

GEC PIPELINE



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NAGEC NEWS

Nina Tumosa, PhD, Secretary for NAGEC/NAGE

Annual Meeting

The annual meetings for both NAGE and NAGEC were held on November 21, 2003, at the GSA meeting in San Diego. Elections for officers and three new board members were held.

The new officers for NAGEC, elected for one-year terms, are:

President: Elyse Perweiler, New Jersey GEC

President-Elect: Ed Olsen, Miami GEC

New board members for NAGEC, elected for three-year terms, are:

Stacy Barnes, Wisconsin GEC

Sara Jane Gainor, West Virginia GEC

Nina Tumosa, Gateway GEC of Missouri and Illinois

Retiring Board members Paul Katz and Jan Yonker were thanked for their years of service on the NAGEC Board and to the GEC network.

In October of 2003, NAGEC was incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization and NAGE was incorporated as a 501(c)6 organization. Elyse asked for, and received, affirmation that the officers and board members of NAGEC would serve as officers and board members for NAGE for one year, until the Nominating Committee could identify and recruit members from other agencies involved in aging to serve on the NAGE Board.

Elyse then reviewed the missions and objectives of both organizations, charged the NAGE and NAGEC committees for the next twelve months, and enlisted volunteers to serve on those committees. As with the officers and the board members, it was agreed these volunteers would serve on both NAGE and NAGEC committees for one year.

This winter an ad hoc committee will be revisiting the NAGE mission to determine how this newly incorporated organization can be made more responsive to the needs of the elderly.

Melen McBride, PhD, RN

Ethnogeriatric Task Force: Update

Members of the Task Force met in San Diego during the GSA Conference in November 2003, to identify needs for new initiatives in ethnogeriatric education. Among other issues, the group identified the need to provide training to faculty on methods for teaching ethnogeriatrics. With support from members in attendance, Dr. Gwen Yeo, current chair, turned over leadership to Janet Severance, PhD, Midwestern GEC, as Chair, and Melen McBride, PhD, RN, Stanford GEC as Vice-Chair.

Five members of the Task Force presented a Symposium at GSA on utilization of the Curriculum in Ethnogeriatrics which was developed by the Task Force (formerly the Collaborative on Ethnogeriatric Education) and is available online at www.stanford.edu/group/ethnoger. Presentations by Andrea Sherman, Elyse Perweiler, Jan Severance, Steven Applewhite, and Gwen Yeo were included.

Membership in the Task Force is open, and GECs who are interested in participating can contact Dr. Severance (jsever@midwestern.edu; 630.515.7623) or Dr. McBride (mcbride@stanford.edu; 650.494.3986).

OHIO VALLEY APPALACHIA REGIONAL GEC

Arleen Johnson, PhD, Director

Establishing Best-Care Practice Awards

The OVAR/GEC Experience

The OVAR/GEC Best Care Practices Awards have targeted long term care programs and community based programs that serve older persons from across the tri-state region. We began by conducting a computer search and collecting examples of nomination and selection criteria from existing awards programs, such as the Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities (KAHCF), the National Council on Aging Awards, and the National Institute on Human Resources & Aging Awards. We found nomination criteria that ranged from the very general to the very specific and tailored it into standardized questions that provided the information we needed for our program.

The marketing plan included developing a collaborative relationship with the KAHCF, which had an established awards program in place, and encouraging joint nominations for the KAHCF innovative best practice awards and the OVAR/GEC best-practice awards. An article on the OVAR/GEC was included in the Winter addition of the *KAHCF CareLink Newsletter*, and letters were mailed to past KAHCF award winners. Also, we sent targeted mailings, conducted presentations and displayed exhibits at conferences, and made personal contacts throughout the region.

