

Published as a service to the GEC network by the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan, Michigan State University, B-215 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1315; phone: (517) 353-7828; fax: (517) 353-1878; Email: nicki.walker@hc.msu.edu; NAGEC Web site: www.nagec.org; Editing & page layout: Nicki Walker; Copy editing: Jan Yonker, MSA

Houston Geriatric Education Center (HGEC)

Kyler Godwin, MPH, Project Coordinator

The Houston Geriatric Education Center (HGEC) focuses on the needs of vulnerable elders, such as disaster preparedness and preventing elder abuse and mistreatment. The HGEC is made up of partners from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, the University of Houston and Texas Woman's University.

The 2nd Annual HGEC Interdisciplinary Student Team Competition

The HGEC hosted its second annual Interdisciplinary Student Team Competition on Monday, April 20. This year's focus was disaster preparedness for community dwelling elders in senior housing complexes. Two teams of students from various fields of study (pharmacy, social work, public health, medicine, nursing, dentistry, dental hygiene, physical and occupational therapy and health informatics) representing the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Texas Woman's University and the University of Houston visited senior housing complexes in the Houston area that were affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike. At the competition, each team presented their assessment of the issues facing the housing complex and the seniors living there, in addition to their recommendations for the future. Teams were judged on their teamwork, critical thinking, assessment, innovation and feasibility of their recommendations. The judges consisted of an interdisciplinary faculty and a panel of City of Houston officials who work closely with the housing complexes visited.

Both teams did an outstanding job. Because there was less than one point difference between the teams' final scores, both teams were declared winners! Everyone celebrated at the reception held immediately following the competition. Congratulations to the Disaster Blasters and Sentimental Journey on a job well done!

Seniors Taking Action! Disaster Preparedness for Seniors and Their Families

On June 17, 2009, the HGEC, along with several other agencies and organizations, will hold a senior citizen gathering at the Sunnyside All Purpose Center in Houston, Texas. Because Houston is on the Gulf Coast of Texas, the need for disaster preparedness is great, especially among vulnerable community dwelling elders. *Seniors Taking Action! Disaster Preparedness for Seniors and Their Families* will encourage seniors to register for the Evacuation Transportation Assistance Program and will provide them with information they need to know in the event of another hurricane. Elders will also be provided with a continental breakfast, health screening and small tokens of appreciation for attendance. This event will be offered at no charge to the seniors.

More information on these events can be found on our website: www.houstongec.org.

Geriatric Education Center of Greater Philadelphia (GEC-GP)

Sangeeta Bhojwani, MA, MS, Associate Director

Natasha Charles, MEd, Program Manager

Teaching Activities

The Geriatric Education Center of Greater Philadelphia (GEC-GP) faculty with Ann Slaughter, DDS, MPH, Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, have developed curriculum focused on oral health and the older adult for the Geriatric Dentistry Course. Dr. Amy Corcoran, with Alicia Marini, MSW, will deliver to the class of 125 third-year dental students a program focused on *Caring for Older Adults at Life's End: An Introduction to Palliative Care Dentistry* on May 8, 2009. The course objectives are to help students understand the context for dying and death in America; the needs of persons with life-threatening illness and their families; definitions of hospice and palliative care in lay language; learning about hospice eligibility guidelines; and the importance of advance directives.

Dr. Mary Ann Forciea, Director of the GEC-GP, played a faculty role in the Long Term Care Course at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP). She worked with Dr. Zlutnik, course director for the Long Term Care Course, to develop a site visit for students in November 2008 and during the spring semester in March 2009. The focus of the site visit and didactic was for students to increase knowledge about the physical environment of the nursing home; to appreciate the functions of the interdisciplinary team in the care of nursing home patients; and to increase awareness of the special challenges of medication use in the frail population of nursing home residents.

GEC-GP faculty also helped develop a session for the USP Interdisciplinary Course which focuses on the definitions of hospice and palliative care and roles of members of the hospice team. In February 2009, the GEC offered for the first time a tour of the new Penn at Rittenhouse Hospice facility and didactic given by Dr. Amy Corcoran for students of the Interdisciplinary Course.

Second Annual Health Equity and Literacy Faculty Development Course – Day One

Day one of the GEC-GP's second annual Health Equity and Literacy Faculty Development Course was hosted on Friday, April 17, 2009. Newly added to the senior leadership of the GEC-GP, USP faculty member Claudia Parvanta, PhD, was designated as course director along with Dr. Mary Ann Forciea. With her expertise in health literacy, Dr. Parvanta delivered a presentation on the issues of how to fit generic health literacy tasks into clinical practice and on the issues of language, culture and diversity. Additional presentation topics included methods for effective communication with patients, and communicating effectively in print and on the web.

The course was held at LIFE, an All-Inclusive Adult Daycare Center that promotes independence for senior citizens in the surrounding community. Participants were given a tour of the facility while completing an environmental audit and reviewed their observations during the afternoon session. In addition, eligible participants were awarded 7.25 CME/CNE credits for attendance, with a total of 14.5 credits available for participation in the total course. Day two of the course will take place on Friday, May 8, 2009.

