

# 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 BHP! For those of you who made application for the FY 2001 cycle, the Grants Management Office is expected to send notification of funding on June 29, 2001.

## NAGEC

*Andrea Sherman, PhD, President NAGEC*

The GECs were well represented at the Aging Subcommittee hearing on Geriatrics, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001, chaired by Senators Mikulski and Hutchinson. The theme of the meeting was: "Geriatrics: Meeting the Needs of our Most Vulnerable Seniors in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Senator Mikulski specifically mentioned that she has signed on to the Reed & Reid letter and that she supports our request for \$20 million in fiscal year 2002. Senator Hutchinson spoke about the positive steps that congress has taken in establishing the GECs and his support for them. The three witnesses Dr. Lipschitz from Arkansas, Dr. Burton from Baltimore, and Dr. Fillit from New York all testified on behalf of the GECs and our programs. We were successful due largely to the efforts of Ronnie Chernoff from the Arkansas GEC and Scott Frey. They were both tenacious in reaching the committee and the witnesses. This is the kind of ongoing effort that we need. For those of you who will be in Washington in August we encourage you to make appointments with key staff that are the representatives from your areas. Be sure to share the details of your GEC in their area, how many you train, and the impact you make.

*Anthony Iacopino, PhD, DMD, Co-Chair Distance Learning Taskforce*

The goal of the August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> GEC Network Meeting on Distance Learning is to develop a concrete workplan for national, collaborative, geriatric-related distance learning initiatives. Two and a half days will be spent discussing GEC expertise, distance learning technologies, collaboration strategies, potential barriers, and funding opportunities. Experts will educate participants about how other organizations have successfully collaborated across the country. The Bureau of Health Professions is a partner in organizing this event and will be sponsoring one member from each GEC. All travel arrangements and accommodations will be provided by HRSA. The planning committee for this event consists of myself, John Hennon, Joe Assouline, Linda Redford, Melen McBride, Stacy Barnes, Joan Weiss and Kathy Bond. We request that each attendee to arrive no later than Tuesday evening as the meeting will start promptly at 8:00 am on Wednesday. Thank you in advance for your participation; we are looking forward to a successful and productive meeting!

*Robert Roush, EdD, MPH, Project Director, Texas Consortium of GECs*  
*Stacy Barnes, MGS, Director of Administration, Wisconsin GEC*

All GECs in the country have an opportunity to be connected to each other through the NAGEC listserv which is maintained by the TCGEC headquarters at the Huffington Center on Aging, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. However, it has recently come to our attention that not all GECs are subscribers! Please join us in encouraging all GECs to subscribe to the listserv so that our national communication channel is strengthened. This system affords all GECs the opportunity to: communicate cost-effectively and frequently with each other; be alerted to important announcements and public policy updates; query colleagues about the availability of geriatric educational resources; report committee/task force progress; and promote upcoming collaborative programs.

If you or someone you know has not already subscribed to the NAGEC listserv, you may do so simply by sending an e-mail message to Bob Roush at <[rroush@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:rroush@bcm.tmc.edu)>. You will promptly be enrolled as a subscriber and you will be officially notified by the listserv manager when you can begin using the listserv. Please note that the system is an unmoderated broadcast; thus, your message goes to all subscribers on the listserv. To send an email to everyone, simply address your message to: [tcgec@listserv.bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:tcgec@listserv.bcm.tmc.edu)

As use of the NAGEC listserv grows, we are considering using it instead of the PIPELINE as our primary vehicle for regularly communicating GEC news. By doing so, significant time and money would be saved, while providing regular communications to a much larger audience. We would like to know what you think about this proposal. Input from GECs will also be requested at the Distance Learning Meeting in August. Please email your comments to: [wgecnet@marquette.edu](mailto:wgecnet@marquette.edu)

## MEHARRY CONSORTIUM GEC

*Ruth Garrett, MPH, MED, PhD, Project Director*

Monica Garbutt, Secretary of the Geriatric Student Forum and rising senior medical student, has been accepted by the Boston University School of Medicine and the American Geriatrics Society for their Summer Institute in Geriatrics. The major goal of the Summer Institute is to stimulate interest in pursuing careers in academic geriatric medicine and geriatric research. Monica was selected from her essay, letters of recommendation by Drs. Garrett, Buchowski, and Powers (Vanderbilt), and her demonstrated strong interest in geriatric medicine, and involvement in clinical and basic science research. Congratulations Monica!!

The GEC has many activities underway. Dr. Garrett has visited sites in Mound Bayou, Miss., Southwest Community College, Pulaski NHC Health Center, Trousdale Medical Center and has traveled to Dallas for mandated training from Health and Human Services. In the last six weeks 90 service providers were trained at all day programs at the Maxwell House, 15 rural trainers were trained at their quarterly meeting at Meharry, 20 trainers were trained at Tennessee Technology in Pulaski, a satellite downlink on the prevention of breast cancer was held at Meharry from the Medical College of Virginia and two day-long training sessions were held in conjunction with Tennessee State University at Meharry and in Clarksville at the Senior Center. G. W. (Mike) Michel has been added as program coordinator to our staff of two. He was formerly the director of the Hendersonville Senior Center.

