

AAG SECG NEWSLETTER



AAG
Australian
Association of
Gerontology

SECG
Student and
Early Career
Group



SECG DINNER - 2024 AAG CONFERENCE HOBART

Welcome to the December/January AAG SECG Newsletter

Welcome from Dr Tricia King, Communications and Award Lead

It was wonderful to see so many SECG folks in person at the recent AAG Conference. Thanks to Danielle Cave and the events team for hosting the SECG dinner and looking after the SECG stand which was a nice meeting hub for SECG attendees. Additionally, I had the opportunity to attend a number of presentations and posters and was truly impressed by the breadth of research among this group! You are amazing!

As we bring this year to a close we are going to take some time in this newsletter to highlight some recent SECG recipients of AAG awards and some of the things to look forward to in 2025.

I want to also take time to thank the Communications team - Gizem, Mehak, Debbie, Lysha, and Chiara for their dedication this year. They've worked very hard on the newsletters this year - we've all been very proud to bring you this revamped newsletter and excited by the different submissions from our SECG members. Remember to keep sending in your submissions!

Take care and have a wonderful end to the year!

Tricia



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HAVE SOMTHING TO SHARE?

Please submit using the form:

https://uniofsunshinecoast.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a3Rqs7viisTqoPc

or contact Tricia King tking2@usc.edu.au
if you have any questions.

SECG AWARDEES



This year has seen some of our members awarded grants and prizes by the AAG. A warm congratulations to the following SECG researchers!

ARTHUR EVERITT AWARD

Ms Danielle Kennedy

Danielle is undertaking her Masters of Clinical Psychology at the University of the Sunshine Coast where she is working to support older adults in her clinical practice and research, particularly through intergenerational connections. The Arthur Everitt Award assisted Danielle to attend and present at the AAG Hobart conference.



RM GIBSON PROGRAM AWARD

Dr Daria Gutteridge

Daria is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of South Australia where she focuses on quality use of medicines in Australian Aged Care Facilities. At the end of 2023 Daria completed her PhD in the field of cognitive neuroscience, and this funding will support her project **Optimising antihypertensive treatment in older Australians with and without dementia in residential aged care home**



Ms Robyn Lewis

Robyn is a PhD candidate at the University of Canberra. Robyn's research focuses on models of dementia care that will contribute to making a difference to the quality of life of people living with dementia, reduce burden for care partners, and improve the experience of staff working in dementia care. The funding will support the project **The experience of living and working in small-scale residential dementia care.**



Dr Wei Qi Koh

Wei Qi is a lecturer in occupational therapy at the University of Queensland. In her clinical practice, Wei has worked with acute and community health and social care settings, primarily with older adults. This funding will support the project **Co-Designing a pet robot to support people living with dementia.**

HAL KENDIG RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AWARD

Dr Moira Dunsmore

Moira is an ECR with transdisciplinary experience in nursing, public health and social science and is a senior lecturer in nursing and midwifery at the University of Sydney. The award will support her project **Developing integrated care models for older adults with dual sensory impairment (DSI) and their family carers.**

Dr Daniel Brown

Daniel is a clinical psychologist at the University of Southern Queensland with a keen passion for the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people. His research focuses on understanding LGVTQI+ experiences across a range of health and wellbeing domains, and this funding will support the the project **Understanding the expectations and experiences of aged care services for LGBTIQI, Sistergirl and Brotherboy older people and intersectionality.**

AAG RESEARCH TRUST AND DEMENTIA AUSTRALIA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Ms Shin Liau

Shin is a pharmacist and research fellow at Monash University. Her research focuses on optimising medication management for frail older populations, including community-dwelling individuals and dementia and aged care residents. Shin will receiving funding thanks to AAG Research Trust and Dementia Australia for her project **Principles for optimising medicines management in older people living with frailty and dementia.**

AAG STRATEIC INNOVATION PROGRAM

Ms Ebony Lewis

Ebony is an ECR and Indigenous Scientia lecturer at the University of New South Wales who focuses on improving end of life care experiences for older adults, caregivers and clinicians. She presents culturally appropriate approaches to assessment and management of frailty. The funding will support her project **Co-designing and piloting a theory-informed, evidence-based intervention to minimise social frailty in carers of people in later life.**

You can read more about the awards [HERE](#).

SECG AT THE CONFERENCE... IN PICTURES

Photographs by Tricia King and Matthew Jones



TRICIA KING DELIVERING THE SECG WORKSHOP

SECG LEGENDS - RACHEL AMBAGTSHEER, DANIELLE CAVE, MIKAELA WHEELER AND ANITA GOH



DANIELLE KENNEDY

LUNCH WITH THE STARS



SECG DINNER - KARLY BARTRIM, ALICE PASHLEY AND SHIN JIANG



THE SECG DINNER CREW



ANANGSHA PATHAK



SAMANTHA OVERTON



MEHAK OBERAI



MARTHA WAUGH



ZINAN CHEN

YOUR 2025 SECG TEAM

Moving into the new year there are a few of our SECG leadership team who have come to the end of their term, so we thank them heartily and welcome some new faces to the leadership group.

Thank you!

