

**Project Title: LIGHT-2: Lake Erie Integrated Geriatric Health Team-Phase 2. Applicant**

**Organization:** Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (<http://lecom.edu>)

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**Collaborating Partners:** LECOM Health (Millcreek Hospital, Medical Associates of Erie, Visiting Nurses, senior housing, skilled nursing facilities, Center for Health and Aging, Wellness Center); LECOM (Erie, PA, Greensburg, PA, Bradenton, FL, and Elmira, NY campuses); Corry Memorial Rural Health Clinic; Friendship Circle; Physician Partners of Western Pennsylvania; Erie Bar Association; Erie, Crawford, and Warren County Area Agencies on Aging; Gannon, Edinboro, Mercyhurst, Penn State Behrend Universities; and Alzheimer's Association.

**Program Period:** July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024

**Funding Priority:** Rural populations

**Trainees:** Physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, medical, pharmacy, and dental students, residents and fellows (medical, pharmacy), faculty, physical/occupational/speech therapists, social workers, patients, families, caregivers, and community-based trainers.

**Application Type:** Non-competing continuation.

**In Western Pennsylvania, there are persistent challenges that prevent forward movement toward establishment of age-friendly health systems and dementia-friendly communities.** These challenges include insufficient leveraging of primary care provider networks to improve the quality of geriatric care; insufficient knowledge on the part of primary care providers as well as patients and caregivers about issues such as telehealth and financial literacy; inadequate attention placed on the role of value-based care in health professionals' education; insufficient opportunities for professional development among geriatrics health professionals; inadequate access to behavioral health in primary care; limited availability of ADRD training; inadequate training for hospital staff on the special needs of older adults with substance and opioid use disorders and alternative approaches to pain management.

**LIGHT-2 is addressing these and other challenges with innovative, collaborative, and sustainable strategies that cover diverse geriatric care settings along the continuum, as well as a ~3,000-physician primary care provider network that cares for thousands of older adults each year in our region.** Harnessing the momentum, processes, and collaborations we built in LIGHT-1, we have expanded geriatrics training for students and health professionals across a region that includes rural counties with extremely unfavorable social determinants of health. **LIGHT-2 is working towards 3 Objectives: (1) Implement best practices and protocols** developed at LECOM to ~3,000 primary providers in a Clinically Integrated Network in Western PA; **(2) Enhance educational, training, and telehealth technology** strategies to increase access to high-quality geriatric care in NWPA, and **(3) Enhance integration of behavioral health services** for seniors in NWPA. These Objectives will generate a favorable impact on 14 MIPS measures that we will collect and report as part of a larger set of evaluation efforts that fully address federal priorities and GWEP programmatic objectives. LECOM's track record of successful stewardship of HRSA resources is based on our belief in the value of interprofessional, inter-organizational, and reciprocal collaborations in which all partners work toward a clear set of shared goals.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted infrastructure, training, technology and people, it has not impacted the goals and objectives of the project. LECOM Health has demonstrated flexibility and innovation to meet the project deadlines while the educational needs of our learners and healthcare needs of our patients continue to evolve.