

Published as a service to the GEC network by the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan, Michigan State University, B-215 West Fee Hall, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1315; phone: (517) 353-7828; fax: (517) 353-1878; www.nagec.org or email: gecm@msu.edu. Editing & page layout: Christina Gurski, Nicki Guthrie and Jan Yonker

The Geriatric Education Center of Greater Philadelphia

Sangeeta Bhojwani, MA, MS, Associate Director

The Geriatric Education Center of Greater Philadelphia (GEC-GP) Consortium objectives for this cycle focused educational programming on the care of the growing number of older patients with cognitive impairment, on the interdisciplinary care of elders at the end of life and on a faculty development in health literacy and equity. The GEC-GP has focused on delivering teaching activities across the University of Pennsylvania, the VA Medical Center and University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP), and with collaborating agencies.

Teaching Activities Update

The GEC-GP with Penn's School of Nursing Geroscholars and Faculty Mentors Program, which focuses on geriatric-specific knowledge and interdisciplinary research, prepared a quarterly curriculum in the areas of cognitive impairment and palliative care. In October 2007, teaching focused on Assessment and the Recognition of Dementia, and in January 2008 on Research Informed Consent in Cognitively Impaired Older Adults and decisional capacity followed by Part II in June 2008.

The GEC-GP Leadership Committee with Ann Slaughter, Assistant Professor, UPenn School of Dental Medicine, and member of the GEC-GP faculty has developed curriculum focused on oral health and the older adult. Dr. Slaughter, Course Director for the Geriatric Dentistry course, worked with Geriatric Medicine faculty and a Hospice social worker to develop a lecture which was taught to 147 third-year dental students this past May. This presentation focused on end of life care for older patients, specifically on symptom management, cultural considerations and interdisciplinary team care.

The GEC-GP developed curriculum for UPenn Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) residents focused on cognitive impairment, palliative care and health equity. In March 2008, Dr. Lois Evans, School of Nursing, and Project Co-Director of the GEC-GP, presented to the CPE residents on the challenges posed by cognitive impairment and end of life. Additionally, Dr. Jerry Johnson, Chief of Geriatric Medicine, presented in December 2007 on delirium and dementia. Christina Puchalski of George Washington University has been invited to speak this December.

In November 2007, the GEC-GP hosted a continuing education program with USP entitled "Dementia and Medications Symposium." Over 200 community pharmacists, nurses, and social workers attended the 6-hour conference. UPenn faculty member Dr. Daniel Weintraub, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, presented an overview of dementia, and focused on epidemiology, pathophysiology and classification. Kathy Witta, Clinical Nurse Specialist, presented on supporting medication and adherence for dementia.

The GEC-GP sponsored a 6-week course for health professions faculty entitled: “Health Equity and Literacy: A Health Professions Education Challenge.” The course, attended by 22 participants and held over 14 hours of in-class instruction and 10 hours of independent study, was taught by a diverse group of interdisciplinary faculty. Participants learned teaching strategies for effective communication with older patients and families; how to teach health professions students about health equity and literacy in the patient population; how to select and assess competencies in responding to patients with limited health literacy in clinical practice; and incorporating health literacy and equity for older adults in course and clinical rotation content.

The Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education and Training Center

Naushira Pandya, MD, CMD, Project Director

The Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education and Training Center (The GREAT GEC) at Nova Southeastern University hosted its first annual Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Symposium: *Closing the Gap in Elder Care*, on June 6-7, 2008.

As the title of the symposium suggests, the geriatric patient presents complex and unique health issues that require an interdisciplinary approach to care. To address this complexity, “Closing the Gap in Elder Care” brought together experts and professionals from different health professions, as well as government, commercial and academic organizations, to educate and learn about geriatrics and to discuss major health care issues among the elderly.

The 2008 symposium drew nearly 100 attendees from Florida and across the U.S. The one-and-a-half day event included an exciting combination of presentations by 23 speakers presenting 15 oral and 11 poster presentations. Topics presented were diverse and included dementia, depression, stroke, diabetes, weight management, falls, disaster preparedness, vision, hearing, oral health, pain management, Hospice, Medicare/Medicaid and environmental health. Attendees also were able to interact with 10 exhibitors who lent their expertise, services and products to this event, including Novartis, Imagine Therapy, League for the Hard of Hearing, Senior Volunteer Services, Elderly and Veterans Services, Hospice Care of Southeast Florida, the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County, SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) and NSU’s Life Long Learning Institute, College of Optometry and Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP).

