The Journal of Gerontological Social Work is inviting submissions for a special section on Older Adults and Disasters. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, disasters of all kinds affect older adults disproportionately, especially older adults with chronic diseases, disabilities or conditions that require extra assistance, and those with limited resources or who experience marginalization. For this reason, older adults are frequently a special-needs population during and following a disaster event. The aim of the special issue is to highlight the importance of work with older adults, and inter-professional work in particular, in the area of emergency response and disaster recovery to advance knowledge and innovation in this field and area of practice. Disasters is broadly defined to include natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, tsunamis, and tornados and other environmental disasters; accidental disasters such as fires, exposure to toxic chemicals or substances, technology failure; and human-made disasters including war, famine, and terrorism.

Example topics include disaster prevention programs, clinical/therapeutic and community interventions post-disaster, disaster mental health and psychological first aid, individual and/or community screening and assessment, community-recovery responses that support older adults, older adults’ role in disaster recovery, disaster response across varied care and community settings, training social work and other professionals for disaster response with older adults and working with inter-professional teams, disaster work with cross-national older populations, refugees and immigrants, lower-resourced communities and/or inter-generational families, and other related topics, policy advocacy and analysis related to disaster prevention and response. Contributions representing interdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged as are international submissions.

Manuscripts may be submitted as commentaries, brief reports, research manuscripts, conceptual or theoretical analysis, policy analysis or knowledge translation study/activity. All submissions must include discussion of implications for social work practice at the individual, community or policy level.

We encourage prospective authors to contact the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Michelle Putnam at michelle.putnam@simmons.edu or the Managing Editor, Dr. Marla Berg-Weger at bergwm@slu.edu if they have any questions about his call.

The due date for submissions for this special section is November 30, 2017.