

# GEC PIPELINE



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## NTAC

*Diana Gurley, PhD, Project Director, Case Western Reserve University*

### **The National Technical Assistance Center for Geriatric Education Center's**

The National Technical Assistance Center for Geriatric Education Centers, or NTAC, is newly supported by HRSA to develop, disseminate, and consult on resources to evaluate geriatric education programs for health professionals.

NTAC comes out of the tradition of Geriatric Education Centers as a direct response to GEC calls for technical assistance, and it continues to be embedded in the wider network of GECs. The central office is in Cleveland, Ohio, at Case Western Reserve University, site of the longstanding WRGEC. Two regional offices are housed at UCLA and the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey, both also associated with longstanding GECs. NTAC will be guided by a National Advisory Panel of GECs, experts in evaluation and education, and ex officio representatives from the Bureau of Health Professions.

NTAC will work with the National Association of GECs and with individual GECs. It will provide technical assistance workshops at national meetings, an interactive website, and access to experts in evaluation research who are available for individual GEC consultations.

In these first months, NTAC staff are establishing administrative structures, building a website that will be available through HRSA, and organizing staff to provide GEC evaluation support.

Julia Rose (WRGEC) is the NTAC director; regional co-directors are Janet Frank (CGEC) and Elyse Perweiler (NJGEC and NAGEC). You will soon come to know the new project staff: Diana Gurley, Project Director, is an epidemiologist and medical sociologist with experience in all aspects of applied research, and specializes in cross-cultural assessment and mental health. Monica Ionescu, Evaluation Coordinator, brings a background in psychology, health education, and patient advocacy in public health. Milagros Bracetti (Millie), Administrative Coordinator, is a health educator who is experienced in cross-cultural clinical applications. All the staff have worked extensively with underserved populations.

At GSA, we asked GECs to identify their most pressing needs for technical assistance. Fifty-one people responded, giving preliminary information on software being used, meetings attended, and the range of experience people have with different levels of evaluation at their own GEC programs.

GEC priorities, in order of frequency, were for assistance with (1) all aspects of evaluation (a global assignment!), (2) long-term participant follow-up, (3) streamlining data collection forms, (4) secondary outcomes, (5) institutional change, and (6) tertiary outcomes.

Most GECs use MS Excel or Access for data collection; some use SPSS for statistical work. With that in mind, we are preparing templates for data entry on participants and programs in Access and developing data entry forms for use online. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Many of you attend national meetings regularly: GSA (everyone), and AGHE and AGS (about two-thirds). Responses from other meetings were minimal. We will schedule at least two training workshops each year at national conferences – one at GSA, and another at AGHE and/or AGS – to minimize costs for face-to-face training on the issues you identify.

At GSA, we presented a stepped list of levels of evaluation to give us a structure for thinking about evaluation strategies, since different levels require different approaches:

- ◆ *Participation* (professions, contact hours, underserved groups, institutions represented)
- ◆ *Individual Learner Evaluations* (knowledge, skills, attitudes; short- and long-term)
- ◆ *Program Evaluations* (content areas, formats, applications, user satisfaction)
- ◆ *Changes in Trained Provider Pool* (percent of health professionals in the region who are being trained, longitudinal trends in service use)
- ◆ *Institutional Change* (elements incorporated into practice, barriers to implementation)
- ◆ *Changes in Service Quality, Access, Availability* (adherence to quality standards, regional and longitudinal trends in service use)
- ◆ *Changes in Health Outcomes* (regional and longitudinal health indicators)

More than half of you expressed strong interest in every level above participant counts. About 50% want support in evaluating your program content and style; 60% want technical assistance in assessing individual learning, institutional change, and changes in the provider pool; 80% of you want help evaluating service quality and availability; and nearly everyone wants assistance in assessing health outcomes as they relate to education.

It was especially interesting that over one-fourth want technical assistance to streamline data collection on participants. This is an extremely important finding because every other level of assessment depends entirely on our ability to do a good job of assessing participation. This area will receive substantial NTAC attention in the months to come. NTAC may be contacted at Case Western Reserve University, 2500 Metrohealth Drive, R243, Cleveland, Ohio 44109, Ph: 216-778-2303 or e-mail Diana Gurley at [dgurley@metrohealth.org](mailto:dgurley@metrohealth.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENT

*Maureen Mohyde, The Hartford's Corporate Gerontology Group*

### **Family Conversations with Older Drivers**

The Hartford Financial Services Group is pleased and proud to have received ASA's 2005 Business and Aging Award for our public education program, *Family Conversations with Older Drivers*. This program is about older drivers and their families – how they can work together to prolong the safe driving span, and how families and their aging loved ones can have successful and timely conversations about the appropriateness of continued driving. The guidebook *We Need to Talk* is part of the program, the fruit of a two-year research project by The Hartford's Corporate Gerontology Group in conjunction with MIT AgeLab.

