

GEC PIPELINE



July/August 2005

Volume 17, No 4, Page 1

Published as a service to the GEC network by the Wisconsin Geriatric Education Center, Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881, phone (800) 799-7878, fax (414) 288-1973, www.nagec.org or email: wgecnet@marquette.edu.
Copy edit & page layout: Julie Murphy, MAPS.

NAGEC

Elyse Perweiler, MPP, RN, President, NAGEC and NAGE

Future of Geriatric Programs in Jeopardy

Over the years, NAGEC members have been accustomed to the annual “zeroing out” of DHHS-HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions training and education programs under Title VII of the Public Health Services Act in the President’s budget. Historically, the House has reinstated funding and the Senate has followed their lead. In the past, we have even succeeded in getting the federal appropriation for geriatrics increased, to its highest level of \$31.8 million in FY 2004. Despite budget cuts to many Title VII programs in FY 2005, geriatrics was funded at the same level, less the 0.8% cut sustained by the entire HRSA budget, bringing our funding to \$31.5 million.

THIS YEAR THINGS ARE DIFFERENT. The future of all our geriatric programs is in jeopardy! The ongoing war in Iraq, the increased costs of the Prescription Drug Benefit under the Medicare Modernization Act, and the continued pressures on Congress to “cut discretionary programs” have resulted in the elimination of funding for geriatric programs in the FY 2006 budget. On June 24th, the House voted (250-151) to pass the FY 2006 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill (HR 3010) eliminating funding for all Title VII programs, with the exception of \$35 million for Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (25.5% below FY 2005) and \$12 million for Centers of Excellence (a decrease of 64%). This decision, if not reversed, will have dire consequences for the future of health professions training and directly impacts academic institutions and public health agencies and programs.

The health professions training programs are the only federal programs designed to address access to quality healthcare, improve diversity of the healthcare workforce and recruit and retain health care professionals into medically underserved areas. Our most vulnerable populations—the elderly, minorities, and those in medically underserved areas, will be adversely impacted. For some, especially those in medically underserved areas, the health professions training programs are the sole source of available health care.

Loss of funding for geriatrics under Title VII will result in erosion of the GEC infrastructure and dissolution of unique partnerships with state health departments, AHECs, and countless other organizations and institutions. This infrastructure is not something that can easily be revitalized. Elimination of funding for geriatrics will also stop the interdisciplinary geriatric fellowship programs in medicine, dentistry and behavioral/mental health and the geriatric academic career awards, both programs directed at building a cadre of physicians and dentists trained in geriatrics who can serve as academic leaders and role models.

We cannot acknowledge the problems of elderly individuals--medications and chronic illness--on one hand, and ignore the fact that we need health care professionals trained in geriatrics to care for them on the other!

We must act NOW and continue to pressure Congress to reconsider this budget resolution. Contact your senators and representatives, both in Washington, DC and their legislative offices at home. Urge them to restore funding for Title VII programs at last year’s funding level of \$302 million, with an allocation of \$36 million for geriatrics. Call, e-mail

and fax letters. Mobilize your consortium partners, community agencies, those programs and institutions that will be impacted by the loss of Title VII funding to call and write as well.

Tell your legislators that the failure of our Congress to fund programs that impact the public health of our nation will be disastrous. We are in the midst of the biggest age wave in our history. Ask them two questions: 1)“If we do not train health care professionals of multiple disciplines to care for the growing numbers of elderly in our nation, how beneficial is it to divert money to support the added costs of the Prescription Drug Benefit under the Medicare Modernization Act?; and 2)“If we have not trained our health care professionals in geriatrics, how can we even hope to contain health care costs and improve the lives of our elderly?”

We cannot stop until funding for geriatrics and Title VII is reinstated! We must be vocal. Our voices must be heard!

You can obtain information and contact your legislators through any of following links:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

<http://www.house.gov/>

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

CALIFORNIA GEC

Sue Brilliant MBA, Deputy Director
Leadership Academy

The California Geriatric Education Center (CGEC) held a statewide Leadership Academy Key Stakeholders Meeting on June 13th, in Sacramento with a special focus on the growing mental health needs of the older population in California and how geriatric education programs can address those needs. Eighty faculty leaders, government representatives and community healthcare providers brainstormed and established consensus on these issues to better inform the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission established by Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), a voter initiative that gives the state authority to collect an additional 1% income tax on individuals earning more than \$1,000,000 per year. These earmarked funds will bring significant resources to expand mental health services to children, adults and seniors.

