

GEC PIPELINE

May 2001

Volume 13, No.5, Page 1

Published as a service to the GEC network by the Wisconsin GEC, Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881, phone (800) 799-7878, fax (414) 288-1973, wgecnet@marquette.edu Copy Edit & Page Layout: Karen Krueger

BUREAU NEWS

Joan Weiss

Peer Review for the GEC program was held on April 2-4, 2001. Nineteen applications were received. Fourteen were approved and 5 disapproved. Funding announcements are expected to be made by June 1, 2001.

Capt. Judith Arndt of my staff and Tempie Hamilton have done an excellent job in completing the updated GEC Directory. The directory is now available on the BHPPr website at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/interdisciplinary/gec.html>

Finally, SAVE THE DATE—August 22-24, 2001. BHPPr is sponsoring a “BHPPr/GEC Distance Learning Workshop” at the Natcher Center on the campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. BHPPr is able to support the travel of 1 representative from each GEC. GECs may send more than one representative, if desired, using nonfederal funds.

NAGEC

Andrea Sherman, President

Now's the time to lobby, letter write, and visit your local and state politicians! Given the recent budget statements we must organize to at least maintain, if not increase funding for the GECs. From now through September we must galvanize our efforts to insure that the GECs are funded. On April 9th, I represented NAGEC at the National Advisory Committee Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages Meeting in Washington, D.C. where Veronica Scott, MD, MPH; and Ed Olsen, MD, MBA Committee members were on hand to further support our case.

May 18th-20th representatives from 11 GECs will attend the Alzheimer's Disease Multidisciplinary Advisory Congress that is organized by Physician's World. Special thanks to Paul Katz, MD, and Pat Blanchette, MD for leading this national initiative.

The NAGEC Distance Learning taskforce will be developing an agenda for the summer meeting sponsored by BHPPr. Send any agenda items to anthony.iacopino@marquette.edu.

WISCONSIN GEC

Stacy Barnes

On June 20 – 22, 2001, the WGEC will be co-sponsoring the fourth annual Milwaukee County Senior Statesman Program. This 2 ½ day event is a collaboration between the WGEC, Milwaukee County Department on Aging, Office of the County Executive, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, and the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups. As the only educational program offered directly to senior citizens by the WGEC, its purpose is to educate seniors about the workings of county government and help them become more effective advocates on issues important to their peer group. Participants tour facilities operated by the county and directly dialogue with county officials such as the County Executive, members of the Common Council, department directors, and the Sheriff. Overwhelming interest and response to the program this year has resulted in an expansion from 25 to 30 participants, with all costs covered by the sponsoring organizations. For more information, please contact the WGEC at (800) 799-7878.

OKLAHOMA GEC

Karen Neal, Education Specialist

On May 18th, the OkGEC is cosponsoring, with The Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatric Medicine and the Department of Surgery, the 4th Annual Geriatric Medicine Symposium. This year the Symposium will be a mini-G. Rainey Williams Symposium and the theme is care of the geriatric post-operative patient. Dr. John Rombeau will be the keynote speaker for the day.

As part of the Oklahoma GEC 2001 Summer Geriatric Institute (SGI) in June, Carroll Estes, Ph.D. will speak on June 14th in Norman, Oklahoma. Dr. Estes is well known for her dedicated and diligent work in gerontology and for the service she has provided to the field. She has received many prestigious awards for her work including, most recently, the Tibbitts Leadership Award in Gerontology. The SGI has proven to be a time when caregivers and practitioners from around the area come together to discuss issues important in the care of the elderly client. This year, the conference will have three different tracks, one for nursing, one for behavioral health and one to include general topics of interest. The State Department of Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse and the State Gerontological Nurses Association are once again supporting and participating in the conference this year. We look forward to having Dr. Estes with us in June for an exciting SGI.

ARKANSAS GEC

*Soledad H-D Jasin, PhD
Education Specialist*

On March 5th, 2001, the Arkansas GEC broadcast to multiple sites the video teleconference (VTC) titled "Parkinson's Disease: Diagnosis, Treatment and Fall Prevention." Speakers for this program were Ergun Y. Uç, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) and Kevin M. Means, MD, Associate Professor, Chairman and Residency Program Director, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, UAMS. Dr. Uç, addressing the Parkinson's section, remarked that the prevalence of Parkinson's Disease (PD), which affects more males than females, is in the order of 200 per 100,000 persons. It is rare under the age of 40 and only occurs in slightly under 2% of those 85 years or older. He stated that in order to make a PD diagnosis at least 3 of these 5 symptoms must be present: tremor at rest, bradykinesia (slowness of movements and reflexes), rigidity, loss of postural reflexes and "freezing." Dr. Uç reviewed treatment available for the disease, and recommended strict adherence to the criteria he outlined for attendees before choosing a surgical procedure. In covering fall prevention, Dr. Means emphasized its importance by stating that 30% of older adults in communal settings as well as 35% of PD patients fall annually. Falls among older adults are of varied origin. They may result from an individual's physical condition (poor health, muscle weakness, inner ear disorders, poor vision, etc.), from that individual's environment (clutter, loose rugs, stairs, etc.) or from a particular situation (hastiness, lack of attention, risky behavior, etc.). General rehabilitation goals, according to Dr. Means, are to teach compensatory strategies, prevent secondary complications, enhance quality of life and maximize functional independence.

We are now preparing for our upcoming "Sexuality and Aging" VTC, which will be broadcast on May 9th. Some of the material will come from a VTC produced by the Oklahoma GEC and the rest will come from a local panel of experts.

