

GEC PIPELINE



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NAGEC EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Jenny Mendez, PhD,

The NAGEC Education Task Force is seeking your input.....

As a follow-up action item of the NAGEC Education Task Force meeting in November at GSA, I spoke to the Editor Dr. Pearl Mosher-Ashley, of *The Journal of Gerontology and Geriatrics Education* about a special issue that will focus on GECs. She is very interested in a GEC issue that focused either on evaluation or resources of GECs. The earliest we can get in will be September 2005 or November 2005.

The Education Task Force would like to focus on **Resources**. There will need to be six articles. A standard template, with room for flexibility, would be something like:

- Introduction
- Relevance of Issue
- GEC Historical Perspective
- GEC Project(s) in area
- Why a focus of interest?
- Which GECs?
- Projects, outcomes, etc.
- How GECs work together
- Conclusions, implications, etc.
- Agenda for future work

Dr. Mosher-Ashley, mentioned that a commitment has been made to Dr. Melen McBride to do a special issue in eighteen months on Distance Education.

Please send me your thoughts on these issues to j.mendez@wayne.edu by Jan. 5th, 2005, and I will share it with the education committee members. Thanks in advance for your feedback.

GEC OF MICHIGAN

Larry Lawhorne, MD, Director

Collaborative Projects Provide New Opportunities

The Geriatric Education Center of Michigan (GECM) is involved in three exciting collaborative projects. The first is in partnership with the Michigan AHEC, the "Michigan Center for Health Education Training in the Community" project. Other partners are the Colleges of Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, and Nursing at Michigan State University, the Michigan Center for Rural Health, the Michigan Primary Care Association, the Michigan Department of Community Health, and the School of Allied Health at Ferris State University. GECM has developed and is delivering a curriculum for training preceptors and mentors in an "academic nursing home." The academic nursing home for the project is a not-for-profit continuing care retirement community in a medically underserved area.

The second project is supported by a supplemental award from the Bureau of Health Professions to provide training for a statewide network of primary care physicians dedicated to improving the recognition, assessment, and management of dementia. Collaborators on this project include the Michigan Dementia Coalition, the Michigan Department of Community Health, and Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University.

The third GECM collaborative is with the VAMC GRECC in Ann Arbor to provide training in primary care geriatrics for Community Based Outpatient Clinics in VISN 11. For more information about any of these projects, contact the GECM at 517-353-7828 or lawhorne@msu.edu.

MONTANA GEC

Colleen Murphy-Southwick, PhD, Director

Continuing Education Challenges

For health professionals, good continuing education in Big Sky Country is a Big Challenge! Obstacles to providing and obtaining continuing education include: relatively small numbers of health professionals spread over large distances, low salaries (50th in average national pay) coupled with little or no employer assistance for education, minimal staffing in many facilities, and high travel costs for speakers and participants.

Conferences - Thus, the Montana Geriatric Education was pleased at the success of our second annual conference on October 19th of this year, *Improving Health and Quality of Life: Management of Pain, Insomnia, and Depression in Aging Populations*. Nationally known and regional experts spoke to over 200 health professionals and students from nine disciplines across the state. MTGEC responded to the difficulties of long distances, unpredictable weather and staffing problems by broadcasting live from the conference in Billings to twelve interactive videoconferencing sites around the state. Participants in Kalispell and their colleagues 562 miles away in Plentywood, were able to listen to their peers' comments and ask questions of the speakers directly. There were 114 participants "attending" by videoconference and 112 at the origination site in Billings. Having doubled attendance over last year and having received enthusiastic comments on the videoconference experience, MTGEC is now encouraged to expand the number of sites for next year and to experiment with having a "live" speaker at two sites.

Community-based Linkages - MTGEC also offers presentations on a variety of geriatric topics at other conferences of Montana professional health organizations. MTGEC faculty members from different disciplines speak on subjects from an interdisciplinary perspective. We have had a pharmacist, physician and physical therapist present together on preventing falls at state meetings such as the Montana Nurses Association and the Montana Pharmacy Association. Twelve programs have taken place, reaching approximately 300 individuals around the state.

Online Continuing Education. MTGEC is a consortium of The University of Montana, MSU College of Nursing- Bozeman and Rocky Mountain College. Over fifty statewide educational professionals, many being faculty at the consortium institutions, are working to launch 35 interdisciplinary modules of online continuing education. In the first six months of 2005, half of the modules will be offered.

A unique aspect of the MTGEC online program is that enrollees will interact directly with instructors and fellow students. They will need to follow the time-line and complete assignments that commonly include a multiple-choice quiz, short-answer questions and posting paragraph-long observations related to the module material.

