

GEC PIPELINE



August 2001

Volume 13, No. 8, 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: Julie Murphy

BUREAU NEWS

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

Greeting from the Geriatrics and Rural Health Branch in the BHP! We are looking forward to seeing those of you who will be attending the "Distance Learning Meeting of the GEC Network" at the Natcher Center on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland from August 22-24, 2001. Reading materials will be mailed during the week of August 13th. Please bring these materials with you to the meeting.

The National GEC Office is planning to expand its staff in geriatrics. Interested individuals should contact Joan Weiss, PhD, RN, CRNP at (301) 443-0430.

Congratulations to Project Directors and staff of the following institutions whose grant applications were approved and funded for the FY 2001 grant cycle: Elizabeth L. Cobbs, MD - George Washington University, Esther M. Forti, PhD - Medical University of South Carolina, Larry Lawhorne, MD - Michigan State University, Frank J. Prerost, PhD - Midwestern University, Gwen Yeo, PhD - Stanford University, Suzanne D. Fields, MD - Research Foundation of the State University of New York, Janet C. Frank, DrPH - The Regents of the University of California, Mary Ann Forciea, MD - Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, Gary E. Rosenthal, MD - University of Iowa, Edwin J. Olsen, MD - University of Miami, Patricia A. Swager, MD - University of Nevada, Reno, Melvina L. McCabe, MD - University of New Mexico, Marie A. Bernard, MD - University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Centers & Itamar B. Abrass, MD - University of Washington.

NAGEC

Andrea Sherman, PhD, President NAGEC

The House will be recessing in August and reconvening in September to consider the Appropriations Bill (Section 753 (a, b, c)). Be sure to take the opportunity in August before September to meet with your representatives. Educate them about your programs and where the federal money is going. Schedule meetings in your State with legislators in the House and the Senate and encourage them to support the GECs. Have them urge the Appropriations Committee to continue and increase their support to the GECs. Let them know about the hundreds of thousands of health care professionals from all disciplines that we have trained. Speak with them about the growing shortages of health providers to care for older adults. NAGEC will meet at GSA in Chicago, meeting time and date still to be determined. Congratulations to Judy Howe, PhD, who will now head the NAGEC Professional Liaisons Committee. Judy is a Co-Director of the Consortium of New York GECs and the New York Statewide Resource Center as well as Associate Director for Education, GRECC, Bronx, VAMC.

DELAWARE VALLEY GEC

*Kathleen Egan, PhD
Director, Geriatrics Education*

We are happy to share the news that our new grant application was approved, so we look forward to five more years of progress and being part of this network. Our primary focus recently has been on producing resources for nurses or other professionals who are responsible for staff development in long-term care. We are nearing completion of eight modules, two of which provide instruction for staff developers on education methods, especially adult education and quality improvement and the links between the two. The other six modules are clinical in nature and are intended to be complete instructional packages to support instructor-led in-service training for direct care staff. These topics are: Risk Assessment and Prevention for Falls, Risk Assessment and Prevention for Pressure Sores, Risk Assessment and Prevention for Medication-related Adverse Events, Understanding Dementia, Understanding and Responding to Behaviors in Dementia, and Achieving Quality in End of Life Care for Persons with Dementia. We hope to make these available to the national network. Because of the low-tech resources available in most LTC facilities, we are working with video and overheads and paper, but have most material in digital form as well. Any GEC's who think they may be interested in helping us test draft modules in September or get more information on the full set when they are available, please let us know and we'll send more detailed descriptions.

KANSAS GEC

Donna Clausen, Coordinator

The Kansas Geriatric Education Center has been closely involved with the planning and presentation of the *Eighth Annual Heartland Long-Term Care Symposium* which will convene on Friday, October 5, 2001. With a focus on **Mental Health Issues in Long Term Care**, this symposium will feature presenters: Eric and Margie Haider, Administrators of Crestview home in Bethany, Missouri; Pat Maben, RN, MN, of the KS Dept of Health & Environment; William Burke, MD, Vice-Chair for Research, & Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center; Sally Rigler, MD, MPH, Professor in General and Geriatric Medicine at the University of KS Medical Center; and Peggy Szwabo, MD, Professor in the Dept of Psychiatry at the St. Louis University Medical School.

A preliminary agenda for this symposium is available on the Kansas GEC website. Point your browser toward <http://coa.kumc.edu/GEC> Scroll the left frame down to "KS GEC Info" and click on "Calendar of Events." Move forward in the calendar to October 5, 2001, and click on the link to see the agenda for the day. You may also call 913-588-3184 for more information.