The MHSA provides for education and training, among other programs, based on needs of each county. Prior to receiving Proposition 63 funds, each county mental health agency must submit three-year expenditure plans to the State Department of Mental Health. Plans must be developed with local stakeholders, be reviewed through a public hearing, subjected to a 30-day public comment period, and updated annually.

Participants at the June 13th meeting identified educational priorities and emphasized the need to address faculty and evidence-based curricula development, in addition to in-service and consumer education to prepare for needed mental health service delivery. Workgroups organized by county developed regional action plans for the educational agenda of Proposition 63, and a position paper outline was drafted by the entire group. The CGEC plans to participate in both the state-level and local public hearings as expenditure plans are developed. This was the first statewide stakeholders' meeting that provided a comprehensive discussion of educational preparation for mental health services for the elderly.

MEHARRY GEC CONSORTIUM

Ruth Garrett, PhD, MPH
Annual Geriatric Retreat

The Meharry Consortium held their annual Geriatric Retreat June 16. Eighty-seven members of faculty and students from Vanderbilt, TN. State University and Meharry Medical College attended. Marie Bernard, MD, was our keynote speaker, whose subject was “The Nexus between Gerontology and Geriatrics.” Also speaking was our AARP Legislative Representative, Brian McGuire, who spoke on the Future of Social Security. McGuire emphasized the fact that the SS fund is not going broke and that privatization was a last resort. The Geriatric Student Forum at Meharry is planning a retreat at the director's home Friday, June, 24, 2005 to plan programs and activities for students interested in Geriatrics in the 05-06 academic year.

GEC OF MIAMI

*Edwin J. Olsen, MD, MBA, JD, Director; Martha H. Corvea, PhD, Associate Director;
Patricia A. Williams, Program Coordinator*

2005 Intensive Geriatric Training

On July 20-22 in West Palm Beach - Florida, the Miami Area Geriatric Education Center (MAGEC) will be hosting their 2005 Intensive Geriatric Training conference. The Intensive Geriatric Training is an important part of the MAGEC faculty development-training program. This program is designed as a comprehensive introduction into the field of geriatrics for professionals who have had limited or no training in geriatrics and limited exposure to the various disciplines associated with caring for older adults. If you are a mental-health practitioner, academic educator, in service trainer, clinical faculty, or a director of continuing education with an interest in geriatrics, this program offers you an opportunity to expand your knowledge in geriatrics and develop skills for teaching others.

The goal of this program is to provide training in the delivery of efficient interdisciplinary team (IDT) care in order to meet the healthcare needs of older adults. Central to this goal is the development of geriatric teaching skills for the purpose of transferring the newly gained knowledge to other practitioners and caregivers in the expanding geriatric field.

Upon completion of this program, participants will be better able to master the following objectives:

- Discuss the specific and combined roles of the interrelated healthcare disciplines which address geriatric health needs
- Describe an effective interdisciplinary team
- Identify appropriate community resources for working within this population
- Discuss the continuing challenges of preventing and assessing medication errors in older adults
- Describe an aging sensitivity training experience (using the Aging Sensitivity Training: An interactive hands-on group activity)

In addition to the training program, MAGEC offers technical assistance and resources to organizations for geriatric training and program development.

For information on upcoming events and to complete our on-line needs assessment survey, please visit the MAGEC website [http:// www.miami.edu/magec](http://www.miami.edu/magec).

GEC OF MICHIGAN

Larry Lawhorne, MD, Director

Michigan Success: Making a Difference for People with Dementia and their Caregivers

Two GECM consortium members made presentations in a program titled, "Michigan Success: Making a Difference for People with Dementia and their Caregivers." Convened in Lansing on June 21, 2005, and sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health, the purpose of the meeting was to provide progress reports to various stakeholders about grant-related activities that focus on services that are delivered to people with dementia and education and training for those who provide those services. Dr. Peter Lichtenberg of Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology gave an overview of the Michigan Dementia Coalition, a statewide organization with which GECM partners, and the updated state plan on dementia. Dr. Larry Lawhorne, GECM director, described the primary care dementia network that is being developed with funding from the supplemental HRSA grant awarded to GECM. Dr. Lawhorne also moderated a panel discussion to determine dementia priorities for the State. Panel members included Directors or Deputy Directors from 5 key offices in the Department of Community Health.