Harold Koenig, Spirituality Research Symposium

The GEC-GP, in conjunction with The Penn Center for Spirituality and the Mind and The Penn Medicine Department of Pastoral Care, is pleased to welcome Harold G. Koenig, MD, MHSc, Co-Director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health and Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University. Dr. Koenig will deliver a talk as the featured speaker for this year's Spirituality Research Symposium on Thursday, May 21, 2009, in the Fagin Hall Auditorium at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Koenig has published extensively in the fields of mental health, geriatrics and religion, with 40 books in print or in preparation, including *The Handbook of Religion & Health; Faith and Mental Health; Spirituality in Patient Care, 2nd Edition;* and *Spirituality & Medicine*. The symposium is free and open to the public and will run from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

West Virginia Geriatric Education Center (WVGEC)

Nancy Daugherty, Program Coordinator

The WVGEC held two important faculty development training programs recently: Health Literacy in Older Adults and Advanced Geriatrics Educators Skills (AGES) Training. Health Literacy in Older Adults was held in January 2009, and had a good turnout in spite of inclement weather! Twenty-four hours of training were provided which included pre-and post-work activities. The participants learned communication strategies and used intensive interactive exercises to increase understanding and utilization of the health literacy concepts. Trainees particularly enjoyed the role playing activities that focused on “teach back.” The AMA Health Literacy Training Kit and other tools were provided so that health literacy training can be conducted back in the trainees’ home communities. Written outcome reports are submitted with an emphasis on affecting patient outcomes. We have utilized a Secure On-line Environment (SOLE) to share work plans and reports and have the ability to communicate via message boards. Health literacy will also be presented in year three of the GEC grant.

AGES Training was presented in March 2009, and we are proud to report that all trainees passed the written and objective structured clinical exam (OSCE) and received their certification. AGES faculty who conducted the training were from the three medical schools in West Virginia and included other experts in the field. One milestone obtained this year is having some of the modules available via SOLE, the secure on-line learning environment through the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center. Trainees receive curriculum booklets – an excellent resource tool – that include reference topics such as: Alcohol and Substance Abuse in Older Adults, Falls and Dizziness in the Elderly, Providing Effective Feedback and Oral Health, to name just a few. This training was the brainchild of Konrad Nau, MD, FAAFP, Associate Dean and Chair of the WVU School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine – Eastern Division of WVU. AGES was created for clinicians who care for the elderly and participate in the education of other health care professionals. It provides evidence and outcomes based resources in clinical geriatrics as well as the tools to refine the educational skills to effectively teach. In addition, the GEC will have a display booth at the American Geriatrics Society conference in Chicago highlighting both AGES and health literacy.

The WVGEC along with rural partners, South Eastern Education Consortium, Gorge Connection, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine, Mountain State OPTI, Greenbrier Medical Center and CAMC Institute, held a very successful one day training session on dysphasia. Topics included: Etiology of Dysphasia, Speech Evaluation, Psychosocial Support and Nutritional Options. More than 60 health care professionals from various disciplines attended. The Eastern WV Rural Health Education Consortium held a workshop on Recognizing Signs of Decline in the Elderly Population.

Spring saw a lot of attention devoted to evaluating our progress, assessing barriers and planning for year three of our grant. Attention was devoted to establishing our calendar for year three. Geriatrics Lunch and Learns continue to be very popular and the Geriatrics Journal Club has a strong base of support from the WVU – Charleston campus, WV State University and the University of Charleston. For more information on these activities, please check out our website at: <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/charleston/WVGEC/>.

Following our display activities at the American Geriatrics Society, the WVGEC will have a booth at the Summer Institute on Aging in Morgantown, WV. This premier event’s theme is *Changing Attitudes About Aging*. Topics include: Compassion Fatigue – When Caring Burns Out; Anxiety Management for Older Adults and Their Families; Case Review of Elder Abuse; and other timely topics. Our Interdisciplinary Faculty Committee continues to collaborate and learn about activities occurring throughout West Virginia that impact the provision of care for our older citizens.

National Training and Coordination Collaborative (NTACC) Geriatric Education Centers

Julianne Manchester, PhD, Project Director

Methods and Measures Discussion Groups

Join the NTACC for an hour long conversation with colleagues on various evaluation topics – the next two will be held on June 11 and July 9, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. In our last discussion group on April 9, stakeholders from nine GECs shared their expertise on item development for surveys and linking content to measures. Conversation occurred over unexpected data emerging from focus groups and the benefits of records review.

The June 11 session, *Connecting the Dots through Multiple Data Sources*, will discuss write up of results from multiple data sources (Excel, Tracker, SPSS). Participants will review sample data reports. As a group, we will make decisions regarding the focus of results and practice write up of findings. Conversation will focus on the integration of knowledge and competency scores with practice change data.

Our July 9 session, *Using Records to Enhance Evaluation*, will explore the data collection method of records review for formative and summative evaluation. Examples of how to use records review in formative evaluation (session rosters, curriculum modules) will be discussed. In a summative level example, a chart audit pertaining to palliative care will be examined for utility in evaluation. Some discussion will be provided on its development and related data collection procedures.

NTACC Webinar Series Focuses on Evaluation Methodologies for GECs

Data Preparation to Enhance HRSA Reporting

June 18, 2009, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time

<https://connect.case.edu/datareporting/>

The NTACC is looking forward to delivering a summer webinar focused on data preparation to enhance HRSA reporting. Participants will learn techniques for data management and reporting.