The benefits for award recipients included free registration and expenses (worth more than \$500) for the three-day annual University of Kentucky Summer Series on Aging Conference held in Lexington, presentation of an engraved plaque at the conference, and a special best-practices session at the conference where recipients presented their facility's best-care practices. In addition, a public service announcement and a picture of the recipients were sent to their hometown newspapers, and a description of their best practices was included on the OVAR/GEC Best Practices Internet webpage at www.rgs.uky.edu/aging.bestcarepractices/index.html. These nominees who were not chosen received a certificate of honorable mention, a letter summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of their nomination for use in resubmitting for another round of awards, and inclusion of a summary of their best practices on the web page.

A panel of twelve interdisciplinary peer reviewers representing the OVAR/GEC region was selected to judge the nominations and to determine the award recipients. A standardized set of criteria with an established point system was used by each reviewer. Reviewers worked independently, then met together and/or participated in a conference call to come to consensus regarding the winners. To date, the OVAR/GEC has designated eight award recipients and identified twenty-four best-care practices.

Lessons Learned

We have learned that it is necessary to educate providers about best practices and that marketing is enhanced by providing training, developing personal contacts with geriatrics care providers, and partnering with other award programs in the area. We responded to providers who indicated that they were too busy for the additional work of completing the nomination with a streamlined form, assistance with nominations, and encouragement.

The OVAR/GEC Best Practice Awards initiative has been highly praised for identifying and featuring regional, creative, replicable patient-centered activities that improve patient care. These awards have resulted in increased attention to exceptional geriatrics programs, enhanced the development of best practice skills, improved the presentation skills of recipients, and positioned recipients for applying for additional awards. For more information, visit our website or contact me at Arleen@uky.edu.

CALIFORNIA GEC

Janet C. Frank, DrPH, Director

Practice Redesign Training to Improve Depression Care for the Elderly

The CGEC is developing a training program to improve the care of older persons with depression; integrating protocols, tools, and materials adapted from two successful intervention studies: Improving Mood – Promoting Access to Collaborative Treatment (IMPACT) and Assessing Care of the Vulnerable Elderly (ACOVE).

This practice redesign project will train approximately thirty primary care physicians and thirty nurses, social workers, and/or psychologists who will work with the primary care physicians as Depression Clinical Specialists (DCS) in the Project IMPACT model of team care.

The primary care physician will be responsible for initiating and maintaining treatments such as prescriptions for antidepressants, treatments aimed at co-morbid or underlying medical problems, and referrals to specialty care. Each

patient's primary care physician also has an important role in encouraging and supporting the patient's participation in the intervention activities.

The DCS will perform the initial assessment and education of each enrolled patient, coordinate the initiation of treatment (antidepressant medications and/or counseling) with the patient and his/her primary care physician, and closely follow each patient until he/she has reached a clinically significant improvement. After patients are in remission, the DCS will complete a 'relapse prevention plan' with each patient, and follow the patient with monthly telephone contacts and additional in-person contacts as needed to reduce their risk of relapse or recurrence.

The CGEC will test the efficacy of the training program in changing patient care processes and improving depression symptoms in older patients. It is anticipated that dissemination of the training program to other GECs, professional associations, and medical group networks will begin later this year.

GEC OF MICHIGAN

Janis Yonker, MSA, Co-Director

Rehabilitation in Long Term Care

The GECM and Brooks Rehab Solutions [now Agility Health] co-sponsored the 8th Annual Rehabilitation in Long Term Care Conference: *Optimizing Function in the Frail Adult*, on 9/20/03 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Over 150 rehab clinicians from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa attended, including occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, nurses, other clinicians and students working in long term care settings. Didactic and "hands-on" presentation topics included: the potential and capabilities of the frail older adult; dysphagia management from NPO to dining room nutrition; ocular pathologies and low vision interventions in the nursing home; a neurological perspective on falls in the elderly; posture and positioning; vestibular and balance management; wheelchair tai chi; and a Montessori approach for the elderly. A senior folk Dutch dance group performed for conference participants and subsequently became "calendar girls" for the Association of Gerontology in Higher Education's (<http://www.aghe.org/aghe/>) annual fundraising calendar (see "October")!

