

## SESSION 5075 (SYMPOSIUM)

### STEERING AN AGE-FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY (AFU) INITIATIVE: INSIGHTS FROM DIRECTORS OF AGING CENTERS

Chair: Joann Montepare

Co-Chair: Kimberly Farah

The pioneering Age-Friendly University (AFU) initiative, endorsed in 2016 by GSA's Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE), calls for institutions of higher education to respond to shifting demographics and the needs of our aging populations through more age-friendly programs, practices, and partnerships. Over 65 institutions have joined the AFU network and adopted the 10 AFU guiding principles. This symposium will feature leaders at AFU campuses representing centers on aging and gerontology programs who will discuss why their institution joined the initiative, their age-friendly campus vision, and their recommendations for mounting an AFU initiative. AFU Director Charness (Florida State University) will describe launching an AFU initiative from the perspective of a state university, with a focus on critical discussion points, the concerns of upper administration, and the timeline for completion of the process. AFU Director Porter (University of Manitoba) will discuss how the Centre on Aging has been using its mandate as a research centre to advance the age-friendly movement through research, knowledge mobilization, training, and partnership initiatives. AFU Director Schumacher (University of Maryland Baltimore County) will talk about how the AFU framework has served as a platform for new and constructive synergies among gerontology programs, centers on aging, health systems, and higher education. AFU Director Gugliucci (University of New England) will discuss strategies for leading health professions education programs within an AFU framework, with special attention to AGHE resources available to support these efforts. Directors of Aging Centers Interest Group Sponsored Symposium.

### A STATE UNIVERSITY PERSPECTIVE ON BECOMING AN AGE-FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY

Neil Charness, *Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, United States*

I describe the process of FSU becoming an Age-Friendly University (AFU). After hearing a presentation on AFU at the Age Directors meeting at GSA by Joann Montepare in November 2016, I judged that many of the ten principles of an AFU were already in operation at FSU. So, I decided to confer in December with VP for Faculty Development and Advancement, Janet Kistner, about how to move the AFU application process forward. I generated a draft document and circulated it to major units dealing with aging on campus: the Institute for Successful Longevity, the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy, and the Pepper Center. Eventually, a one-page version of the longer document was introduced at an FSU Cabinet meeting and approved in April 2017. I detail some of the critical discussion points, the concerns of upper administration, and the timeline for completion of the process at FSU. Part of a symposium sponsored by Directors of Aging Centers Interest Group.

### LEADING AGE-FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES AT A RESEARCH INTENSIVE UNIVERSITY IN MANITOBA, CANADA

Michelle Porter, *University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*

When Dublin City University introduced the Age-Friendly University (AFU) principles in 2012, the Centre on Aging at the University of Manitoba had been fully immersed in age-friendly cities research, so it was a natural for it to champion the University becoming more age-friendly. As a university-wide research centre, at a research intensive university, the Centre on Aging has built on its strengths to advance the AFU movement. Related to its goals on research, knowledge mobilization, training, and partnerships, it has been able to work with its many Research Affiliates, students and community/university partners to tackle new AFU initiatives. Recent activities have included: an awareness raising workshop/showcase, discussions with Research Affiliates about potential new degree course offerings, an environmental scan of post-secondary inter-generational possibilities, a home-sharing project, workshop development on older learners in the classroom, and provincial community workshops and consultations on communicating about aging and healthy aging. Part of a symposium sponsored by Directors of Aging Centers Interest Group.

### THE AGE-FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY UMBRELLA: NEW SYNERGIES FOR GERONTOLOGY PROGRAMS, AGING CENTERS, AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

John Schumacher, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Baltimore, Maryland, United States*

Higher education has a tentative relationship with gerontology programs and research centers. Despite demographic shifts, academic gerontology serves a modest student body and attracts limited research/scholarly interest. Our new Age Friendly University (AFU) designation served to motivate our university leaders and faculty to re-imagine how aging issues are fundamental to our mission framed by: 1) Interdisciplinarity; 2) Intergenerational relations; and 3) Inclusiveness of the life course. Additionally, the AFU initiative energized the relationships among our health professions schools, academic departments, and research center to collaborate on grant opportunities. Our AFU also started collaborating with a local health system seeking Age Friendly Health System status. Finally, our AFU designation raised visibility with our three local county governments who had just received Age Friendly Community status. Our AFU efforts have served as an inclusive umbrella to attract new, interested partners in our shared effort to improve the lives of older adults. Part of a symposium sponsored by Directors of Aging Centers Interest Group.

### AGE-FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE APPLIED TO HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Marilyn Gugliucci, *University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, Biddeford, Maine, United States*

Opportunities for health professions (HP) education programs to make a mark in the Age Friendly University (AFU) initiative abound. Key approaches are introduced, and