An attendee evaluation of the symposium found significant increases in the self-assessed level of knowledge on all topics. Over 97% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed the symposium provided them with practical knowledge, over 93% felt they will be able to apply the knowledge gained and 91% felt the symposium will help them do their job better. One hundred percent of respondents rated the symposium overall as “good” or “excellent.”

Alaska Geriatric Education Center

Geri Heiner, BSW, Dissemination Coordinator

The Alaska Geriatric Education Center is pleased to announce an upcoming conference, September 26-27, 2008: the 16th Annual Care of the Elderly Conference to be held in Sitka, Alaska. This is a two-day conference designed to explore the ways older adults can maintain, regain and maximize function for life-long holistic health. Contact Marilyn Durocher at 1(800)478-6653 ext. 7728 or E-mail her at marilyn.durocher@uas.alaska.edu for more information. You may also go to <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/sitka/coed/conferences/elderly.html> for updates.

The Eastern Pennsylvania-Delaware Geriatric Education Center

Tarae Waddell, BS, Education Coordinator

The Eastern Pennsylvania-Delaware GEC (EPaD GEC) is pleased to be posting its first news article to the GEC community.

EPaD GEC is a consortium which includes collaborative work between Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA; Marywood University, Scranton, PA; and Christiana Care Health System, DE.

We are gearing up for two exciting interprofessional conferences to take place at Thomas Jefferson University. The first conference takes place on September 17 and is titled: "New Age in Dementia Care: Turning Evidence into Practice." This conference will highlight innovations and breakthrough models for delivering evidence-based services. The second conference will take place on October 23 and is titled: "Interprofessional Care for the 21st Century: Redefining Education." This conference will highlight interprofessional patient-centered learning models.

EPaD GEC's first interactive web based self-directed learning module titled "Using an Interprofessional Family-Centered Approach to Dementia Care" will be available on our Web site in October. Additional modules covering chronic disease management will be available later this year. Depression and end of life issues modules will follow shortly after. The modules will also include continuing education credit for all health professionals.

Our center has also collaborated with the Jefferson InterProfessional Education Center and Center for Applied Research on Aging and Health (CARAH) on various interprofessional educational tools to help promote a team approach and collaborative relationship among health professionals, patients and caregivers to help improve geriatric care.

For more information related to EPaD GEC educational opportunities and events please log on to: <http://epadgce.jefferson.edu/>.

Arkansas Geriatric Education Center

Soledad H-D Jasin, PhD, Sr Education Specialist

Summer Institute 2008

In June, the Arkansas GEC completed one of its most successful Summer Institutes since the inception of the program in 2000. Twelve faculty members from institutions of higher education across Arkansas and one from Manitoba, Canada participated in this program, which provides up to date information on different geriatric topics as well as refreshes the clinical skills of participants by offering clinical shadowing experiences in geriatric settings. The disciplines represented by group members were dietetics, physical therapy, law, speech therapy, pharmacy, nursing and social work.

The health professionals spent a week in Little Rock, during which faculty from both the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Central Arkansas Veterans Administration System provided 24 hours of instruction in topics such as Normal Aging, Developmental Tasks of Aging, Legal Issues of Older Adults, Hospitalized Elders, Overview of Dementia, Decision Making at the End of Life, Speech and Voice characteristics of Geriatric Speakers, Neuroimaging of Dementia, Geriatric Pharmacotherapy, Nutrition Requirements in Older Adults, Alcoholism in the Elderly and Sexuality in Older Adults. With the exception of the first day, participants had lectures in the morning and attended individually arranged clinical shadowing experiences. The settings for those

experiences ranged from hospital units such as Adult Day Health Care, Alzheimer's, Wound Care, Geriatric Consult Service, Geriatric Outpatient, Geriatric Psych Inpatient, Home Based Primary Care, Long Term Care, Palliative Care, House Calls, Nursing Home Visits and others. Participants completed 20 hours of clinical experiences on campus and will complete 16 additional hours in their home towns.

Exit evaluations show a high degree of satisfaction with the conceptual framework of the program and appreciation for the knowledge and experience gained. Most participants indicated they will incorporate some of the information received into their present curricula, and thus contribute to the much needed geriatric training of future health professionals.

