

Suzanne Kunkel, Ph.D.

Director, Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University (Ohio)

Dr. Suzanne Kunkel is Director of the Scripps Gerontology Center and Professor in the Department of Sociology and Gerontology. Her primary research focus is on planning for the health care needs for the older population. She has been involved in several large-scale studies projecting the future of long-term care needs for the nation, and for the state of Ohio and its counties. Her projections of population aging and the impact on long-term care needs have expanded to include a focus on global aging and the consequences of a rapidly aging society on less-developed regions of the world. Dr. Kunkel's research also includes federally funded projects related to community-based home care and the aging network. She has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on three consumer-direction projects, including a study of quality in consumer direction in programs funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is currently Principal Investigator on a grant to develop a curriculum and an exchange program with three European universities; the focus for the curriculum is comparative study of health and social policies of older people.

She received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Edgecliff College, a master's degree in Sociology/Gerontology from Miami University and a Ph.D. in Sociology/Demography from the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Kunkel's service to the field of aging has included offices as President of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, member of the governing board of the Gerontological Society of America, editorial board member for several professional journals, board member for several state and local organizations, and technical assistance to a number of Ohio area agencies on aging and service providers in the region.