

# GEC PIPELINE



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## BUREAU NEWS

*Joan Weiss, PhD, RN, CRNP*  
*Chief, Geriatrics and Rural Health Branch*

Greeting from the Geriatrics and Rural Health Branch in the BHPr! For those of you who submitted an application for the FY 2001 cycle, the Grants Management Office is expected to send notification of funding on June 1, 2001. Also, I would like to remind you that the Bureau of Health Professions is sponsoring a "BHPr GEC Distance Learning Workshop" at the Natcher Center on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland from August 22-24, 2001. The BHPr is able to support the travel of one representative from each GEC. GECs may send more than one representative, if desired, using nonfederal funds. Please RSVP to Anthony M. Iacopino, DMD, PhD at [anthony.iacopino@marquette.edu](mailto:anthony.iacopino@marquette.edu) as soon as possible.

## NAGEC

*Andrea Sherman, PhD, President*

Representatives from the following GECs came to Washington DC on May 16th to educate and advocate. Special thanks to Julia Rose, PhD from Ohio, Janis Yonker, MPH from Michigan, Kathy Eagan, PhD from Pennsylvania, Phil Clark, Sc.D. from Rhode Island, Paul Katz, MD from New York, and Andrea Sherman, PhD. from New York. We were guided in our endeavors by Scott Frey who has provided extraordinary expertise to the GECs. We began with a Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition breakfast at 8:30 with presentations by The Honorable John E. Peterson, from the House of Representatives, 5th District of PA, The Honorable Donna M. Christian-Christensen, Chairman of Health Brain Trust, Congressional Black Caucus, and Louis Sullivan, MD, President of Morehouse School of Medicine, and Former Secretary of US Dept. of Health and Human Services. Over 12 key visits were made to our representatives in the House and the Senate. Several of the GECs met with Senator Specter and Dr. Sullivan. We anticipate increasing our efforts until September. If you haven't already contacted your representatives, now is the time. Letters to the editor as well as from your GEC participants will also help to support our efforts.

## CALIFORNIA GEC

*Janet C. Frank, DrPh, Director*

Janet Frank, Director of the California Geriatric Education Center, has been elected to serve on the Board of the *California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics (CCGG)* as President-Elect. Her appointment begins immediately and runs until the spring of 2003. The CCGG is a professional association providing leadership in geriatric and gerontology education with the goal of enhancing the quality of life of California's diverse older population. The CCGG provides consultation to the California Senate Subcommittee on Aging and Long Term Care and recently formed a partnership with the Subcommittee to promote improved public policy and enhance efforts to establish comprehensive statewide strategic planning on aging and long-term care issues. The alliance also aims to provide a model for other states of a successful collaboration between government, universities and other learning institutions, industry and the private sector, and consumers, regarding basic research and education and of its application to California public policy.

## MEHARRY CONSORTIUM GEC

*LeMonica Lewis, BBA*  
*Program Coordinator*

On Thursday, June 28, 2001 the Meharry Consortium Geriatric Education Center (MCGEC) of Nashville, TN, will be having a "Nutrition and Aging-Implications for Hospital-Based Care" workshop in Knoxville, TN at the Baptist Eye Institute. The workshop is targeted to geriatric dietitians, nutritionists, and nurses based in hospitals and health care industry, and nursing and dietetic faculty. The objectives are: 1) to increase geriatric nutrition knowledge and skills of participants, 2) prepare participants so they are able to provide better care to older adults, and 3) to train other health care providers to deliver improved care in hospitals and acute care facilities. For more information, contact Dr. Maciej Buchowski or LeMonica Lewis at (615) 327-6037.

## ARKANSAS GEC

*Soledad H-D Jasin, PhD*  
*Education Specialist*

During April, the Arkansas GEC co-sponsored a one-day conference titled "Best Practices in the Continuum of Care: Alzheimer's Disease." Aimed at health professionals, the conference attracted about 150 attendees, from not only Arkansas, but other neighboring states. Speakers remarked on the incidence of the disease in the geriatric population, the latest treatment approaches and strategies to best manage behavior problems.

