
Published as a service to the GEC network by the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan, Michigan State University, A210 East Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1315; phone: (517) 353-7828; fax: (517) 353-1879; Email: gecm@msu.edu; NAGEC Web site: www.nagec.org; Editor: Jan Yonker, MSA; Copy Editor: Ronda Bunnell

Houston Geriatric Education Center (HGEC)
Laura Niles, Research Assistant

Update: The 4th Annual HGEC Interdisciplinary Student Team Competition

Educating and hands-on training of student interns to be long-term care (LTC) ombudsmen in Harris County, Texas, concluded with the fourth annual HGEC Interdisciplinary Student Team Competition on the evening of April 11, 2011. Approximately 52 students participated in the student competition, which also certified the students to become Harris County LTC ombudsmen. The University of Texas Health Science Center, the University of Houston and Texas Woman's University students studying dentistry, nursing, medicine, biomedical sciences, public health, social work, pharmacy, optometry, health law and policy, communication sciences and disorders, and physical and occupational therapy presented their assessments and analyses of LTC resident and facility issues.

The three interdisciplinary teams of students were exceptionally creative and enthusiastic in presenting their information, using video presentations, original artwork and pop culture references to offer ideas on LTC quality of life and facility improvements for residents, residents' families and staff. Health literacy concerns were identified; ethical dilemmas were discussed; and facility resource needs were addressed as part of each team's problem-solving recommendations to the audience. The competition was a great success in educating students about the unique health issues of older adults in LTC settings, preparing them to employ a similar interdisciplinary approach in their future careers.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Geriatric Education Center
Ellen Caylor Schneider, MBA, Scientist and Dissemination Leader
Jan Busby-Whitehead, MD, Principal Investigator

Carolina Geriatric Education Center Celebrates Falls Prevention Policy Successes

The Carolina Geriatric Education Center and its statewide health promotion partners (UNC Institute on Aging, NC Division of Public Health, NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, and NC Falls Prevention Coalition) recently celebrated significant successes in addressing the growing public health issue of older adult falls when falls prevention was listed as a priority objective for the first time in three major statewide plans: [Healthy North Carolina 2020: A Better State of Health](#) (page 12), the [NC Institute of Medicine Prevention Action Plan](#) (page 208), and the [2011-2015 NC State Aging Services Plan](#) (page 24). All three of these plans help to set statewide policy objectives and actions to move forward in the identified priority areas.

Montana Geriatric Education Center (MTGEC)
Gayle Hudgins, Pharm D, Director

Geriatric Health Screening in Rural Montana

The Montana Geriatric Education Center (MTGEC) provides interdisciplinary clinical training in geriatrics for health professions students through participation in geriatric health screenings in a variety of settings.

MTGEC works closely with representatives of each of the academic programs whose students participate in geriatric health screening. These include the departments of pharmacy practice, physical therapy and social work at the University of Montana as well as the nursing programs at Montana State University (Missoula, Great Falls and Billings campuses) and Montana Tech. MTGEC also interacts with the University of Washington WWAMI medical school program. MTGEC has a large network of sites across the state where screening events have been held in the past and to which they often return in subsequent years. In addition, new sites are added frequently.

So far in FY2011, 478 individuals over age 55 have been screened at 35 events held in 26 different cities and towns across the state with at least 20 more events scheduled through the end of the fiscal year. A total of 765 tests were conducted on these 478 individuals with 386 (50%) tests producing abnormal results in 197 patients: 201 bone density heel scans, 121 lipid panels, and 64 hemoglobin A1Cs. The patients with abnormal test results have been followed up through the mid-January screenings, with 118 (69%) responding to date. Follow up is in process for 53 patients recently screened.

To date this year, 90 students from University of Montana, Montana Tech and Montana State University have been trained in geriatric health screening techniques; many of those are in their pre-clinical studies at this point. During the current year, 74 different health professions students have participated in geriatric health screening events: 15 nursing, 40 pharmacy, 2 physical therapy, 15 social work, 1 medicine, and 1 physician assistant. Most of these students have participated in more than one screening event. Their evaluation of their experience at screening events is very positive with 99% agreeing or strongly agreeing that they learned from the event, 99.8% agreeing or strongly agreeing that they helped those tested understand their results, and 100% agreeing or strongly agreeing that they will use the knowledge they gained from the event. Students complete a retrospective pre-/post- self-evaluation after each event. Students clearly gain confidence in their ability to operate the screening equipment, interpret the results, and counsel patients at each event.

The student model for interdisciplinary geriatric health screening is being refined to include new screenings for depression and cognitive impairment, which will be conducted by nursing, pharmacy and social work students. The new screenings will begin in the fall of 2011.

Meharry Consortium Geriatric Education Center (MCGEC) – Nashville, TN

Ruth Garrett, PhD, MCGEC Consultant

Grace Smith, LMSW, Project Manager

MCGEC recently celebrated a successful expansion of the Gerontology Certificate Program to the VA Hospital in Nashville. Three six-hour sessions - with CEU/Contact Hours - were offered on consecutive Fridays in February, attracting a total of 53 attendees, 38% VA hospital employees. Another series is planned for June to an even broader VA audience via distance learning (VA's in Murfreesboro and Chattanooga, Tennessee). We also collaborated with Vanderbilt's Nursing Department to present a successful conference March 4, 2011 for 135 nursing and allied health professionals. Lectures, videos and case studies were used to educate attendees about recognition and treatment of dementia, delirium and depression.

On May 4, Meharry Medical College will host the 2011 Geriatric Update Conference, "Prescription for Prevention," for physicians, residents, nurses, allied health professionals and students in the Greater Nashville area. Faculty from each consortium institution and four different disciplines will present on a range of topics related to screening and disease prevention strategies for older adults. The conference will also serve as the annual training retreat for Family Medicine residents.

Our Hispanic Outreach Program has gained momentum after five meetings at the Coleman Community Center. Older Hispanic women and center staff have attended programs on nutrition, memory, and cancer prevention. This initiative paved the way for clinical training on April 15, allowing a Hispanic physician and Hispanic medical student to educate participants and conduct blood pressure screenings.

In the months ahead, Vanderbilt Geriatricians Drs. Powers and Robins, will train VA nursing home personnel on "Transitions of Care" and "Working with Difficult Patients." Dr. Garrett will continue to lead monthly inter-professional geriatric in-service trainings on Vanderbilt Hospital's ACE unit and the VA GEM unit. Also, Drs. Solberg and Mion will build upon previous research and guide a delirium evidence-based practice project on the Orthopedic and Urology units at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

West Virginia Geriatric Education Center (WVGEC)
Nancy Daugherty, Program Coordinator

AGES:

The 7th Annual Advanced Geriatrics Skills (AGES) certification course was held on April 1 – 3, 2010. AGES is a certification course that increases the geriatrics competency of all health professionals that care and/or work with older adults. It offered fourteen (14) hours of continuing education credits for physicians, nurses, pharmacists and social workers, as well as, geriatrics certification of advanced skills upon successful completion of an Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) and written examination. It provides evidence based knowledge and skills enhancement in the major geriatric syndromes, conditions and training in psycho-social and ethical issues of geriatric care. AGES was designed by the Geriatrics Educators from the Medical Schools in the state and has provided advanced geriatrics skills training to over 130 health professionals throughout the state, including physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, nurses, advanced practice nurses, social workers and educators. This year's event was structured to provide more content relevant to social workers and nurses, and emphasis on providing care involving multi disciplines.

Health Literacy continues to be a major emphasis of the WVGEC with additional workshops being provided at the State Health Educators Council annual conference and the National Association of Social Workers. In addition, the WVGEC received a mini-grant from WVU School of Dentistry to provide health literacy training for the state's dentists and/or dental hygienists at upcoming statewide meetings.

West Virginia's Rural Health Education Partnerships have provided several training events in outlying areas of the state, strengthening our mission to improve the training of health professionals in geriatrics. Recent topics included End of Life Care/Advanced Directives, Driving Assessment in the Older Patient, Dementia vs. Depression, Heightening Awareness of Pre-Diabetes, with several more planned before the end of June.

Mark A. Newbrough, MD, Director of the WVGEC, will be chairing the committee on Workforce and Education for West Virginia's Long Term Care Partnership, also serving on the LTCP Advisory Committee. Dr. Newbrough is co-chairing the Evidence Based Practice Workgroup on End of Life/Palliative Care for the NTACC and GECs throughout the country. He recently completed faculty development at Duke University on End of Life/Palliative Care.

Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional (OVAR) GEC and University of Louisville OVAR/GEC

Arleen Johnson, PhD, Director,
Betty Shiels, PhD-ABD, Co-Director

OVAR/GEC Participation in 8-State New Madrid Earthquake Exercise

In May 2011 Kentucky will be one of eight states to participate in the largest national-level emergency exercise ever planned by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This exercise, the [National Level Exercise 2011 \(NLE 2011\)](#), will simulate a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic zone. The eight states involved in the exercise include Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. The exercise will include local, state, regional and national response agencies. Federal agencies will be involved on the ground in the eight states as well as from headquarters in Washington D.C. as if a real earthquake had occurred. Hospitals and healthcare facilities are actively involved in the planning and will be participating in the exercise.

In Kentucky, the primary impact area for a catastrophic earthquake includes the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Regions 1, 2 and 3 and includes Paducah east to Hopkinsville and north to Owensboro. These regions will be most active in the planning, early response and response phases of the exercise.

Long term care in Kentucky, especially in Regions 1, 2 & 3 (see [HPP regional map](#)), is at significant risk as building codes do not necessarily require earthquake mitigation. At year end 2009, these regions represented almost 17% of Long Term Care licensed beds in the state and in the event of a mass evacuation there are not enough available licensed beds in the rest of the state to shelter Long Term Care evacuees. See [Kentucky Long Term Care and Medically Fragile Surge Vulnerability for Regions 1-3](#).

OVAR/GEC Directors, Arleen Johnson and Betty Shiels, have been actively involved in developing training resources for long term care tabletop exercises, providing training and assisting National Level Exercise coordinators. For information on

how your GEC can become more involved in emergency preparedness for aging activities and/or participate in the National Level Earthquake Exercise contact Arleen@uky.edu .

Also, see Pipeline calendar for info on upcoming national Webinar on Emergency Preparedness and Response in conjunction with Stanford GEC (June 23).

Stanford Geriatric Education Center (SGEC)
Melen McBride, PhD, RN, FGSA, Associate Director, Emerita
Gwen Yeo, PhD, AGSF, Director Emerita

SGEC's Korean Scholar's Network and the New Resource They Developed

In the past three years, seven scholars with Korean backgrounds and from multiple disciplines have participated in the Stanford GEC post-graduate training programs, i.e., the SGEC Mini-Fellowship in Ethnogeriatrics or the SGEC Faculty Development Program in Health Literacy and Ethnogeriatrics. Five of the seven were junior faculty, one was in a post-doctoral program, and one was completing her doctorate. They all came from different universities in different states (one from Korea), and were in nursing, social work, or psychology.

In the 24 years of SGEC's existence, having a cohort of trainees from the same ethnic/cultural ancestry at the same time was an unusual phenomenon. Even more significant was the strong interest in issues around caregiving for older Koreans in the United States and their country of origin by all of these Korean American and Korean scholars.

Recognizing a unique opportunity to create a national network of Korean Scholars in Ethnogeriatrics, the SGEC leadership surveyed the trainees about their post-training needs to build upon their newly acquired knowledge and skills in ethnogeriatrics. Publishing and having collegial support for the process was top on the list. An inquiry to the *Clinical Gerontologist* resulted in a special issue highlighting the work of the members of the SGEC Korean Scholars Network. The March 2011 issue of *Clinical Gerontologist* focused on "Care Concerns for Elders in Korean and Korean American Communities," a collection of five scientific papers that demonstrates diversity and within-group variations at the national and international level for a specific cultural group.

The Network continues to pursue scholarly activities; two scholars are in Korea at this time with collaborative ties to their cohorts in the U.S. and SGEC to pursue more research on older Koreans. It has been a tremendous learning experience for the SGEC faculty and staff to witness a collective expression of the cultural value of filial piety and respect for elders from multidisciplinary professionals of the same ethnicity. A serendipitous outcome is the emergence of a culturally relevant model for facilitating and mentoring the next generation of scholars in aging projected to become more demographically diverse.

For information on the SGEC Mini-Fellowship in Ethnogeriatrics or the SGEC Faculty Development Program in Health Literacy and Ethnogeriatrics go to: http://sgec.stanford.edu/mini_fellowship.html and http://sgec.stanford.edu/fac_dev.html.

Virginia Geriatric Education Center (VGEC)

Peter A. Boling, MD, Co-Director

The Virginia Geriatric Education Center (VGEC) and the Virginia Geriatrics Society (VGS) conducted the 22nd Annual Virginia Geriatrics Conference (VGC) March 18-20, 2011, in Williamsburg, Virginia. This three-day conference offers continuing education credit for physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, with a broad range of geriatric topics. This annual conference has an excellent track record, measured by immediate and post-conference (three-month) follow-up evaluations, repeat registrations, and steady growth from a base attendance of 175 to well over 300, with the largest number of participants this year. To increase exposure to important geriatric content statewide, we have targeted non-geriatric practitioners such as family physicians, internists and nurse practitioners, offering 50 scholarships each year for first time participants. These scholarships are funded by the Virginia Geriatrics Society, with a grant (\$20,000) from the Geriatric Training and Education initiative administered by the Virginia Center on Aging and supported by the General Assembly of Virginia since 2007. The VGEC provides support and input, and this conference will be included in the menu of opportunities the VGEC maintains for inter-professional faculty development and continuing education.

This year's conference focal theme was improving the quality of inter-professional care related to medication management and patient safety. The VGEC-VGS conference trained about 320 registrants and with course faculty and committee members added, the combined audience totaled around 350. First-time and returning participants received 19 hours of CME or CE credits. The multi-disciplinary audience included physicians, internists, pharmacists, residents, fellows, nurses and nurse practitioners, and social workers, attending from across Virginia, as well as from neighboring and distant states. We had a strong supporting partnership that included the Virginia Center on Aging (VCoA) and the Virginia Health Quality Center (VHQC), our QIO.

An inter-professional planning committee identified important topics and secured speakers, with many speakers coming from Divisions and Departments within the three VGEC Consortium schools which are Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) and the University of Virginia (UVA). Other speakers came from the Richmond practice community, Brown University, St. Louis University, Johns Hopkins, and the University of North Carolina. We video-recorded the 2011 VGC conference proceedings, with permission, for restricted-access use by VGEC learners in its five-year HRSA-funded statewide initiative to improve inter-professional geriatric care. Speakers included physicians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists.

Throughout the conference, many participants commented on how much they appreciated the conference. Comments received included: "a great conference"; "the best CE conference I ever attended"; "very practical and useful, while being filled with current scientific information"; "valuable to practicing clinicians and teachers"; and various comments that the training was well-run and enjoyable. The room was still full Sunday morning at 11:30 when Vig Kasirajan from VCU concluded the final talk on advances in cardio vascular surgery for the old and old-old.

In this era it is particularly important for those in academic settings to take the responsibility of translating the most important findings derived from scientific pursuit, and presenting them to those providing care in our communities in an unbiased and useful manner. I am confident that we succeeded in this goal.

During the conference, we strengthened and extended our base of support for the VGS, VGC and related programs, and we built foundations for important future initiatives, including additional conferences, planned elements of the VGEC five-year project which includes a robust faculty development component, and investigated a couple of potential research opportunities.

We can look forward to a brief rest before resuming our plans for a new autumn conference in western Virginia that the VGEC and VGS intend to convene in partnership with the Edward Via School, Carilion and Centra health care organizations, and others; and then later in the summer we will start our plans for the 2012 spring VGEC-VGS program, our 23rd annual Virginia Geriatrics Conference.

Photos from the meeting will soon be posted on the VGS website: VirginiaGeriatricsSociety.org

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| DATE/TIME | EVENT | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|---|--|---|---|
| May 18, 2011 12:30-1:30 p.m. | University of Kentucky Family Medicine Grand Rounds, "The Older Driver," Archana Kudrimoti, MD | Available via ITV | Julie Brock 859/257/1510 julie.brock@uky.edu |
| May 19, 2011 | End of Life Care/Advanced Directives | Jackson General Hospital | Ms. Sherri Douglas, Winding Roads Health Consortium, 146 Williams Dr., Spencer, WV 25276 |
| May 25, 2011 | Swallowing Problems in the Elderly | WVU Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Ctr., room 2000, Charleston WV or On-line @ www.camcinstitute.org/education/catalogs/geriatrics.htm | Ms. Mary Annie Program Specialist WV Geriatric Education Center 3110 MacCorkle Avenue Charleston, WV 25304 mannie@hsc.wvu.edu or 304-347-1295 |
| May 26, 2011 (12:30-2:00 pm PST) | Fall Prevention Presented by: Arvind Modawal, MD, MPH, AGSF, FAAFP, and Rochelle McLaughlin, MS, OTR/L | Anywhere internet can be accessed. | Detailed registration information will be available on the Stanford GEC website (http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at mtzuang@stanford.edu |
| June 8 – 10, 2011 | Alcoholism and Substance Abuse in Older Adults | Summer Institute on Aging, Lakeview Resort and Conference Center Morgantown, WV | Jacki Englehardt WVU Division of Social Work PO Box 6830 Morgantown WV 26506-6830 304-293-6936 |
| June 13-15 June 13, 10:30- Noon, EST June 13, 3:30 – 5:00 EST June 14, 3:30 – 5:00 EST June 15, 10:00 – Noon, EST | Summer Series on Aging Includes OVAR presentations listed below: "Incontinence and OAB: What Health Professionals Need to Know About Physical Therapy Interventions" – Janet Hall, PT "If I Quit I Might Be a Statistic: Perspectives of Older Farmers on Work and Health" – Deborah Reed, PhD, MSPH, RN "Preventing Elder Investment Fraud: Assessing for Vulnerability to Financial Exploitation" – Kelly May and James O'Brien, MD "Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Older Adults During Disasters" – Lisa M. Brown, PhD | All presentations in the Summer Series are held at the Marriott at Griffin Gate, Lexington, KY | Barb Helm 859/257/8301 bjhelm2@uky.edu |
| June 22, 2011 | "I'm Not Dead Yet: Ethical Treatment of Older Adults" | WVU R WVU Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Ctr., room 2000, Charleston WV or On-line @ www.camcinstitute.org/education/catalogs/geriatrics.htm | Ms. Mary Annie Program Specialist WV Geriatric Education Center 3110 MacCorkle Avenue Charleston, WV 25304 mannie@hsc.wvu.edu or 304-347-1295 |

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| June 23, 2011 3:00 – 5:30 EST | Free webinar: “Emergency Preparedness and Elder Care” Stanford and OVAR GEC’s and HRSA-funded GEPR Collaborative | Online | Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website (http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at mtzuang@stanford.edu |
| June 27 – July 01, 2011 | Annual Summer Institute in Aging | San Antonio, TX | Michele J. Saunders, DMD, MPA 210-562-6560 saunders@uthscsa.edu |
| July 21, 2011 (12:30-2:00 pm PST) | “Health Literacy & Health Disparities” Presented by: Nancy Hikoyeda, DrPH, and Seema Limaye, MD | Anywhere internet can be accessed. | Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website (http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at mtzuang@stanford.edu |
| August 25, 2011 (11:00am-12:30pm PST) | “Arthritis” Presented by: Eswar Krishnan, MD, M.Phil, and Kate Lorig, RN, PhD | Anywhere internet can be accessed. | Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website (http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at mtzuang@stanford.edu |
| September 29, 2011 | Annual Conference on Aging | San Antonio, TX | Michele J. Saunders, DMD, MPA 210-562-6560 saunders@uthscsa.edu |
| September 29, 2011 12:30-2:00 pm , PST | “Cardiovascular Disease” Presented by: Latha Palaniappan, MD, MS | Anywhere internet can be accessed. | Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website (http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at mtzuang@stanford.edu |
| September 30, 2011 | 5 th Annual Medico~Legal Conference | San Antonio, TX | Michele J. Saunders, DMD, MPA 210-562-6560 saunders@uthscsa.edu |
| October 6, 2011 12:30-2:00 pm, PST | “Dementia Assessment and Family Caregiving Part 1: Latino” Presented by: Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, PhD, and Mariluz Villa, MD | Anywhere internet can be accessed. | Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website (http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at mtzuang@stanford.edu |
| October 13, 2011 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. | Annual Long Term Care Conference | Kaneohe, HI | Aida Wen, MD, aidawen@hawaiiantel.net 808-523-8461 |
| November 3, 2011 12:30-2:00 pm, PST | “Dementia Assessment and Family Caregiving, Part 2: Chinese and other Asian” Presented by: Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, PhD, and Marian Tzuang, MSW | Anywhere internet can be accessed. | Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website (http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at mtzuang@stanford.edu |
| December 8, 2011 (12:30-2:00 pm PST) | “End of Life” Presented by: Marita Grudzen, MHS, and Cynthia Pan, MD | Anywhere internet can be accessed. | Detailed registration information is available on the Stanford GEC website (http://sgec.stanford.edu/events.html) Questions : Contact Marian Tzuang at (650) 721-1023 or at mtzuang@stanford.edu |
| March 6-7, 2012 | 2012 Forum on Aging and Annual Meeting | Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Rd., Cincinnati, OH | Irene Moore, 513-584-0798 moorei@uc.edu |

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