Outline

- I. Data management
 - a. Types of data (program, participant)
 - b. Data coding
 - c. Data cleaning
- II. Data reporting
 - a. HRSA reporting examples
 - b. Integration with evaluation data – attitudinal, practice

GEC Tracker Training

The NTACC will be hosting their third in a series of quarterly GEC Tracker training sessions on July 14, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The training session is an opportunity for new users to have a guided introduction to the system, as well as for more seasoned users to ask questions. Participants will be exposed to how to enter GEC participant profiles and program information into the system. They will learn how the entry fields correspond to important HRSA reporting tables, as well as features to provide ease in reporting. The session is open to anyone who utilizes the Tracker system at your GEC. To register for the session please e-mail Vanessa Astraitis at vaa13@case.edu.

Archived versions of NTACC Webinars and Methods and Measures Groups can be found on the NTACC website: <http://ntacc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/>. For more information on any of these NTACC Resources, Contact Vanessa Astraitis, NTACC Project Coordinator (216) 778-8367, vanessa.astraitis@case.edu.

Meharry Consortium Geriatric Education Center (MCGEC)

Ruth Garrett, PhD, MPH, Director

Dr. Walter M. Bortz II, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, will return to Meharry Medical College in May 2009 for several presentations. Bortz is one of America's most distinguished scientific experts on aging. An avid runner, the 78-year-old physician has completed 37 marathons and is a columnist for *Runner's World* magazine. His books include:

- *We Live Too Short and Die Too Long: How to Achieve and Enjoy Your Natural 100-Year-Plus Life Span*
- *Diabetes Danger: What 200 Million Americans At Risk Need to Know*
- *Dare to be 100*
- *Living Longer for Dummies*

Dr. Bortz will be discussing his upcoming book, *Next Medicine*, expected to release in December 2009, at seminars for MCGEC on May 13, 14 and 15, 2009. This book discusses how the coming revolution will save American health care.

May 13 Agenda: Geriatric Retreat with Bortz: *Next Medicine*; Dr. Shirley Neitch, West Virginia: *Assessment of Older Drivers*; Dr. William Petrie, Nashville Consultants: *Latest Developments in AD treatment*; Dr. M Sidani: *Depression in the Elderly*.

May 14 Agenda: Grand Rounds at Vanderbilt University; Community Without Walls opening at Jewish Community Center

May 15 Agenda: Morning: Commencement Seminar, Meharry Medical College: *Next Medicine*; Afternoon: *The Future of Aging*, West End Methodist Church

Next Medicine* synopsis

Every year, the average American spends about \$7,300 on medical expenses. The typical Canadian pays \$2,700, the Briton only \$2,000. And yet, according to the World Health Organization, our healthcare system, in terms of total quality, ranks 38th in the world, right between Costa Rica and Slovenia. Not only do 40 million Americans lack health insurance, but more than 200,000 die each year because of medical mistakes. Our average life expectancy is lower than Cuba's.

In *Next Medicine*, Walter Bortz shows how the defects of American healthcare threaten the stability of our entire nation. A physician with 50 years of experience and an expert on aging, Bortz argues that the financial interests of biotech and drug companies have eroded the values of the medical profession and placed profit before human wellbeing. Heart disease, for example, is widely treated with drug interventions and invasive surgery – both of which are extravagantly profitable for pharmaceutical giants and hospitals. But daily exercise and a healthy diet can prevent heart disease altogether, and can be obtained by patients essentially for free. As such, the medical-industrial complex has a vested interest in keeping Americans sick, and until that changes medicine will fail to effectively address the leading cause of disability and mortality today: chronic diseases like diabetes that are largely preventable. Dissecting these and other symptoms of our ailing healthcare system, Bortz prescribes a potent therapy: a radical new approach to medicine that emphasizes personal responsibility and provides incentives for healthy lifestyle choices, along with a new class of medical professionals trained to promote health rather than to treat disease. Nothing less than a paradigm shift, Bortz's proposal goes far beyond the administrative tinkering proposed by politicians and special interests.

Through a lively narrative full of personal anecdotes, bold ideas and jarring statistics, Bortz makes a powerful case for a new kind of American healthcare — one that is based on rigorous science and a fearless acknowledgement of human potential.

*This synopsis was published on the [Oxford University Press Web site](#).

Stanford Geriatric Education Center (SGEC)

Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, PhD, Director

Gwen Yeo, PhD, Co-Director

Renee Marquett, MS, MBA, Data Analyst

Stanford GEC's Faculty Development Program in Health Literacy and Ethnogeriatrics is held each summer for one week on the Stanford Campus. The July 6 – 10, 2009, session is full, but applications may still be submitted for the waiting list. We are also taking names now of those who would like to receive notification and application forms for the June 2010 program. There is no fee to attend the intensive week long program, but participants are responsible for their travel, housing and food.

The eight-module course uses a train the trainer format, and participants are expected to implement the curriculum used in the SGEC Faculty Development Program, or another project focusing on health literacy and ethnogeriatrics, at their home sites. Faculty from health care disciplines who would like more information can contact Gwen Yeo, at gwenyeo@stanford.edu.

The SGEC would also like to take this opportunity to inform you of a new educational series in 2009: WEBINARS. This series was developed as a way to help all of us stay current in the field of ethnogeriatrics. Each month, one of our faculty members will present a new topic designed to share useful information. These webinars are open to everyone, but only with PRIOR REGISTRATION. Webinars are online classes and seminars that you can attend from anywhere using your computer!

