

GEC PIPELINE



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NAGE/NAGEC NEWS

Elyse A. Perweiler, MPP, RN, President, NAGEC and NAGE, Associate Director, NJGEC

GEC Funding

This year, \$11 million has been allotted in the President's budget for ALL of the Bureau's more than forty programs. In talking with Scott Frey, the NAGEC/NAGE lobbyist, and other advocacy groups (e.g., AGS, ILCUSA, HPNEC), we continue to hear that this budget year is very tight, given that the government is funding the war in Iraq.

While we have been successful in obtaining increases in federal funding for geriatric education, particularly over the past five years, we cannot expect that any increases or even maintaining existing funding will prevail in this budget climate. We were fortunate to have received \$31.8 million in FY 2004 for geriatric programs, including:

- Geriatric Education Centers
- Geriatric Fellowship Programs in Medicine
- Dentistry
- Behavioral/Mental Health
- Geriatric Academic Career Awards

These programs are critical to the education and training of our health care workforce and eliminating health care disparities among minority and underserved populations.

It is CRITICAL that we all act now and contact our legislators. It is only through active advocacy efforts that we can make our voices heard. In the worst case scenario, if geriatrics is at \$0 for next year, no one - even currently funded programs (i.e., continuation grants) - will receive any program dollars. The impact is clear: NO CONTINUATIONS; NO NEW PROGRAMS; AND NO GRANT CYCLE FOR ANY GERIATRIC PROGRAMS.

Even if geriatrics receives a reduction in funding for FY 2005, the Bureau's first responsibility is to fund continuations. This will impact all currently funded programs, because with a decrease in funding, ALL program budgets will have to be reduced. In addition, the fifteen GECs that are due to come in for refunding this year will be particularly impacted because there will not be money for a funding cycle.

IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE ALL ACT NOW!!! Write and contact your legislators, asking them to support funding for geriatrics programs at \$38 million. Tell the story of your individual GECs and what wonderful work you are doing. Write to the members of the Appropriations Committee asking for their support.

Members of NAGEC will be making Hill visits on May 5th and 6th. I will be asking those of you with GECs who have legislators in key positions to send me some leave-behind materials. Please schedule visits with your legislators at home - we will be visiting them in Washington.

IT IS URGENT THAT WE ALL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SURVIVAL OF OUR GERIATRIC PROGRAMS!! PLEASE ACT NOW!!

The list of the full Senate Appropriations Committee is available at the web site:
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/members/108.pdf>.

These members should be contacted and urged to support funding for Title VII and Title VIII for BHP programs. For GECs and other geriatric programs, emphasize our request for \$38 million in funding specifically for geriatrics (which falls under Title VII).

Thank you all for your efforts on behalf of NAGEC and NAGE. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at perweiea@umdnj.edu, phone (856) 566-7082, or fax(856) 566-6419.

SOUTH CAROLINA GEC

Esther M. Forti, PhD, RN, Director & Kesha Wall, MSW, Program Coordinator

FOCUSED AD Communication Training

The South Carolina Geriatric Education Center recently completed a FOCUSED Alzheimer's Communication train-the-trainer workshop for forty-one health care professionals. Dr. Danielle Ripich, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Health Professions, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and author of FOCUSED © was the featured presenter of this evidence-based program. Trainings are being scheduled across South Carolina by twenty-one trained facilitators who signed a training agreement to provide data to the SC-GEC and Dr. Ripich.

Communication is a factor that significantly affects the relationship between the person with Alzheimer's Disease and those who interact with him/her. By using the techniques developed by Dr. Ripich that enhance communication the caregiver, whether professional or family, can promote socialization, reinforce appropriate behavior, and enhance functioning in day-to-day activities. The FOCUSED program is a system for promoting communication effectiveness between family and professional caregivers and persons with Alzheimer's Disease. The seven-step program is presented with examples and illustrations relevant to each of the three stages of communication decline.

The FOCUSED program is designed to incorporate numerous strategies into a framework that is easy to recall and apply. It consists of five modules designed for presentation in five sessions of two hours each, plus an additional Module on Cultural Aspects of Communication in Caregiving that take about 45 minutes. The program consists of a Trainer's Manual and a Caregiver's Manual. The Trainer's Manual contains copies that are reproducible as transparency slides for instruction. Videotapes are also available (\$100 plus an additional shipping/handling charge of \$10/per set) Cost includes 2 VHS Tapes and trainer and caregiver manuals. Information on obtaining the FOCUSED program material is available by contacting the program coordinator of the SC-GEC, Kesha Wall, at walk@musc.edu or 843-792-1244.

OHIO VALLEY APPALACHIA REGIONAL GEC

Arleen Johnson, PhD, Director

Updates

Arleen Johnson, PHD, OVAR/GEC, Sara Jane Gainor, MBA, Mountain State GEC, Melen McBride, PHD, Stanford GEC, Palo Alto, CA and Marian Roman, PHD, University of Tennessee, presented an Anniversary Symposia entitled "Bridging Research to Best Practices in Geriatric Education" at the 2004 Southern Gerontological Society's Annual Conference conducted in Atlanta on April 1-3. The symposium featured educational, research, and best practices initiatives of HRSA funded Geriatric Education Centers.

Arleen Johnson, PHD, and Stacy Deck Shade, MSSW, OVAR/GEC; Sara Jane Gainor, MBA, Mountain State GEC; Melen McBride, PHD, Stanford GEC; Halcyon St. Hill, EdD, Florida Gulf Coast University; Kathy Hyer, PHD, University of South Florida; and Leonard W. Poon, PHD, University of Georgia Gerontology Center, presented a Pre-Conference Intensive entitled "Elements And Innovations In Distance Education: Teaching And Learning" at the 2004 AGHE Annual Meeting and Conference in Richmond VA on February 26-28. The intensive featured HRSA funded GEC Distance Education resources, training programs, and evaluation strategies.

