



**A Better, New Normal for COVID-19  
Vaccine Distribution and Administration  
Thursday, November 11, 2021 | 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm ET**

Vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 are safe and highly effective and have lowered COVID-19 disease burden. Yet getting vaccine to vulnerable populations remains a challenge. What can we learn from our experience in vaccinating homebound older adults? How can we boost vaccine uptake among long-term care staff? This Momentum Discussion will review progress in achieving a “better, new normal” for vaccination of hard-to-reach populations.

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**Moderator and Panelist:**



**Steven Albert, PhD, MSc, FGSA**, is Professor and Chair of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences and Philip B. Hallen Endowed Chair in Community Health and Social Justice at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. He is a graduate of Cornell University and received his doctoral degree from the University of Chicago. Dr. Albert has a well-respected history of research on dementia and dementia caregiving, including one of the first anthropological investigations (“Caregiving as a cultural system” in *American Anthropologist*, 1990). In more recent work, he has examined state laws on driving and crashes related to dementia, depression as a risk factor for dementia, cognitive disability and eligibility for long-term care, and effects of caregiving on work performance and financial well-being. With Richard Schulz, PhD, he completed a study of the costs of caregiving to employers (MetLife, 2010). He led GSA workgroups on over-the-counter medication use and medications to improve sleep. Dr. Albert recently revised Pennsylvania’s long-term care eligibility determination tool as part of the state’s transition to Medicaid Managed Long-Term Services and Supports. He is the Editor-in-Chief of GSA’s fully open access journal, *Innovation in Aging*.

**Panelists:**



**R. Gordon Douglas, MD**, is Professor Emeritus of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. He served as a consultant to the Vaccine Research Center of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Dr. Douglas retired from Merck & Co. in 1999 after serving as President, Merck Vaccine Division. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Cornell University Medical College. After internal medicine training at the New York Hospital and Johns Hopkins Hospital, and infectious disease training at NIAID, he served as Head of the Infectious Disease Unit at University of Rochester and Chairman of the Department of Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center before joining Merck. He is

author of over 190 original scientific publications dealing with viral pathogenesis, vaccines, and antivirals, and was a co-editor of *Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases*, the standard reference in the field. He is recipient of the R.R. Hawkins Award from the Association of American Publishers (1980), the H. Feldman Award from the Infectious Disease Society of America (1992), and the Maxwell Finland Award from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (2000). He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, the Association of American Physicians, the American Society of Clinical Investigation, and the American Clinical and Climatological Association.



**Jasmine L. Travers, PhD, MHS, RN, AGPCNP-BC**, is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing. Prior to joining the faculty, she completed two postdoctoral fellowships—at Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing—after receiving her doctoral degree from Columbia University. Her career is dedicated to designing and conducting research to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities in vulnerable older adult groups using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. In her current work, Dr. Travers focuses on mitigating disparities in appropriate access and use of in-home and facility-based long-term care for older adults. She is the principal investigator of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Career Development Award and a Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leader Award through the National Institute on Aging. She also sits on the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes. Dr. Travers has published widely on the topics of aging, long-term care, health disparities, workforce diversity, vaccinations, and infections.



**Theresa (Terri) Harvath, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA**, President and Board Chair of The Gerontological Society of America (GSA), is Professor and Senior Director for Strategic Initiatives at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at University of California, Davis. She leads initiatives and partnerships across UC Davis Health to ensure the best care, research, and innovation for the older adult population. She also serves as the founding director of the school's Family Caregiving Institute, which launched in 2017 to advance research, education, and policy to support caregivers. Dr. Harvath focuses her research on understanding and improving the relationship between individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's disease and their family caregivers to improve home health care. Previously, she was Director of the Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence and the Advanced Practice Gerontological Nursing Program at Oregon Health & Science University. She has 25 years of nursing education experience and 10 years' experience as a clinical nurse specialist and staff nurse. She earned her doctorate in nursing from Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Harvath has published in numerous peer-reviewed journals and other publications, including the *American Journal of Nursing*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, and *Clinical Nursing Research*. She is a fellow in GSA and the American Academy of Nursing.



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**References and Resources**

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**[GSA COVID-19 Updates](#)**

Vaccine Information  
Task Force Resources  
Webinars  
Information for Educators  
Journals

**[COVID Conversations Series: “Learning From the Pandemic—Implications for Gerontology”](#)**

1. How bad was the pandemic for older adults?
2. Did the pandemic deepen health inequities for minority older adults?
3. What worked and what didn't work for older people in our response to the pandemic?
4. How well did older people and the caregiving workforce, formal and informal, adapt to the pandemic?

Since the onset of the pandemic, **the GSA journals have been publishing leading research on the impact of COVID-19 on the aging population.** [Browse](#) the full list of special issues and virtual collections from the portfolio.