According to the World Health Organization, the world is on the brink of a demographic milestone. Since the beginning of recorded history, young children have outnumbered their elders. In about five years’ time, however, the number of people aged 65 or older will outnumber children under age 5. Driven by falling fertility rates and remarkable increases in life expectancy, population aging will continue, even accelerate. The number of people aged 65 or older is projected to grow to 1.5 billion by 2050, with most of the increase in developing countries. This growth factor is caused by the remarkable improvements in health outcomes. At the beginning of the 20th century, the major threats were infectious and parasitic diseases that most often claimed the lives of infants and children. Currently, non-communicable diseases that more commonly affect adults and older people impose the greatest burden on global health. The rise of chronic non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and Type II diabetes reflects changes in lifestyle and diet, as well as aging. The key questions that arise relating to population aging, particularly among the underserved and underrepresented low-income populations are, can these populations realize a longer period of good health, a sustained sense of well-being, and extended periods of social engagement and productivity, or will these populations experience more illness, disability and dependency? COME PARTICIPATE!

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