

# GEC PIPELINE



September - October 2011

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## **Date Saver for NAGE/NAGEC Annual Meeting at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Conference**



The 2011 Annual Meeting of NAGE/NAGEC is currently scheduled for Friday, November 18, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Conference. The hotel and room for the meeting will be assigned at a later date. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 4:00, with the meeting to start at 4:30. The NAGEC elections will be conducted during the meeting and each qualified GEC will receive one ballot. GECs that are unable to send a representative to the annual meeting may contact [Arleen@uky.edu](mailto:Arleen@uky.edu) before November 3 to arrange for an absentee ballot. (ballot on page 3).

**Julianne Manchester, PhD  
NTACC Project Director  
Case Western Reserve University at MetroHealth**

**National Training and Coordination Collaborative (NTACC)  
for Geriatric Education Centers**

### **2011-2012 Webinar Series**

#### *Webinar 1: Data Management for Multi-Site EBP Projects*

Join us on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3-4 p.m. Eastern, for the first evaluation webinar of the 2011-2012 year. Steven Lewis, MS, of the NTACC Leadership Team will be displaying ways to organize and collect data for Evidence Based Practice HRSA reporting tables. Excel will be used to highlight key points related to variable definitions and analysis.

Call-in: 1-877-461-1632  
2167787174#

Adobe Connect:

<https://connect.case.edu/r94573806/>

**Contact:** Madelon Watts  
NTACC Managing Coordinator  
[mxw9@case.edu](mailto:mxw9@case.edu)

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

**GSA 2011 Pre-Conference Institute**

*“Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training and Assessment in an Evidence-based Practice (EBP) Improvement Context”*

Plan to attend the NTACC’s PCI at the 2011 annual conference of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), November 18, 8 a.m. to Noon, in Boston, MA. Several presenters from the NTACC’s Leadership Team, GEC network, and Advisory Panel will be discussing the evaluation of interdisciplinary team training within an evidence based practice context.

As the current discussion on health care reform points to the need for clinically integrated health care systems using an interdisciplinary team care approach and evidence-based practices (EBP), this workshop provides the audience a timely orientation to ways of implementing and assessing team care in an EBP context. Participants will first learn the basic structure of an interdisciplinary team and major elements of team process. Interdisciplinary team training models, teaching resources, and related competencies will be presented and discussed. Team oriented evidence based quality improvement projects in diseases management will be shared by participants. Special challenges that are context-specific (e.g. in hospitals or nursing homes) to team care interventions will be identified. Various team care assessment approaches will also be presented. The multidisciplinary competencies developed by the Partnership for Health in Aging (PHA) coalition will be used as a framework for guiding the presentations throughout the workshop.

Presenters: Phillip Clark, ScD, URI-Rhode Island GEC; Kathryn Hyer, PhD, USF- Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging and School of Aging Studies; Chris Langston, PhD, The John A. Hartford Foundation; Ming Lee, PhD, UCLA; Julianne Manchester, PhD, CWRU; Elyse Perweiler, MPP, RN, UMDNJ; Julia Rose, PhD, CWRU; Joan Weiss, PhD, HRSA; Jennifer Wiekowski, MS, Health Services Advisory Group

**Contact:** Madelon Watts  
NTACC Managing Coordinator  
[mxw9@case.edu](mailto:mxw9@case.edu)

Check the official GSA website, <http://www.agingconference.com/>, for a full description of this Pre-Conference Institute.

**NTACC Consultation Day at GSA 2011**

In addition to the Pre-Conference Institute at GSA, the NTACC will be offering evaluation consultations on November 19, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Look for details by email regarding room/location at the conference. Please contact Julianne Manchester, NTACC Project Director, 216-778-7147, [julianne.manchester@case.edu](mailto:julianne.manchester@case.edu), to schedule and discuss opportunities for an evaluation consultation at GSA.

**NAGEC/NAGE 2011 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**  
**Arleen Johnson, PhD, OVAR/GEC Director and Chair, NAGEC Nominations Committee**

An important part of being a GEC is the opportunity to participate in our united efforts by being involved in our national organizations: the National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE) and the National Association of Geriatric Education Centers (NAGEC). Members in good standing are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors. This is your opportunity to nominate someone from the network to serve as an officer or member of the Board.

In order to self-nominate, nominate a Board member, be nominated as a Board member, or vote in the elections, you must represent a current or past paid member for 2011 or provide intent to pay the 2012 dues in the form of a proof of check request with your nomination form. A list of GECs that paid their dues in 2011 follows this form.

Before you nominate someone for a position, please contact your nominee to verify their interest in serving as a Board Member/Officer. Board participation involves attending the annual face-to-face meeting (usually in conjunction with GSA), monthly conference call board meetings, and occasional special conference call meetings.

**President:** The President serves a one-year term (November 2011 to November 2012) and is the principal executive officer of NAGE/NAGEC. S/he is responsible for supervising and controlling all of the business and affairs of the organizations; presiding at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors; appointing all Committees; signing contracts; and performing all duties needed for leadership of the Board.

**President-Elect.** In the absence of the President, or in event of her/his inability or refusal to act, the President-Elect performs the duties of President. S/he is responsible for other duties as assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors. The term of office is for one year (November 2011 to November 2012).

