

GEC PIPELINE



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NAGE/NAGEC NEWS

Elyse A. Perweiler, MPP, RN, President, NAGEC and NAGE, Associate Director, NJGEC
NAGEC Presence Felt on the Hill

On May 5th and 6th, 2004, five representatives from NAGEC (Julia Rose, Robert Roush, Andrea Sherman, Nina Tumosa, and Elyse Perweiler) met in Washington, DC, to launch a strong advocacy effort on behalf of funding for the Geriatric Education Centers. With the assistance of Scott Frey, NAGEC's Washington Advisor, we met with 24 of our key senators and congressmen, with a focus on those who are on key appropriations committees. Our request was specific: we need \$38 million in funding to assure the integrity and viability of the Bureau of Health Professions Geriatric Education Centers (GEC) Program.

The Bureau's three geriatric programs: Geriatric Education Centers (GECs), Geriatric Training for Physicians, Dentists and Behavioral/Mental Health, and Geriatric Academic Career Awards are authorized under the Public Health Service Act, as amended, Title VII, Section 753(a). As you know, in FY 2004, NAGEC was successful in increasing awareness of the need for geriatric education and was rewarded with an unprecedented increase—from \$28 million to \$32 million—in a year when other Bureau of Health Professions programs experienced budgetary cuts. We need to get beyond this funding level to guarantee a funding cycle for the 15 GECs coming in for renewal next year and to maintain those GECs that will be receiving continuation funding.

FY 2005 is the most difficult budget year yet and we need your help! The President's proposed budget took Bureau programs from a budget of \$248 million to \$11 million, with geriatric programs once again at \$0. Last year, NAGEC and the GEC network overcame the odds. We must do more this year to overcome budgetary constraints and heighten the awareness of our legislators. It is up to each and every GEC to contact their legislators, by letter and by phone. Make appointments to visit your local legislative offices. Since the GSA Annual Meeting is in Washington, DC, this year, plan to call the Washington office of your legislators and make appointments to visit them in November, while you are at GSA. Let them know that GECs have trained over 425,000 health care professionals from 27 different disciplines to better serve the burgeoning older adult population and have developed more than 1,000 curricular materials on aging-related topics. The 46 GECs nationwide serve local communities, rural areas, and together, the entire country.

NAGEC's \$38 million budget request supports a national commitment to address the profound shortage of competently trained health professionals in all disciplines to care for the daunting needs of today's older adults and tomorrow's rapidly graying America. It also recognizes the critical role that GECs must play in DHHS-HRSA's efforts to train first responders to potential bioterrorism attacks. By approving a budget increase for GECs, our legislators will continue to support low-cost professional geriatric training interventions that will create a competent health care workforce who will ultimately save taxpayers billions of dollars by making informed health care decisions.

Please contact your legislators NOW to urge them to support a budget of \$38 million for GECs for FY 2005!

MOUNTAIN STATE GEC

Sara Jane Gainor, Program Director

Leadership Retreat - “Geriatric Education: Prospects, Possibilities and Partnerships”

A leadership retreat sponsored by the MSGEC is planned for July 22-23, 2004 at the Stonewall Resort involving 60 key leaders from West Virginia’s geriatric education and practice communities. Based upon the theme, “Geriatric Education: Prospects, Possibilities and Partnerships,” participants in the retreat will create a shared vision for upcoming years including recommendations for an action plan and potential sources of funding. This is the second leadership retreat sponsored by the MSGEC.

In cooperation with the Eastern Area Health Education Center and the Harper’s Ferry Rural Health Clinic, the MSGEC is completing a project to demonstrate training for medical residents and health professions students from other disciplines regarding mental health screening with aging adults in primary care settings. Funding for this one year project is provided through a Supplemental Grant from HRSA, BHPPr.

