do not require a specific format for your poster.




## 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://sgs2025.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. If you already have an Ex Ordo account, you do not need to set up a new one.

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<p><b>NEW TO EX ORDO?</b></p> <p><b>Email Address</b></p> <input type="text" value="albert.einstein@example.com"/> <p><b>First Name</b></p> <input type="text" value="Albert"/> <p><b>Last Name</b></p> <input type="text" value="Einstein"/> <p><b>Password</b></p> <input type="password" value="*****"/> <p><b>Create Account</b> →</p>	OR	<p><b>LOGGED IN PREVIOUSLY?</b></p> <p><b>Email Address</b></p> <input type="text" value="marie.curie@example.com"/> <p><b>Password</b></p> <input type="password" value="*****"/> <p><b>Login</b> →</p> <p><a href="#">Forgot your password?</a></p>
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Once you are logged in, you will see an announcement with a link to submit your abstract.

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### SUBMIT ABSTRACT

**97 days**  
until submissions close

The submissions deadline is 23:59 on 10 January 2025 CST. 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 Abstract** →



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

**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 include physical, mental and spiritual health, meaningful activity, prevention, social engagement, happiness, and enjoyment/pleasure. This domain welcomes submissions that address research, best practices in community and medical/clinical settings, policy agendas/commentaries and local examples of community programming on topics such as, but not exclusively limited to, chronic illness, oral health, dementia, social isolation and loneliness, social determinants of health, sleep, mental health, drug misuse/dependence, and the power of place.

**Domain 2: Diversity Topics in Aging Communities** - Inequality across social groups and identities (e.g. race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, immigrant status) have implications for older adults in almost all aspects of their lives. This domain seeks to celebrate the diversity of older adults while recognizing the challenges that differences can bring. This domain welcomes submissions that address research, best practices in community and medical/clinical settings, policy agendas/commentaries, and local examples that address fair treatment and opportunity as well as the systems, structures, and processes that impede equity and inclusiveness for all older adults with a special focus on the influence of place, specifically region, and the legacy of history and social institutions on older adults in our communities.

**Domain 3: Caregiving, Care Support, and Care Partnerships** - Over a lifetime, everyone will need care, and most will provide it to others. This domain welcomes all submissions related or pertaining to topics which may include, but are not limited to, caregiving (formal or informal), caregiver self-care, veteran's care, respite services, intergenerational partnerships, therapeutic arts, supportive technology (i.e., tele-health, smart-homes, assistive devices), and other creative programming.

**Domain 4: Gerontological Education and Professional Development** - We emphasize the importance of continual learning for students and professionals interested in a multiplicity of careers that benefit from gerontological expertise or directly address the needs and preferences of older adults. This domain will provide insight into 1. pedagogical strategies that engage students and integrate gerontology into the classroom, 2. bridging the gap between education and practice, 3. showcasing scholarship of teaching and learning, or 4. supporting students and professionals seeking to enhance or accelerate their skill sets.

**Domain 5: 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, elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, state aging plans, or grassroots efforts are encouraged.

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

- Student Paper Presentation
- Professional Paper Presentation
- Panel Symposium
- Workshop/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 10, 2025. 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](mailto:notifications@exordo.com) and [admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org](mailto: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.



<p>1. Author Name <i>Ex Ordo</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Corresponding Author</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Presenting Author</i></p>	<p> Re-order</p> <p> Edit Author</p> <p> Remove</p>
<p>2. Ex Ordo Support Team <i>Ex Ordo</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Corresponding Author</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Presenting Author</i></p>	<p> Re-order</p> <p> Edit Author</p> <p> Remove</p>
<p>3. Add a Third Author</p>	

**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.**

**BIOGRAPHY** - A personal bio of 250 words or less will be required for all presenting 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. On some computer settings, the check box is hard to see. Please try clicking next to the statement if you do not see the box.

**TOPICS** 1 Topics

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Ex Ordo requires authors to select a topic in order to submit an abstract. We have chosen not to utilize topics this year. In order to complete the submission, please check this box to bypass the topics requirement.

**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](mailto: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.**

### **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](mailto:admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org) or call 866-920-4660 with any questions.

### **What Happens Next?**

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

## **UAB Health Equity Research Symposium Call for Abstracts**

This year, SGS is partnering with the University of Alabama Birmingham's Minority Health & Health Equity Research Center. Their UAB Health Equity Research Symposium will be held on April 3, 2025. We invite all our attendees to take advantage of the opportunity to attend this event while traveling to Birmingham for our Annual Meeting & Conference. In addition, we encourage you to consider submitting your abstract to present at both events. To learn more, visit: <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/mherc/news-events/research-symposium>.