

47TH ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE



**SOUTHERN
GERONTOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**
Bridging Aging Research & Practice

**APRIL 9 – 12, 2026
DALLAS, TEXAS**



NAVIGATING PATHWAYS TO RESILIENT AGING:

Innovation in Community,
Academia, Health Care,
and Advocacy

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ABOUT SGS

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 a bridge between research and practice, translating and applying knowledge in the field of aging.

ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

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.

ABOUT THE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

This event will bring together scholars, practitioners, students, and community partners to explore pathways to resilient aging. We welcome submissions on original research (including community engaged research), community programs/services, public policy, and research/practice/policy collaborations. Our submission software is developed for academic conferences; however, we welcome and encourage submissions from our community partners. If you have any questions about how to complete your abstract submission, please reach out to our Executive Director at admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org. You do not have to be a member of SGS to submit an abstract.

LODGING/CONFERENCE VENUE

Located in downtown next to the iconic Dallas landmark, Reunion Tower, **Hyatt Regency Dallas** is a gateway to the best of the city. Live, work and unwind in ultimate comfort at our inviting hotel, located near the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, American Airlines Center, and within walking distance of tourist attractions like Dealey Plaza and the Historic West End.

300 Reunion Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75207

<https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-regency/en-US/dfwrd-hyatt-regency-dallas>

Single/Double occupancy rooms: \$199.00 a night*

Triple occupancy rooms: \$224 a night*

Quad occupancy rooms: \$249.00 a night*

Parking Information - Self-Parking \$12 per car per night for rooms booked in the SGS Block.

**Hotel room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes in effect at the time of check-out.*

You can make your room reservations at <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/DFWRD/G-SG26>. The room rate is available for three days before and after the conference for those that want to extend their stays and enjoy everything Dallas has to offer!

The discounted rate is available until March 18, 2026, or until room block is sold out, whichever comes first.



An Invitation from the SGS President



The Southern Gerontological Society's 47th Annual Meeting & Conference will be held in the historic city of Dallas, Texas. Our theme is **Navigating Pathways to Resilient Aging: Innovation in Community, Academia, Health Care and Advocacy**. 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 9-12, 2026.

Known for its dynamic blend of modern urban energy, rich history, and diverse culture, conference-goers can expect a warm reception from locals, great food, and a generally positive environment for both learning and networking.

Dallas embodies a mix of Southern hospitality and modern ambition. It's often described as bold, business-minded, and ever-growing, with a growing emphasis on diversity, innovation, and urban revitalization. Iconic and instantly recognizable, featuring landmarks like Reunion Tower, Bank of America Plaza, and Fountain Place.

SGS is proud to partner with the Dallas Public Library and Vivid-Pix to host Better Together: A Wellness Gathering, a half day educational event for older adults and the community on April 9th. Our Annual Meeting & Conference will officially kick off at 2:00 PM where I will welcome attendees with a President's Opening, followed by the first of many informative and exciting concurrent sessions and ending with the first of two Poster Sessions.

On Friday, April 10th, we will continue to learn from one another during concurrent sessions as well as a dynamic keynote lunch and our second Poster Session. We will also enjoy networking with one another during our traditional Dine Arounds. On Saturday, April 11th, we will highlight the work of SGS during our Annual Meeting Breakfast and the work of deserving colleagues and organizations during our Awards lunch. We will end our conference on Sunday, April 12th with a fun and interactive closing session.

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.

Like previous years, we are organizing the conference into five domains. We organized themes to drive session creation in ways that ensure that researchers, practitioners, 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 Dallas, TX meeting.

Sincerely,

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

Abstract Instructions & Information

Please be sure to review this document for important instructions and information you will need to complete your abstract submission. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Executive Director at admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org.