**Board Members.** Board Members serve a 3-year term (November 2011 to November 2014) and are responsible for actively participating in monthly conference calls and other calls as required by the President; meeting face-to-face once a year, usually in conjunction with GSA; participating on committees; and representing the GEC network and supporting the work of NAGE/NAGEC. When ballots are counted, those nominees with the most votes will be elected to the open positions.

Position Nomination:     President     President-Elect     Board Member

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ GEC: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a **100 word biographical sketch** that includes name, title, and organization/GEC along with educational background, previous role(s) with NAGEC/NAGE, when the GEC was initially funded, and other points of interest. If your bio-sketch exceeds 100 words, you will be asked to edit it.

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ GEC: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!  
Please submit your nomination by  
**October 25, 2011**

**NOTE: Call 859-257-8314 to alert Arleen that a nomination is being sent, then email to [Arleen@uky.edu](mailto:Arleen@uky.edu) or FAX to 859/323-4940. In the event of technical difficulties, she will contact you.**

**GECs that paid membership dues in 2011:**

Arizona GEC  
Arkansas GEC  
California GEC  
Carolina GEC  
Central Plains GEC  
Consortium of NY GECs  
Duke University GEC  
East Texas GEC  
Eastern Pennsylvania-Delaware GEC  
Emory University GEC  
Finger Lakes GEC  
Gateway GEC of Missouri and Illinois  
GEC of Greater Philadelphia  
GEC of Michigan  
GEC of Pennsylvania  
Houston GEC  
Iowa GEC  
Johns Hopkins GEC Consortium  
Meharry Consortium GEC  
Miami Area GEC  
Minnesota Area GEC  
Montana GEC

Nevada GEC  
New Jersey GEC  
Northern California GEC  
Northern New England GEC  
Nova Southeastern University GREAT GEC  
Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional GEC  
Oklahoma GEC  
Oregon GEC  
Pacific Islands GEC  
Palmetto State GEC  
Rhode Island GEC  
South, West and Central Consortium of GECs of Texas  
Stanford GEC  
Texas Consortium of GECs  
Texas Tech Health Sciences Center GEC  
University of Alabama at Birmingham GEC  
University of New England Maine GEC  
Virginia GEC (VA Commonwealth University)  
Washington Area GEC Consortia  
West Virginia GEC  
Wisconsin GEC  
Wyoming GEC

**National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE) and National Association of Geriatric Education Centers (NAGEC)**

**Board of Directors 2010 – 2011**

Phil Clark, ScD/ President 2011; Past President 2012  
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Robert Roush, EdD, MPH/ President Elect Nominee 2012  
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Patricia Swager, MEd Med/ Treasurer; Board Member 2008-2011  
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Rhode Island GEC  
Consortium of New York GECs  
Texas Consortium GEC  
Stanford GEC  
Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional GEC  
Arkansas GEC  
Nevada GEC  
Eastern Pennsylvania-Delaware GEC  
The Miami Area Geriatric Education Center  
GEC of Michigan  
Finger Lakes GEC  
University of New England Maine GEC

**Legislative Affairs Committee**

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Edwin Olsen, JD, MD, MBA/ Co-Chair

Central Plains GEC  
The Miami Area Geriatric Education Center

**Web Site Committee**

Melen McBride, RN, PhD, GSAF/ Co-Chair  
Christine A. Arenson, MD/Co-Chair

Stanford GEC  
Eastern Pennsylvania-Delaware GEC

**Nominating Committee**

Arleen Johnson, PhD/ Chair

Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional GEC

**Membership Committee**

TBD

**Members Rotating off Board as of 11/2011**

## **San Antonio's 2011 Medico~Legal Conference on Aging**

*Marc D. Johnson*

Coming to San Antonio at the end of this September is the 2011 Medico~Legal Conference on Aging. As brought to the San Antonio Airport Hilton by the South Texas Geriatric Education Center (STGEC), this is a unique fusion of two disparate disciplines coming together for a common cause: helping the aged safely navigate their final years with the dignity, grace, and health they've earned. Applicable topics will be explored on the medical front by UTHSCSA school faculty like Jason Schillerstrom, MD, with his Psychiatric take on "Self Neglect" (Good for Ethics) and Lyda C. Arevalo-Flechas, PhD, RN, with her "Preventing Elder Abuse by Caring for the Caregiver" as well as out-of-town talent like Houston's John M. Halphen, JD, MD, with his "Medical Management of Victims of Elder Abuse." Esteemed local lawyers will also speak on such timely topics as, "Protecting Patients/Clients Wills & Trusts," "Guardianship Trials & Tribulations," "Planning for Future Care Needs," "Reverse Mortgages" and "What You Need to Know About Texas' New Guardianship and Probate Laws." Moreover, chaplains will speak on "Role of Spirituality in Palliative Care Counseling" and local government agencies will educate attendees on how to detect, prevent and manage elder abuse.