An earlier project undertaken by the partnership was study of Alzheimer's disease, dementia and driving, and was based on in-depth interviews with Alzheimer's patients and their families. The fruit of that research is contained in a brochure called *At the Crossroads*, which offers information to individuals with dementia and their families struggling with the issue of how to determine when someone with dementia can no longer drive safely.

To order free copies, use the convenient order form under the "brochure" tab on The Hartford's website:

[www.thehartford.com/alzheimers](http://www.thehartford.com/alzheimers) for *At the Crossroads*; and [www.thehartford.com/talkwitholderdrivers](http://www.thehartford.com/talkwitholderdrivers) for *We Need to Talk*. At the Crossroads is also available in Spanish, and we will have a Spanish version of *We Need to Talk* in the next few months.

## CALIFORNIA GEC

*Sue Brilliant, MBA, Deputy Director*

### **Social Work Aging Summit**

The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), in partnership with the Archstone Foundation, the California Geriatric Education Center, and the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), convened the CalSWEC Aging Summit on October 21 and 22nd, 2004, at California State University, Long Beach. One hundred and nine leaders from across the state representing government, social work education and research, philanthropy, aging social services and health care services met to form a statewide coalition that would create and sustain an action plan for the development of a social work workforce to meet the needs of California's growing elderly population.

The morning program included presentations by keynote speaker Fernando Torres-Gil, Associate Dean, School of Public Policy and Social Research, UCLA, and California Assembly members Patty Berg, Lynn Daucher and Alan Lowenthal. In the afternoon and following day, summit participants examined model geriatric social work education programs previously funded by the Archstone and John A. Hartford Foundations and broke into work groups to share experiences.

Through a consensus building process, Summit delegates developed a vision and mission with priorities for continued mobilization of a geriatric social work workforce. A Summit Report and Recommendation will be compiled as a statement of vision, mission,

and goals. Principles underlying the CalSWEC Aging Initiative, which have been developed over the past decade, will guide the Report including: university/community collaboration; competency driven education; expanding the infrastructure established by CalSWEC to professionalize agency service and produce well prepared social workers; dissemination of competencies and “best practices” using current materials and resources developed in California for aging content infusion as well as specialized university curriculums; and education in the policy arena to further the agenda for improving care for an aging California. The Summit Report will present strategies to make California a leader in the development of a workforce that can effectively provide older adults with needed services. The Summit Planning Committee was chaired by JoAnn Damron-Rodriguez, UCLA Department of Social Welfare, Co-PI Archstone Summit Grant, and Betty F. Malks, Director, Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, Department of Aging and Adult Services. For more information or to receive a copy of the Aging Summit Report and Recommendations, contact Dr. Damron-Rodriguez at (310) 206-3233 (email: [jdamron-rodriguez@ucla.edu](mailto:jdamron-rodriguez@ucla.edu)).

## IOWA GEC

*Linda Seydel, MS, LNHA, Administrator*

### **Online Learning Opportunities**

The Iowa Geriatric Education Center has developed several online learning opportunities for healthcare professionals. These activities are available for continuing education credit and can be previewed at [www.medicine.uiowa.edu/igec](http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/igec) by clicking on the "E-learning" link. Our GeriaFlix and GeriTrax presentations offer digitized lectures from experts on geriatric health topics. GeriaSims are interactive experiences during which the learner diagnoses and treats simulated patients.

GeriaFlix and GeriaTrax are series comprised of CME and Nursing CEU accredited multidisciplinary presentations on geriatric healthcare topics, presented in a streaming video or audio format with synchronized slides. They are designed to teach important principles, consider new developments, and examine subtleties in the care and management of older persons. By participating in this online activity, learners will improve their overall knowledge about managing common geriatric syndromes: they will understand the unique healthcare needs of older patients, develop a working knowledge of important legal and ethical issues associated with end-of-life care, and understand and apply principles of the multi-disciplinary geriatric assessment. GeriaFlix and GeriaTrax are sponsored by the University of Iowa's Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine and the Iowa Geriatric Education Center, and supported with funding from the Department of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

GeriaSims are CME-approved interactive patient care simulations on geriatric syndromes and other issues that are often encountered in the primary care of elderly patients. The simulations are appropriate for primary-care physicians and physician assistants, and will also benefit medical or surgical specialists who provide care to elderly patients. In each simulation, learners ask history questions, perform virtual physical exams, order tests, consult with specialists and other health care professionals, and make decisions about diagnosis, treatment, and other care issues. Feedback is provided regarding all decisions, as well as regarding the actions taken during patient evaluations. Learners may also ask questions of a mentor for further information about the topic of the simulation. The GeriaSims series is sponsored by the University of Iowa's Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine and the Iowa Geriatric Education Center, and supported with funding from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

A simulation can be previewed by going to the IGEC website, [www.medicine.uiowa.edu/igec](http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/igec), and clicking on the "E-learning" link, then "GeriaSims." Simulations include: Delirium; Dementia in the Elderly Patient; Failure to Thrive; Falls in Older Adults; Functional Assessment of the Elderly Patient; Ischemic Stroke in the Elderly; Palliative Care; Polypharmacy in Older Adults; and Urinary Incontinence in the Elderly.