OREGON GEC

Elizabeth Kutza, PhD., Co-Director

The Oregon Geriatric Education Center (OGEC) will be presenting its 12th Annual Summer Institute: The Geriatric Odyssey, on June 18-21 and August 20-23. Topics have been selected to meet the needs of health care professionals for in-depth, high level education regarding care of older adults. They will include vision and hearing loss, medication use and abuse, infectious diseases, diabetes, depression, Parkinson's disease, palliative care, and chronic care management. The Summer Institute will be held at the Casey Eye Institute at the Oregon Health Sciences University. Parking is easy and is included in the registration. For more information or to request a brochure, please call (503) 721-7821.

The OGEC Resource Center provided two days of video viewing as a part of Oregon State University's 25th Annual Gerontology Conference. OGEC is a co-sponsor of the event and OSU's Program in Gerontology and Extension Service are a part of the OGEC Consortium.

RHODE ISLAND GEC

JoAnn Evans

On June 6, 2001, RIGEC will offer a new program entitled "Alternative Strategies: Advanced Practice Seminar II." The day-long program will provide a description of the body of knowledge and the theoretical bases of physical, psychological, spiritual, sensory, energy-based, and natural products alternative strategies. Participants will learn how to utilize research findings to evaluate the efficacy of selected alternative strategies and how to apply knowledge of such strategies to the care of older adults. The special needs and risks associated with the use of alternative strategies among ethnically diverse older adults also will be discussed. The program will be held at the Canonicus Camp & Conference Center in Exeter, RI.

RIGEC is pleased to be able to participate as a local co-sponsor for the June 26th videoconference "Beyond the Barriers: Effective Breast Cancer Early Detection Strategies for Older Women," which is being presented by the Virginia GEC, Virginia Health Quality Center and the Cancer Information Service.

THE CONSORTIUM OF NEW YORK GECs

Andrea Sherman, PhD

The CNYGECs has two very exciting upcoming conferences. On May 21st-22nd we will be holding a first-of-its-kind conference organized by the CNYGEC, the Oneida Nation, and the Indian Health Services. Called "Aging Well: A Conference on Elders Health and Social Issues", it is based on data from a needs assessment sent to New York State tribes. Those tribes with both elders and healthcare providers attending are the Oneida, St. Regis Mohawk, Seneca, Onondoga, and Tuscarora.

On June 5th the CNYGEC is holding an "Emerging Issues in Social Work and Aging Videoconference" at seven VA sites in the New York/ New Jersey area. The committee to plan the conference is co-chaired by Rose Dobrof, DSW, and Judy Howe, PhD. The keynote presentation will be delivered on "Revisiting Geriatric Assessment", by Barbara Berkman, DSW, who is the Helen Rehr/Ruth Fizdale Professor of Health and Mental Health from the Columbia University School of Social Work. For further information call Joan Dunbar at: 212-992-9415.

FINGER LAKES GEC

Jason Dauenhauer

The Finger Lakes GEC is putting out a call for abstracts due May 31, 2001. The purpose is to advance evidence-based care in three clinical areas: Children and Youth, Aging, and Acute/Critical Care. Evidence-based practice is a process by which nurses and health care professionals make clinical decisions using the best available research evidence, their clinical expertise, and patient preferences, within the context of available resources. Abstracts are being accepted for oral and poster presentations in the following categories: 1) Applying evidence to practice and 2) Systematic Reviews. Abstracts are limited to a 500 word document, using Times New Roman 12 point font. Abstracts in the category of applying evidence should include the following headings: 1) clinical question, 2) search for evidence, 3) critical appraisal, 4) application to practice, and 5) evaluation. Systematic reviews should include the following headings: 1) purpose, 2) methods, 3) results, and 4) implications for practice. Please submit 3 copies of the abstract (two without identifying information) and a cover sheet that includes the presentation title, author(s) names, credentials, address, telephone number(s), and the e-mail of the corresponding author by 5/31/01. Authors will be notified of acceptance by 9/1/01. Send copies to: Patricia Stone, PhD, MPH, RN, 601 Elmwood Ave, Box SON Rochester, NY 14642, (716) 275-9943 or by email attachment: patricia_stone@urmc.rochester.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
May 9, 2001	Sexuality and Aging Video Teleconference	Multiple Sites	Jasinsoledadhd@uams.edu (501) 257-5551
June 7-9, 2001	Summer 2001 Geriatric Institute	Albuquerque, NM	Darlene Franklin Dfranklin@salud.unm.edu (505) 277-0911
June 13-15, 2001	12 th Annual St. Louis University Summer Geriatric Institute	SLU Health Sciences Center	Ronna Rhodes Rhodes@slu.edu (314) 268-5644
June 19-23, 2001	Interdisciplinary Faculty Development Program: Cultural Diversity in Health and Aging	Los Angeles, CA	Lucio Arruda Larruda@ucla.edu (310) 312-0531
June 20 – 22, 2001	Milwaukee County Senior Statesman Program	Milwaukee, WI	Julie Murphy wgecnet@marquette.edu (800) 799-7878
June 21, 2001	West Virginia University's Summer Institute on Aging "Alcoholism and Older Adults"	WVU	Sara Jane Gainor Sjgainr@wvu.edu
June 26, 2001	"Beyond the Barriers: Effective Breast Cancer Early Detection Strategies for Older Women" Videoconference	Multiple Sites	Sara Jane Gainor Sjgainr@wvu.edu