The SGS Research Priorities Survey helps inform our conference topics. This survey is disseminated every three years to assess the most pressing aging issues in the Southern region of the United States. The following topics were ranked as the highest priorities in 2024: affordable housing, loneliness, cognitive impairment/dementia, funding for aging programs, personal assistive technologies, aging in place, social isolation, poverty and income inequality, transportation, long-term services and supports (LTSS), and aging services workforce. While abstracts are not required to include one of these topics, special consideration will be provided to abstracts that address one or more of these topics. More information is available in the executive summary and full report for the SGS Priorities Survey 3.0 at <https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/publications-reports.html>.

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

The deadline for abstract submissions is 11:59 PM CT on January 12, 2026.

Please note that questions sent after hours on January 12, 2026 (abstract deadline) may not be seen until the following day. To avoid missing the submission deadline, please plan to submit your abstract in advance to provide time to deal with any technical difficulties or questions.

REQUIRED REGISTRATION

- All presenters are required to register for the SGS Annual Meeting & Conference.
- 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. Please visit the [SGS conference website](#) for registration rates and information.
- At least one presenter must plan to be in-person and registered. If additional presenters plan to present virtually, they are not required to register as long as the in-person presenter is registered. We will not offer 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 presentation. Internet access will be available in all rooms.
- If you prefer to present virtually, you can use our virtual presentation option. Virtual presentations will not be live. Presenters will submit pre-recorded sessions (30 minutes or less) that will be available to conference attendees. Virtual abstracts will be included in the Conference Program and the Book of Abstracts. Virtual presenters are required to register for our virtual registration access.

DOMAINS

As part of your abstract submission, you will be asked to choose topics related to your abstract. For purposes of our abstract submission process, these topics refer to our conference domains described below. We recognize that many submissions can be categorized under more than one conference domain. Please feel free to choose all relevant domains as topics for your submission. We encourage abstracts that demonstrate collaboration across these domains and will prioritize submissions that can demonstrate work in at least two domains. You will be asked to elaborate on how your abstract fits into the domains below.

- ***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, funding for aging programs, and/or grassroots efforts are encouraged.

PRESENTATION LOGISTICS

Our Annual Meeting & Conference is comprised of the following session types:

- **Panel Symposium:** Panel Symposia will last 90 minutes and can include up to five presenters organized by the abstract author. All panel members must be listed at the time of the abstract submission. This format is a good option for both research, practice, and policy based abstracts. *A panel symposium includes multiple experts or presenters sharing their specialized knowledge on a common theme or topic to an audience, often with opportunities for audience questions and engagement.*
- **Workshops/Presentations:** Workshops/Presentations will last 60 minutes. This format is best for abstracts that will only have one or two presenters. While this format can be used for those that are submitting work based on research, this format is a great fit for abstracts focused on community services/programs and public policy discussions. *A workshop is an interactive, collaborative learning experience where participants actively "do" and create, while a presentation is a one-way delivery of information to inform, inspire, persuade, or entertain an audience.*
- **Poster:** We will provide two poster sessions. These sessions will 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. Double-sided poster board displays 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. *Submissions appropriate for a poster session typically feature concise, visually driven research or academic projects. Unlike an oral presentation that relies heavily on a verbal narrative, a poster should be easily understood through its graphics, with the presenter on hand to elaborate and discuss the work with attendees in an interactive format.*
- **Paper:** An accepted paper submission will be combined with other paper submissions that share a similar theme. Paper sessions may be 60 or 90 minutes, with each paper receiving 15 – 25 minutes to present, depending on the number of papers in that session. *An academic paper presentation is a formal, oral delivery of research findings, ideas, or a written paper.*

To accommodate a greater number of abstracts and provide attendees with more focused session options, we will be prioritizing poster submissions over individual paper presentations. Poster presentations, panel symposiums, and workshops will have a higher acceptance rate compared to standalone paper submissions. If you plan to present a paper, we encourage you to collaborate with others working on related topics and consider submitting your abstracts together as a panel symposium.

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 keep presentations within their allotted time.