The MSGEC played a key role during the past year in initiating GEMS (Geriatric Educators from the Medical Schools), a collaborative effort among representatives from the state’s three medical schools. Initially this group is focusing upon curriculum development, rural rotations, and education methods. A goal is to develop an advanced geriatric certificate program for faculty and health care practitioners. Support for GEMS has been received from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

West Virginians interested in study, practice, and education about geriatric care can now join with others who have similar interests in the newly-organized West Virginia Geriatric Society. The WVGS has been approved for affiliation with the American Geriatric Society and is moving forward with electing officers and organizing a membership drive. Dr. Richard Ham and Sara Jane Gainor from the MSGEC have provided leadership to this effort.

The MSGEC is collaborating with three other GEC’s (Virginia GEC, GEC of Pennsylvania, and Western Reserve GEC) for annual videoconferences. During fall, 2003, the group co-sponsored with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, “Understanding and Managing Parkinson’s Disease: A Program for Healthcare Professionals,” which was available nationally. Planning is underway by representatives of these GEC’s for a videoconference on a geriatric care-related theme tentatively scheduled for October, 2004.

Additional information about MSGEC activities is available at the on-line newsletter found at:
<http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/coa/msgec/>.

GEC of MICHIGAN

Larry Lawhorne, MD, Director, and Janis Yonker, MSA, Co-Director

Continuous Quality Improvement for Nursing Facilities: Annual Updates

On June 23, 2004, the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan (GECM) faculty delivered “Continuous Quality Improvement for Nursing Facilities: Annual Updates” to more than 100 staff members from 8 nursing facilities across Michigan. The day-long program was broadcast via interactive videoconferencing technology from Michigan State University to four remote sites. This videoconference represented the next component of a multi-faceted approach to improving the quality of care in Michigan’s nursing facilities. The June 23 program participants had previously, in 2002 and 2003, taken part in on-site quality improvement (QI) training sessions, followed by on-site mentoring by GECM faculty and program partners from the Michigan Public Health Institute.

The interactive videoconference provided attendees with updated information on unintended weight loss, managing difficult behaviors, heart failure, constipation, and end-of-life care in the nursing facility. Each topic was presented and discussed within the context of the participating facilities’ MDS-generated QI reports. This approach creates future opportunities for improvement at each facility based upon the QI reports, the training provided during the interactive videoconference, and the consultations that will occur with the facilities after reviewing their post conference evaluations and comments.

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
Now – May 2005	Geriatrics Practice: The Art of Survival	On-line	www.americangeriatrics.org
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 25 th – 27 th	Special Care Dentistry's 16 th Annual International Conference on Special Care Issues in Dentistry & 17 th Congress of the International Association for Disability & Oral Health	University of Calgary Calgary, Alberta, Canada	Marnie Pallesen 403-220-6229 pallesen@ucalgary.ca
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
September 10 th – 11 th	Improving Chronic Care Quality	Holiday Inn Select Columbia, MO	573-882-0215 NursingOutreach@Missouri.edu www.muhealth.org/~nursing/node/
September 29 th – October 2 nd	21st Annual Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott, Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda (310) 312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
September 29 th – October 2 nd	Intensive Course in Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott, Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda (310) 312-0531 larruda@ucla.edu
October 4 th – 5 th	Penn State Gerontology Center Conference on Social Structures, Aging, and Self-Regulation in the Elderly	Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel State College, PA	Judy Hall 814-863-5100 conferenceinfo1@outreach.psu.edu www.outreach.psu.edu/C&I/SocialStructures
October 6 th – 9 th	Wisconsin Board Review Course in Geriatric Medicine	Grand Geneva Resort & Spa Lake Geneva, WI	Penny Romasko 414-384-2000 x42778
October 14 th – 15 th	MAGEC Ethnogeriatric Conference	Doubletree Grand Hotel Miami, FL	305-243-6270 www.miami.edu/magec
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
October 22 nd	3 rd Annual Chronic Care Conference	Midwestern University Downers Grove, IL	Diane Brown 630-515-6944 http://midgec.midwestern.edu
October 29 th – 31 st	4th 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