

2025 GA GAPNA Conference Program

Emerging Therapies in Gerontology

March 22, 2025

Park Springs Life Plan Community

About GAPNA

The Georgia Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GA GAPNA) is a professional organization that seeks to promote high standards of healthcare for older adults through Advanced Gerontological Nursing Practice, education, and networking. The Georgia chapter was founded in 2007 and hosted its first annual continuing education conference in 2010. We are proud to have provided annual continuing education conference for over a decade.

Executive Board

President: Thasha Ann Chu, DNP, MSN, CCRN, AGACNP-BC

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Alison A. Schlenger, APRN-BC, GNP-BC

Thasha Ann Chu, DNP, MSN, CCRN, AGACNP-BC

Kari Burdzinski, MSN, AGPCNP-BC

President's Welcome



Welcome to our 15th education conference! GA GAPNA has been engaging with you, our wonderful members, since 2010 and providing world-class continuing education opportunities that we hope you continue to enjoy. This year we wanted to look ahead at what gerontology has been able to integrate into practice using new and engaging technologies.

We hope you enjoy the conference and the great networking opportunities provided today!

Thasha Ann Chu

DNP, MSN, CCRN, AGACNP-BC

Morning Agenda

7:30AM-8:15AM

Registration and Breakfast Open

8:15AM-8:30AM

Welcome and Announcements

8:30AM-10:00AM

Keynote Speaker

Chronic Pain Management in Older Adults

Michelle Park, MD

WellStar Health Systems

Raffle Drawing

Penny Maynard Memorial Presentation

10:00AM-10:30AM

Break & Exhibit Hall Open

10:30AM-12:00PM

Highlighted Speaker

Endocrinology Updates in Gerontology

Elizabeth Hill, AGPCNP-BC

WellStar Health Systems

12:00PM-12:15PM

Raffle Drawing

GeneSight Lunch Sponsor Presentation

12:15-1:15PM

Lunch and Exhibit Hall Open

Afternoon Agenda

1:15PM-2:15PM

Afternoon Session #1

Dermatology Review

Lisa Hill, PA-C

Marietta Dermatology

2:15PM-3:15PM

Afternoon Session #2

AI Technology Addressing Quality of Life of Older Adults

Angelica Christian

LifeLoop

3:15PM-3:25PM

Break

3:25PM-3:30PM

Raffle Drawing

3:30PM-4:30PM

Closing Speaker

Geriatric Nephrology

Ashley Blackmon, MS, CHFN, CCRN, FNP-C

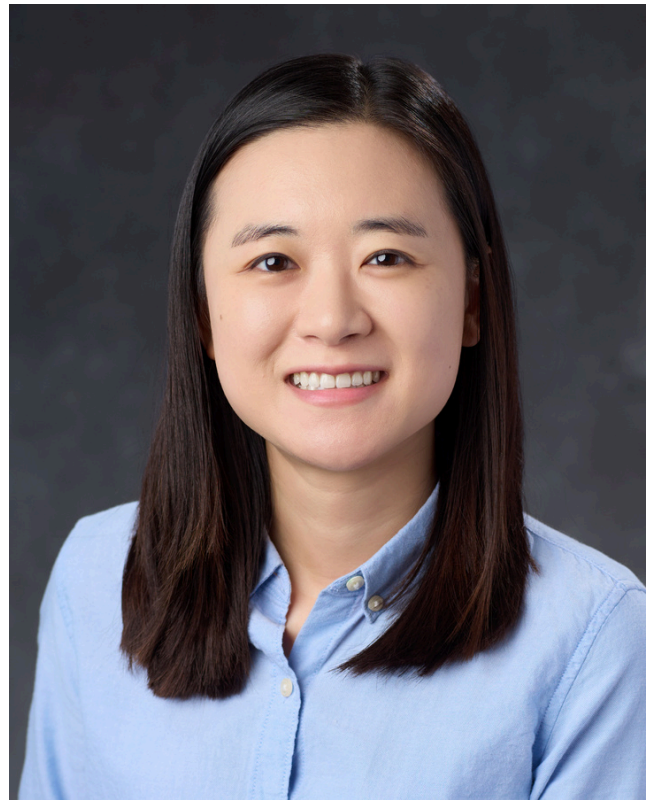
Emory Healthcare

4:30PM-4:45PM

Closing Announcements and Final Raffle

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Michelle Park is board-certified in internal medicine and hospice and palliative medicine. After medical school at Case Western Reserve University and residency at the University of California, she then completed the Certificate Program in Bioethics and Medical Humanities at Montefiore Einstein Center for Bioethics in New York. At the same time, Dr. Park also entered the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship at New York University. Dr. Park has several published articles and presentations across regional and national landscapes. She is currently the Medical Director of Outpatient Palliative Medicine at Wellstar Health System.



Highlighted Speaker



Elizabeth Hill, AGPCNP-BC completed a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies and Anthropology from Trinity College in Hartford, CT and went on to pursue her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, NY. She completed a Nursing Residency as a Medical-Surgical RN at Emory University Hospital and continued to work while completing her MSN at Emory University. She began working with Dr. Adeel and the team at Wellstar Endocrinology in 2022.