OHIO VALLEY APPALACHIAN REGION GEC

Arleen Johnson, PhD, Assistant Director

The Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional Geriatric Education Center (OVAR/GEC) co-sponsored a workshop entitled "New Ways to Care for Older People: Finding and Using Best Practices" at the UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging at the 18th Annual Summer Series on Aging conducted at the Hyatt Regency July 9-11. The workshop was presented by Gregg Warshaw, MD, Director of the Office of Geriatric Medicine and the OVAR/GEC at the University of Cincinnati and George A. Taler, MD, Director of Long Term Care at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.

The OVAR/GEC has completed a series of ten 4 hour continuing education programs for community professionals working with older persons with problems in the areas of mental health, mental retardation and developmental disabilities. Over 100 care providers from 15 remote sites participated in the interactive video series, which was transmitted over the UK Telecare Network. A series of 10 programs are being planned for the 2001-2002 academic year.

The OVAR/GEC also is developing a model curricula on best care practices that will assist faculty and care providers to identify, analyze, and replicate best care practices for older persons residing in long term care settings across KY, OH, and TN. This module will be available on the OVAR/GEC interactive Internet site in the coming year. Traditional instructional modules are available for immediate use on the topics of consumer issues related to medical care, critical pathways, ethics, Medicare managed care, interdisciplinary team care, and case management. For information, contact Arleen Johnson, PhD, OVAR/GEC Co-director at 859-257-8314 or arleen@pop.uky.edu.

VIRGINIA GEC

Kathleen Watson

The Virginia Geriatric Education Center is using the theme "Exploring the Myths of Aging" for the upcoming years' "Kids into Health Careers" program. The VGEC is incorporating the myths of aging in order to dispel some negative attitudes that youngsters may have about older people and thus encourage students to consider careers working with the aging population.

The myths that will be discussed come directly from the book, Successful Aging, by John W. Rowe, M.D. and Robert L. Kahn, Ph.D. This book outlines the findings of the MacArthur Foundation Study, an extensive study on aging in America. These findings are broken down into the following myths associated with the aging process:

- Myth #1: To be old is to be sick
- Myth #2: You can't teach an old dog new tricks
- Myth #3: The horse is out of the barn
- Myth #4: The secret to successful aging is to choose your parents wisely
- Myth #5: The light may be on, but the voltage is low
- Myth #6: The elderly don't pull their own weight

Following an introductory session to the KIHC program and a session on careers and the myths in general, each subsequent session will focus on an individual myth. Guest speakers from various disciplines will approach the myths from the standpoint of their health professions. Some myths will be explored from the healthcare point of view, while others will be targeted from an educational/social standpoint. At least one off site trip is planned to offer students the chance to observe the activities in a senior center and speak to some of the practitioners there. In addition to attending the sessions, participating students will be required to do some research into the myths of aging. They will conduct interviews with older people and with some practitioners in the field of aging. They will also keep a journal to record their experiences as well as their perceptions of the subject matter.

CONSORTIUM OF NEW YORK GECs

Valerie Menocal, BS, Research Associate, Bronx VA GRECC

On June 5, 2001, the Consortium of New York Geriatric Education Centers, (CNYGEC) the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) of the Bronx Veterans Affairs Medical Center, along with the New York Academy of Medicine/Social Work Fellows Group sponsored the first in a series “*Emerging Issues in Social Work and Aging: Revisiting Geriatric Assessment*” videoconference. The co-facilitators, Judith Howe, PhD, Co-Director of the CNYGEC and Associate Director for Education, Bronx VAMC-GRECC, and Pasquale Gilberto, MSW, Deputy Director, The Brookdale Center on Aging hosted the successful workshop linking with seven other VAMC locations in New York and New Jersey. The keynote speaker, Barbara Berkman, DSW, Professor of Social Work, Columbia University, addressed the issue of Revisiting Assessment with experts such as Gladys Padro-Soler, MPH, Esther Chachkes, DSW, Mathy Mezey, EdD, RN, FAAN and Eileen Chichin PhD, RN. Each led an interdisciplinary discussion about an elderly woman’s progression through the continuum of care: at home, in the hospital and in a palliative care setting. In attendance were 20 high school students from New York City schools who were mentored by health care professionals throughout the day.