## 2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
May 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	18th Annual Issues in Aging Conference Mild Cognitive Impairment: State of the Art Diagnosis and Treatment	Management Education Center Troy, MI	313-577-2297 <a href="mailto:ioinfo@wayne.edu">ioinfo@wayne.edu</a>
May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	18th Annual Issues in Aging Conference End of Life Avenues of Mourning	Management Education Center Troy, MI	313-577-2297 <a href="mailto:ioinfo@wayne.edu">ioinfo@wayne.edu</a>
May 19 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2005	Providers' Certificate of Specialization in Aging Mini Conference	Sands Regency Hotel and Casino Reno, Nevada	Linda Wiley 702-671-2381 <a href="mailto:lwiley@med.unr.edu">lwiley@med.unr.edu</a>

May 25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Rural Culture: West Virginia's Legacy	Radisson Hotel Morgantown, WV	304-293-2265 304-293-2298 <a href="http://www.ruralaging.org/msgec">www.ruralaging.org/msgec</a>
June 6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Summer Institute in Geriatrics and Gerontology	UTHSCSA Dental School San Antonio, TX	210-567-7410 <a href="mailto:gonzalesL@uthscsa.edu">gonzalesL@uthscsa.edu</a>
June 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	16 <sup>th</sup> Annual St. Louis University Summer Geriatric Institute	Saint Louis University School of Medicine St. Louis, MO	317-977-8848 <a href="mailto:agingsuccess@slu.edu">agingsuccess@slu.edu</a>
June 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Keeping Elders Healthy: Aging with Coexisting Conditions in a Cross Cultural Context	BP Energy Center Anchorage Alaska	Ann Jache 907-786-1955 <a href="mailto:jache@uaa.alaska.edu">jache@uaa.alaska.edu</a> <a href="http://www.alaskagec.org">www.alaskagec.org</a>
June 13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	NIH State-of-the-Science Conference on Manifestations and Management of Chronic Insomnia in Adults	Natcher Conference Center National Institutes of Health Bethesda, MD	<a href="http://www.consensus.nih.gov">www.consensus.nih.gov</a> 888-644-2667
June 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Dementia Conference	Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center Stony Brook, NY	631-444-8279 <a href="mailto:lige@stonybrook.edu">lige@stonybrook.edu</a>
June 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	22 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Series on Aging	Radisson Plaza Hotel Lexington, KY	Diana Lockridge 859-257-8301 <a href="mailto:dianal@uky.edu">dianal@uky.edu</a>
June 15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Caring for Seniors: Science and Practice	Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing Portland, OR	Pat Ebert 503-418-2171 <a href="mailto:ebertp@ohsu.edu">ebertp@ohsu.edu</a> <a href="http://www.ohsu.edu/ogec">www.ohsu.edu/ogec</a>
June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Maryland Gerontological Association Conference – Bridges to the Future through Innovation, Integration and Collaboration	Cross Creek Station at Charlestown Retirement Community Catonsville, MD	410-706-8951 <a href="mailto:marylandgerontologyassoc@yahoo.com">marylandgerontologyassoc@ yahoo.com</a>
September 14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> , 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 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> <a href="http://www.geronet.ucla.edu">www.geronet.ucla.edu</a>
September 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2005	19th Annual Symposium on Geriatric Medicine "Finding the Balance: Risk vs. Benefit in Treating Geriatric Illnesses"	Sheraton Hotel Lansing, MI	Jan Yonker, 517-353-7828, <a href="mailto:yonker@msu.edu">yonker@msu.edu</a>
September 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	10th Annual Geriatric Rehabilitation Conference "Strategies for a Changing Environment"	Sheraton Hotel Lansing, MI	Jan Yonker, 517-353-7828, <a href="mailto:yonker@msu.edu">yonker@msu.edu</a>
August 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2005	Geriatric Primary Care: Current Perspectives & New Horizons	Airport Hilton Hotel San Antonio, TX	210-567-7410 <a href="mailto:gonzalesL@uthscsa.edu">gonzalesL@uthscsa.edu</a>