

GEC PIPELINE



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NAGEC & NAGE News

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

Legislative Update: Continued Unified Action Needed!

Our entire NAGEC/NAGE network has been actively engaged in advocacy efforts to restore funding for geriatrics under Title VII in the FY 2006 budget. As you know, on July 14, 2005, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved restoration of Title VII funding for FY 2006 for the health professions programs, recommending an appropriation of \$454.4 million -- a \$4 million increase over last year. However, the appropriation designated \$29,548,000 for geriatrics, \$2 million less than the \$31,548,000 appropriated in FY 2005.

NAGEC has expressed its concern over this decrease in funding to the members of the full Senate Appropriations Committee and has contacted every senator to heighten their awareness of this situation. Given the aging of the baby boomers, the documented need for health care faculty and other health professionals trained to care for the elderly, and the negative consequences for the GEC network resulting from the loss of GECs, it is indeed ironic that our legislators would recommend a cut in geriatric funding.

No date has been announced as yet for consideration of the FY 2006 Labor-HHS Appropriation by the full Senate. In all likelihood, the funding levels for health professions will remain unchanged. Because the House version of the bill provided \$0 for Title VII health professions programs, the House and Senate Conference Committee will meet some time in September to reconcile the differences between the two bills. The Conference Committee will most likely be comprised of members from the Labor-Appropriations Subcommittees from the House and the Senate.

Our goal is to influence the House and Senate conferees to reinstate the \$2 million for geriatrics, bringing geriatrics to a minimum of last year's level, and to agree to the Senate position for other Title VII funding when the bill is considered by the joint House-Senate Conference Committee.

If you have a representative sitting on the **House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee**, and you are in one of these key states: **California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, and Wisconsin**, your efforts will need to go well beyond simply making a phone call or sending a fax. Those who have senators sitting on the **Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee**, especially in the key states of **Arkansas, Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin**, likewise need to make special visits; beyond the phone call or fax.

Recommended Strategies:

- Contact your representative and senator by phone and by fax
- Meet your representative or senator, either in Washington, DC or at home
- Host a visit from your congressman
- Provide your congressman with information about aging and your program
- Partner with other health professions advocates
- Share your individual success stories and provide examples

The battle is not yet over! We must keep pressure on our legislators. Scott Frey and I will be visiting key congressmen in September to carry our message forward. We need your help. Many voices carrying the same message loud and clear will enhance our chances of being heard!!

Thank you all for your continued efforts on behalf of our extraordinary GEC network and all our geriatric programs.

Older Adult Implementation Resource Kit

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, Inc. (NASMHPDRI or NRI) has accepted NAGEC Board of Directors' nomination of Melen McBride, PhD, RN, Board member and Associate Director at Stanford Geriatric Education Center, to a Consensus Panel that will guide the development of the SAMHSA sponsored Older Adult Implementation Resource Kit. Dr. McBride will be working with task leader Dr. Steve Bartels of the Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center and a group of diverse experts in mental health and older adults. Over the next two years, the panel will have several meetings to provide direction on the content, format, and development process of the resource kit. The project is part of an ongoing initiative of SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services to develop implementation resource kits related to evidence-based practices. The

SAMHSA project officer for the older adult component is Dr. Betsy McDonel Herr. Input from NAGEC members will be requested as the project evolves. Dr. McBride can be contacted by email at <mcbride@stanford.edu>.

CALIFORNIA GEC

Sue Brilliant MBA, Deputy Director – **Interactive Training**

Interactive exercises are a vital component of the *Training of the Trainer* activities of the California Geriatric Education Center (CGEC). The “Home Assessment of the Vulnerable Older Adult” program organized by CGEC consortia partner Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science offered a small group interactive exercise to the participants who were Adult Protective Services (APS) Supervisors. This “brown bag medication check,” led by a pharmacist, gave participants an opportunity to learn about polypharmacy risks to the elderly. “Whenever you can use it in the field, and it’s hands-on, it’s good ... we were able to ask the pharmacists questions about common meds on the market dispensed to the elderly,” commented one of the attendees, Jo-Ann Walker. Participants learned how to train their APS field workers to perform assessments on possible elder medication misuse and abuse. In the exercise, participants asked their “elderly clients” to gather all their medications, including both prescription and over-the-counter medicines, along with dietary supplements and herbal remedies, in a brown bag for review. Then they reviewed the medications for possible over- and under-medication, drug-drug or drug-food interactions, discoloration, expiration dates, and incorrect storage. Using new knowledge and a “Top 200 Drugs” handout, participants learned to interview clients to identify possible causes for medication non-compliance and to document concerns for referral to the client’s primary care physician.

“The training was very practical, which the participants loved,” according to Richard Franco, APS Special Operations Human Services Administrator, who participated in the program’s planning committee. “Interactive exercises are beneficial for the instructors as well,” commented Sam Shimomura, PharmD, FASHP, CGP, Professor of Social & Administrative Sciences at Western University of Health Sciences, who designed the “brown bag” workshop for the APS group. “Instructors get instant feedback on whether or not the students can apply the knowledge.”

At On Lok Senior Health in San Francisco last spring, participants in another CGEC program, “Special Issues in Long-Term Care,” organized by consortium member UCSF, had the opportunity to try out interactive techniques for teaching caregivers. “We designed a four-session plan for Diabetes Self-Management,” said participant Violette Karavul, MA, Education and Training Specialist at On Lok. “We created a simple questionnaire for discussion that will help trainees engage/reflect on their experience with diabetes and we’ll use small group breakouts to apply healthy meal preparation concepts and individual action plans to focus on learning new behaviors and maintaining them.”

In 2006, CGEC faculty will continue to include innovative and interactive strategies, to promote effective adult learning and to encourage participants to incorporate knowledge and exercises into their work.

MOUNTAIN STATE GEC

Sara Jane Gainor, MSGEC Program Director- **Rural Culture**

The Mountain State Geriatric Education Center and the West Virginia University Center on Aging co-sponsored a conference on “Rural Culture: West Virginia’s Legacy” on May 25-27, 2005 in Morgantown, WV.

The conference addressed ways that traditions and beliefs passed down through the generations influence the decisions that rural elders make about their healthcare. Healthcare professionals from throughout the state engaged with leading practitioners, artisans, authors, artists, and educators in study through presentations, film, dramatic performance, displays, and group discussions. These activities were designed to enable participants to bridge the communication divide that often exists between their own cultural background and that of those whom they serve.

Highlights of the conference included a musical demonstration and presentation on health folklore in West Virginia; presentations on the needs, characteristics and culture of rural elders, culturally competent communication in rural West Virginia, the meaning of health among rural older adults, health literacy; oral history projects, values driven advocacy in rural health, and disparities among minority elderly in West Virginia.

Mari-Lynn Evans, a native West Virginian who is the executive producer of the recently-released documentary film, *The Appalachians*, and co-editor of the companion book, *The Appalachians: America’s First and Last Frontier*, provided a special viewing of the film and presentation on her experience.

Other features included a West Virginia history alive performance and displays related to rural culture.

MSGEC program director, Sara Jane Gainor, describes the conference as a pioneering effort that is the first event of this kind that focused on the culture of rural elders in West Virginia and how it impacts their healthcare. The conference was part of a year-long educational program by the MSGEC focusing on cultural competency for geriatrics practice. For additional information about the rural culture conference, contact the MSGEC office by phone at 304-293-2265 or by e-mail at msgec@hsc.wvu.edu

WISCONSIN GEC

John Kunz - 50 Years of Reminiscence and Life Review

Fifty years ago this year, Dr. Robert N. Butler coined the term *life review*. Before he did his research, physicians and other health care providers viewed reminiscing about the past as the first step to senile dementia. He countered this belief and proposed that as people age, reminiscence and life review were healthy and normal experiences. He and Myrna Lewis, who later became his wife, proceeded to do ground breaking research on reminiscence, life review and mental health for five decades.