National Training and Coordination Collaborative (NTACC)/Geriatric Education Centers

Julianne Manchester, PhD, Project Director

Linking Secondary and Tertiary Outcomes- Is it Logical, Intuitive, or Both?

Plan to attend the National Training and Coordination Collaborative (NTACC)'s Pre-Conference Institute at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) conference in November 2008. Several faculty from the NTACC Leadership Team will be discussing ways to link competency-based indicators with practice changes in the field through the lens of logic modeling, specific to particular types of GEC programming such as palliative care and health literacy.

The session, titled "Multiple Stakeholders: Using Logic and Intuition to Link Secondary and Tertiary Outcomes," will be held from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, November 21, 2008, at the upcoming GSA conference. The cost for GSA Members is \$60.00; non-GSA, \$70.00.

The purpose of the workshop is to discuss logic models and evaluation of secondary and tertiary outcomes to meet the ongoing grant requirements of federally funded GECs. The NTACC acknowledges that the 48 GECs are at different stages of development and sophistication when it comes to skills and planning for evaluation. This Institute provides the opportunity for members to exchange these ideas at a national forum.

In order to demonstrate the effectiveness of educational and training offerings in improving the health status and health outcomes of older adults, GECs collect data on primary, secondary and tertiary outcomes. However, some GECs are challenged by the tasks of showing linkages between primary, secondary (change in knowledge among practitioners) and tertiary outcomes within a variety of practice settings and across varied projects. Achieving these outcomes requires quantitative and qualitative measurement of indicators relative to patients, with an eye toward capturing contextual factors along the way. It also involves the triangulation of primary, secondary and tertiary evidence in both the practitioner and patient domains. This type of planning is comprehensive and stakeholder-based, often requiring buy-in from internal (academic departments) and external (work sites) personnel.

During this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of the processes involved with data collection and reporting of primary, secondary and tertiary outcomes. They will also have an opportunity to develop or extend their own logic models. GECs are requested to bring examples of programming areas to apply within a logic model exercise.

NTACC Launches Webinar Series on Evaluation Methodologies for GECs

The National Training and Coordination Collaborative (NTACC) is looking forward to the rollout of a 2008-2009 webinar series to address evaluation topics pertinent to GEC programming. The five webinars were developed to provide useful frameworks for the shaping of evaluation plans using computer-based and interactive training

delivery. Planned webinars will focus on evaluation foundations, the NTACC Evaluation Continuum, program logic modeling with GEC applications, measurement and scaling, the use of secondary data sets to estimate site and region-specific health outcomes and IRB lessons from the field.

Plan to register for the National Training and Coordination Collaborative (NTACC)'s first webinar for 2008-2009. Registration will begin by August 2008 and the webinar will be held Thursday, September 25, 2008, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

(1.5 hours) E-Course Syllabus:

Evaluation Foundations: Linking Competencies with Practice Using Continuous Approaches

Laying the Foundation...

- *Considering Research vs. Evaluation*
- *Evaluation Planning Considerations*
- *(Evaluation) Formative vs. Summative Inquiry*

Overview of continuous evaluation schemas

- *Kirkpatrick (1978)*
- *Hall and Hord (1967)*
- *Bennett and Rockwell (1995)*

Capturing secondary and tertiary effects

- *Comparative Evaluation Continuum*
- *Hall & Hord's Levels of Use- Applied*
 - *Breast Cancer*
 - *Falls Prevention*
- *Application of Continuum with Logic Modeling in Mental Health Context*

Contact the NTACC office with questions and look for the e-invitation!

Please direct questions to:

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Western Reserve Geriatric Education Center

Kathleen Ondus, MSN, RN, GCNS, BC, Associate Director

In April, the Western Reserve Geriatric Education Center-CASE was a co-sponsor for "Geriatric Oncology and Primary Care: Promoting Partnerships in Practice and Research." The two-day conference introduced cutting edge clinical practice issues in geriatric oncology and reported translational research findings toward promoting a model of shared care for older adults. The focus included prevention and early detection through diagnosis and treatment, long term survivorship or advanced cancer and end-of-life care. Day one targeted primary care providers, oncologists and other health professionals who manage the care of older adults in their practice. Day two targeted a broader audience including social science and health services researchers, as well as clinicians in the health

professions. Program evaluations were outstanding. Day one of this conference will be repeated in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, on September 12, 2008.