On May 9, in collaboration with the Oklahoma GEC, we broadcast a video teleconference (VTC) to 17 sites across Arkansas. The topic for this VTC was "Sexuality and Aging." Lee Doyle, PhD and Alex E. Finkbeiner, MD, local speakers from the University of Arkansas for Medical Science (UAMS), spoke on female and male sexuality respectively. Dr. Doyle attempted to dispel the myth that older females have no interest in sex while Dr. Finkbeiner dispelled the myth that erectile dysfunction in older males is a function of age. Sandy Sanders, LCSW, MA Gerontology, also from UAMS, discussed the need to open the area of sexuality for discussion with all older clients and their families, but she emphasized in particular the need to do so when dementia is present. Mark A. Stratton, PharmD, BCPS, FASHP, Oklahoma State University Health and Sciences Center, reviewed drugs known for interfering with sexual function as well as those that aid sexual performance.

Finally, on June 26<sup>th</sup>, we are looking forward to collaborating with the Virginia GEC in their "Beyond the Barriers: Effective Breast Cancer Early Detection Strategies for Older Women."

## VIRGINIA GEC

*Angela Rothrock, MS*

Approximately five women die every hour from breast cancer. In an attempt to reduce this statistic, the Virginia Geriatric Education Center (VGEC), in cooperation with the Virginia Health Quality Center and the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service, will sponsor a live satellite video conference entitled "Beyond the Barriers: Effective Breast Cancer Early Detection Strategies for Older Women". The conference, funded by the Health Care Financing Administration and aimed at health care professionals, will be broadcast via satellite to sites nationwide on Tuesday, June 26, 2001 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. EDT. These sites have been obtained through the cooperation of several Geriatric Education Centers, Peer Review Organizations and some Veteran's Administration Hospitals.

Because over 75 percent of breast cancers are diagnosed in women over the age of 50, the goal of the videoconference is to heighten awareness in health professionals who could be instrumental in aiding early detection. This group includes general practitioners, obstetrician gynecologists, nurse practitioners, workers in radiology and mammography, and anyone else with direct contact with older patients. The conference will address some economic, social, and cultural barriers as well as some myths about early detection procedures that prevent some older women from seeking the diagnostic care that is instrumental in early detection. There will be several opportunities during the conference for audience members to call in via a toll-free number to speak with members of the live panel.

As of May 15th, we have 90 sites in 36 states, with more being added each day. Geriatric Education Centers (and their partners) from the following states are sponsoring or publicizing satellite viewing sites for the conference: Alabama, Arkansas, the District of Columbia, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas (Consortium of GECs), Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. We thank them for their much needed assistance!

To learn more about the videoconference and to find the site nearest you, please log on to the Beyond the Barriers website at <http://views.vcu.edu/sahp/gerontology/vgrec/breastcancer> or contact Angela Rothrock at 1-888-794-0904.

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA GEC

Eileen Poiley, MS  
Project Manager

The University of South Florida GEC is planning its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual summer geriatric institute. The 5-day conference, "Aging in the New Millennium: Controversies & New Directions" will be held on the University of South Florida campus on June 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13. The program is co-sponsored with the USF Department of Gerontology and the Gulfcoast Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The Department of Gerontology has listed this program as a graduate course and it is offered to gerontology, social work and nursing students as a 3-credit graduate elective. The program also offers continuing education credit to nurses, social workers, nursing home and ALF administrators, guardians, care managers, activity therapists, and mental health counselors.

The themes for this years program include Understanding Alternative Therapies Used By Older Adults; Anxiety Disorders and Adverse Drug Events; Understanding and Meeting the Needs of Special Populations; Memory Disorders and Alzheimer's disease; New Directions in LTC Facilities (Risk Management, Environmental Design, Animal Assisted Therapy and more); and Elder Abuse and Family Violence. For more information on the topics and resource materials that will be provided, please contact Eileen Poiley at the USF GEC at 813-974-4355.

## IOWA GEC

Laura Hunter, MA

The Iowa GEC believes that distance learning is the best response to demographic imperative in our state. In addition to our Geriatric Grand Rounds Series, we recognize the importance of the Internet in addressing Iowa's distance learning needs. We have developed a variety of web-based tools to provide health care practitioners and students across Iowa with essential, high quality training, while reducing time away from work and eliminating prohibitive travel costs.