This year's conference is unique in that it's a two-day combination of what are usually two separate events: (5<sup>th</sup> annual) Medico~Legal Conference and (32<sup>nd</sup> annual) Aging conference. Besides being able to earn contact hours of continuing education credit, M~LCOA11 also fits the bill for your Ethics credit needs. Moreover, MCLEs (continuing education credits for the legal half of the equation) will be awarded. Students, UT Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA), UT, VA and any government employee can get in for half price (Just \$100 per day). CEs, parking, lunches, snacks, etc. are included. So make your plans for SA, TX on September 29-30, 2011, to experience a different and special kind of continuing ed this time around--One that will allow you to interact with other professionals who perform a related job--but from another side of the fence.

Registration is easy. Simply contact the STGEC at 562-6560/6561 or e-mail Ms. Barbara Giles at [GilesB@UTHSCSA.EDU](mailto:GilesB@UTHSCSA.EDU) and she will answer all your questions and get a registration form to you.

### **Wyoming Geriatric Education Center**

#### **Wyoming Geriatric Education Center Readers' Theater Project Inspired Interdisciplinary Education Effort**

*Ellen Thompson, Assistant Project Coordinator*

Just yards away from state-of-the-art research, University of Wyoming faculty and students gathered this summer to look at long term care through the lens of a monocle. Reading from a short script, they acted out the story of two aging sisters in the late 19th century who are placed in a home for the elderly.

Inspired by the experience, a UW Interprofessional Education Committee member is coordinating a spring semester project to bring the experience to students from pharmacy, psychology, disabilities studies and other classes. "It was a wonderful opportunity to put ourselves in their shoes," said Diane Kempson, associate professor in the UW Division of Social Work. Kempson played the part of one of the sisters. Kempson and a dozen others participated in an August reading of "A Mistaken Charity," by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, part of the collection *Medical Readers' Theater* compiled by Todd L. Savitt. "What we saw is that things haven't changed that much in the last hundred years," Kempson said. "Our long term care system doesn't acknowledge the needs of individuals. Too often, it imposes a cookie-cutter approach."

The women in the story are barely scraping by, harvesting what they can from a small garden and accepting help from neighbors. Then a well-meaning neighbor arranges for their move to an institution. There, the women are denied their normal calico dresses and rural lifestyle and are given formal dresses and bonnets. Before long, they sneak away and return home. The short play ends with a meeting before a magistrate, presumably to decide the sisters' future living arrangements.

"This was a nice, informal and fun way to keep faculty, staff and students thinking about long term care, and also how we present aging issues to our students," said Kelly Hubbell, a medical education program lecturer who organized the event for the Wyoming Geriatric Education Center.

In a July “performance,” participants enjoyed themselves so much, they were interested in finding costumes so they could present this as a play to students. Following an August reading, faculty and staff brainstormed the interdisciplinary project that will bring the experience to undergraduate and professional students in the spring.

### **VGEC Preventing the Reoccurrence of Falls**

*Edward Ansello, PhD*

*Director, Virginia Center on Aging*

The Virginia Geriatric Education Center (VGEC), a consortium of health care professionals from the University of Virginia, Eastern Virginia Medical School, and VCU, launched its first initiative to decrease falls by older adults, by training staff at the Richmond PACE sites. PACE, which stands for Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, is a highly effective project for community-based care of older adults, one that mixes interprofessional care, various funding streams for payment, and a philosophy of preventative health care. So, it was a logical partner for the VGEC's evidence based program (EBP) to reduce the recurrence of falls.

The VGEC conducted this 24-content hour EBP on site during May and June for more than two dozen dedicated professionals, including therapists, physicians, pharmacists, nurses, social workers, clinical care managers, and others. Each of six training days began in the afternoon, once PACE clients had departed. Training content included discussion of the rationale for employing an EBP approach; risk factors for falling; clinical assessments used by nursing, medicine, physical therapy, social work, and pharmacy; interventions to address intrinsic and extrinsic contributors to falling; team work; and care planning. The VGEC is currently conducting a follow up to determine training effects on participants' knowledge and practice skills.

### **Pacific Islands GEC**

#### **Providing Geriatric Education in a Public Health Framework**

*Kamal Masaki, M.D.*

*Program Director*

#### **Activities in the Pacific Basin**

At the invitation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Ministry of Health, the PI-GEC sent a team of 5 physicians and nurses, led by Dr. Ritabelle Fernandes, to conduct a Family Caregiver Train-the-Trainer Workshop from August 15 -19, 2011. This training was based on needs assessments conducted on 153 health professionals and caregivers, that identified the need for caregiver education in stress management and preventing burn-out.

At their 2010 conference, the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA) identified an epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCD) related to diet and lifestyle that is sweeping across the RMI and the rest of the Pacific at an alarming rate. Outreach and health education efforts were conducted on the island of Ejit on diabetes management, foot care, amputation prevention, and reducing caregiver stress.

The residents of Ejit were relocated from Bikini Atoll due to the risk of long-term radiation exposure. From 1946 to 1957, the U.S. tested its nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands. Subsequent to that, the Marshall Islands have been used to test ballistic missiles. Many health related problems due to radiation exposure, such as unusual presentations of common diseases and higher rates of cancer have been observed in these Micronesian populations.

The future is full of exciting opportunities where our PI-GEC faculty can make a real impact on the local efforts by integrating geriatrics into existing training and education. The RMI Ministry of Health has invited the PI-GEC team to develop a palliative care navigator curriculum and conduct training in early 2012. A needs assessment to over 100 faculty and staff from the College of Marshall Islands is currently being conducted. The PI-GEC has been invited by the College to assist in the development of a Certificate in Aging program.