Please visit <http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html> and click on the "Register for this Event" link of the webinar you are interested in. Are you an LCSW, nurse or MFCC? Learn invaluable therapeutic techniques in cultural competence with older adults and get CEU or CE credits by signing up for one of our Webinars! At the present time we are only able to offer continuing education units/credits to licensed nurses, social workers or marriage and family counselors.

You can also check out our Webinar events and other training events on the Pipeline's 2009 Calendar of Events!

The Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers (CNYGEC)

Jennifer Griffith, MA, Program Manager

The Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers (CNYGEC) and New York University present the Geriatric Mental Health and Emergency Preparedness Program on May 5, 15 and 22, 2009, at James J. Peters VA Medical Center (JJ Peters VAMC) in Bronx, NY. The *Geriatric Mental Health & Emergency Preparedness* program responds to the increased need for healthcare providers who serve older adults to enhance their knowledge and skills in emergency and disaster preparedness. The program is designed so that attendees can participate one day a week over a three week period. It is intended for, but not limited to, staff and faculty from senior centers, home care programs, local and state offices for the aging, nursing homes, hospitals, ambulance and other emergency services and clergy. Participants can take the three day *Geriatric Mental Health & Emergency Preparedness* course and two additional electives to receive a 40-hour geriatric scholar certificate.

On June 10, 2009, CNYGEC, JJ Peters VAMC, GRECC, Long Island GEC and Finger Lakes GEC co-sponsor the 8th Annual Videoconference on The Older Adults as Caregiver. Gail Hunt, President and CEO of the National Alliance for Caregiving, presents the keynote address titled: *The Older Adult Caregiver*. Other topics of discussion include: mental health aspects of caregiving, male caregivers, elderly caring for the elderly, caregiving resources, VET Centers and VA resources.

Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional GEC (OVAR/GEC)

Arleen Johnson, PhD, Director

GEC Geriatric Emergency Preparedness and Response Collaborative Presents at 2009 AGHE Conference

Directors from the Texas Consortium GEC, Stanford GEC, Gateway GEC of Missouri & Illinois, New York Consortium of GECs, Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional GEC and Mather LifeWays collaborated on a poster titled, *Safeguarding Better Futures for Older Adults: More Health Providers with Geriatric Training in Disaster Preparedness*. The poster was for the annual meeting of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Conference held in San Antonio, from February 26 – March 1. The session was attended by participants from Kentucky, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming and Wales. The GEC Collaborative will facilitate a focus group at the American Geriatrics Society Conference, April 29 – May 3, and has submitted an abstract for the 2009 Gerontological Society of America Meeting in November.

OVAR/GEC, Stanford GEC and New Orleans Council on Aging Convene ASA Peer Group on Geriatric Emergency Preparedness and Response

Arleen Johnson, Director, OVAR/GEC, Melen McBride, Associate Director, Stanford GEC, and Howard L. Rodgers, III, Executive Director, New Orleans Council on Aging, planned and convened a Peer Group Session on *Emergency Preparedness and Older Adults: Emerging Issues* on March 17 at the Joint Conference of the NCOA/ASA held in Las Vegas. The peer group was attended by health care providers and administrators from California, Georgia, Kentucky and Louisiana who represented Centers for Disease Control, Area Agencies on Aging, social and health service agencies, universities and Geriatric Education Centers. Issues discussed included the need for emergency preparedness training; re-fitting passenger trains for wheelchairs to be sent in advance to areas in danger; motivating older persons and community services agencies to be prepared; sharing best/promising practices and resources; creating high risk registries and collaborating and thinking through all aspects of agency emergency plans. Peer Group members requested to be included on a distribution list for further networking that will be established by the OVAR/GEC. For information and resources on emergency preparedness for aging, E-newsletters on long term care, health literacy and pandemic flu, visit the following Web site: <http://cwte.louisville.edu/ovar/emergency/winter2009.htm>. For more on emergency preparedness and bioterrorism, visit: http://www.mc.uky.edu/aging/bioterrorism_and_emergency_preparedness.html.

OVAR/GEC 2009 UK Summer Series on Aging

The OVAR/GEC will sponsor three sessions on health literacy, emergency preparedness and geriatric dentistry at the annual aging conference that provides innovative and practical information for more than 400 participants representing more than a dozen professional disciplines from across the United States. The conference will be held at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort in Lexington, Kentucky, June 22 – 24 and will offer more than 30 demonstrations, lectures and workshops on clinical issues, policy, technology, management, wellness, housing, healthcare and services. The keynote speaker is Robert H. Binstock, PhD. For more information on the conference see: <http://aging.ukcph.org/summerseries/summerseries.htm>; for more on health literacy, see the OVAR/GEC Resource Guide: Health Literacy and Aging at the following link: http://www.mc.uky.edu/aging/documents/Health_Literacy_and_Aging_1_17_08.pdf.

Publishing Opportunity

As a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Gerontology & Geriatrics Education*, I wanted to alert the GEC Network to this wonderful opportunity to publish. The journal is seeking manuscripts on a variety of topics. The publication is the official journal of the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, the educational component of The Gerontological Society of America. A recent change in publishers has resulted in moving up the production schedule and using up most of the journal's backlog of manuscripts. At this time, *G&GE* can offer a quick turnaround for editorial decisions (average is eight weeks) and a publication lag of about six months from submission to placement into publication pipeline. The journal has a multi-disciplinary readership and addresses a broad base of topics that are educationally related. For more information on guidelines for submittals, contact: Pearl.Mosher-Ashley@worchester.edu.