Simple Online Submission

Please read through these instructions and ensure you have all the information needed before beginning your submission. Submission online is quick and easy. This process will start at the Ex Ordo submission portal - <https://sgs2026.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 and edit their proposals anytime. If you already have an Ex Ordo account, you do not need to set up a new one.

NEW TO EX ORDO?

Email Address

First Name

Last Name

Password

Create Account →

OR

LOGGED IN PREVIOUSLY?

Email Address

Password

Login →

[Forgot your password?](#)



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

SUBMIT ABSTRACT

118 days
until submissions close

The submissions deadline is 23:59 on 12 January 2026
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.

FORMAT - You will be asked to choose one of the following presentation formats. Please review more detailed information about our format types under Presentation Logistics on Page 6 of this document.

- Student Paper Presentation
- Professional Paper Presentation
- Panel Symposium
- Workshop/Presentation
- Student Poster Presentation
- Professional Poster Presentation
- Virtual Presentation

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 12, 2026. 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 submissions that are not based on research, please think of “authors” as “presenters”. 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. The corresponding author will receive the majority of the conference communication and will share that information with their co-presenters. 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 any 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. Authors will be listed in the conference program in the order they are listed; however, authors from the same organization will be grouped together due to space limitations.

1.	Author Name <i>Ex Ordo</i>	☒ Corresponding Author ☒ Presenting Author	☒ Re-order ☒ Edit Author ☒ Remove
2.	Ex Ordo Support Team <i>Ex Ordo</i>	☒ Corresponding Author ☒ Presenting Author	☒ Re-order ☒ Edit Author ☒ Remove
3.	Add a Third Author		

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 – For purposes of our abstract submission process, topics refer to our conference domains described on page 5 of this document. Please select the appropriate domain(s).

Topics

Please choose your topics from the list below.

TOPICS	5 Topics
☐ Age-related Health and Wellness	
☐ Diversity Topics in Aging Communities	
☐ Caregiving, Care Support, and Care Partnerships	
☐ Gerontological Education and Professional Development	
☐ Advocacy for or by Older Adults	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION –

- **Market your session to SGS's diverse audience of attendees** - Please provide the description that will be used in the conference program. Please remember that the SGS conference is designed to bridge gaps between academics, practitioners, students, older adults, and community partners. Writing your session description in a way that welcomes a diverse audience is a great way to draw more attendees to your session. Please use complete sentences and no bullets. This can be the same as your abstract.
- **Learning Objectives** - For the purposes of continuing education accreditation, please indicate three specific learning objectives that we can associate with your session. These objectives will be included in the Conference Program and will be paired with post-presentation questions about these sessions on the event conference app. All submissions must have at three learning outcomes listed in order to be accepted for this conference. *If less than three are provided, your submission will not be reviewed. If more than three are provided, the first three will be used. Please list in the following format. 1. Attendees will be able to..... 2. Attendees will be able to... 3. Attendees will be able to ...*
- **Conference Theme/Domains Connection** - How does your abstract with this year's theme? This is not a requirement but preference will be given to sessions that can tie into the conference theme. How does your abstract align with the conference domain(s) you selected under topics?
- **Applied Research** - If you are presenting research, please provide a brief statement on how this research can be applied to practice and/or policy.
- **Commercial Interest/Conflict of Interest Disclaimer** - It is mandatory for all conference participants to include in their presentation a statement either to disclose any potential or direct conflict of interest, or, alternatively, to state that they have no conflict of interest. All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. *Please note that when applying for continuing education, we may be asked to have presenters complete additional disclaimers related to conflict of interests.*
- **Special Equipment/Room Set Up Requests** - The session rooms will all be equipped with a laptop computer, mouse, USB hub, projector and a projection screen. Each room setup will be configured to maximize room seating. Please use this space to inform the program committee about any additional requests for special equipment, room configurations, or accessibility items such as a microphone, ability to play sound, etc. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to accommodate all requests. Only requests made during the abstract submission process will be considered.

Click *Done Save Submission* to submit your abstract!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

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