#### **Activities in Hawaii**

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the PI-GEC will begin the second half of its year-long train-the-trainer course at Kapiolani Community College (KCC). The goal of the course is to help the faculty from KCC's Health Sciences Department (PTAs, dental assistants, exercise sciences, radiology techs, respiratory techs) and the University of Hawaii School of

Nursing and Dental Hygiene in developing geriatric curricula for their own classes. This second half will focus on the areas of Geriatric Psychiatry (i.e., dementia and behaviors, depression, delirium); Geriatric Pharmacology (medication management); Transitions of Care (the hazards of hospitalization, and pitfalls in transfer); Cultural Aspects/Health Literacy; and Palliative Care. Classes run every other week until the middle of December.

**Stanford Geriatric Education Center (SGEC)**

**Stanford Geriatric Education Center 2011 Webinar Series: Care of Diverse Elders and their Families in Primary Care**

*Gwen Yeo, PhD, Director Emerita*

Stanford GEC developed and currently provides the “Care of Diverse Elders and their Families in Primary Care” Webinar Series in collaboration with the California Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), Natividad Medical Center, and the American Geriatrics Society. This particular series runs from February – December 2011. One webinar per month is included in the eleven-month series. Each webinar is 90 minutes long and carries 1.5 CEU and 1.5 CME per event attended for physicians, nurses, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and psychologists. CMEs and CEUs cost \$25, otherwise registration is no cost.

The target audience is health and social service professionals who wish to improve their capacity to assess common geriatric conditions and communicative strategies for managing chronic conditions among older adults from ethnically diverse populations. A second aim is to help health care professionals to recognize and treat stress related health conditions of the ethnic elders’ family caregivers. The series started with an introduction to clinical ethnogeriatrics, followed by specific topics including diabetes, depression and mental health, fall prevention, emergency preparedness, and health literacy and health disparities. Future topics include arthritis, cardiovascular disease, dementia assessment in Latino and Chinese families, and diversity and end-of-life issues.

One particularly exciting session was the webinar on emergency preparedness co-sponsored with Ohio Valley Appalachian Region (OVAR) GEC. It was expanded to 2 1/2 hours and included the following presenters: Arleen Johnson, PhD, from OVAR, Elizabeth Sheils, MSSW, LCSW, University of Louisville, Charles Cefalu, MD, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, and Melen McBride, RN, PhD, Stanford GEC.

A total of 353 participants have attended the first six webinars (through July 2011). Most (90%) said it improved their level of confidence to work with ethnic elders and their families. Eighty percent of the participants said they are planning to use acquired knowledge and skills in their work. Past webinars are archived and are available at no cost to view.

For more information, to register, or to view archived webinars please visit: <http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html>. The SGEC sincerely invites you to join us in learning more about these topics in caring for diverse elders and their families in primary care.

**Carolina Geriatric Education Center**

*Ellen Caylor Schneider, MBA*

*Scientist/Dissemination Leader*

*Jan Busby-Whitehead, MD, Principal Investigator*

North Carolina Governor Beverly Perdue has proclaimed September 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> to be “Falls Prevention Awareness Week” in North Carolina. The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill Carolina Geriatric Education Center (CGEC) and North Carolina Falls Prevention Coalition are working together to publicize the week and bring awareness to the growing public health issue of older adult falls. During the week, health fairs, screenings, and other events will be held at various locations around the state. The CGEC is sponsoring Falls Prevention Awareness Week as part of a national effort in September that includes 43 states and over 70 organizations in the national Falls Free© Initiative.

**2011 WAGECC/NCCA Best Practices Forum**  
*Beverly Lunsford, Ph.D., R.N., Associate Research Professor GW School of Nursing*  
**WAGECC Director**

The Washington D.C. Area Geriatric Education Center Consortium (WAGECC), in previous funding cycles, offered an Annual Best Practices Forum. In keeping with this tradition, as well as setting the stage for an expanded approach of using the humanities and arts for geriatric education, WAGECC offered Best Practices Forum for Integrating the Arts and Humanities in Healthcare of the Older Adult. WAGECC's approach is based on facilitating the understanding of the experience of older adults as they interface with healthcare professionals and the healthcare system, and the potential of older adults as they continue to grow and develop throughout their life span. This expands the healthcare professional's appreciation of the older adult as a person with potential, not just a healthcare problem. In addition, the creative arts offer interactive engagement of learners.

The forum, sponsored by WAGECC and hosted by the National Center for Creative Aging, showcased the Washington, D.C. area's best practices in the integration of arts and humanities in health care of older adults. During an opening dance performance, one might initially notice that 77 years old Thomas Dwyer had wrinkly skin, wiry limbs, and white hair. But as he began to dance for the WAGECC/NCCA Best Practices Forum at the prestigious Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., he whirled, arched, swayed, and moved in rhythm with two other dancers. They also engaged the 90+ participants in body movements that can relax, tone, and strengthen the human body to more effectively prevent or minimize injury from falls. Dwyer's performance emphasized the power of the arts and humanities for health education about the potential for growth and creativity throughout the lifespan.