Western Reserve Geriatric Education Center Consortium (WRGECC)

Kathleen Ondus, MSN, GCNS, BC, Associate Director

WRGEC-CASE

WRGEC-CASE co-sponsored the 18th Annual Florence Cellar Conference with The University Center on Aging and Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University. The conference, *Intergenerational Family Caregiving: Self-Management in Caring for Each Other*, gathered scholars and practitioners in the community to examine various concepts and activities that will foster and promote support and services to caregiving families. One-hundred seventy-nine attendees from multiple disciplines, including lay caregivers, attended the conference. Evaluation measures will be conducted three to four months post-conference and will include tertiary measures at the practitioner and family caregiver level.

WRGEC-CASE is partnering with the Integrative Therapies Committee at MetroHealth Medical Center and the American Holistic Medical Association (AHMA) to deliver a preconference workshop on November 5, 2009, at the start of the AHMA's National Conference, being held November 5 – 7, 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio. The WRGEC will be designing, implementing and analyzing the evaluation measures for the conference.

WRGEC – Cleveland State University (CSU)

In recognition of the *2009 Careers in Aging Week*, CSU hosted a panel discussion on April 13, during which local experts discussed non-traditional careers in aging. The panel consisted of our very own Elizabeth O'Toole, MD, Principle Investigator and Director, WRGEC; Melvin Allerhand, PhD, ABPP, with guest Don Kimmel; Deborah A. Adams, RN, BSN, MNO, Chief Program Officer at the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging; Dr. Heather Menne, from Benjamin Rose Institute; and Robin Chilton, Instructor, CSU, Health Sciences, who served as moderator. The panel members briefly described their personal journeys in choosing a career and what led them to their current positions. Ms. Chilton led a discussion focused on future needs gerontology, emerging job opportunities, technology in the area of aging and which funds may support non-traditional careers in aging. All panelists agreed that it is important for students to be creative and explore non-traditional options. Approximately 55 students and faculty from an array of disciplines attended the event.

On April 17, WRGEC-CSU, Cleveland State University, Benjamin Rose Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Euclid Hospital, The Cleveland Institute of Art, Cuyahoga Community College, the Art Therapy Studio, Lutheran Hospital and Judson University at University Circle hosted the second annual *Design a Life Conference*. Gay Powell Hanna, PhD, Executive Director of the National Center for Creative Aging, was the keynote speaker, presenting on behalf of Dr. Gene Cohen. Dr. Hanna presented a powerful message on the topic of Creativity and Vital Aging through the Arts. Numerous hands-on workshops were offered for attendees including: marvelous mandalas from recycled metal products, wearable silk scarves, photo coloring, rhythm drumming, exploring your inner actor and natural dyeing techniques. Frank Ondus, from Judson, at University Circle, hosted a panel of three older adults who are active in creative endeavors. Susan Jones, an expert oriental artist, began her career at the age of 78. Shirley Kondo described the process through which her husband began to pursue creative arts following an incapacitating stroke. And Josephine Steinhurst described how creativity in pottery allowed her former mother-in-law to experience fulfillment in her later years. The conference was attended by nearly 100 social workers, art therapists, occupational and physical therapists, registered nurses and members of the community with an interest in creativity.

WRGEC- Ohio University College of Medicine (OUCOM)

WRGEC-OUCOM held its second annual Caregiver Series on Wednesday evenings in April. Regardless of whether they attended one session or the entire series, each participant received a binder containing handouts for all five sessions to ensure that everyone received all information provided in the series. This year's topics were selected from last year's comments and suggestions:

- Where's My Keys: Normal vs. Abnormal Memory Lapses
- Dealing with Challenging Behaviors

- Medicare & Medicaid: Clearing the Confusion: “Blueprint for Lifelong Planning”
- Nursing Home Placement: When & How
- Taking Care of Yourself : Physically, Emotionally & Spiritually

The programs were free to the public and held at the local public library with refreshments provided each week by a different long term care facility. Additionally, a Web site has been created that offers links and information for caregivers: <http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/geriatrics/CaregiverResources.htm>.

WRGEC-OUCOM held two Rural Senior Outreach programs during the 2008/09 academic year. The events were targeted at identifying individuals who need follow-up and providing education and consultation. Over the past two years, nearly 200 individuals have participated, with 175 participants 50 years of age or older. Forty professionals, including 18 Ohio University faculty/staff members representing 10 different disciplines, and 25 community agencies/professionals contributed their time and talent. Nearly 50 medical students along with two hearing and speech students, one sports and recreation student, one health administration graduate student, one dietetics undergraduate and two undergraduate students from a rural gerontology course also participated. This was a great opportunity for students, providing them an experience with the elderly in a rural environment and an opportunity to interact with providers/faculty from a variety of professions. Of those individuals who attended:

- 106 received glaucoma screen
- 77 received hearing screen – 28 abnormal
- 16 had bone density screen – 9 osteopenic or osteoporotic
- 164 received random or fasting glucose and cholesterol screen

Montana Geriatric Education Center

Gayle Hudgins, PharmD, Director

PRISM: Promoting Realistic Individual Self Management with Older Diabetes Patients

The Montana Geriatric Education Center held videoconferences on February 24 and March 23 of this year. These short programs expanded on topics from last fall’s conference, *Improving Geriatric Care Transitions: Medication Safety and Health Literacy*. The subject of the two programs was *Promoting Realistic Individual Self Management (PRISM) with Older Diabetes Patients*. Clinical researchers at Billings Clinic in Montana developed a model to manage type 2 diabetes patients in both rural and urban settings. Interdisciplinary teams were employed to closely monitor and educate patients. Telemedicine was used to manage medications and interface with the local physician. Most of the outpatient clients were age 68 or older, non-frail community dwellers, with other chronic diseases in addition to diabetes.

