

# GEC PIPELINE



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## GATEWAY GEC of MISSOURI and ILLINOIS

*Nina Tumosa, PhD, Co-Director*

### **Geriatrics Leadership Training Initiated**

The Gateway GEC of Missouri and Illinois completed its first week of interdisciplinary leadership training on July 12-16, 2004. This program is designed to teach junior faculty in geriatrics the many skills they will need to assume leadership positions in their academic, professional, and personal lives. Thirty physicians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and occupational therapists received training in geriatric clinical care, research, teaching, business, and leadership from Gateway GEC faculty and other renowned experts in each of these subjects. Classes met from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Wednesday when Scholars were encouraged to sightsee at the Cahokia Mounds and network with each other. Networking with faculty took place every evening over dinner.

The inter-professional interactions were invigorating. The next session of interdisciplinary leadership training will take place in St. Louis on January 10-14, 2005. The professions that are being targeted by the Gateway GEC include nursing, medicine, pharmacy, social work, allied health, public health, and nursing home administration.

Health care providers in other professions are welcome to apply. Special preference will be given to extant interdisciplinary groups that already work together. For more information, please contact Nina Tumosa at either 314-894-6560 or [tumosan@slu.edu](mailto:tumosan@slu.edu).

## MOUNTAIN STATE, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, and WESTERN RESERVES GECs

*John Hennon, PhD, GEC of Pennsylvania*

### **GEC Distance Learning Consortium**

A group of four GECS are continuing their initiatives in distance learning with a new program currently under development on "Alcohol and Drug Abuse in Older Adults." This program, intended for primary care providers and members of interdisciplinary teams working in primary care settings, will first be presented in a series of broadcasts in early 2005 and then will be made available on videotape. These broadcasts will focus on alcohol and other abuse in older adults and the diagnostic and treatment challenges this problem creates for health care providers.

This program is the third in a series of video-based educational modules produced by the Virginia, Western Reserve, Mountain State, and Pennsylvania Consortia of Geriatric Education Centers. The first two programs in the series were "End of Life Care for the Geriatric Patient" and "Understanding and Managing Parkinson's Disease." Video and other materials developed for the end of life program are being revised and re-formatted by the consortium for additional dissemination as interactive web-based modules available through the Internet.

The new program on substance abuse is being produced in collaboration with the Veterans Health Administration's Employee Education System (VHA/EES), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Other partners in this initiative include the VHA Primary Care Medical Surgical Strategic Healthcare Group, the VHA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, and the VHA Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (GRECCs). Discussions are

underway regarding plans for continuing this relationship with the VHA to produce additional video-based programs in future years.

## **NORTHWEST GEC**

*Michael V. Vitiello, PhD, Associate Director*

### **Changing of the Guard at the Northwest GEC**

The big news this summer at the University of Washington's Northwest Geriatric Education Center (NWGEC, <http://depts.washington.edu/nwgec/index.htm>) was the retirement on July 31 of the NWGEC's long-time Associate Director, Susan Guralnick, M.A. Sue's professional background was in clinical audiology with a specialty in age-related hearing loss.

Sue joined the NWGEC in 1986, served as Training and Educational Outreach Coordinator for six years, and assumed the role of Associate Director in 1992. As Associate Director, Sue was responsible for the Center's day-to-day activities, which included planning and conducting health promotion programs, identifying consultants, commissioning and editing curriculum modules and grant-writing. She was instrumental in the development of the NWGEC's Curriculum Module Series ([http://depts.washington.edu/nwgec/Educational\\_Resources/Educational\\_resources.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/nwgec/Educational_Resources/Educational_resources.htm)).

This series of some twenty-five modules, each written by a recognized expert in that particular health care topic, is designed to provide community-based professionals in the field of aging with a set of self-study guides to assist them in developing and establishing various health promotion interventions to prevent disease and/or postpone further disability in the older adults they serve. The Curriculum Module Series also serves as the keystone in the NWGEC's distance learning efforts.

Finally, Sue's responsibilities for and impact on geriatric health care education stretched far beyond the State of Washington, as the NWGEC also serves as a regional resource for such educational efforts in the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Her contributions to geriatric health care education in the Northwest have been exceptional and her retirement leaves a gap not easily filled. All of the many who she worked with over the years wish her the best in this exciting new phase of her life.

Sue's replacement as the NWGEC's Associate Director is Michael V. Vitiello, Ph.D. Dr. Vitiello is a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Washington School of Medicine (<http://faculty.washington.edu/vitiello/>). He also holds adjunct faculty appointments in the Departments of Psychology and of Biobehavioral Nursing and Healthcare Systems. Previously one of the NWGEC's long-time curriculum consultant/trainers, Dr. Vitiello has been actively involved in developing and conducting geriatric education and training programs for health care professionals for over ten years.

Dr. Vitiello has a long-standing interest in geriatrics and gerontology. His research focuses on the causes, consequences and treatments of sleep disturbance in older adults. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA) have funded this work for nearly 25 years. He has authored over 320 scientific publications, and has received two NIMH Independent Scientist Research Career Awards. Dr. Vitiello is also a Fellow in Clinical Medicine of the Gerontological Society of America, a member of the Board of Directors of the Sleep Research Society, and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Sleep Medicine Reviews*.

Dr. Vitiello is delighted to assume the stewardship of the NWGEC and looks forward to building upon all the fine work of his predecessor, in particular by expanding the Center's distance learning program to include continuing medical and nursing education accreditation.

## **OHIO VALLEY APPALACHIA REGIONAL GEC**

*Arleen Johnson, PhD, Director*

### **OVAR/GEC Programs Featured At 2004 UK Summer Series On Aging Conference**

The OVAR/GEC sponsored four workshops at the 2004 University of Kentucky Summer Series on Aging which was held in Lexington from June 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> and attended by 362 interdisciplinary health care providers, faculty, and students from fifteen different states. All four sessions were videotaped and are available to the GEC network for the cost of duplicating and shipping.

