



School of Nursing

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Social Research, Policy and Practice (SRPP) Section
Fellows Review Panel

Dear SRPP Fellows Review Panel,

It is with great pleasure that we nominate Dr. Soonhee Roh, LMSW, PhD for GSA Fellowship with an affiliation in the SRPP section. Dr. Roh is currently Professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of South Dakota and has been an active member of the SRPP section of the GSA since 2008. Her membership with GSA and affiliation with SRPP has exceeded the minimum membership requirement.

Dr. Roh is a leading scholar, strong educator, and an actively involved professional in the fields of gerontology and social work. Dr. Roh has a wealth of experiences as a scholar in the field of gerontology, particularly in the practice areas of cancer, and cultural diversity (especially American Indian populations) and continues to make an impact in these practice areas. Dr. Roh's research on American Indian older adults and health literacy, cancer/screening, and interventions is cutting edge and compelling. There are only a handful of scholars who have focused on similar issues faced by this particularly population that has experienced historical trauma, contemporary oppression, and the communities' distrust in academic researchers. Dr. Roh's research provides a significant contribution for those in the field developing prevention and intervention strategies. Local South Dakota educators, practitioners, and policymakers benefit from her research on the local Native American population. Much of her research takes a delicate topic head-on, enhances our understanding, and informs practice/policy. By maintaining this effort over time, she demonstrates a long-term commitment to important social issues.

Dr. Roh's commitment to her work is clearly evidenced by her record of highly successful funded research. Dr. Roh has received multiple grant awards (both internal and extramural) and has a prolific publication record. She currently serves as the PI on a federal grant (National Institutes of Health) of nearly half a million dollars on a research and creative activity to develop and evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of the Mobile Web App Breast Cancer Screening (wMammogram) intervention that is culturally tailored for American Indian women residing in rural areas. In 2017, Dr. Roh served as the Project Director for another one-million dollar grant from the National Institute on Aging for "Limited English Proficiency: Implications for Health and Health Care among Older Immigrants." She also was the PI on another federal grant (National Institute of Health) for \$120,000 to look at determinants of care and life quality in American Indian Women with cancer. Furthermore, all of Dr. Roh's research entails original works that have addressed *critical* gaps in the literature. Since 2011, she has published over 50 publications in prominent aging, health and social work journals such as *The Gerontologist*,

Aging and Mental Health, Research in Gerontological Nursing, Journal of Applied Gerontology, Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology, and Health & Social Work.

Dr. Roh has also been very active and holds important roles, including being a member of the Editorial Board for two scholarly journals (*Research on Social Work Practice* and *The Korean Academy of Family Social Work*).

Additionally, Dr. Roh has contributed to the society in that she also serves as an ad hoc reviewer for *Journal of Gerontology* and several other journals as well as a conference abstract reviewer for the GSA conferences and other professional organizations. Moreover, Dr. Roh has shown a strong commitment to her community by routinely serving on state and local level committees and providing consultative and pro bono services to nonprofit agencies. She served two years as the President of the National Korean American Social Work Educators Association and has also participated in international service as a consultant and fundraiser for the International Social Development in Mongolia, Christian Alliance-Mongolia. In order to fill these positions, one must have strong ties to the community and have a positive professional reputation.

In summary, we believe that Dr. Roh's contributions as a scholar, educator and professional to the field of gerontology merits her conferral of GSA Fellowship. The lives of many elders, particularly American Indian elders, and the field of gerontology will improve as a result of her work.

Regards,

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Jung Kwak, PhD, MSW, FGSA (Nominator/Endorser)
Associate Professor, School of Nursing, The University of Texas at Austin
SRPP Vice Chair-Elect SRPP Endorsers

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Philip A. Rozario, PhD, FGSA
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Professor, School of Social Work, Adelphi University
SRPP Past-Chair

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Debra Dobbs, PhD, FGSA
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