The videoconference presenters included a nurse practitioner (the team leader), a registered dietitian, certified diabetes educator nurses and a social worker. Using case study examples, the team discussed how they worked together and used a team approach to help patients meet their goals. Preliminary results indicate this method had a positive effect on improved risk factor control, patient diabetes care satisfaction and general diabetes knowledge among urban and rural patients. The urban team had better success overall. Participants in the videoconferences were impressed by the interaction of the team members among themselves and the detailed case studies. More than 30 professionals attended the two sessions.

Online Geriatric Education and Certificate Program

Patients as Partners is the latest module to be added to the Online Geriatric Education and Certificate Program. It describes a six step approach to a collaborative model of the provider-patient relationship; various methods for effective communication; issues that may be encountered with individuals of a different ethnic background; and techniques for incorporating shared decision making into one’s practice. Case studies from nursing, pharmacy and social work perspectives illustrate how these skills can be put into action.

Carolina Geriatric Education Center

Cheryl Miller, MSG, Project Coordinator

Faculty Development Program in Health Literacy and Aging

The Carolina Geriatric Education Center's 2009 slate of activities includes the *Faculty Development Program in Health Literacy and Aging*, a six-session course held from January through June each year. Course co-directors are Darren DeWalt, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine, and Director of the Program on Health Literacy at UNC's Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research; and Rebecca Hunter, MEd, Associate Director for Program Development at the UNC Center for Aging and Health. The long-term goal of the program is to broadly disseminate knowledge of health literacy and aging and to foster changes in teaching, practice and service systems.

Participants in the 2009 training cohort work in a diverse array of professional settings, maximizing the potential for far-reaching impact on health outcomes of older North Carolinians through improved patient care and service systems. Disciplines represented include medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dental hygiene, allied health, health education, public health and social work. These participants are now actively developing their individual health literacy projects, with the goal of integrating knowledge and practice into their teaching, clinical and organizational sites. Planned education settings and vehicles for the projects include Area Health Education Center programs, UNC Healthcare settings (outpatient clinic quality improvement training, hospital discharge planning and nursing practices), UNC distance education courses, community college nursing classes, adult literacy programs and medical and pharmacy resident training.

Most of 2008's program graduates have joined this year's faculty team, following through on their commitment to health literacy teaching and dissemination. Moreover, they bring valuable perspectives, sharing their insights, challenges, and successes since completing the course. This year's cohort has matched their enthusiasm and group discussions are resulting in impressive and innovative health literacy teaching strategies.

Dr. Anthony Caprio, a member of the 2008 cohort, will make a presentation about the program at the upcoming meeting of the American Geriatrics Society. Visit www.med.unc.edu/healthlit for program details, participant profiles, resources and other information. The North Carolina Program on Health Literacy's Web site address is: <http://www.nchealthliteracy.org>.

Nebraska Geriatric Education Center (NEBGEC)

Chuck Brown, Public Relations, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)

Geriatric Care Conferences Fill a Need*

On one of the coldest nights of the year, about 450 health care providers gathered at UNMC and 11 other sites around the state to participate in a two-hour evening conference focused on interdisciplinary geriatric care. The Jan. 27 conference – part of an educational series hosted by the UNMC-based Nebraska Geriatric Education Center (NEBGEC) – was a component of a medical center effort to improve geriatric care around the state.

Based on the attendance in January and previous sessions, the demand for such events is strong throughout the state, said Jane Potter, MD, professor and chief of the section of geriatrics and gerontology at UNMC and principal investigator of the Health Resources and Services Administration grant that funds the NEBGEC.

"We were overwhelmed with the reception we've gotten," said Dr. Potter, who noted that 200 people came to the Durham Research Center Auditorium and an overflow crowd of 92 people watched the conference in Lincoln via the telehealth network.

The crowds have been composed of physicians, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacy professionals and other health care workers.

"Clearly Nebraska practitioners appear hungry for the interdisciplinary type of training related to care of the elderly that the NEBGEC offers," said Pat Hageman, PhD, professor in the School of Allied Health Professions and director of the evening programs.

The NEBGEC annually hosts three evening conferences and one, two-day conference to help improve interdisciplinary geriatric care in Nebraska. This effort is particularly important as the state prepares to deal with an aging population with a shortage of health care workers.

"These activities allow us to present best practices in interdisciplinary geriatric care," Dr. Potter said. "This is essential because geriatric care by its nature is an interdisciplinary endeavor."

The topic of the Jan. 27 conference was pain management and it featured a panel discussion with several health care professionals discussing ways to manage pain. Previous evening conferences have focused on topics such as spinal stenosis and heart failure. By attending all the evening conferences, the annual two-day event and a series of Web-based modules, participants can earn up to 80 contact hours in two years to complete a mini-fellowship in geriatric care.