## NEW MEXICO GEC

*Darlene Franklin, MA, Project Coordinator*

The NMGEC had their Summer 2001 Geriatric Institute in early June with 258 participants showing an interest in Geriatrics. We were pleased with the turnout and the interdisciplinary presentations on the top four diseases killing older adults. At the conference the Guide to Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment in Indian Country was presented in a workshop on the last afternoon for IHS and tribal providers. The guide was co-produced with the IHS Elder Care Initiative and is available at a cost of \$25 (includes shipping).

Our collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Rural Health Program has produced a project for thirteen students from eight disciplines who will be working with the Isleta Pueblo this summer to develop culturally sensitive patient education materials. Next summer, clinical rotations are being planned for the UNM HSC Senior Health Clinic for another group of students with an interest in Geriatrics.

In July, in collaboration with the Arthritis Foundation, we will be sponsoring training for Indian Country in the Arthritis Self-Help course for trainers. The course provides information for trainers to take back to elders with arthritis helping them to remain independent for as long as possible. That's the news from Indian Country...

## IOWA GEC

*Laura Hunter, MA, Program Assistant*

Gary Rosenthal, Director of the Iowa Geriatric Education Center, has been awarded a \$2 million, four-year grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to strengthen geriatric education and training at the UI College of Medicine. Beginning July 1, the Reynolds Foundation grant will support the development of instructional activities targeted to different groups of learners, including medical students, residents, and community-based physicians by capitalizing on a tradition of innovation in curriculum, strong links to Iowa's medical community and nationally renowned programs in distance learning. In conjunction with UI funds, the grant also will create endowed professorships so that UI professors with expertise in geriatrics have the time and resources to concentrate on teaching and to serve as role models. Additional program efforts include developing clinical venues for teaching multi-disciplinary geriatric management and providing an online Geriatric Virtual Hospital with digitized lectures and Web-based support aids.

## ARKANSAS GEC

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

Earlier this spring we launched the Arkansas Geriatric Education Mentors and Scholars (AR-GEMS) Program. The program's goal is to provide geriatric education to health practitioners so that they can become mentors for healthcare providers in their areas. Another version provides training to healthcare scholars (educators) so they can incorporate geriatric content in their curricula. AR-GEMS for practitioners takes an interdisciplinary approach and emphasizes the team approach in delivering geriatric care. Each module contains written, Web-based and videotaped materials, which the participants need to complete within a set period of time. Participants also need to attend two conferences on geriatric topics. Participants also devote a day to a clinical observation at a geriatric facility and a day at a "Coaching and Mentoring" workshop. The AR-GEMS Program for educators differs from the practitioners' in that it is structured around twenty hours of lectures on geriatric topics; provided in Little Rock by faculty at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and staff at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System(CAVHS). In addition, the educators complete forty hours of clinical experience in Little Rock in the Palliative Care Unit and Home Based Care Program at CAVHS, the Geriatric Clinic at the Center on Aging, and in area nursing homes.

## WISCONSIN GEC

*Edmund Duthie, MD, Associate Director*

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation also has awarded a \$1,999,990 grant to the Medical College of Wisconsin, a consortium member of the Wisconsin GEC, to strengthen and expand the College's geriatrics education and training programs. The foundation awarded grants totaling \$19.8 million to support comprehensive projects in academic health centers to train medical students, residents and practicing physicians in geriatrics. The other nine recipients of Reynolds Foundation grants are: Cornell University, University of Hawaii, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, University of Nebraska, University of Rochester, University of South Carolina, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Yale University.

At the Medical College of Wisconsin, the Reynolds Foundation grant will be used to build a comprehensive medical student curriculum in geriatrics, establish a combined geriatrics/general internal medicine residency training program, and create a geriatric fellowship program focused on preparing geriatric clinician educators. A key feature of curriculum will be the use of "virtual patients" on CD-ROM to invigorate interest in the field of geriatrics. "Five geriatric patients 'age' within each year of the curriculum allowing us to demonstrate the progression of health and disease in the elderly," said Dr. Simpson. "The project will enable faculty in each year of the curriculum to use 'real' patients to illustrate core basic science concepts and clinical principles enabling students to obtain a broad-based understanding of aging," she said. A unique four-year residency program will also be launched that combines geriatrics and general internal medicine. "By providing enhanced training for resident physicians interested in the unique health problems of our aging population, we will be training future practitioners with geriatric experience," Dr. Olds said.

