



48th Annual Meeting & Conference

April 1 - 4, 2027

New Orleans, Louisiana

Integrating Approaches for Aging Well Together

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, community partners, and community members to examine innovative approaches, emerging ideas, and collaborative strategies for aging well together. 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. **You do not have to be a member of SGS to submit an abstract.**

LODGING/CONFERENCE VENUE

The **InterContinental New Orleans** provides a welcoming environment to connect, collaborate, and recharge throughout the conference. Conveniently situated in downtown New Orleans, the hotel places attendees just moments from the French Quarter, the city's renowned culinary scene, and many of the attractions that make New Orleans one of America's most distinctive destinations.

444 St. Charles Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70130

<https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/us/en/new-orleans/msyha/hoteldetail>

Single/Double occupancy rooms: \$209.00 a night*

\$30 each additional person over double occupancy, per room, per night

** The Guest Room Rates are quoted exclusive of applicable taxes, applicable service fees, and/or Hotel-specific fees in effect at the time of the Event, which are currently 17.5% and \$2.00 occupancy tax, and subject to change.*

Valet parking is available at the InterContinental New Orleans for overnight guests (currently \$59.60/night, including tax, with in-and-out privileges). Attendees seeking a more economical option will find several covered self-parking garages within a short walk of the hotel, with many offering daily and overnight parking. We recommend reserving parking in advance through a parking app such as [New Orleans Parking](#), [SpotHero](#), or [ParkWhiz](#) for the best rates. St. Charles Garage is adjacent to the InterContinental New Orleans.

You can make your room reservations at <https://book.passkey.com/e/51290662>. You may also book by calling Central Reservations at 1-888-424-6835. You will need to provide the block code QT9 to ensure their reservation is booked within the group block. The room rate is available for three days before and after the conference (subject to availability) for those that want to extend their stays and enjoy everything New Orleans has to offer! **The discounted rate is available until March 8, 2027, or until room block is sold out, whichever comes first.**

An easy way to support the conference is by booking your stay at the official conference hotel. Booking within our room block helps us meet the room commitment in our hotel contract, which helps us keep conference costs affordable for future attendees. Thank you for your support!

An Invitation from the SGS President



The Southern Gerontological Society's 48th Annual Meeting & Conference will be held in the vibrant and historic city of New Orleans, Louisiana, April 1–4, 2027. The last time SGS held a conference in New Orleans was in 1987. It is time for us to return and enjoy the culture of the city and its inviting and fun environment. Bring your ideas, energy, and expertise to the meeting! The theme for the conference is ***Integrating Approaches for Aging Well Together***.

SGS members represent professionals and students from a vast number of disciplines who are dedicated to improving the quality of life of older adults and their families. Together, we provide holistic and comprehensive approaches that make the greatest impact on the lives of older adults. I welcome you to submit abstracts related to our five conference domains, including work that highlights the strength of interdisciplinary practice and science.

We are especially excited to meet and network with colleagues in Louisiana and learn more about the impactful work being implemented in the region.

Laissez les bons temps rouler! I look forward to seeing you in the Crescent City.

Sincerely,

Abby Schwartz, PhD, MSW, MGS
SGS President (2026–2028)



Abstract Instructions & Information

Review this document for important instructions and information you will need to complete your abstract submission. If you have questions, please contact the Executive Director at admin@southerngerontologicalsociety.org.

The SGS Research Priorities Survey conducted every three years helps inform our conference topics. The survey assesses 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. Abstracts are not required to include one of these topics, however, special consideration will be given to those addressing one or more topics. More information about the SGS Priorities Survey 3.0 is available at <https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/publications-reports.html>.

The deadline for abstract submissions is 11:59 PM CT on November 13, 2026.

REQUIRED REGISTRATION

- **Presenters are required to register for the SGS Annual Meeting & Conference and must do so by January 31, 2027.** If you have not registered by the deadline, your abstract will be considered withdrawn and removed from the conference agenda.
- We recognize that some presenters may be affiliated with organizations that require extended processing times for travel approvals or registration. If you are unable to complete your registration by January 31st due to your institution's approval process, please contact the SGS office before the registration deadline. We are happy to work with you on a case-by-case basis when advance communication is received.
- This conference includes numerous registration options, including one-day registrations. Conference rates are 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. Sessions will not be offered as fully virtual unless approved due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e., family emergency, illness, etc.). In these cases, the in-person presenter will be responsible for setting up a virtual platform (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, WebEx, etc.) to stream the presentation. Internet access will be available in all rooms.
- If you prefer to present virtually, you can use our virtual presentation option. 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. These topics refer to our conference domains described below. 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

The SGS Annual Meeting & Conference offers four presentation formats. Please review the descriptions below and select the format that best aligns with your content, presentation goals, and availability.