Lessons Learned: Participants rated both sessions as excellent. We learned that collaborative GEC and other gerontology program efforts are beneficial and well received, that many health professions faculty and care providers are unaware of the educational initiatives and resources available through the GEC network, and that GEC presentations at regional and national geriatrics conferences should be encouraged.

The OVAR/GEC is sponsoring two sessions on Best Care Practices and one on Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness for Older Persons at the 2004 University of Kentucky Summer Series on Aging which will be held in Lexington from June 14-16. All sessions will be videotaped and made available to the GEC network. For more information see www.rgs.uky.edu/aging/summerseries.

The Best Care Practices workshops will feature the four recipients of the 2004 OVAR/GEC Best Practices Awards from KY, OH, and TN and Gregg Warshaw, MD, Institutional Director, OVAR/GEC -University of Cincinnati, will provide a session on skills training to enable health care practitioners to identify, implement, measure, and evaluate best care practices in their work settings.

The Bioterrorism Preparedness for the Elderly session will feature Robert Roush, EdD, Director, Texas Consortium GEC, who will provide an overview of the national HRSA funded GEC bioterrorism and emergency preparedness initiatives, and include presentations by OVAR/GEC panel members Nancy Stiles, MD, Robert Henry, DMD, Peggy McConnell, MSN, Joanne Walker Flowers, PHD, and Arleen Johnson, PHD

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
Now – Aug 30 th	Geriatric Oral Health Care: The Missing Link to Comprehensive Care Online Conference	www.wgec.org	Julie Murphy 800-799-7878 www.wgec.org
May 6 th	Implementing Age Sensitivity in Your Facility	Sands Regency Hotel Reno, Nevada	Linda Wiley 702-671-2381 lwiley@med.unr.edu
May 7 th	Advance Directives & End of Life Planning Elder Abuse & Exploitation	Sands Regency Hotel Reno, Nevada	Linda Wiley 702-671-2381 lwiley@med.unr.edu
May 8 th	Sociology of Aging Promoting Physical Health in Aging	Sands Regency Hotel Reno, Nevada	Linda Wiley 702-671-2381 lwiley@med.unr.edu
May 11 th	Keeping Elders Healthy: Strategies for Health Care Providers	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Clinic Sequim, WA	Susan Guralnick sgural@u.washington.edu 206.685.7478
May 12 th	Multi-cultural Aspects of Aging	Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City and Rural NV	Linda Wiley 702-671-2381 lwiley@med.unr.edu
May 13 th	Alzheimer's Disease: Update on Research, Treatment and Care	San Diego, CA	858-622-5850 www.adrc.ucsd.edu-events-up_events.html
May 17 th	Geriatric Oncology: The Role of the Primary Care Provider (Pre-Conference, AGS)	Las Vegas, NV	Lucio Arruda 310-312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
June 9 th	Pharmacology of Aging	Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City and Rural NV	Linda Wiley 702-671-2381 lwiley@med.unr.edu
May 21 st	Focus on Caregiving	Mount Sinai/Miami Heart Institute Miami Beach, FL	305-674-2018 305-243-4082
May 26 th – 27 th	17 th Annual Issues in Aging Conference	Troy, MI	tcrossle@med.wayne.edu
May 26 th – 28 th	Intensive Geriatric Training: Psychology Module	Diabetes Research Institute Miami, FL	305-243-6270
June 7 th – 11 th	Summer Institute in Aging	San Antonio, TX	Lily Porter-Tarrillion tarrillion@uthscsa.edu

June 10 th – 11 th	Geriatric Oral Health: The Missing Link to Comprehensive Care	Marquette University Milwaukee, WI	Julie Murphy 800-799-7878 www.wgec.org
June 14 th – 16 th	21 st Annual Summer Series on Aging	Radisson Plaza Hotel Lexington, KY	859-257-5179 www.rgs.uky.edu/aging/summer_series
June 17 th – 19 th	5 th Annual Summer Geriatric Institute - The Elder in Crisis: Managing Geriatric Emergencies	TBA	Darlene Franklin 505-272-4934
June 23 rd – 25 th	2004 Intensive Geriatric Training	The Westin Ft. Lauderdale, FL	305-243-6270
June 28 th – 30 th	15 th Annual Summer Institute Seminar Series	Oregon Health & Science University School of Nursing Portland, OR	Pat Ebert 503-418-2171 ebertp@ohsu.edu
July 17 th	9 th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders	Philadelphia, PA	312-335-5813 internationalconference@alz.org www.alz.org-internationalconference
August 27 th	25 th Annual Conference on Aging: Expanding the Horizon in Geriatric Primary Care II	Omni San Antonio Hotel San Antonio, TX	Lily Porter-Tarrillion tarrillion@uthscsa.edu
August 30 th – September 2 nd	The Florida Conference on Aging 2004: Aging – It's BOOMing!	Hotel Intercontinental Miami, FL	850-222-8877 www.fcoa.org/Conf2004.html conference@fcoa.org
October 14 th – 15 th	MAGEC Ethnogeriatric Conference	TBA	305-243-6270
October 15 th – 17 th	Oregon Medical Directors Association & Oregon Geriatric Society's 5 th Annual Meeting	Sunriver, OR	Pat Ebert 503-418-2171 ebertp@ohsu.edu www.omda-ogs.org