CALIFORNIA GEC

Cheril Miller

To address the growing need to educate pharmaceutical professionals about geriatric issues, the CGEC, in conjunction with the 18th Annual UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review, is presenting the Intensive Course in Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review on September 12-15 in the Marina del Rey area of Los Angeles. This unique program provides pharmacists and other professionals in the field the opportunity to expand and strengthen their skills and knowledge in providing quality pharmaceutical care for the elderly. Program topics include proper drug therapy for geriatric patients in such disciplines as oncology, psychiatry, neurology, and cardiology. Course participants also learn about the application of pharmacy laws and regulations related to long-term care residents and facilities. They receive training in applying principles of geriatric assessment, geriatric pharmacology, rehabilitation, and long-term care to the patient care setting. Also addressed is the identification of psychosocial problems and ethical issues in decision-making, and formulating an approach to such problems. In addition, three special board review sessions are available to assist pharmacists in preparing for the Certified Geriatric Pharmacists Examination. For more information, contact Lucio Arruda at (310) 312-0531, larruda@ucla.edu

OKLAHOMA GEC

Karen Neal, Education Specialist

The Oklahoma GEC is beginning a new program called the Aging and Disabilities Scholars program (AD Scholars). The objective of the program will be to train health care providers in order to better care for elders who have developmental disabilities, or develop disability in the course of aging. Participants will complete self-paced modules, active observations at sites of excellence in clinical care and teach other health care providers using materials from the program.

In conjunction with the AD Scholars program, a series of teleconferences entitled Aging and Disability Grand Rounds will be broadcast to sites across the state on a monthly basis. The presenters will discuss important issues relating to the care of elders with disabilities. For more information, please contact Karen Neal at 405-271-8599 or email karen-neal@ouhsc.edu.

ARKANSAS GEC

Soledad H-D Jasin, PhD

Exciting news from our hot Little Rock site is our newly acquired web page. At present Todd McKee, MEd, our technology expert, has almost completed the process of building and refining its different sections. Soon we hope to have all the information in place, and at that time we will share the name of the site with you so you can visit us there. Besides making it easier for the average user doing a search on geriatrics to find us, we hope it will open the doors to our being able to offer Web CT courses — something we have been considering for some time.

We are at present working on several projects for the Fall. Among them is recruiting a new class of participants for our AR Geriatric Mentors & Scholars Program. We are also advertising to students and faculty “Communicating with Older Adults,” an interdisciplinary course developed in collaboration with the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. And we are of course making final preparations for our “Nutrition and Aging XVI: Meeting the Nutritional Needs of the Elderly — Hospital to Home,” which will be held on September 12-13 at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock.

TEXAS CONSORTIUM GEC

Robert Rousch, EdD, MPH, Director

The Texas Consortium of Geriatric Education Centers has launched a new Distance Learning Initiative coordinated by Mehrnaz Gill, MS. See <http://www.hcoa.org/tcgec/tgec.htm>. While primarily for prospective TCGEC enrollees, we will be glad to accredit distance learners from other GECs, too.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
August 22 – 24, 2001	Distance Learning Meeting of the GEC Network	Natcher Center Bethesda, Maryland	Tony Iacopino anthony.iacopino@marquette.edu
August 24 – 25, 2001	5 th Annual Controversies in Women's Health	Disneyland Hotel Anaheim, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531
August 30 – 31, 2001	Managing Psychiatric Issues in Older Adults	Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, FL	Mary Shaw 352-341-6114 www.rosencentre.com/
September 7, 2001	2 nd Annual Aging Summit "Education, Diversity & Resource Development"	San Joaquin Valley Fresno, CA	Linda Hewitt (559) 278-8465
September 7, 2001	Redesigning Health Professions for a Medicare Managed Care Environment	Sacramento, CA	Lucio Arruda larruda@ucla.edu (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 gec@uams.edu
September 12 – 15, 2001	18 th Annual UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine Board Review	Marina Beach Marriott Marina del Ray, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
September 14 – 16, 2001	Rural Health Education Partnership Faculty Development	Canaan Valley Resort	Sara Jane Gainor Sjgainr@wvu.edu
September 25 th , 2001	New Approaches for Parkinson's Disease	Woodland Hills, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531
October 8 –9, 2001	Best Practices in Aging Conference	Milwaukee Hilton City Center Milwaukee, WI	Julie Murphy 800-799-7878 wgecnet@marquette.edu