The WRGEC-CASE will co-sponsor the Third Annual Integrative Therapies Conference entitled “STRESS: Clinical Perspectives and Prescriptions for Wellness” on October 2, 2008. The all-day conference will provide evidence-based information related to wellness and the management of stress through appropriate integration of complementary and traditional approaches. The keynote speaker, Willoughby Britton, Ph.D., faculty member at Brown University will discuss “The Pathophysiology of Stress and Depression.” Douglas Moore, Ph.D., a psychologist and life coach will present “The Evidence for Energy Medicine and Energy Psychology in Integrated Care.” The afternoon break-outs will consist of concurrent sessions involving didactic with experiential opportunities for all participants related to massage, energy medicine, mindfulness meditation and art therapy.

The WRGEC along with Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy has played a role in planning a number of upcoming interdisciplinary conferences. The Interdisciplinary Conference on Delirium, scheduled for September 12, 2008, will offer continuing education for physicians, pharmacists, psychologists, nurses and social workers. The conference will address inter-professional approaches to preventing, identifying and managing delirium across the continuum of care and the contributing role of polypharmacy in both the onset and possible treatment of delirium. On September 24, 2008, The Aftermath of Trauma conference will address interdisciplinary approaches to recognizing, understanding and managing trauma in older adults. Evidence-Based Community Interventions for Geriatric Depression and Cognitive Decline, to be held on October 24, 2008, is a collaborative conference for behavioral and geriatric health professionals highlighting home-based programs for improving cognitive fitness and reducing depression.

Please visit the WRGEC website at www.wrgec.org to learn more about upcoming events.

The WRGEC-CASE is exploring new methods of evaluation. At the completion of the “Geriatric Oncology and Primary Care” conference, participants were asked to identify practice changes in the areas of cancer prevention, cancer treatment and/or end-of-life care they hoped to implement as a result of the knowledge gained from attending the conference. A follow-up three month survey was initiated in an effort to identify tertiary outcomes related to practice changes.

CASE, the headquarters for the WRGEC Consortium, will be evaluating secondary outcome measures of the palliative care curriculum for students and residents. The means for evaluation will include pre- and post-testing of knowledge and a pre- and post- attitudinal scale regarding end-of-life care. The Professional End-of-Life Attitude Scale (PEAS) developed by Marcia Levetown, MD, Bert Hayslip, Jr., PhD, and Jennifer Peel, PhD, will be the tool used to measure attitudes. Through the evaluation process, we are hoping to identify a correlation between knowledge and attitude toward end-of-life care.

SOUTH TEXAS GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTER

Natalie Wright, MA, LNFA, Geriatric Education Specialist

The South Texas Geriatric Education Center (STGEC) of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) is pleased to announce the following programs:

29th Annual Conference on Aging

The STGEC jointly sponsors this conference each year with VISN 17 and the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) of the Audie L. Murphy Division of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS). The theme of this year’s conference is “Current Perspectives and New Horizons in Diabetes Management,” and the purpose of the conference is to provide clinicians with the most up-to-date research and clinical practice information available on the treatment of diabetes in the elderly.

The conference's keynote speaker will be Dr. William Duckworth of the Phoenix VA who will share the results of the VADT and implications for cardiovascular disease prevention and glucose control in the elderly. In addition, Dr. Michael Parchman, Director of the VERDICT Research Program, STVHCS, will discuss implications of the chronic care model for diabetes in the elderly; Dr. R. Harsha Rao of the Pittsburgh VA will share research results regarding the relationship between hypertension and diabetes; and Dr. Steven Haffner of the UTHSCSA will discuss the treatment of diabetic dyslipidemia. We will also be joined by Dr. A. Lee Dellon from Johns Hopkins University who will discuss surgical advances in the treatment of diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

This conference will be held on Friday, August 22nd, at the Airport Hilton in San Antonio. Continuing education credits will be offered to most disciplines. For more information, contact Natalie Wright at (210) 567-7439 or wrightn@uthscsa.edu. Conference brochures and registration information can also be found online at www.sagrecc.org.