STANFORD GEC

Gwen Yeo, PhD, Co-Director

Curriculum on Mental Health Aspects of Diabetes Among Elders in Seven Ethnic Populations

Funded by a supplement to Stanford GEC from BHP/HRSA, a curriculum has been completed to assist faculty in teaching culturally appropriate care for depression and cognitive loss for elders at high risk for diabetes. The curriculum includes sections on risk and culturally appropriate assessment and interventions for diabetes, depression, and cognitive loss or dementia from the following older populations: African American, American Indian, Chinese American, Filipino American, Hmong American, Japanese American, and Latino American. It also includes a section on the cross cultural issues related to sensory impairment due to diabetes, especially in emergencies such as bioterrorism. The 100-page curriculum is currently available in hard copy and will soon be available on CD ROM. For information, email stanfordgec@stanford.edu or call Stanford GEC at 650-494-3986.

JOHNS HOPKINS GEC

Jane Marks, RN, MS, Associate Director

Adopt a Grandparent Program



The Johns Hopkins Geriatric Education Center has facilitated medical students and nursing students in establishing a program in which they visit older adults in their homes. The older adults are from the primary care practice of the Division of Geriatric Medicine. The initial visit is made with a nurse from the center to introduce the student(s) to the older adult. Subsequent visits are coordinated by the student(s) with the senior. The visits are not medically focused, but offer an opportunity for the students to establish rapport with the older adult and experience the home environment of a senior. Another goal of the program is to enhance the student's knowledge about caring for the older adult through monthly

talks. The JHGEC facilitates speakers in the field of geriatrics or related topics for the students. The program initially started with two medical students and this year has grown to 19, of which four are nursing students. One concern was trying to create teams within each school, however the students worked it out and each nursing student is paired with a medical student. It is hoped that by having the student's team work together it will create a foundation for their careers implementing interdisciplinary approaches in care, especially with the older adult.

MOUNTAIN STATE GEC

Sarah Jane Gainor, Program Director

Leaders Gather for Planning Retreat

Fifty-four of West Virginia's key leaders in the field of aging and health care services met at the Stonewall Resort July 23-24, 2004, for an intensive planning retreat to identify a shared vision and related strategies to guide geriatric education in the coming years.

The theme, “Geriatric Education: Prospects, Possibilities and Partnerships,” provided the focus for the event sponsored by the Mountain State GEC (MSGEC). The group included a broad cross-section of professional healthcare education disciplines, rural primary care practice, government agencies, consumer groups and others from the state. Brainstorming group discussions were utilized to encourage “outside the box” thinking about issues affecting geriatric education in West Virginia. Participants identified their visions and related action strategies for changes in (1) the educational process for health care professions, (2) professional practice and health care delivery, (3) public attitudes and health behavior, and (4) public policy.

According to Sara Jane Gainor, MSGEC Program Director, “I think what was most exciting to me about this retreat was the process. This was a unique opportunity for professionals from a variety of backgrounds and positions in the state to come together and discuss issues of mutual concern and to have input about changing things for the better.”

To promote follow-up from the retreat, participants will receive regular updates from the Center on progress in implementing the recommendations. A summary of the proceedings has been distributed among participants to encourage continued networking. Similar events are anticipated in the future. Key ideas from the retreat will be reviewed by the MSGEC consortium site committee and interdisciplinary faculty in planning the Center’s renewal grant application later this year.

VIRGINIA GEC

Iris Parham, PhD, Executive Director

Current Projects

The VGEC has some exciting projects going. We are celebrating our good fortune in receiving a competitive supplemental grant from HRSA. The focus of this project will be Ethical Decision-Making. We are in the midst of our fall training for our new Virginia Department of Social Services; the topics for this fall are: Managing Aggressive Behavior (this training was completed September 29th with 240+ participants); Overview of Mental Disorders; Caring for Others; Helping Yourself; Mental Illness and Dementia; and Individualized Service Plan.

We are also sending out invitations for partnership to other GECs to work with us on future videoconferences. Currently four GECs: Virginia, Pennsylvania, Western Reserve and Mountain State are partnering with the Veterans Health Administration’s Employee Education System to present a series of annual videoconferences in areas of critical need. Through this partnership, we have produced conferences on End of Life and Parkinson’s Disease. Our next joint presentation will be in Spring 2005 on the topic “Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Older Adults: Diagnostic Treatment Challenges.” Our preliminary draft of the program includes an introduction with discussion of the epidemiology of drinking and substance abuse among elders; description of the barriers to diagnosis and treatment; description of the age-related changes that affect the response to these substances; a discussion of the dangers of drug-alcohol interaction and a discussion of the consequences of untreated abuse. This conference will focus on prevention, assessment & diagnosis, and intervention & treatment. We are actively seeking sites who would wish to take part in this conference. If you are interested in partnership or participation, please contact the VGEC at 804-828-9060.