Distinguished conference faculty included Linda Keilman, MSN, APRN, BC, Michigan State University (MSU); Larry Lawhorne, MD, Director of the GECM; Anne Riddering, OTR, CLVT, COMS, WiseEyes Consulting; Glen Ackerman, MD, MSU; Karen Bryant, MS-CCC SLP, University of Iowa; Cyndi Muszynski, OTR Rehabilitation and Extended Care Services, St. John Hospital and Medical Center; Michael Skrajner, MA, Myers Research Institute, Menorah Park Center of Senior Living; Kristin Henderson, MPT, William Beaumont Hospital; JoAnn Bush, MS, OTR, Mercy Bellbrook; and Roger Byrd, BS, NCTMB, Borgess Integrative Medicine. The 9th annual rehab conference is planned for October 2, 2004. For more information contact the GECM (517-353-7828) or conference chair Joyce Fluegge, OTR, Special Projects Manager, Agility Health (248-922-9666).

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
January 10 th , 2004	Latino Ethnomedicine: Providing Culturally Competent Health Care to Mexican American Elders and Their Families	San Jose State University San Jose, CA	Jillian Dubman 650-494-3986 jdubman@stanford.edu
January 16 th	End-of-Life Care for People with Dementia	Radisson Hotel at Waterfront Place Morgantown, WV	877-209-8086 cjamison@hsc.wvu.edu
January 16 th -18 th	Geriatric Services Management Training	Radisson Hotel Westside Los Angeles, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
January 20 th	Health and Self-Concept: Cause and Effect In Older Family and Work Roles	Sheraton Hotel Chapel Hill, NC	Sarah Washburn 919-966-9444
January 28 th	What's New in Geriatrics?	NYU New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
January 30 th February 9 th	Mental Health and Quality of Life Improvement	NYU New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618

January 30 th	NORCs: The Changing Faces of Aging Services	Penn South New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
February 5 th – 6 th March 5 th & 26 th	San Joaquin Valley Public Health Institute	Fresno, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
February 6 th – 7 th	Geriatric Medicine Update: Menopausal Hormone Therapy	Holiday Inn Select Little Rock, AR	501-661-7962
February 7 th	Best Nursing Practices	NYU New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
February 12 th – 13 th	Practical Strategies in the Management of the Geriatric Patient	Indianhead Mountain Resort Wakefield, MI	Melissa Utecht 866-894-3622 x9-4155
February 19 th – 20 th	15 th Annual Challenges in Geriatric Practice Conference	North Carolina	Sarah Washburn 919-966-9444
February 21 st	American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry 17 th Annual Meeting	Baltimore, MD	601-654-7850 www.aagponline.org
February 24 th	Geriatric Nursing Assessment: “Try Them Series”	NYU New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
February 26 th – 29 th	30 th Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference for the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education	Richmond Marriott Richmond, VA	202-289-9806 info@aghe.org www.aghe.org/aghe
March 10 th – 11 th	The Journey of the Soul: Spirituality in the Second Half of Life	Richmond Marriott Richmond, VA	804-828-1525 eansello@hsc.vsu.edu
March 11 th – 14 th	15 th Annual Virginia Geriatrics Conference: Geriatrics in the 21 st Century	The Homestead Resort Hot Springs, VA	Desiree Hodges 804-675-5181
April 2 nd – 3 rd & 30 th May 1 st	Faculty Development: Underserved Urban Elders	Charles R. Drew University Los Angeles	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
April 13 th	Leadership in Tough Times: Creative Responses to Unfunded Legislative Mandates for Gerontology and Geriatric Education (Pre-Conference, ASA/NCOA)	San Francisco	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
April 14 th – April 17 th	2004 Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging & the National Council on Aging	Hilton San Francisco San Francisco, CA	415-974-9600 jc04@asaging.org www.agingconference.org