"Thomas is a testament to the power of movement and dance to support vital aging — physical, mental, social, and spiritual — and his presence helps shift perceptions in audiences about older age," said Gay Hanna, Ph.D., executive director of the NCCA and Co-Associate Director on the WAGECC project.

Best practices frequently arise out of quality improvement initiatives and/or the desire to improve care, and a "best practice" is

*"the use of care concepts, interventions and techniques that are grounded in research and known to promote higher quality of care and living for older people". (The Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Initiatives)*

The Forum provided the opportunity to network and share the best practices for greater dissemination across the region. Many of the participants presented posters and submitted abstracts that are compiled in a hard bound Best Practices Compendium and available on the WAGECC website. Participant's "best practices" serve as a resource for attendees and other area health care professionals. Especially in this era of highly technological care and dwindling resources, these best practices offered creative ideas and resources provide a ready resource for health care professionals for more holistic healthcare practice.

During the forum's poster session, some of the area's model programs — including those from home, community-based, long-term care, acute care, and hospice settings — were highlighted. Arts for the Aging, for example, is an area arts service organization that offers free painting, poetry, and music workshops to groups in underserved adult care centers. Its workshops are lead by professional teaching artists and are designed to promote health improvement and life enhancement. Additionally, ClancyDance Works Group provides interactive dance therapy experiences and workshops for seniors age 62 and up.

The workshop's most productive segment was the table groups who shared how they use the arts and humanities to improve the health and quality of life for older adults in various settings including homecare, long-term care, palliative care, and chronic illness. The participants not only shared what they are currently doing, but discussed ideas for how the activities could be expanded, improved or more fully developed in their own or other setting.

WAGECC hosted a table that focused on helping health care providers personally connect with the humanities through storytelling and care of the spirit. Participants recognized that too often we may try to "fix" the older adults' problems, rather than listening and affirming them as persons of value and worth. Sometimes, it is possible that if people feel they are heard, they might actually heal better.



Despite expecting to cap the attendance at 50, the forum ended up welcoming nearly 90 health care professionals, including nurses, social workers, and doctors.

Judith Salerno, M.D., Leonard D. Schaeffer Executive Officer of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, served as Chair of the forum's planning committee. NCCA helped convene a robust planning committee of healthcare professionals and artists who are continuing to meet even though the event is over, to try to find ways to continue to advocate for the integration of arts and humanities in healthcare in the Washington, D.C. region.

This first Best Practices Forum for the new funding cycle demonstrated the value of a Geriatric Education Center collaborating with NCCA with expertise and resources in the arts and humanities. Utilizing the arts and humanities in geriatric and gerontology education offers innovative learning engagement for healthcare professionals, and it illuminates more fully the potential for enhancing the growth, development and quality of life of older adults, even in the presence of serious illness.

**WAGECC Highlights the Healing Power of the Humanities in the Health Care of Older Adults**  
*Beverly Lunsford, Ph.D., R.N., Associate Research Professor GW School of Nursing*  
*WAGECC Director*

The Washington D.C. Area Geriatric Education Center Consortium (WAGECC), located at The George Washington University's Center on Aging, Health, and Humanities (The Center) in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, is a multi-institutional partnership of The George Washington University, Georgetown University, Howard University, the National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA), Providence Hospital, Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), and Washington Hospital Center.

The mission of WAGECC is to improve the health of older adults by providing geriatric education to practicing healthcare professionals. WAGECC arises out of The Center to enhance its educational program by integrating the humanities to emphasize the human experience of older adults as they interface with the healthcare system, and to help the healthcare professional appreciate the capacity of the older adult for continuous growth and development throughout the lifespan, even when challenged by healthcare issues. The humanities and arts is further enhanced in WAGECC with Gay Hanna, Ph.D., as WAGECC Co-Associate Director and Executive Director of NCCA, which is a strategic partner for providing expertise and resources to help integrate the arts and humanities in the geriatric education programs. This will illuminate more fully the potential for healthcare professionals to partner with older adults in more holistic health and wellness approach.

This year has been an exciting journey for WAGECC and NCCA, headed by WAGECC Co-Associate Director Gay Hanna, Ph.D., to implement a vision for utilizing the arts and humanities in geriatric and gerontology education and to develop innovative learning activities for healthcare professionals. The 40-hour Professional Development Program (PDP) includes a core geriatric/gerontology curriculum that integrates a person-centered care curriculum developed by Susan Perlstein, M.S.W., and Andrea Sherman, Ph.D. This curriculum guides the PDP courses. It will also be offered as a standalone 8 hour workshop for healthcare professional to learn how to elicit more effectively the older adults story, explore a deeper dimension of the person, and incorporate this information into a person-centered plan of care.

The Master Faculty Scholars Program (MFSP) is a 160-hour faculty development program that began in late August in collaboration with the Geriatric and Palliative Medicine Fellows Program at the VAMC. The Fellows program is directed by Elizabeth Cobbs, M.D., WAGECC Co-Associate Director. She has developed a highly successful team of geriatric and palliative medicine faculty who provide 4-hour education programs every Monday afternoon. Two of the faculty completed the Master Teacher program at GWU this past year, which is a joint program of the GW Graduate School of Education and Human Development and SMHS. The program's purpose is to offer medical professionals the opportunity to enhance their teaching skills, pursue scholarship in education and develop their educational leadership potential. The program encourages a very interactive and learner-centered teaching style that fits beautifully with the person-centered care approach adopted by WAGECC for teaching healthcare professionals.

