

The HIV and Aging Interest Group at GSA began 30 years ago. At that time, Highly Active Antiretroviral Treatments (HAART) did not exist. The Ryan White CARE act was newly enacted and older adults living with HIV/AIDS were primarily infected in later life. HIV was considered a life-threatening disease. This Interest Group's existence has paralleled the epidemic including its challenges, innovations and rewards. The number of sessions focusing on HIV and aging has grown at GSA, with shifting emphasis toward longevity, quality of life and comorbidity. This symposium, celebrating the theme of "Turning 75: Why age Matters" calls upon past and current IG conveners, including the founding convener, to review the history of the HIV and Aging interest group. Tepper discusses the group's origins and the historical context of HIV as an emerging issue for older people. Emler will discuss the changes in HIV care and treatment during the early 2000s and how these advances were reflected in the interest group and GSA sessions. Brennan-Ing reviews significant changes between 2012 through 2015, when the proportion of older adults with HIV was projected to surpass 50%, and the NIH Office of AIDS Working Group on HIV and Aging published its first set of recommendations. Finally, Taylor and colleagues brings us to the IG's current activities including the importance of HIV Cohort studies and national policy highlights such as the National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day. The symposium provides a thoughtful account of the importance of this interest group. HIV, AIDS and Older Adults Interest Group Sponsored Symposium.

#### THE BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE BEHIND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST AIDS AND THE ELDERLY GSA INTEREST GROUP

Lynn Tepper, CDM, *New York City, New York, United States*

Although HIV became known during the decade of the 1980's, it was not until 1987 that the WHO launched the Global Program on AIDS to raise awareness, generate evidence-based policies, and provide technical and financial support to conduct research, promote NGO participation, and promote the rights of people living with HIV. It was then also that robust educational and prevention initiatives began to take place. At this time, a Columbia University study, led by Dr. Lynn Tepper, a gerontologist, initiated a study to see if the older population fully understood the disease and the practice of prevention behaviors, as they were not a specific target for AIDS education and prevention. This led to the establishment of the AIDS and the Elderly Interest Group, sponsored by GSA, in an attempt to know more about the impact of AIDS in the older population. Part of a symposium sponsored by the HIV, AIDS and Older Adults Interest Group.

#### HIV AND OLDER ADULTS: EVOLVING INTO A MANAGEABLE CONDITION

Charles Emler, *University of Washington, Tacoma, Tacoma, Washington, United States*

I was fortunate to serve at the HIV and Aging Interest Convener from 2000 until 2008 and co-convener from 2009 until 2012. During this period, we began to see the full and

positive impact of Highly Active Antiretroviral Treatments creating highly sought longevity for older adults. During that time, the numbers of people over the age of 50, living with HIV, climbed from an estimated 81,103 to 330,843. HIV was identified by President Clinton as a national security threat while the CDC unveiled a new plan for HIV prevention. In 2006 the CDC released revised HIV testing recommendations for those 18-64 years of age to include opt out testing, stopping short of recommending HIV testing for older people. HIV sessions at GSA's Annual Scientific meeting continued to broaden and evolve. Part of a symposium sponsored by the HIV, AIDS and Older Adults Interest Group.

#### HIV AND AGING COMES INTO THE SPOTLIGHT: 2012 TO 2015

Mark Brennan-Ing, *Hunter College, CUNY, New York, New York, United States*

I had the privilege of serving as Principal- and Co-Convener of the HIV, AIDS and Older Adults Special Interest Group (SIG) for four years (2012 through 2015). During this era, when the proportion of U.S. older adults with HIV was projected to surpass 50%, we witnessed a number of milestones including the NIH Office of AIDS Working Group on HIV and Aging recommendations for critical research focus publication (JAIDS, 2012), the first CDC Surveillance Report on people 50 and older with HIV (2013), and the first UNAIDS report on HIV and aging (2013). During this period, the SIG was very successful in raising awareness about HIV and aging through numerous GSA presentations. Topics covered ranged from sexual health, to cognitive function, psychological well-being, social isolation, successful aging, and resilience. These presentations highlighted research findings that have been critical in developing interventions and shaping policy initiatives to support this growing population. Part of a symposium sponsored by the HIV, AIDS and Older Adults Interest Group.

#### HIV AND AGING COMES INTO THE SPOTLIGHT: 2013 TO NOW

Tonya Taylor, *SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, Brooklyn, New York, United States*

I have had the pleasure of serving as Co-Convener of the HIV, AIDS and Older Adults Special Interest Group (SIG) for seven years (2013 to now). During this time, we witnessed an increase in NIH funding opportunities, most notable was the Multidisciplinary Studies in HIV/AIDS and Aging FOA. NIH also renewed its support for two prominent longitudinal HIV cohort studies (now known as the Combined Cohort Study) because of their unmatched ability to provide insight on the effects of HIV infection and aging. Individuals older than 50 years of age are now included in AIDS and HIV prevention clinical trials. And, in 2008 the AIDS Institute launched the first National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day (Sept 18th). During this period, the SIG continued to raise awareness about HIV and aging through sponsored symposia and Webinars, and participants for the SIG participated in the first HIV and aging GSA Momentum Discussion. Part of a symposium sponsored by the HIV, AIDS and Older Adults Interest Group.