VGEC Announces Program for Fellows and Scholars in Ethical Decision-Making

The Virginia Geriatric Education Center is pleased to announce a new training program for health professionals: the Ethical Decision Making Fellows and Scholars Program. This training will be developed and delivered under a grant awarded to the VGEC in July by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The project, called “Right Choices: Ethical Decision-making in the Health Professions,” is designed to expand the training of health professionals in the ethical issues of decision-making as they relate to an increasingly diverse geriatric clinical practice. Training will be focused primarily

on ethical issues of patient autonomy in care planning and end-of-life care. "This grant is about changing the ethical culture of treatment of older persons in medical centers and in community health settings," notes Dr. J. James Cotter, Associate Director of the VGEC. Support is available for sixty Fellow and Scholars from health professionals in Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Psychology, Social Work, and the Allied Health professions; including Health Administration.

The project will work collaboratively within Virginia Commonwealth University and other community partners. With the guidance of an Interdisciplinary Development Group and a Health Practitioners Group, the VGEC will develop training modules and materials appropriate to each discipline and setting. Existing training mechanisms such as Grand Rounds and Interdisciplinary Forums will be used to present training. In addition, CD and web-based modules will be produced. These modules will be developed with the assistance of ethical decision-making experts within each discipline. Right Choices will also be integrated into the VGEC's Lifelong Health Care Initiative (LLHC) that provides a multi-tiered program designed to maximize lifelong involvement in health careers for both students and practitioners from more than twenty disciplines.

Dr. Ayn Welleford, Associate Director of the VGEC will develop the content for the project. "Our goal" she notes, "is that health professionals feel more comfortable and confident with those slippery ethical situations that we encounter daily. Confidence in our knowledge, skills, and abilities allows us to work more efficiently, rest easier, and ultimately provide better care."

The VGEC's Executive Director, Dr. Iris Parham, is the Principal Investigator of the project. For more information contact Dr. Parham or Lucy Lewis at the VGEC by phone at 804-828-9060 or by email at lblewis@vcu.edu.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Julie Murphy, MAPS

I believe that one of the greatest challenges of Geriatric Education Centers is attempting to make the public and other organizations aware of what the mission of GECs is. This month the Rhode Island GEC (RIGEC) developed a wonderful slogan that will be recognized by the public, organizations, and healthcare professionals throughout the country.

"WAY TO GO BOSTON RED SOX!! RIGEC, caring for those who saw the Sox win the World Series in 1918 and preparing health professionals to care for those who saw them win in 2004."

2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
January 8 th , 2005	Latino Ethnomedicine (Part 2): Providing Culturally Competent Health Care to Latino Elders and Their Families	San Jose State University San Jose, CA	650-494-3986
February 4 th – 5 th , 2005	"Geriatric Medicine Update: Research Advances in Alzheimer's Disease" Conference	Little Rock, AR	Kelley Chapman 501-257-5543 chapmankellya@uams.edu
February 17 th – 18 th , March 1 st and 18 th and April 1 st , 2005	Training of Trainers: Special Issues in Long Term Care – Oral Health & Mental Health	San Francisco, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu

February 24 th , 2005	2005 AGHE Pre-Conference Institute Palliative and End-of-Life Care	Oklahoma City, OK	Sheryl Mapes 405-271-8599 sheryl-mapes@ouhsc.edu
February 24 th – 27 th 2005	AGHE 31 st Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference “Careers in Aging”	Renaissance Oklahoma City Oklahoma City, OK	Dr. Jim Mitchell 252-744-2793 mitchellj@mail.ecu.edu
March 4 th – 5 th 2005	Geriatric Medicine Leadership Training	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu
March 10 th , 2005	Meeting the Dental Needs of the Fastest Growing Population: When Boomers Become Seniors	Kahala Mandarin Hotel Honolulu, Hawaii	Katherine Kim Pacific Islands GEC (808)523-8462 kekim@hawaii.edu
March 10 th – 13 th , 2005	ASA – NCOA Joint Conference: The Changing Face of Aging	Philadelphia, PA	800-537-9728 www.agingconference.org
March 31 st – April 5 th , 2005	29th Annual Gerontology Conference "New Horizons"	Corvallis, OR	http://www.osugero.org/
April 4 th – 5 th , 2005	CGEC Leadership Academy: Bridging the Gap – Aging Perspectives in the San Joaquin Valley	Fresno, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu
April 6 th and 20 th and May 4 th and 18 th , 2005	Training of Trainers: Home Assessment of Vulnerable Older Adults	Los Angeles, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu
April 22 nd , 2005	California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics (CCGG) Annual Meeting: Preparing for California’s Aging Boom – Directions for Higher Education	California State University Northridge	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu
April 29 th , 2005	Establishing Feeding Programs in the Nursing Home	Sheraton Anaheim Hotel Anaheim, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu
April 29 th – May 1 st , 2005	California Association of Long Term Care Medicine (CALTCM) Annual Meeting	Sheraton Anaheim Hotel Anaheim, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu
April 29 th – 30 th and May 5 th and 15 th , 2005	Faculty Development: Teaching Students to Work with Elderly Stroke Patients	UC Davis Medical Center Marriott Hotel Davis, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu
September 14 th – 17 th , 2005	Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine/Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu