



THE BUREAU OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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BOLSTER YOUR PREVENTION RESEARCH BUDGET WITH FUNDING FROM THE CDC

Program announcement: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/grantmain.htm>.

Letter of Intent Deadline: March 20, 2002

Grant Application Deadline: April 30, 2002

Approximately \$13,000,000 for Community-Based Participatory Prevention Research is available for fiscal year 2002

from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office of Extramural Prevention Research. Based on the "Healthy People 2010" focus area, Educational and Community-Based Programs, this grant program will strengthen the capacity of our Nation's communities and population groups to address health promotion and the prevention of disease, disability and injury through participatory research.

Project Directors Meeting

The Bureau of Health Professions is sponsoring a Geriatrics Education Centers Project Directors Meeting March 11th to 13th in Baltimore, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting is to share information about the GECs' current activities and to discuss issues of mutual concern regarding the administration of GEC programs on campuses around the country. The meeting will also provide opportunities for GEC networking and impromptu discussion of other issues of mutual interest.

The director of each GEC and one other staff member designated by the director are invited to attend. We are asking each director to make a twenty minute presentation and to be prepared for ten minutes of discussion, questions, and answers. Travel arrangements are being made by EduTech, Ltd. You may contact Ms. Karen Booker of the EduTech staff at 301-585-1030 regarding airline and hotel reservations.

NAGEC NEWS

Andrea Sherman, PhD, President

April 17th, 2002 is the Official Hill Day in Washington DC. The GECs will participate with HPNEC to tell our story about the outstanding value of the GECs and the continued and increased need for interdisciplinary training in geriatrics and gerontology. Send a representative from your GEC to help us bring our message and our funding requests to Washington. If you plan on coming please contact: andrea.sherman@nyu.edu.

We have been working with Senator Breaux's Special Aging Committee and the Alliance for Aging Research which has recently released a special report on the need for expanded federal focus on preparing the nation's healthcare providers for the upcoming retirement wave. The responses do include the recommendation for expanded Geriatrics and GECs at HRSA. You can access the report at: www.agingresearch.org.

The NAGEC Council continues its efforts through conference calls and is now reviewing the NAGEC Committee responsibilities as well as NAGEC space, incorporation, and a part-time staff person.

VIRGINIA GEC

Communication in a Kids Into Health Careers Program

Kathleen D. Watson, MS

The Kids into Health Careers program at the Virginia Geriatric Education Center is in its first full year following a half year pilot program that took place in the spring of 2001. This program is geared toward high school students, which presents abundant opportunities to reflect on the program in a “lessons learned” manner. For this month’s *Pipeline*, we have decided to focus on communication strategies in the program. We who work with the program find ourselves constantly making notes on ideas that work well and others that should be adjusted for future programs. It is our hope that other GECs that plan to implement this program can benefit from what we have learned thus far.

During our pilot program, it was our intention to have a small group of students to work with, in order to get a feel for how we wanted to structure the program. We obtained students’ names from the Exploring, Learning for Life program. This program, started by the Boy Scouts of America, seeks to expose middle and high school students to different career options. Through standardized testing, students indicate what careers they are interested in. We mailed letters to roughly 300 students who had indicated an interest in health careers with the intention of having 15-20 participants. It turned out that we had eight students attend the information session and four to eight students attend the monthly sessions. While it was good to have a small group to start out with, we found that it would be better to have a larger group so that absences would not affect the dynamics of the group.

With our pilot group, we gave out information on the first night, including all of the meeting dates for the program. We then followed up each month with a phone call to each participant to remind him or her of the meeting and to see how many participants we could expect. There were limitations to this method of communication, even with such a small group because it was not easy to reach students or their parents at home during work and school hours. When the students and parents would attempt to return our calls, it was usually after our office hours. We decided that we needed a reliable and accessible method of communication. This year, we set up an e-mail account for the Kids into Health Careers program and encourage the students to keep in touch with us via e-mail. We send out reminder e-mails throughout the month and mail letters two weeks prior to the session. We ask that the participants respond by either e-mail or telephone. This has proven to be much more successful. Everyone feels more informed and there is actual communication between sessions, which is important when the group only meets once a month. Communication and interaction are essential elements of a program such as Kids into Health Careers.

Pre-Conference Promotes DL Projects and the GEC Network

Four Geriatric Education Centers (GECs), California, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and the Bureau of Health Professions have been collaboratively working to develop a pre-conference intensive for the NCOA/ASA Conference being held in Denver this April. The pre-conference workshop, entitled “*The Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr) Geriatric Education Center (GEC) Network Distance Education Initiative: Contemporary Issues in Partnerships, Collaboration and National Curricula*” is a full-day intensive scheduled at the Adam’s Mark Hotel on Wednesday, April 3rd, from 8:30am to 5:00pm. This intensive is designed to familiarize the NCOA-ASA audience with distance learning (DL) and introduce aging professionals to GECs, what services they provide, and how they are working together to provide education and training to healthcare professionals in the field of aging. The intensive will provide basic background in current DL issues and familiarize attendees with ongoing DL initiatives within the national network of GECs. The morning session will provide information regarding current philosophy and applications of DL and concepts for instructional designs and DL technologies. The afternoon session will describe the GECs and summarize recent GEC Network DL initiatives as well highlight potential collaborations for attendees. Through this workshop the BHPr is hoping to show how different GECs from around the country are collaborating to provide better educational programs to geriatric healthcare professionals. Conference registration is available at www.agingconference.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
March 6, 2002	The Current State of Geriatric Medicine: A Historical Review	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne Francione 716-760-6375
March 11-13, 2002	GEC Project Directors Meeting	Baltimore, Maryland	Karen Booker EduTech 301-585-1030
March 13, 2002	4 th Annual Update on Dementia Conference	California	Teresa Sacks 650-494-3986 tsacks@leland.stanford.edu
March 13, 2002	Journey Into Family Caregiving	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne Francione 716-760-6375
March 15 – 17, 2002	13 th Annual Geriatrics Conference	Homestead Hot Springs, Virginia	Desiree Hodges 804-675-5076
March 20, 2002	Prostate Cancer	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne Francione 716-760-6375
March 27, 2002	The Eden Alternative: An Innovative Approach to Elder Care	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne Francione 716-760-6375
April 4 – 5, 2002	Bridging Research & Practice in Urinary Incontinence Conference	Weston Francis Marion Hotel Charleston, South Carolina	Sarah Washburn 919-966-6974 sarah_washburn@med.unc.edu
April 12, 2002	Best of All Worlds: Best Practices in Aging Conference	Four Points Sheraton Minneapolis, MN	Minnesota Area GEC 612-624-1185
April 15 – 17, 2002	Geriatric Dentistry & Oral Health for Non-Dentists	Albuquerque, New Mexico	NMGEC 505-277-0911 dfranklin@salud.unm.edu
April 19 & 26, May 3 & 17, and June 7, 2002	Training of Trainers: Community-Based Care	San Francisco, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
April 24, 2002	Best Practices in the Continuum of Care: Risk Management	Little Rock Arkansas	Soledad H-D Jasin, PhD 501-257-5551 jasinsoledadhd@uams.edu
April 26, 2002	Faces of Aging Conference	Robert F. Froehlke Conference Center Marshfield, WI	715-389-7648 www.marshfieldclinic.org/calendar/
April 26 – 27, 2002	Geriatrics in Primary Care Conference	The Orleans Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, Nevada	Javier Barrios 720-671-2381 www.unr.edu/med/ngec2002.html
May 3, 2002	Achieving Excellent End-of-Life Care in Nursing Facilities	Anaheim, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531

			larruda@ucla.edu
May 13 – 15, 2002	15 th Annual Issues in Aging Conference	Wayne State University Detroit, Michigan	Institute of Gerontology 313-577-2297
May 17, 2002	Elder Rights Forum	Rush-Presbyterian-St Luke's Medical Center Chicago, IL	Gina LaPalio 312-942-5355 Gina.M.Lapalio@rush.edu
May 20 – 22, 2002	Medical Management Conference	Los Angeles, CA	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
June 24-26, 2002	13 th Annual St Louis University Summer Geriatrics Institute: The Faces of Eldercare	St Louis University St. Louis, MO	Dr. Nina Tumosa 314-894-6560
September 4-6, 2002	National Conference on Indian Aging: "Healing Ourselves, Healing Our Communities, Healing Our World"	Convention Center Albuquerque, New Mexico	Eva 505-292-2001