Gregg Warshaw, MD, Institutional Director, OVAR/GEC -University of Cincinnati, provided a workshop on “Best Practices and Clinical Guidelines: Practical Implementation Strategies” that emphasized quality improvement in home health, long term care, and hospice care. The “2004 Best Care Practices Awards” workshop featured presentations by Arleen Johnson and the four recipients of the 2004 OVAR/GEC Best Practices Awards from KY, OH, and TN: the SKYCAP - Southeast Kentucky Community Access Program in Hazard, KY that links older persons to health and mental health services; the Volunteer Caregivers Program in Louisville, KY that enables caregiver training in the home to help educate family members about dementia; and the COALA Home Health Aide Training Program in Cincinnati, OH that trains qualified, caring and dedicated home health aides. For descriptions of these award winning programs and video testimonials, go to <http://www.rgs.uky.edu/aging/bestcarepractices/index.html>

Bob Roush, EdD, Director, Texas Consortium GEC, provided an overview of the national HRSA funded GEC bioterrorism and emergency preparedness initiatives for the Bioterrorism Preparedness for the Elderly workshop which also included presentations by OVAR/GEC panel members Nancy Stiles, MD, and Robert Henry, DMD, (from the University of Kentucky) and Peggy McConnell, MSN, and Joanne Walker Flowers, PHD (from East Tennessee State University). In addition, the OVAR/GEC sponsored a workshop conducted by Dr. Roush on Smart Home Technology for Aging in Place Longer and Better.

**Lessons Learned:** In the third year of conducting the Best Practice Awards, we continue to hear from award recipients that the awards enable better care for older persons, provide attention to exceptional professionals and programs, further the development of best practice skills, enhance the development of presentation skills and publishing skills, and position award recipients for additional regional and national awards.

## 2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
Now – May 2005	Geriatrics Practice: The Art of Survival	On-line	<a href="http://www.americangeriatrics.org">www.americangeriatrics.org</a>
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds Pioneer Network: An Update on Nursing Home Culture Change	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Finger Lakes GEC 585-760-6377
September 10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Improving Chronic Care Quality	Holiday Inn Select Columbia, MO	573-882-0215 <a href="mailto:NursingOutreach@Missouri.edu">NursingOutreach@Missouri.edu</a> <a href="http://www.muhealth.org/~nursing/node/">www.muhealth.org/~nursing/node/</a>
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds Lessons from ELNEC 2004: End-of Life Nursing Education Consortium	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Finger Lakes GEC 585-760-6377
September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds Understanding & Managing Families in the Practice of Geriatric Healthcare	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Finger Lakes GEC 585-760-6377
September 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Nutrition and Aging XIX: Nutrition Controversies in Long Term Care	Peabody Hotel Three Statehouse Plaza Little Rock, AR	501-661-7962
September 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	Comfort, Care & Compassion: End-of-Life & Palliative Care for the Elderly in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	The Adam’s Mark Hotel Jacksonville, FL	<a href="http://www.hospicecares.org">www.hospicecares.org</a> <a href="http://www.med.ufl.edu/pharm/facdata/grecc">www.med.ufl.edu/pharm/facdata/grecc</a>
September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds Assessing Capacity to Give Consent for Sexual Contact	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Finger Lakes GEC 585-760-6377
September 29 <sup>th</sup> – October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	21st Annual Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott, Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda (310) 312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a>
September 29 <sup>th</sup> – October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Intensive Course in Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott, Marina del Rey, CA	Lucio Arruda (310) 312-0531 <a href="mailto:larruda@ucla.edu">larruda@ucla.edu</a>

October 4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	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 <a href="mailto:conferenceinfo1@outreach.psu.edu">conferenceinfo1@outreach.psu.edu</a> <a href="http://www.outreach.psu.edu/C&amp;I/SocialStructures">www.outreach.psu.edu/C&amp;I/ SocialStructures</a>
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds Advances in the Treatment of Overactive Bladder	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Finger Lakes GEC 585-760-6377
October 6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wisconsin Board Review Course in Geriatric Medicine	Grand Geneva Resort & Spa Lake Geneva, WI	Penny Romasko 414-384-2000 x42778
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds Ethics in Geriatric Research	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Finger Lakes GEC 585-760-6377
October 14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	MAGEC Ethnogeriatric Conference	Doubletree Grand Hotel Miami, FL	305-243-6270 <a href="http://www.miami.edu/magec">www.miami.edu/magec</a>
October 15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Oregon Medical Directors Association & Oregon Geriatric Society's 5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting	Sunriver, OR	Pat Ebert 503-418-2171 <a href="mailto:ebertp@ohsu.edu">ebertp@ohsu.edu</a> <a href="http://www.omda-ogs.org">www.omda-ogs.org</a>
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds Update on Heart Failure Therapies	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Finger Lakes GEC 585-760-6377
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Chronic Care Conference	Midwestern University Downers Grove, IL	Diane Brown 630-515-6944 <a href="http://midgce.midwestern.edu">http://midgce.midwestern.edu</a>
October 27 <sup>th</sup>	Geriatric Medicine Grand Rounds Dealing with Grief and Loss	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Finger Lakes GEC 585-760-6377
October 29 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup>	4th Annual California Association of Long Term Care Medicine Fall Napa Seminar	Embassy Suites Hotel Napa Valley, CA	Brian Manning (310) 312-0531 <a href="mailto:bmanning@mednet.ucla.edu">bmanning@mednet.ucla.edu</a>