Matt Timm, MD, operates a geriatric clinic in Pender. He attended the Jan. 27 session as well as last summer's two-day conference. The interdisciplinary approach highlights elements of geriatric care he may not have thought of in his role as a physician, Dr. Timm said.

"Sometimes we forget about all the work that needs to be done to treat geriatric patients," said Dr. Timm, who noted that the Jan. 27 presentation by a clinical pharmacist discussing pain management tips was particularly informative.

Kira Koch Larson – a therapist who counsels geriatric patients in Lexington – has attended several of the seminars and is working toward the mini-fellowship.

"As a counselor, I find this unique training to be very important because there is a growing need for more mental health services for senior adults," Larson said.

Like Dr. Timm, Larson said she found the interdisciplinary approach useful.

"Each health care professional in the audience may be more orientated towards a team approach in treatment planning and care delivery since we are being educated in other disciplines, as well our own," Larson said.

The turnout and response indicate that the program fills a vital need across the state, Dr. Hageman said, especially considering that the state's aging population is particularly prominent in rural areas, which often lack health care workers.

"This program has really taken off and I think it's excellent that UNMC is there to help meet this need," Dr. Hageman said. "It truly is an example of how we help educate the state's health care workforce."

**Published on [UNMC Today](#), Monday, March 2, 2009*

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
May 5, 2009 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Antidepressants in the Older Adult	St. John's University St. Albert's Hall, Room 75 Queens, NY	Sum Lam, PharmD, BCPS (718) 990-2073
May 5, 15 & 22, 2009 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Geriatric Mental Health and Emergency Preparedness Program	James J. Peters VAMC Bronx, NY	Jennifer Griffith cnygec@mssm.edu (718) 584-9000 X3850 www.nygec.org
May 7 – 9, 2009	Chief Residents Immersion Training (CRIT)in Geriatrics	Stonewall Jackson Resort Roanoke, WV	Shirley Neitch Marshall University SOM (304) 269-7400
May 8, 2009 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Second Annual Health Equity and Literacy Faculty Development Course – Day Two	University of Pennsylvania LIFE All-Inclusive Adult Daycare Center Philadelphia, PA	Natasha Charles Natasha.Charles@uphs.upenn.edu (215) 898-5099
May 9, 2009	RHEP Faculty Development	WVU Health Sciences Center Morgantown, WV	Jacki Novacich, WVRHEP jnovacich@hsc.wvu.edu (304) 293-1444
May 11 – July 31, 2009	Summer Institute in Gerontology Courses	Anchorage, AK	Ann Jache jache@uaa.alaska.edu (907) 786-1955 http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/gerontology/
May 12, 2009 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Communication Skills for Healthcare Professionals	Home Instead Facility Saratoga Springs, NY	Ed Kramer rwcaregivery@aol.com (518) 527-2404 www.nygec.org
May 13, 2009 8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Pacific Time	Institute on Aging: Cornerstones of Care Education Series Complexities of Clinical Care in the 21st Century	San Francisco, CA	Register for this event at: http://education.ioaging.org/cornerstones/clinical_care.html
May 13, 2009	<i>Next Medicine</i> : Walter Bortz, MD	Maxwell House Nashville, TN	Ruth Garrett rgarrett@mmc.edu (615) 327-6947
May 13, 20 & 27, 2009 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Binghamton Core Days	Greater Binghamton Health Center Binghamton, NY	Tricia Carman carmant@upstate.edu (607) 772-3531 www.nygec.org
May 14, 2009	<i>Next Medicine</i> : Walter Bortz, MD	Vanderbilt Medical	Ruth Garrett rgarrett@mmc.edu (615) 327-6947
May 15, 2009	<i>Community Without Walls</i>	Temple Hills Center Nashville, TN	Ruth Garrett rgarrett@mmc.edu (615) 327-6947
May 15, 2009	<i>Next Medicine</i> : Walter Bortz, MD	Meharry Med College Nashville, TN	Ruth Garrett rgarrett@mmc.edu (615) 327-6947
May 19, 2009 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Caregiver Skills for Professional Caregivers	Carondelet Hospitality Center Latham, NY	Ed Kramer rwcaregivery@aol.com (518) 527-2404 www.nygec.org