3rd Annual Medico-Legal Conference on Aging

The 2008 Medico-Legal Conference on Aging will be held on August 21st and 22nd, at the Airport Hilton in San Antonio. The theme for this day-and-a-half-long conference is "Vulnerabilities in Geriatric Care." Various areas of financial vulnerability for the elderly will be discussed including reverse mortgages, trusts and Medicare and Medicaid. Additional topics include the false promises of advance directives, Oregon's Death with Dignity Act and elder fraud. The highlight of the conference will be the keynote speech given by Dr. Peter Rabins, Director of the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neuropsychiatry at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Dr. Rabins, co-author of *The 36-Hour Day*, is a nationally renowned geriatric psychiatrist and leader in the care of Alzheimer's patients, and he will offer insight on a variety of issues related to the elderly and their caregivers and the challenges they encounter.

Continuing education credits will be offered to most disciplines, including attorneys. For more information, contact Natalie Wright at (210) 567-7439 or wrightn@uthscsa.edu. Conference brochures and registration information can also be found online at www.sagrecc.org.

West Virginia Geriatric Education Center

Nancy Daugherty, Program Coordinator

After more than 10 years of operations as the Mountain State Geriatric Education Center (MSGEC), West Virginia has a new name and location for the GEC. Beginning in late January, The West Virginia Geriatric Education Center is now located at WVU in Charleston to capitalize on the many activities focused on geriatrics at the WVU – Charleston Division, Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center. Mark A. Newbrough, MD, is the new Director/Principle Investigator for the WVGEC. Mark brings more than 10 years experience collaborating with the MSGEC and lends to the new position his considerable expertise and passion for serving elderly patients. Mark is board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine, serves as the Director of the WV Geriatrics Society and has long been a proponent of using an interdisciplinary model for training health care professionals to address the special needs of the elderly. Mark can be reached at mnewbrough@hsc.wvu.edu or by telephone at (304) 347-1342.

WVU Charleston/CAMC received accreditation for a Geriatrics Fellowship, effective July 01, 2008. The Fellowship is currently recruiting students. For more information, go to <http://camc.wvu.edu/geriatrics>. The School of Nursing has a new Geriatrics Nurse Practitioner Program scheduled to begin in January 2009. Additionally, the Department of Pharmacy has a Residency in Geriatrics that is an important contribution to the WVU Charleston/CAMC collaboration and assists in our interdisciplinary focus.

The focus on geriatrics was kept alive during the loss of funding by activities of the West Virginia Geriatrics Society; consequently, we have made great progress since the grant was awarded in September 2007. WVGEC, in cooperation with the WV Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) and Rural Health Education Partnerships (RHEP), presented a Faculty Development conference in March that included “Teaching and Assessing Essential Elements of Health Care Communication.”

The Advanced Geriatrics Educator Skills (AGES) program, the first certification course promoting excellence in the clinical practice and teaching of geriatrics, was held in April over three days and saw over 15 practitioners in four disciplines receive the advanced certification.

In June, the GEC and CAMC Health Education and Research Institute (CAMC Institute) offered “Health Literacy in Geriatrics” training that focused on assessing the health literacy of patients, environmental survey of the office/practice environment, communication skills and “teach back” method of increasing patients’ understanding of their health care plans. Trainees came from five disciplines and were asked to complete post training activities that included documenting patient encounters and teaching others.

The Interdisciplinary Faculty team has been meeting regularly and the Charleston “Friends of Geriatrics” (FOG) recently submitted a manuscript to the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* entitled “Validation of an Interprofessional Competency Guide for Geriatrics.” WVGEC also held a Leadership Summit in May that provided input and oversight of the grant activities conducted thus far and solicited guidance for year two. Nancy Daugherty, our new Program Coordinator, came on board May 1 and “hit the ground” working on grant activities and preparing for year two. Nancy brings experience in grants, workforce development and rehabilitation services to our team. Nancy may be reached by telephone at (304) 347-1208 or email at ndaugherty@hsc.wvu.edu.

The Meharry Consortium GEC

Ruth G. Garrett, PhD, Director

The Meharry Consortium GEC has become more involved in the MMC Family Medicine Department, whose residents and rotating medical students will be routinely trained through the GEC program. Our in house Geriatrician, Dr. M. Sidani, meets with the GEC staff weekly to plan training and participation of their residents and students. To fulfill their community medical outreach, MMC residents will be training medical and dental students to participate in Senior Boomer Expo, a wellness fair that attracts 2,000 or more senior citizens in October each year. For six years, 50 or more students have routinely screened older adults at Senior Expo for cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure and dental problems. We have expanded the screenings of necessity; the seniors really like our students, returning each year to our booths. This year the GSF officers, medical and dental students, and Family Medicine residents will be participating in Senior Expo screenings.

