



ARNOLD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**OFFICE FOR THE STUDY
OF AGING**

OSA-SC.ORG



Office for the Study of Aging
Arnold School of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

WHO ARE WE?

The Office for the Study of Aging (OSA), housed in the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health (ASPH), prepares communities to meet the needs of a growing older adult population and to enhance the quality of life for these individuals as they age.

OSA's mission is accomplished through the facilitation of research on aging-related issues to provide information to policy makers, the delivery of evidence-informed education on Alzheimer's diseases and related dementias (ADRD), and the provision of technical assistance for the development and evaluation of programs for older adults.

LEADERSHIP

The OSA is comprised of a core team dedicated to achieving its missions of education, research, and service for the aging community.

The team supports and facilitates interdisciplinary collaborations with affiliated members from within and outside the University.



Megan Byers, LMSW
*Co-Director and
Dementia Dialogues®
Manager*



Maggi Miller, MS, Ph.D.
*Co-Director and
SC Alzheimer's Disease
Registry Manager*



Matthew Lohman, Ph.D.
Research Faculty



PROGRAMS

The OSA offers research-driven (or research-based) programs for the community and students.

- South Carolina's Alzheimer's Disease Registry
- Arnold Aging Lecture
- Dementia Dialogues®
- South Carolina's Operation to Confront Isolation and Loneliness (SOCIAL Aging)
- Certificate of Graduate Study in Aging
- Fellowship & Scholarship in Aging



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SOUTH CAROLINA'S ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE REGISTRY

The Alzheimer's Disease Registry is a comprehensive statewide registry of South Carolina residents diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). As the nation's first and most comprehensive registry of its kind, the Alzheimer's Disease Registry has maintained a record of diagnosed cases of ADRD in the state since 1988. The Registry comprises multiple data sources, including inpatient



hospitalizations, mental health records, Medicaid, emergency departments, memory clinics, chart abstracts, vital records, and long-term care evaluations. The Registry is maintained by the OSA, in cooperation with the SC Department of Health and Human Services, the SC Department of Mental Health, the USC School of Medicine, and the SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

ARNOLD AGING LECTURE

The Arnold Aging Lecture is sponsored by the OSA and the Gerry Sue and Norman J. Arnold Institute on Aging. The lecture's goal is to promote healthy aging across the lifespan through sharing of current research by experts in the field. The lecture is offered to the public and USC students, faculty, and staff without charge.





DEMENTIA DIALOGUES®

Dementia Dialogues® is a 5-module training course designed to educate community members and caregivers for persons who exhibit signs and symptoms of ADRD. The modules cover valuable information and recommendations including an overview of dementia, strategies for effective communication, understanding the environment and ways to promote independence, addressing challenging behaviors, and creative problem solving.

Dementia Dialogues® is a nationally registered, evidence-informed intervention program. It is offered nationally by Certified Instructors in-person, virtually, and as a self-guided training at no cost to participants.

SOCIAL AGING

South Carolina's Operation to Confront Social Isolation and Loneliness (SOCIAL Aging), is a state-wide coalition dedicated to reducing social isolation in older adults. Members are comprised of state-level and community experts and those with lived expertise. The OSA serves as the coalition's backbone infrastructure.

CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN AGING

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Aging is designed to address the educational needs of graduate students and professionals who are or plan to be, engaged in work with older adults. The overarching goal of the CGA is to prepare students and professionals for competent and compassionate practice to be better able to promote the health

and well-being of, and improve the quality of life for, older adults.

Students learn to assess a variety of domains (e.g., functional and cognitive status, health literacy), apply relevant theories in a health promotion and social and environmental context, and choose and implement effective interventions specifically for older adults.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN AGING

The ASPH is committed to advancing research and education on aging-related issues. The Research Fellowship is designed to support faculty and professional staff in the ASPH to conduct research in the multidisciplinary field of aging. Topics might include healthy aging, caregiving, social gerontology, the built environment, ADRD.

GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP IN AGING

The ASPH is committed to developing future leaders in aging research. Therefore, it has established this award to recognize up to two outstanding graduate students who exemplify the highest standards of scholarship focused on aging.

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