



# AGING & GEROPSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026 Edition III  
May 2026

**ACCESSIBILITY NOTE**

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AGING

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SECTION WEBSITE:  
[HTTPS://CPA.CA/SECTIONS/AGINGANDGEROPSYCHOLOGY/](https://cpa.ca/sections/agingandgeropsychology/)



CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
  
SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

May 20, 2026



## Welcome back to the Aging & Geropsychology Newsletter!

We are pleased to share this new edition with our growing community of now **110 members strong!** Together, we continue to strengthen connections among professionals, researchers, and students dedicated to advancing psychological research and practice for older adults.

In this issue, you will find section **updates, upcoming events, training and funding opportunities, and highlights of innovative research and practice across Canada and beyond.** As our network expands, we look forward to celebrating members' contributions and continuing to foster collaboration, learning, and advocacy in the field of aging and geropsychology.

### What to expect in this edition?

1. **CPA 2026 Convention:** What can the section expect this June?
2. **Apply Now:** Student Funding Opportunities
3. **Register** for CPA conference June 3
4. **Meet our Section Speaker:** Dr. Marnin Heisel and colleagues
5. **Networking event:** Join us at the convention!
6. **Spotlight on New Researchers:** Students and special subgroups
7. **AGM:** Highlights at a glance

**REMINDER:** Register for CPA's annual conference by **Wednesday, June 3, 2026 (23:59 EDT)**

**REGISTER HERE**

Thank you for being part of this community!

-The Editors (Student Representatives)

Li-elle Rapaport, University of Manitoba

Michael Ruderman, York University

Jennifer Meszaros, University of Victoria



# CPA CONVENTION

Aging & Geropsychology Section  
Programming for the June 4-6, 2026  
Conference

## June 4, 11:30-11:42 - Ste. Helene

12 minute talk - Criminal Justice: Older Adult  
Police Interviewing - 125408

## June 4, 2:00-2:55 - 8<sup>th</sup> floor, Grand Hall

Poster Session C  
Aging & Geropsychology

## June 4, 3:30-4:55 - 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Ballroom

Workshop - Marnin Heisel - 126343

## June 5, 10:30-11:25 - Notre Dame

Snapshots K  
Aging & Geropsychology

## June 5, 12:00-1:00 - St. Jacques

12-minute talks x 4  
Aging & Geropsychology  
124895, 122779, 123775, 126309

## June 5, 3:30-4:25 - Beaver Hall

Health Psychology and Behavioural Medicine  
AI for healthy aging - Featured Speaker:  
Samira Rahimi - 122727

## June 5, 3:30-4:25 - Palais

Aging & Geropsychology; Long-Term Care -  
Featured Speaker Panel: Marnin Heisel, Eden  
Champagne, Kelsey Haczekwicz - 125585

## June 5, 4:30-5:25 - Palais

Section reception - Networking & Mentorship  
Event - 125283

## June 6, 8:00-9:30 - 9th Floor, Fortifications Room

Workshop - Sandra Belfry - 123061  
Mood, Memory & Menopause; What  
Psychologists Need to Know



## Meet Your Featured Speakers!

### Dr. Marnin Heisel

Professor, Departments of  
Psychiatry and of  
Epidemiology & Biostatistics,  
Schulich School of Medicine  
& Dentistry, Western  
University



**About Marnin:** Dr. Heisel is a clinical psychologist and researcher whose work focuses on late-life mental health and suicide prevention. Dr. Heisel has recently led the creation of a new CPA section on suicide prevention and his current work regards the training of frontline LTC providers in screening for suicide risk.

### Dr. Eden Champagne

Postdoctoral Fellow,  
Bruyère Health Research  
Institute; Dance/movement  
therapist, Miya Creative  
Care



**About Eden:** Dr. Champagne is an interdisciplinary health researcher and practitioner specializing in older adult well-being and creative arts therapies. As a postdoctoral fellow, her work focuses on social prescribing and support for socially isolated older adults and their family caregivers.





# Join us at our NETWORKING SOCIAL!

Join us for "**Building Futures in Geropsychology**" – our first annual Aging and Geropsychology Section social at the CPA Conference!

📍 Palais Room | 📅 June 5th | 🕒 4:30–5:25 PM

**Enjoy free food and drinks** while connecting with clinicians and researchers across the field. Hear about the diverse roles, research, and applications in geropsychology and aging – then stick around to chat in an informal, relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

This event is **open to students and professionals** who would like to meet others in the field of **aging and geropsychology research**.

## Meet Your Speakers!

### Cont'd...

#### Kelsey Haczkevicz

PhD Student, Clinical Psychology, University of Regina



**About Kelsey:** Kelsey is a second-year PhD student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Regina. Her research focuses on the mental health of older adults and family caregivers, with particular interest in caregiver stress, family involvement in long-term care, and evaluating interventions to support caregiver well-being.