The Geriatric Student Forum (GSF) officers have met twice for planning activities in the new academic year. The officers requested that our President, Dr. Wayne Riley, speak at our first student group meeting, August 27, and he graciously accepted.

Our Medical Gerontology Certificate Program will resume in September via distance learning. We will take the program live to Bowling Green Medical Center, KY, in October.

We have booked Walter Bortz, MD, to return to Meharry in May, 2009 for the Commencement Seminars. The first year students to whom he spoke in May, 2008, have requested him for their graduation speaker in 2011.

We are adding a new staff member, Beverly Patnaik, a gerontologist, who will be assuming some of the administrative responsibilities as well as other leadership duties.

Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers

Judith Howe, PhD, Director

The Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers is pleased to announce an up-coming conference, the Intensive Update with Board Review in Geriatric and Palliative Medicine. Co-sponsored by the Consortium of NY GECs, this conference is an important opportunity for close study with nationally recognized experts in both fields. This four-day course is an engaging, highly practical, and comprehensive review of all aspects of geriatric and palliative medicine, and is uniquely organized around work sessions that allow participants to take advantage of one-on-one mentoring and networking opportunities. Case-based workshops cover topics ranging from geriatric assessment and pain management to hip fracture and urinary incontinence, in addition to board review Q&A luncheon sessions.

The conference will be held in New York City, Sunday, September 14, through Wednesday, September 17, from 8 a.m. to 6:10 p.m. at the Baruch College Vertical Campus Conference Center on Lexington Avenue at 24th Street on the 14th floor.

To register, go to http://www.mssm.edu/geriatrics/education/courses/geriatric_medicine/index.shtml or call the Mount Sinai School of Medicine Page and William Black Post-Graduate School Office of CME at (212) 731-7950, for additional information.

There is a \$100 discount for registrations received prior to the July 31, 2008 deadline.

California Geriatric Education Center

Rachel Price, MSG, Project Coordinator

We are proud to announce the 25th Annual UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review, scheduled to be held *September 17 - 20, 2008* in Marina del Rey, California. This four-day intensive course in geriatric medicine emphasizes a functional assessment approach to comprehensive care of older adults and is directed toward health care professionals who care for older persons, and toward faculty in teaching programs in geriatrics and gerontology. The course will be especially useful to internists and family physicians who are preparing for either the Examination for the Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine or the Re-certification Examination.

The Office of Continuing Medical Education, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, designates this educational activity for a maximum of 35.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.

Faculty Development Opportunities in Geriatric Education

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation awarded UCLA a grant to improve the quality of life for the nation's elderly by strengthening geriatrics training at academic health centers. The Faculty Development to Advance Geriatric Education (FD~AGE) Program at UCLA has used these funds to produce valuable programs to develop geriatric teaching skills among non-geriatrician clinician-educators.

The Mini-Fellowship Program at UCLA is an innovative three-day course designed to train clinician-educators to effectively integrate geriatric medicine into their teaching. To date, we have trained over 150 clinician-educators from eighty different institutions.

- Next training dates: October 22-24, 2008 and February 11-13, 2009.
- Free enrollment for eligible participants. Must have a medical license, a faculty/teaching appointment and limited geriatric training.

- Topics include: Pain Management, Breaking Bad News, Delirium and Dementia, Advanced Care Planning, Polypharmacy and much more.
- Interactive sessions include: Problem-based learning, one-on-one action plan coaching, standardized student simulation and developing platform skills.

Another valuable opportunity is the On-Site Consultation Program, which is designed to provide guidance to institutions looking to expand their geriatric teaching programs. Senior geriatric faculty members conduct all consultations, providing recommendations for best strategies to expand or create successful medical education programs in geriatric medicine. Consultations are offered at no cost to all non-Reynolds funded institutions. Each consultation includes a resource package with guides on educational program development, instructional DVD and CDs and clinical screening tools.

For more information, please contact the program coordinator, Anne Hu at (310) 312-0531 or annehu@mednet.ucla.edu.

Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional Geriatric Education Center

Arleen Johnson, PhD, Director

OVAR/GEC Programs Featured At 2008 UK Summer Series on Aging Conference

The OVAR/GEC sponsored two sessions at the 2008 annual University of Kentucky Summer Series on Aging Conference held in Lexington on June 23-25. The conference was attended by 330 health care professionals from 19 states representing 20 disciplines. With a focus on health literacy, Kay Loughrey, MPH, MSM, RD, brought to the conference 20 years of successful leadership experience in building programs to ensure the health and well being of older adults and a unique combination of skills in social marketing, health promotion and health communications. She currently works for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) where one of her responsibilities is to lead town hall strategic planning meetings to help communities create their health literacy agendas for the future.

Jim Concotelli, MSW, PhD, recognized by the International Council on Active Aging as one of the top 10 innovators in wellness programming for older adults, shared The LiveWell Program that he developed for Horizon Bay Senior Communities. He presented the initiative on fall prevention/fall reduction, which has been documented as decreasing fear of falling while increasing confidence handling falls, activity levels, mobility, mobility range and social activity. This successful program recently won a Best Practice award from the National Council on Aging Health Promotion Institute.

Montana Geriatric Education Center

Gayle Hudgins, PharmD, Director

Beginning with the new grant cycle that started September 2007, MTGEC has two, new consortium members: Northwest Research and Education Institute in Billings and Montana Tech in Butte. These institutions bring experience in providing continuing education to rural health care professionals and training health professions students.

Preparation for MTGEC's sixth annual conference is underway, with a theme of "Improving Geriatric Care Transitions: Medication Safety and Health Literacy." On October 14, 2008, speakers will present from Billings to interdisciplinary audiences across Montana using statewide videoconferencing facilities. More than 30 rural health

centers have this technology and 20 or more sites participate each year. Thus, Montana health care professionals have an opportunity to learn from four nationally known speakers while staying close to their place of work. According to our needs assessment surveys conducted since 2002, time and cost of travel have been consistently reported as the major barriers to attending continuing education programs for health care professionals.

2008 Topics and Speakers

- “Geriatric Care Transitions” by Lee Lindquist, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois
- “Polypharmacy in the Elderly” by Lynne Kallenbach, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of General and Geriatric Medicine, Landon Center on Aging, Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas
- “Identifying and Managing Medication Errors in Geriatric Care Settings” by Matthew Grissinger, RPh, FISMP, FASCP
Director of Error Reporting Programs, Institute for Safe Medication Practices, Horsham, Pennsylvania
- “Health Literacy: A Hidden Problem” by Claudette Dalton, MD
Medical Director of Perioperative Surgical Services, Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, Virginia

As a follow-up to the 2007 conference, Patient-Centered Geriatric Care: Patients as Partners, MTGEC experimented with holding a mini-videoconference on Diabetes and American Indians. Based on subjects presented in the 2007 conference, the cross-cultural differences and methods for improving patient-provider communication were applied on the local level to Montana’s American Indian population. Carol Strasheim, BSN, RN, who has over 10 years experience with the Indian Health Service, was the presenter. Forty attendees at seven videoconference sites participated.

Since January 1, 2008, 27 geriatric health screenings have been conducted by health professions students in Montana, with more than 800 tests performed and 600 clients served. The tests provided are lipid panels, heel scans for bone density, hemoglobin A1c for diabetic control and blood pressure. Wellness screenings are held in a variety of settings, including health care facilities, public health departments, senior centers, community health centers, pharmacies, health fairs and churches. Health professions students include those from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy at The University of Montana, as well as nursing, social work and physical therapy students. It has been a challenge to incorporate all the disciplines due to different academic schedules.

Nebraska Geriatric Education Center

Lisa Bottsford, MPH, Program Coordinator

The Nebraska Geriatric Education Center is aiming to improve the quality of care and patient outcomes for residents of 19 nursing homes through interdisciplinary training of nursing home providers in rural Nebraska.

Tom Magnuson, MD, and Brenda Keller, MD, CMD, from the sections of Geriatric Medicine and Psychiatry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, are conducting interdisciplinary training for nursing home personnel through telemedicine, emphasizing care for residents of the nursing facilities who suffer from dementia and other mental illness.