IOWA GEC

Linda Seydel, MS, LNHA, Administrator

Interactive Patient Care Simulations

The Iowa Geriatric Education Center has developed two series of interactive e-learning products that you may find valuable to use in your own geriatric education initiatives. If these products are something you would like to use in your programs, we can provide you with access to these products at no charge.

GeriaSims are interactive patient care simulations on issues that are often encountered in the primary care of elderly patients. 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 about the virtual workup and care decisions.

GeriaFlix and GeriaTrax are multidisciplinary presentations on geriatric healthcare topics. They are presented in a streaming digital video and/or audio format with accompanying synchronized slides.

To explore a sample of each product, or to contact us with requests for access, visit the Iowa GEC website at: <http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/igec>. Click on *E-Learning*, and then on *Other Medical Education Institutions*. We hope that you will find these products to be engaging and useful.

STANFORD GEC

Gwen Yeo, PhD, Co-Director

New Ethnogeriatric curriculum: Mental Health Aspects of Diabetes in Elders from Diverse Ethnic Backgrounds

The multi-ethnic Affiliated Core Faculty of the Stanford Geriatric Education Center (SGEC), Stanford University School of Medicine presents their latest curriculum in ethnogeriatrics. Supported by a supplemental grant from the Bureau of Health Professions, this curriculum was developed as a resource for teaching culturally appropriate care for depression and cognitive loss for elders at high risk for diabetes.

This 100-page curriculum includes objectives and comprehensive, evidence-based content on the following topics:

- Overview of depression and cognitive loss/dementia in elders with diabetes;
- Risk, culturally appropriate assessment and interventions for diabetes, depression, and cognitive loss or dementia in seven older adult populations (African Americans, American Indians, Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Hmong Americans, Japanese Americans, Mexican Americans).
- Cross-cultural issues related to sensory impairment due to diabetes in emergencies such as bioterrorism.

In addition to the content, the CD-ROM version includes Microsoft PowerPoint slides of the major points for each section. The resource is available in a hard-copy binder for \$25 and on CD-ROM for \$10. For more ordering information, email stanfordgrec@stanford.edu or call Stanford GEC at (650) 494-3986.

2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
June – August 2005	Problem/Compulsive Gambling Training	Miami VA Healthcare System Miami, FL	FCCG 407-865-6200 www.gamblinghelp.org
July 20-22 nd , 2005	2005 Intensive Geriatric Training	Palm Beach Gardens Marriott Hotel West Palm Beach, FL	305-243-6270 www.miami.edu/magec
July 26 th – 29 th , 2005	13 th Annual Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Conference	Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel Chicago, IL	800-272-3900 www.alz.org/careconference
September 14 th – 17 th , 2005	Intensive Course in Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Pamela Jackson-McCall (310) 312-0531 prjackso@mednet.ucla.edu
September 14 th – 17 th , 2005	22nd Annual Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Pamela Jackson-McCall (310) 312-0531 prjackso@mednet.ucla.edu

September 14 th – 17 th , 2005	Surgical Care of the Older Patient	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Pamela Jackson-McCall (310) 312-0531 prjackso@mednet.ucla.edu
September 23 rd , 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, yonker@msu.edu
September 24 th , 2005	10th Annual Geriatric Rehabilitation Conference "Strategies for a Changing Environment"	Sheraton Hotel Lansing, MI	Jan Yonker, 517-353-7828, yonker@msu.edu
August 19 th , 2005	Geriatric Primary Care: Current Perspectives & New Horizons	Airport Hilton Hotel San Antonio, TX	210-567-7410 gonzalesL@uthscsa.edu
August 21 st – 25 th , 2005	2005 Florida Conference on Aging – Celebrating 50 Years Together	Renaissance Resort at Sea World Orlando, FL	FCOA 850-222-8877 www.FCOA.org
October 10 th & 11 th , 2005	Social Structures: The Impact of Demographic Changes on the Well- being of Older Persons	The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel State College, PA	Chriss Schultz 814-863-5100 conferenceinfo1@outreach.psu.edu
October 21 st , 2005	4th Annual Chronic Care Conference "Patient-Centered Care"	Midwestern University Downers Grove, IL	630-515-6944 or visit http://midgec.midwestern.edu
October 28 th – 30 th , 2005	5th Annual California Association of Long Term Care Medicine Fall Napa Seminar	Embassy Suites Hotel Napa Valley, CA	Pamela Jackson-McCall (310) 312-0531 prjackso@mednet.ucla.edu
December 11 th – 14 th , 2005	White House Conference on Aging	Washington, DC	www.whcoa.gov