## Mentor–Mentee Matching...

**Your involvement as a mentor can have a lasting impact**—both for your mentee and for the vitality of our professional community.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please email **Jennifer Meszaros at [jmeszaros@uvic.ca](mailto:jmeszaros@uvic.ca)**

**Thank you for helping us make this inaugural year of the CPA Mentorship Program a success.** We look forward to your participation in this exciting new chapter of CPA mentoring!

# Upcoming Funding & Scholarship Opportunities

The Aging & Geropsychology Section offers **3 Student Presentation Awards** to recognize student achievements and promote sharing student research. Each year, three awards of \$250 are available to student members presenting work related to aging and geropsychology. One of these awards is reserved for presentations accepted by the Aging & Geropsychology Section. Students are eligible for one award per year and a maximum of two awards during their academic career.

To apply, students must email the section chair by June 2, 2026 with their attendance confirmation, student membership status, and university affiliation. Presentation award applicants should also include proof of presentation acceptance. Awards are reimbursed after the convention. Applications should be sent to **Dr. Colleen Millikin (past-chair)** at [cmillikin@sbgh.mb.ca](mailto:cmillikin@sbgh.mb.ca).

**For more information, please visit this link:**

<https://cpa.ca/sections/agingandgeropsychology/aging-and-geropsychology-section-studentpresentation-awards/>  
**We look forward to reviewing your applications!**



## NEW AGING RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT - STUDENT



**Brittany Skov (she/her)** is a **PhD student in the clinical psychology** program at **Lakehead University**. She is a Mississauga-Anishinaabekwe (Anishinaabe woman) with mixed European descent. **Brittany's research centres on reducing the onset and progression of chronic illnesses among First Nations adults.** Brittany currently co-leads a New Frontiers in Research Fund project focused on developing culturally grounded dementia assessment tools and health guidance for Indigenous people in Canada. She is also a collaborator with the **Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration and Aging (CCNA)** research teams, which works to improve access to Indigenous dementia health communication in Canada and Australia. **Her dissertation focuses on developing and evaluating a culturally and contextually relevant dementia risk reduction program for urban First Nations people.** Brittany is a Vanier Scholar, supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.



**Got an idea for our next newsletter, have news to share, OR want your aging research to be featured?**

**Send us a note** at [rapaporl@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:rapaporl@myumanitoba.ca), [jmeszaros@uvic.ca](mailto:jmeszaros@uvic.ca), or [ruderman@yorku.ca](mailto:ruderman@yorku.ca)

## **NEW AGING RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT – STUDENT**

**Georgia Gopinath** is a **Ph.D. student in clinical psychology** at the **University of Manitoba**, where she is a member of the Health Information Exchange Lab. Georgia's clinical interests include geropsychology and health psychology. Her research is primarily focused on **developing and evaluating accessible supports targeting mental health and loneliness, using collaborative partner engagement, qualitative, and mixed methodologies**. Her Master's thesis explored older adults' narratives of their mental health. Participants described how life transitions and intersectional identities increase loneliness and hinder access to social and mental health supports. **Community involvement was a form of resiliency buffering mental health impacts**. Georgia is grateful to have received awards/scholarships from CIHR through CGS-M and CGS-D, CPA, Winnipeg Foundation, and the University of Manitoba. Outside of academia, **Georgia is proud to volunteer with A&O Support Services for Older Adults**.



# NEW RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT – LAB

The C.A.R.I.N.G. Dementia Collaborative: Building Dementia-Friendly Communities

Click here to learn more!



Based at the University of Victoria's Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, the C.A.R.I.N.G. Dementia Collaborative brings together an interdisciplinary team of researchers, people with lived experience, care partners, and health and social care providers united by a shared mission: improving quality of life for people living with dementia and their families.

Led by Drs. Mariko Sakamoto, Denise Cloutier, Stuart MacDonald, and Jodie Gawryluk, the collaborative pursues community-engaged, co-produced research across local, national, and international levels. Current projects span dementia-friendly community development in the Comox Valley, aging-in-place research in partnership with the Sooke Region Communities Health Network, and the BRIDGE intergenerational education program for high school students.

At its core, the collaborative envisions a transdisciplinary network where people with dementia are active partners in developing the knowledge and practices that shape their communities.



**DEMENTIA  
COLLABORATIVE**

Community Advancing Resources and Initiative  
for Nurturing Generations

## AGM Highlights & News

We are thrilled to announce the approval of our new 'Terms of Reference' by the CPA!

Join our growing geropsych researchers network to find, connect, and collaborate with colleagues across Canada! Add your name to the directory: [HERE!](#)

Congratulations to section president, **Dr. Natasha Gallant**, on her maternity leave! Wishing her the best of luck this year with her growing family.

Congratulations to **Dr. Marnin Heisel** for his role in pioneering the CPA **Suicide Prevention Section!**

AGM Draft minutes are available on our section [website!](#)