Please let us start by thanking our outgoing President, Dr Mikaela Wheeler. Mikaela has led the SECG for the past two years - uniting the SECG community and leading many innovative projects such as the ARIA Innovator Training Program Pilot Program with AAG SECG members. Thank you warmly Mikaela for your devotion and kindness to the AAG community. xoxox



We welcome into the President role Dr Kate Wang! Kate is a Senior Lecturer in pharmacy working at RMIT and has previously served as the Professional Development and Events Lead in the SECG. We look forward to working with Kate in 2025-2026.



DR TESFAHUN ESHETIE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AND EVENTS LEAD



DR DANIELLE CAVE
CONFERENCE: STUDENT AND
EARLY CAREER EVENTS LEAD



DR TRICIA KING
COMMUNICATIONS AND
AWARDS LEAD



DR ANITA GOH
SECG LIASON TO THE
AAG BOARD

A warm welcome to Tesfahun who is joining us for the first time in 2025! Tesfahun is a pharmacist and research fellow at the Registry of Senior Australians (ROSA), and adjunct research fellow at the University of South Australia.

JOIN THE SECG WORKING PARTIES

Expressions of Interest to join the SECG Working Parties for 2025 will be advertised in early January.

We encourage our current team and new people to join us to help lead the SECG group. The working parties are a great way to connect to the AAG network and give back to the community which gives us so much.

Keep an eye on your email for the call for EOI soon!

2025 HELEN BARRIE NATIONAL PRIZE

The 2025 Helen Barrie National Prize for outstanding research contributions to ageing research is OPEN!

The prize recognises our SECG work in ageing research and practice and provides a forum through which these contributions can be widely disseminated. If you have a publication which was published or accepted in 2024 then please do submit for this prize. Entries open now and closing MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2025.

This year the special prize is for excellence in intergenerational practice and is sponsored by the **Australian Institute for Intergenerational Practice.**



Prizes are \$1000 (awardee) \$500 (runner up) and \$250 (AIP Special Prize)

For more information and to apply please visit [HERE](#).

Dr Helen Barrie is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of South Australia, Director of The Australian Alliance of Social Enterprise and Inclusion Stream Leader of the Centre for Markets, Values and Inclusion. As a social gerontologist and geographer, her research has focus on Australia's changing and ageing population, the implications of this for society and communities, and the interaction between people and the built environment. She has been a passionate member of the AAG since 2006, was integral in developing the student section of the AAG, is a past State and National President of the AAG and was awarded life membership in 2017.



SECG AGM

The SECG Annual General Meeting takes place each year at the AAG Conference. Thanks to all who came to the meeting to hear about the contributions of the group this year and the impact we are making as a team within the AAG. Please make sure to follow AAG SECG on social media to keep in touch with current happenings.



NEW DOCTOR... DR KARLY BARTRIM

As we're the SECG of AAG we'd like to celebrate our PhD completers. If you have recently completed your PhD and would like to share, please get in touch with us!

Of note: Dr Bartrim received her email of conferral during the last session of the last day of the AAG Conference this year, so it was awesome for the AAG crew to be able to share the news with her!!

Thesis Title- Are We Ready for the Future? An Exploration of Australian Dietitians' Competence, Preparedness, and Experiences Working in Aged Care

Undertaken At- I started my PhD at Griffith University and moved to The University of Queensland in 2022 (I followed my incredible supervisor!)

Date Completed- Officially conferred on 15/11/2024, the last day of the AAG Conference!

Quick Overview - My research program explored Australian dietitians' competency (knowledge, skills, and attitudes), preparedness, and experience working with older adults in aged care. An integrative literature review, cross-sectional quantitative survey, and qualitative interviews revealed that dietitians have mixed perceptions regarding working with older adults in the aged care sector and likely need more opportunities to conduct their role activities to their full potential. Whilst dietitians were confident in their knowledge and skills working in aged care, dietitians revealed several opportunities to be better prepared to work. As such, a number of policy and practice recommendations were made to improve dietetic practice, and the nutrition care older adults receive.



Hardest Part - Definitely changing universities in the middle of the PhD, but also the changes in PhD direction. My PhD ended up being completely exploratory, which wasn't a part of the initial plan, but I felt like I needed to get a comprehensive understanding rather than develop an intervention. Setbacks and pivots are all a part of the PhD journey, but most of the time, they are for the better!

Best Part - There were many best parts, some include:

- Finding my people and community (especially the amazing AAG community).
- Travelling internationally to learn about other aged care systems.
- Translating my research findings into practice and advocating for change in the sector for dietitians.

Top tips for those undertaking a PhD - Stay motivated, organised and passionate. Think beyond each manuscript you write! – the best bits really come when you translate your findings into practice, advocate for policy changes and share your research- at conferences and with other researchers

Karly and her grandmother pressing the SUBMIT BUTTON!!!!

Have something to share?

If you want to contribute to any of the sections or have or have something to share we'd love to hear from you! The newsletter relies on your content to make it great! So let's make it great!



Please submit using the form:

https://uniofsunshinecoast.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a3Rqs7viisTqoPc

or email Tricia King at tking2@usc.edu.au