Afternoon Session Speaker

Lisa Hill, PA-C is a native of Marietta, Georgia and has been in practice for 15 years. She currently practices at Marietta Dermatology and splits her time between general dermatology and Mohs surgery. She is the current President of the Georgia Dermatology Physician Assistant society. She has a special interest in psoriasis and atopic dermatitis which has led her to become an expert in her field. As a faculty member of several speakers' bureaus, Lisa really enjoys traveling around the country educating her peers on these disease states and other topics. This allows her to combine her two favorite passions: teaching and traveling.



Afternoon Session Speaker



Angelica Christian is a passionate Customer Success Manager at LifeLoop with 4 years of experience driving client satisfaction and business growth. She has been deeply involved project management, leading a CMP grant across 17 locations over 3 years.

Angelica is a former Engage Life Director with over a decade of experience in senior living, dedicated to enhancing resident experiences and operational excellence. She is committed building strong relationships, delivering impactful solutions, and fostering innovation in the industry.

Closing Speaker

Ashley Blackmon is a board-certified Nurse Practitioner who wears many hats. She has spent the past decade in general cardiology, advanced heart failure, and transplant cardiology with her current focus being solely on outpatient transplant cardiology at Emory Healthcare. She has also taught pathophysiology and EKG interpretation at Georgia State University, served in leadership roles for United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Georgia, and performed multiple speaking engagements across multiple schools on legislative advocacy.



Her background includes a wide range of clinical settings including outpatient pediatrics, family practice, gastroenterology, bedside ICU neuro and trauma care, as well as clinical research. She is certified in critical care and heart failure nursing. She is the lead administer for the Atlanta Nurse Practitioners Facebook Group which now proudly has over 4,200 members representing a large portion of Georgia Nurse Practitioners in networking and advocacy. She was recognized as one of Georgia State's 40 Under 40 in 2019 for her many publications, speaking engagements, and volunteer efforts. Cardiorenal syndrome, elderly, and complicated patients with advanced chronic kidney disease make up a large portion of her patient population. She enjoys tackling complex disease cases and assisting others in growing their knowledge base to increase access to care for patients.

The Penny Maynard Memorial Scholarship Fund

Penny Maynard was a nurse practitioner and Director of Clinical Operations with Optum (formerly Evercare). Since the inception of the Georgia Chapter of GAPNA, Penny was an active member. She previously served on the Georgia GAPNA board of directors as Secretary. In her 15 years at Optum, Penny dedicated her career to advancing geriatric care in a variety of roles. She loved her geriatric patients and could always put a smile on their faces.



In 2013, she was diagnosed with cancer, which she succumbed to in 2014, sadly leaving us too soon. Penny's laughter was infectious and would warm the hearts of those around her. She was loved and respected by all of her friends and colleagues. Penny's legacy will live on through all those whose lives she touched. She is survived by her husband Kevin and her three children, Kelli, Kevin and Tyler.

To honor her memory, The Penny Maynard Scholarship Fund was established through GA GAPNA. Donations to the fund will be used to provide assistance to an adult/gerontological advanced practice nurse who supports the mission and values of GAPNA.

Please visit georgiagapna.org to donate.

2025 Penny Maynard Memorial Scholarship Winner Tiffany Paul

As a first-generation graduate of her family to obtain a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree, Tiffany's mother-- someone who lived with Alzheimer's disease -- is the inspiration for her advanced practice nursing journey. She currently works as an acute care rehabilitation facility RN which has allowed her to encounter a myriad of patients aged 55 and older. The hands-on experience and knowledge with this patient population has fueled her desire to continue her training as an APRN at Emory University. In addition to her role in the acute rehab facility, Tiffany has had a clinical rotation at the Emory Integrated Memory Care Clinic where she absorbed as much information as she could on managing patients with Alzheimer's disease. Because of her passion for patients living with Alzheimer's disease, Tiffany's goal is to practice specifically in memory care and neurological deficits. Congratulations Tiffany!



Buy your raffle tickets today!

The Penny Maynard Memorial Scholarship is made possible due to the generous donations of GAPNA Members and the annual Georgia GAPNA conference raffle. Please support our adult/gerontological advanced practice nursing students today by purchasing your raffle tickets at the GAPNA Booth.

Tickets are 1 for \$5 and 5 for \$20. Winners must be present to win.

Continuing Education Information

ACCREDITATION STATUS: Emory Nursing Professional Development Center (ENPDC) is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation.

RELEVANT FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS: ENPDC has evaluated everyone who has the ability to control content of this activity (planning committee members, subject matter experts, presenters) and found no relevant financial relationships.

DISCLOSURE TO LEARNERS: Ashley Blackmon is a consultant for Zoll. The relevant financial relationships have been mitigated. No relevant financial relationships were identified for any other individuals with the ability to control the content of the activity.

Angelica Christian is employed by LifeLoop. The relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.

Lisa Hill is a faculty speaker for Galderma, Johnson & Johnson, and Regeneron & Sanofi. She is an advisory board member of UCB and Leo Pharma. The relevant financial relationships have been mitigated. No relevant financial relationships were identified for any other individuals with the ability to control content of the activity.

AWARDING CONTACT HOURS: To obtain contact hours participants must: Participate in the entire activity. Complete and submit the activity evaluation within two (2) weeks of activity conclusion (April 5, 2025) - whether by paper or electronically. Certificates will be distributed upon completion of activity evaluation.

Park Springs Life Plan Community

Thank you to Park Springs Life Plan Community for their generous sponsorship of this year's location. We appreciate their support of this year's conference!



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Lunch Sponsor

Thank you to GeneSight for generously sponsoring lunch!



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Thank you to our 2025 Exhibitors!