- **Presentation:** Presentation sessions are 60-minute sessions organized and led by the submitting author(s). These sessions may include workshops, panel discussions, educational programs, practice innovations, policy discussions, or research topics that warrant a full hour of content and audience engagement. The submitting author serves as the session organizer and primary contact. Presentations may include multiple presenters; however, we recommend no more than three presenters to allow adequate time for audience participation and discussion. All presenters and panelists must be identified at the time of abstract submission.
- **Poster:** Poster presentations will be featured during two dedicated poster sessions lasting approximately 1.5–2 hours. Presenters are expected to be available during their assigned session to discuss their work and answer questions as attendees circulate throughout the poster area. Poster presentations are ideal for concise, visually engaging research, evaluation, educational, or practice projects. Unlike an oral presentation, a poster is designed to communicate key findings through graphics and text while allowing for informal, one-on-one discussion with attendees.
- **Paper:** Paper presentations are individual scholarly presentations that will be grouped by the Program Committee into themed paper sessions. Authors submit a single paper, and accepted papers are combined with other presentations on related topics. Each 60-minute paper session will include three papers. Presenters will have approximately 15 minutes to present their work, followed by audience discussion and questions. This format is intended for the presentation of a single research study, scholarly project, evaluation, or academic paper.
- **Virtual:** Virtual presentations are pre-recorded and made available on demand to conference attendees. Presenters are not required to present live or be available during the conference. To encourage attendee engagement and maximize viewing, we recommend that recordings be 30 minutes or less. Virtual presentations are appropriate for research, practice, education, community programs, and public policy topics. This format is ideal for individuals who are unable to attend the conference in person or who wish to share their work with a broader audience through an on-demand presentation. Presenters are responsible for recording and submitting their presentation by the published deadline. Additional recording specifications and submission instructions will be provided upon acceptance.

The Program Committee reserves the right to recommend an alternate presentation format when it will enhance the overall conference program or attendee experience.

Room Set Up - Presentation rooms will be equipped with a Windows-based laptop computer, a USB connection device, a projector, and A/V support equipment. The conference venue has 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 room monitor to introduce the presenters, get assistance for any technical issues, 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. This process will start at the Ex Ordo portal - <https://sgs2027.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.

<u>NEW TO EX ORDO?</u>	<u>LOGGED IN PREVIOUSLY?</u>
Email Address albert.einstein@example.com	Email Address marie.curie@example.com
First Name Albert	Password *****
Last Name Einstein	OR
Password *****	Login → Forgot your password?
Create Account →	

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

SUBMIT ABSTRACT

103 days
until submissions close

The submissions deadline is 23:59 on 13 November 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.



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.

- Student Paper Presentation (*When the primary presenter is a student.*)
- Professional Paper Presentation
- Presentation
- Student Poster Presentation (*When the primary presenter is a student.*)
- 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. 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 attract a diverse audience.

Abstract proposals may be edited by the presenter/author up until the abstract deadline of November 13, 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 most 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. The SGS conference is designed to bridge gaps between academics, practitioners, students, older adults, community partners, and community members. 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 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 align 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.
- **Special Equipment Requests** - The session rooms will all be equipped with a laptop computer, mouse, USB hub, projector and a projection screen. Room setup will be configured to maximize room seating. We are unable to change the room set up. Please use this space to inform the program committee about any additional requests for special equipment 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.
- **CE Conflict of Interest** - In the past 24 months have any presenting authors had a financial relationship with any ineligible company (An ineligible company is any entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients)? If no, type no. If yes, provide a description of the relationship and if it has ended or is still going. If you are unsure if a company is ineligible, go ahead and disclose it and our accreditor will determine if it needs to be disclosed. Please note which author has the relationship.
- **Availability** - Please note any days/times during the conference when you are unavailable to present. The conference will take place Thursday, April 1st through Sunday, April 4th.

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.