July 14th kicked off the monthly geriatric educational series. The complete schedule is as follows:

July 14	Dealing with Difficult Behaviors I - A General Approach
August 4	Dealing with Difficult Behaviors II - Specific Techniques
September 8	Recognition and Treatment of Depression in LTC
October 6	Mental Illness and the Right to Refuse Treatment
November 3	Activities for Residents with Dementia in LTC
December 1	Anxiety and Sleep Disorders in Long Term Care

As part of this ongoing educational series, Dr. Magnuson and Dr. Keller developed an online forum to supplement educational seminars offered by the Nebraska Geriatrics Education Center. The forum is a place where nursing home personnel in the state of Nebraska can submit their own questions and perplexing cases for review and receive commentary by members of the online community. Monthly tip sheets will also be posted as a supplement to the seminars.

Please visit the Nebraska Geriatric Education Center website at <http://www.unmc.edu/nebgec/>.
To visit the nursing home forum created by Dr. Magnuson and Dr. Keller, please go to <http://ltcmentalhealth.forumcircle.com/portal.php>.

Editor's note: It has come to our attention that recent issues of the *Pipeline* volumes were not numbered correctly. We have corrected this error beginning with this issue, and will correct previous electronic copies for the archives. We apologize for any inconvenience. ~ Jan Yonker, MSA

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
August 20-21, 2008	2008 Medico-Legal Conference on Aging: Vulnerabilities in Geriatric Care	Airport Hilton, San Antonio, TX	Natalie Wright wrightn@uthscsa.edu (210)567-7439 www.sagrecc.org
August 22, 2008	29 th Annual Conference on Aging: Current Perspectives and New Horizons in Diabetes Management	Airport Hilton, San Antonio, TX	Natalie Wright wrightn@uthscsa.edu (210)567-7439 www.sagrecc.org
September 12, 2008 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Confusion About Confusion: What is Delirium and What Should You Do About It?	The University of Akron Student Union Akron, Ohio	Jamie Henry (330)325-6361
September 14-17, 2008 8 a.m. – 6:10 p.m.	Intensive Update with Board Review in Geriatric and Palliative Medicine	New York City, NY	Mount Sinai School of Medicine Page and William Black Post-Graduate School Office of CME (212)731-7950
September 17-20, 2008	25th Annual UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott Marina del Rey, CA	Pamela Jackson-McCall prjackso@mednet.ucla.edu (310)312-0531
September 24, 2008	Evidence-Based Community Interventions for Geriatric Depression and Cognitive Decline	Akron City Hospital Akron, Ohio	Jamie Henry (330)325-6361
September 24-25, 2008	Nutrition and Aging XXIII: Alternative and Complementary Nutrition	Peabody Hotel Little Rock, AR	Sue Porbeck, CHES (501)257-5543 www.agec.org
September 25 th , 2008 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST	Webinar: Evaluation Foundations: Linking Competencies with Practice Using Continuous Approaches	N/A	Julianne Manchester, PhD julianne.manchester@case.edu (216)778-7147
September 26-27, 2008	The 16th Annual Care of the Elderly Conference	Sitka, AL	Marilyn Durocher marilyn.durocher@uas.alaska.edu (800)478-6653 ext. 7728 www.uas.alaska.edu/sitka/coed/conferences/elderly.html
October 1, 2008 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Parkinson's Disease: Sharing Wisdom	Las Vegas, Nevada	Diann Jones dsjones@medicine.nevada.edu (775)682-8470
October 24, 2008 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Third Annual Integrative Therapies Conference STRESS: Clinical Perspectives and Prescriptions for Wellness	MetroHealth Medical Center Cleveland, Ohio	Conference Line (216)778-7707 rradziejewicz@metrohealth.org
October 24, 2008 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	The Aftermath of Trauma: Impacting the Victim and Society	Akron City Hospital Akron, Ohio	Area Agency on Aging 1(800)421-7277 ext 3606
October 22-24, 2008	Donald W. Reynolds Mini-Fellowship Program in Geriatrics at UCLA	Los Angeles, CA	Anne Hu, MPH annehu@mednet.ucla.edu (310)312-0531
November 21st	Multiple Stakeholders: Using Logic and Intuition to Link Secondary and Tertiary Outcomes	N/A	Julianne Manchester, PhD julianne.manchester@case.edu (216)778-7147

The Geriatric Education Center of Michigan (GECM) is not responsible for the content of the newsletter, other than GECM articles. GECM edits to enhance readability and format only. Please submit articles to: gecm@msu.edu.