Seven inter-professional healthcare professionals, in addition to the three geriatric and three palliative medicine fellows, have been accepted into this interdisciplinary Master Faculty Scholars Program. The Scholars include geriatric and palliative medicine fellows, pharmacist, nurses, nurse practitioner, social worker, and others in geriatric and gerontology education. One Monday each month, the Scholars will come together for the core faculty development education. In addition, the Scholars will be mentored in teaching and leadership activities in settings that care for older persons. The MFSP will explore teaching and leading, effective teaching techniques, especially in clinical settings, and leadership skills in inter-professional teams. Scholars will design and conduct performance improvement projects. The MFSP will lead the QI teams that evolve from the evidence based Falls Management Program (FMP) to improve practice for falls prevention and management in the Community Living Center at the VAMC.

The evidence based FMP utilizes an initial 4 hour workshop with ongoing quality improvement teams to achieve meaningful “change in practice” outcomes. The AHRQ FMP was selected as a framework for this program because it provides an educational outline, as well as a toolkit for quality improvement teams to utilize as they innovate their approach to falls prevention/management. Since many of the groups in the D.C. Region who want this education are long term care facilities, AHRQ-funded research has shown that implementation of the program is feasible, improves care process documentation, and may reduce falls even in the face of substantial reduction in the use of restraints, a major emphasis of the Federal Government.

Other educational events this past year included 3 NCCA webinars (1.5 hours each) of support for inter-professional caregivers, ELNEC (12 hours each) Spring 2011 and Fall 2010, a Maryland Gerontological Association Networking breakfast, a 4 hour pilot of the interdisciplinary Fellows and MFSP, a 6 hour Ethics and Serious Illness conference cosponsored with Howard University School of Social Work, and a 3 hour FMP Education as a pilot to an ongoing Falls Management Program utilizing the AHRQ Falls Management Program, totaling 59 continuing education hours. WAGECC has educated nearly 600 healthcare professionals during the first year of this project (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011).

WAGECC has a tradition of an annual Best Practices Forum to highlight what healthcare professionals are doing in the regional area to improve the care of older adults. This year’s Forum was Best Practices for Integrating the Arts and Humanities in Healthcare of the Older Adult. These Forums provide the opportunity to network and share the best practices for greater dissemination across the region. Local organizations who participated include: ClancyWorks Dance Group, Encore Creativity for Older Adults, IONA Adult Day Health, Wellness, and Arts Center, and *TIMESLIPS*: Creative Group Storytelling Project. Many of the participants’ submitted abstracts are compiled in a hard bound Best Practices Compendium. The Compendium is also available on the WAGECC website at [wagecc.gwumc.edu](http://wagecc.gwumc.edu). The participants who provided their “best practices” served as a resource for attendees and other area health care professionals. Especially in this era of highly technological care and dwindling resources, these best practices offer creative ideas and resources as a ready resource for healthcare professionals for more holistic healthcare practice.

**West Virginia Geriatric Education Center**  
*Nancy Daugherty, Program Coordinator*

**Geriatrics Lunchtime Learning Series resumes:** After a summer break the Geriatrics Lunchtime Learning series has resumed beginning with Dr. Kenneth Wright, “Aging with a Spinal Cord Injury”. See Calendar of Events for future topics. The GL&L are presented live on the campus of WVU – Charleston Division and broadcast simultaneously via the web at [www.camcinstitute/education](http://www.camcinstitute/education). The sessions are also archived for viewing at a later time and are approved for 1 hour of continuing education credits in medicine, (allopathic and osteopathic) pharmacy, nursing and social work.

**Janet Rorrer, Ed.D Candidate.** We were fortunate to have Janet work with the WVGEC this past summer as part of a higher education internship through Marshall University. Janet who is an Assistant Professor at the University of Charleston and Coordinator of Clinical Education through the Athletic Department gained grants administration knowledge and about how low and limited health literacy affects health outcomes across a wide range of disciplines. She also compiled an electronic version of the Health Literacy trainees manual and outline for Master Trainers Manual. The Master Trainers’ Health Literacy curriculum will be rolled out in the fall of 2012, which will allow for greater dissemination of the training course and more health professionals awareness of this public health issue.

**Health Literacy** WVGEC expert faculty and partners are presenting a 3 hour Pre-conference about health literacy prior to the WV Diabetes Symposium to be held at the Embassy Suites in Charleston. We continue to emphasize the impact low/limited literacy has on the health of older adults while teaching strategies for more effective communication and follow up projects to spread the message.