At about the same time, a colleague of Dr. Butler, Dr. James Birren, coined the term *guided autobiography*. He and his wife Betty have practiced and written about this topic for five decades as well. The list of individuals interested in the field of reminiscence and life review as well as the body of scientific literature examining the usefulness of such approaches is now burgeoning.

The first ever National Conference on Reminiscence and Life Review was held in August of 1995. At that time Dr. Butler suggested that the International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review (IIRLR) be formed. The mission is to promote the interdisciplinary field of reminiscence and life review through research, practice, education and volunteer applications. Biennial conferences have been held since that time. This year's conference will be held on November 17 and 18th, immediately preceding the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

This year, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the term *life review*, we will be inaugurating two awards to further promote our mission by recognizing exemplary research and practice. The award for Excellence in Research will be named after and presented to Drs. Butler and Lewis. The award for Excellence in Practice will be named after and presented to Dr. and Mrs. Birren. They will be speaking at the opening of the conference.

For more information visit <http://reminiscenceandlifereview.org> or contact John Kunz, Program Manager/Graduate Faculty at the International Institute for Reminiscence and Life Review at the University of Wisconsin – Superior. (800) 370-9882 or jkunz@uwsuper.edu.

2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
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 21 st , 2005	Grand Rounds: Older Adults Substance Misuse	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
September 21 st – 22 nd , 2005	Nutrition and Aging XX: Nutrition, Disease and Inflammation	Peabody Hotel Little Rock, AR	Kelly Chapman (501) 257-5543 chapmankellya@UAMS.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
September 28 th , 2005	Grand Rounds: Tuberculosis	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
September 30 th , 2005	Spanning the Continuum of Care: Innovations in Geriatric Health Practice	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
October 5 th , 2005	Grand Rounds: What's all the hype about "successful aging"?	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
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 12 th , 2005	Grand Rounds: Ethics and Humanities	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377

October 14 th , 15 th , 16 th , 2005	6 th Annual Oregon Medical Directors Association and Oregon Geriatrics Society	Central Oregon, Sunriver Resort	www.ohsu.edu/ohsu-cme/ (800) 452-1048 or Patricia Ebert ebertp@ohsu.edu (503) 418-2171
October 17 th & 18 th , 2005	The Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center Cultural Competency Training Program- General Session	Wausau, WI	http://www.nahec-wi.org/TwoDayRegistrationForm.pdf
October 18 th , 2005	Geriatric Healthcare: Managing Chronic Illness	Montana (live and interactive video sites across state)	http://mtgcec.montana.edu
October 19 th , 2005	17 th Annual Colloquium on Aging	Monona Terrace Convention Center Madison, WI	(608) 261-1493
October 19 th , 2005	Grand Rounds: Sleep Apnea in the Elderly	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
October 19 th , 2005	Pharmacy Update/Medicare Part D	Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center Stony Brook, NY	(631) 444-8279 ligece@stonybrook.edu
October 21 st , 2005	4th Annual Chronic Care Conference "Patient-Centered Care"	Midwestern University Downers Grove, IL	(630) 515-6944 http://midgcec.midwestern.edu
October 25 th – 27 th , 2005	The Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center Cultural Competency Training Program- Train the Trainer Session	Wausau, WI	http://www.nahec-wi.org/ThreeDayApplicationForm.pdf
October 26 th , 2005	Grand Rounds: Geriatric Disorders in MRDD	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
October 26 th , 2005	Health Information Technology	Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center Stony Brook, NY	(631) 444-8279 ligece@stonybrook.edu
October 28 th , 2005	Grand Rounds: Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Sheryl Mapes Sheryl-mapes@ouhsc.edu (405) 271-8599
October 28 th , 2005	Grand Rounds: Ethics and End-of-Life Care	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Sheryl Mapes Sheryl-mapes@ouhsc.edu (405) 271-8599
October 28 th – 30 th , 2005	5th Annual California Association of Long Term Care Medicine Fall Napa Seminar	Embassy Suites Hotel Napa Valley, CA	Brian Manning (310) 312-0531 bmanning@mednet.ucla.edu