## CALIFORNIA GEC

*Janet C. Frank, DrPH, Director*

As many GEC members are aware, the Bureau of Health Professions initiative "Kids Into Health Careers" is designed to expose high school (and younger) students, primarily from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds, to careers in the health professions. To that end, the CGEC began a collaborative project last year with career counselors at Leuzinger High School in Lawndale, California, located southwest of downtown Los Angeles, with its' student population 95% underrepresented minorities. On June 4th, the CGEC hosted nearly thirty Leuzinger students for a health professions education day at UCLA. The students were very enthusiastic about their first activity at the School of Medicine's Instructional Media Facility, sampling medical student Web-based education programs. They were avid participants in this "hands-on" experience, practicing case studies with virtual patients and experimenting with the interactive digital human anatomy program. The visit to the UCLA pathology lab was voted the "coolest" of the days activities. The students also met with geriatric social work in-residence faculty to talk about career choices in social services. The visit ended on a very positive note of encouragement with several current UCLA students from the Leuzinger neighborhood sharing inspiring accounts of the barriers and challenges they've encountered, how they've persevered, and what motivates them to achieve their goals.

Under the leadership of consortia partner California State University at Fresno, the CGEC is co-hosting the second Gerontology Summit on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001. "Preparing for Change: Education, Diversity and Resource Development" will continue the work begun during the highly successful first summit held last September that also received support from The California Endowment. A total of 144 people attended, and the report of Summit Proceedings has been distributed to more than 400 policy makers and practitioners. The goal of the second summit is to provide updated information and resources on emerging issues and trends in needs and services for the aging population and to provide a forum for dialogue and planning among key decision makers, academics and practitioners. Key areas for future focus identified during the 2000 Summit include: education in planning and delivering culturally competent services; continuing education for professionals currently in the workforce and developing opportunities to attract students to the field of gerontology; expanding technology linkages to facilitate sharing client data and senior access to information to support self-management; improving access to services by increasing the availability of transportation; and promoting collaborative regional planning and evaluation of promising new models.

## STANFORD GEC

*Melen McBride, PhD, RN, Associate Director*

Our Center and one of its' consortium partners, the On Lok Senior Health Services, Inc., are collaborating to develop an online on-demand ethnogeriatric clinical tool for long term care staff. The first phase of this cooperative project, the "Diversity, Healing, and Health Care," is being piloted as a dissertation by Bonnie Napier Tibere, MS, OTR, a graduate of the SGEC minifellowship program and a doctoral candidate in education at Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology. GEC faculty, trainees and students are invited to visit the site and complete the user survey at: <http://hale.pepperdine.edu/~bdnapier/diversity.htm>. The web-based ethnogeriatric resource for clinicians is a beta version on common cross-cultural issues that may challenge the providers in their daily interactions with ethnic elders. Each submodules consist of short quick-access practical information on ethnic groups that providers could incorporate into their practice. During this pilot phase, faculty may consider including this module as a student activity for a course on aging, health, and culture. A Snowball Survey technique is being used to recruit participants (clinicians, providers, and students). Your feedback will help create a strong resource for clinicians related to content and web navigation.

Passing on the web address to others will help keep the survey technique active. For questions about the project, please contact Dr. Melen McBride at [mcbride@stanford.edu](mailto:mcbride@stanford.edu).

Teresa Sacks, has joined our staff as Program Assistant. She recently graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, minor in gerontology. Part of her training involved an internship with the National Council on Aging (NCOA) Workforce Development Division in California where she developed an agency overview of local training centers and community resources for Title V participants (low income adults, age 55 and over). She has also done volunteer work at the Alzheimer's Activity Center in San Jose. Her professional goals include graduate school and a career in gerontology. She can be reached at 650-723-7063 and by email: [tsacks@stanford.edu](mailto:tsacks@stanford.edu).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
August 11 – 13, 2001	Coalition of WI Aging Groups 24 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention “A Salute to Everyday Heroes”	Paper Valley Hotel Appleton, Wisconsin	Peggy Rynearson 1-800-366-2990
August 22 – 24, 2001	Geriatric Education Centers Distance Learning Workshops	Natcher Center NIH Campus Bethesda, Maryland	Tony Iacopino <a href="mailto:anthony.iacopino@marquette.edu">anthony.iacopino@marquette.edu</a>
August 24 – 25, 2001	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Controversies in Women’s Health	Disneyland Hotel Anaheim, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a>
September 7, 2001	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Aging Summit “Preparing for Change: Education, Diversity & Resource Development”	San Joaquin Valley Fresno, CA	Linda Hewitt (559) 278-8465
September 7, 2001	3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Redesigning Health Professions for a Medicare Managed Care Environment	Sacramento, CA	Lucio Arruda <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a> (310) 312-0531
September 12 – 13, 2001	Nutrition & Aging XVI: Meeting the Nutritional Needs of the Elderly – Hospital to Home	Peabody Hotel Little Rock, Arkansas	Betty Bryant (501) 257-5543 <a href="mailto:gec@uams.edu">gec@uams.edu</a>
September 12 – 15, 2001	18 <sup>th</sup> Annual UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine Board Review	Marina Beach Marriott Marina del Ray, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a>
September 14 – 16, 2001	Rural Health Education Partnership Faculty Development Conference	Canaan Valley Resort	Sara Jane Gainor <a href="mailto:Sjgainr@wvu.edu">Sjgainr@wvu.edu</a>