**West Virginia Geriatrics Society 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly** “Thriving in the New Health Care Environment” will be held on September 30, 2011. Several expert geriatrics faculties from the WVGEC Consortium will be presenting and a poster competition for students/residents will result in the winner receiving funds to attend the AGS Annual Meeting in Seattle WA. The WVGGS Assembly follows a meeting of the Long Term Care Partnership building upon synergy of the two target groups and encouraging interaction of a wider range of health professionals. For more information, go to the web at <http://www.wvgeriatrics.org>

**Make a Plan for Alzheimer’s:** The Long Term Care Partnership is convening a group of over 40 stakeholders to participate in the creation of a state Alzheimer’s disease plan. Participants are working in three subcommittees: Care Systems, Research and Quality, and Education and Training. WVGEC Director Mark A. Newbrough chairs the workgroup on education and training and Mary Emmett, PhD, Lead Evaluator and Mary A. Annie, WVGEC Program Specialist, are participating on the Research and Quality Improvement workgroup. These committees will complete guiding architecture on legislative, regulatory and programmatic elements to more effectively meet the needs of persons with Alzheimer’s, their caregivers, and the state as a whole.

**David K. Brown Geriatrics Scholar Program** sent out the second solicitation for candidates to be accepted into the program. This program will advance competency in geriatrics by offering interprofessional learning experiences that are evidence based and designed to increase skills and expertise. The 40 + hour curriculum includes a variety of options for self-study, on-line training and in person learning events which will provide advanced skill in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease, disability and other health related needs of older adults, including psycho/social aspects of aging. For more information, contact Nancy Daugherty, Program Coordinator at [ndaugherty@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:ndaugherty@hsc.wvu.edu) or 304-347-1208.

## 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE/TIME</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
September 6, 2011	Geriatrics & Geron. Interest Group	Vanderbilt – Nashville, TN	Ruth Garrett <a href="mailto:Ruth.g.garrett@vanderbilt.edu">Ruth.g.garrett@vanderbilt.edu</a>
September 8, 2011	HBCU/Hispanic Health Disparities Conference	Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN	Grace Smith <a href="mailto:gssmith@mmc.edu">gssmith@mmc.edu</a>
September 9, 2011	Hispanic Older Adult Outreach	Coleman Comm. Center – Nashville, TN	Carol Galvez <a href="mailto:cgalvez@mmc.edu">cgalvez@mmc.edu</a>
September 14, 2011	Family Medicine Geriatric Lecture Series	Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN	Carol Galvez <a href="mailto:cgalvez@mmc.edu">cgalvez@mmc.edu</a>
September 17, 2011	Primary Care Update – Geriatric Lecture	Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN	Grace Smith <a href="mailto:gssmith@mmc.edu">gssmith@mmc.edu</a>
September 20, 2011	Geriatrics & Geron. Interest Group	Vanderbilt – Nashville, TN	Ruth Garrett <a href="mailto:Ruth.g.garrett@vanderbilt.edu">Ruth.g.garrett@vanderbilt.edu</a>

September 24, 2011	Interdisciplinary Fall Prevention & Management: A Case Study Approach	Amarillo, Texas	Graciela (Grace) Blunt-Massey grace.blunt@ttuhsc.edu (806)356-4637
September 28, 2011	Aging with Spinal Cord Injury	WVU Robert C Byrd Health Sciences Center Room 2000 Charleston WV or On-line @ <a href="http://www.camcinstitute.org/education/catalogs/geriatrics.htm">www.camcinstitute.org/education/catalogs/geriatrics.htm</a>	Ms. Deborah Harless, Administrative Assistant, WVGEC 304-347-1324 or <a href="mailto:धारless@hsc.wvu.edu">धारless@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Sept. 28 – Oct. 1, 2011	Wisconsin Board Review Course & Update in Geriatric Medicine	Lake Geneva, WI	Zoe Wolf (414) 955-7090 zwolf@mcw.edu  <a href="http://geriatricsboardreview.com">geriatricsboardreview.com</a>
September 29, 2011	Annual Conference on Aging	San Antonio, TX	Michele J. Saunders, DMD, MPA 210-562-6560 <a href="mailto:saunders@uthscsa.edu">saunders@uthscsa.edu</a>
September 29, 2011	WV Long Term Care Partnership	WVU – Health Sciences Center Auditorium	<a href="http://www.wvltpartnership.org">www.wvltpartnership.org</a> Phil Schenk, Director 304-542-2116
September 29, 2011 12:30-2:00 pm , PST	“Cardiovascular Disease” Presented by: Latha Palaniappan, MD, MS	Anywhere internet can be accessed.	Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website ( <a href="http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html">http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html</a> ) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at <a href="mailto:mtzuang@stanford.edu">mtzuang@stanford.edu</a>
September 30, 2011	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Medico~Legal Conference	San Antonio, TX	Michele J. Saunders, DMD, MPA 210-562-6560 <a href="mailto:saunders@uthscsa.edu">saunders@uthscsa.edu</a>
September 30, 2011	WVGS 7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Assembly	WVU Robert C Byrd Health Sciences Center Room 2000 Charleston WV	Ms. Mary Annie Program Specialist WV Geriatric Education Center 3110 MacCorkle Avenue Charleston, WV 25304 <a href="mailto:mannie@hsc.wvu.edu">mannie@hsc.wvu.edu</a> or 304-347-1295
October 6, 2011 12:30-2:00 pm, PST	“Dementia Assessment and Family Caregiving Part 1: Latino” Presented by: Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, PhD, and Mariluz Villa, MD	Anywhere internet can be accessed.	Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website ( <a href="http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html">http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html</a> ) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at <a href="mailto:mtzuang@stanford.edu">mtzuang@stanford.edu</a>
October 7, 2011	Gerontology Certificate Program – 3 part series	Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN	Carol Galvez <a href="mailto:cgalvez@mmc.edu">cgalvez@mmc.edu</a>
October 7-8, 2011	15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Michigan Medical Directors Assn.	Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI	GECEM Office : 517-353-7828 <a href="mailto:gecem@msu.edu">gecem@msu.edu</a>