### E-News

E-News, published the first of each month, is an electronic newsletter that contains a collection of journal abstracts which compliment the monthly Geriatric Grand Round series topic. Current journals, newspaper articles, and medical websites are searched to provide subscribers with a list of resources that supplement the geriatric topic presented each month. Resources are selected from the most respected medical and nursing journals. Whenever possible, E-News includes articles that are available online, so that the link may be included with the abstract. To subscribe to E-News (at no cost), complete the form on the following website:  
[www.its.uiowa.edu/igec/Pages/E-newsPages/IGECSubscribe\\_E-News.htm](http://www.its.uiowa.edu/igec/Pages/E-newsPages/IGECSubscribe_E-News.htm).

### Info-Connect©

Info-Connect is designed to be a ready source of practical information for nurses and nursing aides on topics of key importance, and are published approximately four times each year. Currently four brochures are available:

*Infections in Long Term Care Facilities*                      *The 3D's: Delirium, Depression, Dementia*  
*Understanding & Managing Aggression*                      *Family Involvement in Care*

Upcoming brochures will deal with fall prevention, the treatment and prevention of pressure ulcers, and incontinence. If interested in receiving a copy of any of these brochures, please contact the IGEC.

### Iowa GEC Website

Each month, the Iowa GEC homepage ([www.its.uiowa.edu/igec](http://www.its.uiowa.edu/igec)) is updated to highlight the month's Geriatric Grand Rounds topic. Some topic-specific resources that you will find on this page are:

- **Topical Pop-up Window** This window, which pops up from the homepage, provides background information on the GGR topic. In addition, a link is included for the on-line reference article.
- **Resource Highlight** A website or web-based article providing practical information about the topic. Most often, this resource is chosen to provide health care practitioners simple, practical responses to their patients' questions or concerns.
- **Gero-Connect** This online message board provides an opportunity for health care practitioners to address questions and concerns to the current month's GGR presenter about the focus geriatric topic. The Iowa GEC encourages a forum for open and constructive discussions.

A specific website selection that may be of most use is the Iowa GEC Virtual Library ([www.its.uiowa.edu/igec/virtual\\_library.html](http://www.its.uiowa.edu/igec/virtual_library.html)). Some of the geriatric resources that can be found on this page include:

- **IGEC Book Search** A tool (using keyword, title, ISBN, or author) for finding all books in print related to a given geriatric topic.
- **Geriatric Assessment Tools** A collection of tools which can be used to assess delirium, cognition, and mobility.
- **E-News Archive** An archive of E-News (1999-2000) which allows access to past issues, highlighting the subject of that specific month's GGR.

- **Geriatric Grand Rounds Presentations** This site archives the 1999-2000 GGR series. A copy of the PowerPoint slides used by the presenter and appended notes can be accessed here.
- **Resource Highlight** An archive of resources (including books, journal articles, websites, and audio/video presentations) that have been highlighted on the Iowa GEC website each month.
- **Web Resources** A list of the most useful geriatric websites and listserves, including a brief abstract for each.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
June 7, 2001	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Hospice Conference	Fort MacArthur San Pedro, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a>
June 18 - 21 & August 20 - 23, 2001	“The Geriatric Odyssey” 12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Institute	Casey Eye Institute Oregon Health Sciences University	Oregon GEC 503-721-7821
June 20 – 22, 2001	Milwaukee County Senior Statesman Program	Milwaukee, WI	Julie Murphy 800-799-7878
June 20, 2001	The Role of Spinal Manipulative Therapy in the Management of Back & Neck Pain	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne Francione 716-760-6375
June 26, 2001	“Beyond the Barriers: Effective Breast Cancer Early Detection Strategies for Older Women” Videoconference	Multiple Sites throughout the GEC Network Hosted by the Virginia GEC	Angela Rothrock, MS 888-794-0904 Rothrag@aol.com
June 27, 2001	Chiropractic in the Health Care System	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne Francione 716-760-6375
June 28, 2001	Nutrition & Aging-Implications for Hospital-Based Care	Baptist Eye Institute Knoxville, TN	LeMonica Lewis 615-327-6037