May 20, 2009 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m. Pacific Time	Webinar: Centenarians, Palliative Care and End of Life Care Presented by: Leonard Poon, PhD, Director, Georgia Geriatric Education Center (GGEC); Marita Grudzen, MPH, Deputy Director, Stanford Geriatric Education Center (SGEC); Melen McBride, RN, PhD GSAF, Associate Director (Emerita), SGEC	Anywhere internet can be accessed	Questions: Judy Chiu (650) 721-1023 jchiu22@stanford.edu To register: http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html
May 20, 2009 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Case Management	Eastern Long Island Hospital Riverhead, NY	Leslie Sinnott (631) 477-5124
May 21, 2009 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Harold Koenig, Spirituality Research Symposium	University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing Fagin Auditorium Philadelphia, PA	The symposium is free and open to the public. For more information or to RSVP, please call (215) 662-2591.
May 27, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Medical Home & the Frail Elderly	NYIT Old Westbury Campus	Co-Sponsored with NYIT Tobi Abramson tabramso@nyit.edu
June 1 – 4, 2009	Summer Institute on Aging: <i>Changing Attitudes About Aging</i>	Waterfront Place Morgantown, WV	Jacki Englehardt WVU Division of Social Work Jacki.Englehardt@mail.hsc.wvu.edu (304) 293-3501 ext. 3110
June 3, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Medicine Core Conference	Stony Brook HSC Lecture Hall 4, Level 2 Stony Brook, NY	LIGEC@stonybrook.edu
June 3, 2009 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Communication Skills for Healthcare Professionals	Hawthorne Ridge Facility Eddy Alzheimer's Services Cohoes, NY	Ed Kramer rwcaregivery@aol.com (518) 527-2404 www.nygec.org
June 3, 2009 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time	11 th Annual Updates on Dementia Conference	Foster City, CA	To register: Contact Blanca Vazquez of Alzheimer's Association Northern California and Northern Nevada (650) 962-8111 Or visit: http://www.alz.org/norcal/in_my_community_professionals.asp#conferences to register
June 4 – 5, 2009	Promoting Best Practices in Aging: Partnering for Health Care Quality and Safety Registration is now open!	Anchorage, AK	Gerl Heiner anglh@uaa.alaska.edu (907) 264-6256 Michelle Holloway afmhl1@uaa.alaska.edu (907) 264-6264 www.alaskagec.org/bestpractice (800) 243-2199
June 5, 2009 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Sexuality and Intimacy in Working with Elders	Plattsburgh Hospital Plattsburgh, NY	Ed Kramer rwcaregivery@aol.com (518) 527-2404 www.nygec.org

June 10, 2009 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	8 th Annual Videoconference: The Older Adult as Caregiver	VAMC Participating Locations: NY: Albany, Batavia, Bronx, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Canandaigua, Castle Point, Manhattan, Montrose, Northport, St. Albans, Syracuse NJ: East Orange, Lyons Note: You do not need to be a VA employee to attend!	Jennifer Griffith cnygec@mssm.edu (718) 584-9000 X3850 www.nygec.org
June 10, 2009 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Geriatric Mental Health Teaching Day	Greater Binghamton Health Center Binghamton, NY	Tricia Carman carmant@upstate.edu (607) 772-3531 www.nygec.org
June 17, 2009 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Pacific Time	Webinar: Aging and Spirituality Among Chinese and Japanese Americans Presented by: Ron Nakasone, PhD, Professor of Buddhist Studies, Pacific School of Religion; Edmund Yee, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary	Anywhere internet can be accessed	Questions: Judy Chiu (650) 721-1023 jchiu22@stanford.edu To register: http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html
June 17, 2009 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Interdisciplinary Team Collaboration and QoL Improvement	Greater Binghamton Health Center Binghamton, NY	Tricia Carman carmant@upstate.edu (607) 772-3531 www.nygec.org
June 18, 2009 Time TBA	Palliative Care Conference	Martha Clara Vineyards Riverhead, NY	Leslie Sinnott (631) 477-5124
June 18 – 20, 2009	Implementing Interprofessional Geriatric Curriculum: A Team-Based Faculty Development Fellowship	Thomas Jefferson University Philadelphia, PA	Tarae Waddell tarae.waddell@jefferson.edu For more information and to apply: http://epadgce.jefferson.edu/fellowship/
June 22 – 24, 2009	University of KY Summer Series on Aging	OVAR/GEC	Arleen Johnson, PhD, OVAR/GEC Director arleen@uky.edu (859) 257-8314 http://aging.ukcph.org/summerseries/summerseries.htm
June 23, 2009 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Pacific Time (tentative) AND June 27, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time (tentative)	End of Life Summit: Conference on Cultural Diversity and End of Life Care Co-Sponsors: San Mateo Medical Center, Stanford Geriatric Education Center, San Mateo Medical Association	South San Francisco, CA	Mary D. Giammona, M.D. mary.giammona@hpsm.org
July 10 – 12, 2009	California Association of Long Term Care Medicine Annual Meeting: Bringing Quality Home	Los Angeles, CA	Brian Manning bmanning@mednet.ucla.edu (310) 312-0531

July 29 – 31, 2009	Intensive Geriatric Training (IGT)	Sheraton Ft. Lauderdale Airport Fort Lauderdale, FL	Miami Area Geriatric Education Center magec@med.miami.edu (305) 355-9123
September 11, 2009	The Future of Home-Based Mental Health Care for the Elderly	University of Pittsburgh William Pitt Union Pittsburgh, PA	GEC/PA Sarah Aerni (Pitt) sea33@pitt.edu http://www.gecpa.org
September 15–16, 2009	Promoting Environmental and Policy Change to Support Healthy Aging	Chapel Hill, NC	Rebecca Hunter, M.Ed. Rebecca_Hunter@unc.edu (919) 260-0175 www.prc-hanconferences.com
September 23–26, 2009	26 th Annual UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine & Board Review	Marina Del Rey, CA	Pamela Jackson-McCall prjackso@mednet.ucla.edu (310) 312-0531
October 13, 2009	7 th Annual Conference: Health Literacy	Billings, MT And videoconference sites across the state	Kirsten Towgood kirsten.towgood@umontana.edu (866) 506-8432 http://mtgec.umontana.edu
October 16, 2009	The Future of Home-Based Mental Health Care for the Elderly	Temple University Health Sciences Center Philadelphia, PA	GEC/PA Sarah Aerni (Pitt) sea33@pitt.edu http://www.gecpa.org

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: nicki.walker@hc.msu.edu.