October 11, 2011 7:30 a.m.-4:00 pm	A Comprehensive Approach to Late Life Depression	Billings and Missoula, Montana plus videoconferencing sites	Terry Egan Terry.Egan@umontana.edu 406-243-253 <a href="http://montanaGEC@umontana.edu">http://montanaGEC@umontana.edu</a>
October 11, 2011	Essentials of Dementia: Becoming an Effective Trainer (CE for Nursing, Nursing Home Administrators, Social Workers)	Fayette County Cooperative Extension office, Lexington KY	Julie Brock 859/257-1510 <a href="mailto:julie.brock@uky.edu">julie.brock@uky.edu</a>
Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 6:00PM – 9:00PM	Preventing Elder Investment Fraud: Assessing Your Patients for Vulnerability to Financial Exploitation	La Veranda Restaurant, Penns Landing, Pier 3 Philadelphia, PA 19143	Barbara Mark Barbara@epgeriatricsociety.org 610-715-2887  <a href="http://www.epgeriatricsociety.org/events_reservations2.shtml">http://www.epgeriatricsociety.org/events_reservations2.shtml</a>
October 13, 2011 8:00 – 5:00 p.m.	2012 Forum on Aging and Annual Meeting	Kaneohe, HI	Aida Wen, MD, <a href="mailto:aidawen@hawaiiintel.net">aidawen@hawaiiintel.net</a> 808-523-8461
October 14, 2011	Gerontology Certificate Program – 3 part series	Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN	Carol Galvez <a href="mailto:cgalvez@mmc.edu">cgalvez@mmc.edu</a>
October 19, 2011. 9:00am-3:45pm	Southeastern Ohio Dementia Conference	The Friends Community - SOMC South Campus, 1202 18 <sup>th</sup> St. Portsmouth, OH	Janet Milne janet.milne@alz.org 513-721-4284 1-800-272-3900 <a href="http://www.alz.org/cincinnati/in_my_community_57012.asp">http://www.alz.org/cincinnati/in_my_community_57012.asp</a>
October 19, 2011	Diabetes Symposium Pre-conference on Health Literacy	Embassy Suites Charleston WV 25301	Ms. Cindy Fitch, Conference Chair WVU Extension Service PO Box 6031 Morgantown WV 26506-6031 304-293-2797 <a href="http://dsw.est.wvu.edu">http://dsw.est.wvu.edu</a>
October 21, 2011	Gerontology Certificate Program – 3 part series	Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN	Carol Galvez <a href="mailto:cgalvez@mmc.edu">cgalvez@mmc.edu</a>
October 26, 2011	Pain Management for Patients with Cancer	WVU Robert C Byrd Health Sciences Center Room 2000 Charleston WV or On-line @ <a href="http://www.camcinstitute.org/education/catalogs/geriatrics.htm">www.camcinstitute.org/education/catalogs/geriatrics.htm</a>	Ms. Deborah Harless, Administrative Assistant, WVGEC 304-347-1324 or <a href="mailto:धारless@hsc.wvu.edu">धारless@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
October 26 – 28, 2011	WV Rural Health Association Annual Conference	Lakeview Golf Resort & Spa One Lakeview Drive Morgantown WV 26506	WV Rural Health Conference 304-558-4382 <a href="mailto:info@wvruralhealthconference.org">info@wvruralhealthconference.org</a>

November 3, 2011 12:30-2:00 pm, PST	“Dementia Assessment and Family Caregiving, Part 2: Chinese and other Asian” Presented by: Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, PhD, and Marian Tzuang, MSW	Anywhere internet can be accessed.	Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website ( <a href="http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html">http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html</a> ) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at <a href="mailto:mtzuang@stanford.edu">mtzuang@stanford.edu</a>
November 9, 2011	Family Medicine Geriatric Lecture Series	Meharry Medical College – Nashville, TN	Carol Galvez <a href="mailto:cgalvez@mmc.edu">cgalvez@mmc.edu</a>
November 10, 2011	EIFFE Lecture – Elder Investment Fraud & Financial Exploitation	Time Out Workshop – Nashville, TN	Grace Smith <a href="mailto:gssmith@mmc.edu">gssmith@mmc.edu</a>
December 8, 2011 (12:30-2:00 pm PST)	“End of Life” Presented by: Marita Grudzen, MHS, and Cynthia Pan, MD	Anywhere internet can be accessed.	Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website ( <a href="http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html">http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html</a> ) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at <a href="mailto:mtzuang@stanford.edu">mtzuang@stanford.edu</a>
March 6-7, 2012	2012 Forum on Aging and Annual Meeting	Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd., Cincinnati, OH	Irene Moore, 513-584-0798 <a href="mailto:moorei@uc.edu">moorei@uc.edu</a>

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