

GET-IT Newsletter

Special Interest Articles:

- Death by Bed Rest – Oct. 28th
- RAGU - Alzheimer's Conference
- Memory Walk

SAGE (Seniors Assisting in Geriatric Education) The Faculty Experience.....

When first putting the SAGE program together last spring, some concerns we had included 1) sending first year medical students out into the community starting their 2nd month of medical school.... were they too “green?” 2) Using senior clients from Meals on Wheels instead of well elders from our clinics...would the “facts of life” taint in a negative way how our medical students will view elderly patients? And 3) Would Blackboard work as a way of interfacing with the students about their home visits with their senior clients?

Although it is too early to know the answers to the above questions, I am happy to report that the SAGE program seems to have had a successful start now that most students have completed their first assignment, *The Home Safety Evaluation*. The students report a variety of reactions from their senior clients such as: being welcomed into their senior clients home and hearing the stories about how they are managing to grow old successfully; family members or the senior clients themselves treating the students with suspicion; or not remembering what the SAGE program is about and not understanding

why medical students are asking them questions! Fortunately, it seems that most students that had rocky introductions were soon able to end their visit on a positive note.

Feedback from the students have included positive feelings of being excited to get to know their senior client more, amazed at how well a 95 y/o woman is functioning independently in her own home, learning about a home safety assessment and feeling like they are providing a service...which they are! Some negative comments have been students feeling helpless that they don't yet have tools to address some of their senior clients concerns, finding the senior client's home with significant clutter (one so bad that Adult Protective Services was recommended), and feeling like they were intruding on their senior client's privacy (what right do I have to be making comments on potential fall hazards in their home?)

As a faculty mentor, the student comments bring me back to my first patient experiences in medical school. How both the positive and not so positive experiences

working with the underserved through health fairs, home visits, and medical trips to Haiti have shaped me as a person and a physician. I hope as a faculty mentor I am able to provide guidance to our medical students about the realities our patients experience as they grow older and that **WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** It is so easy to improve the quality of life of an elderly person by just listening.



Jennifer Heffernan MD, CMD

The SAGE Program & TCOM Class of 2013



We're thankful to have this experience as we learn to interact with geriatric patients, as this will be something to help us in our future medical practice.

Solomon Sallfors
TCOM 2013



"This is a great experience for any prospective physician."

Anil Johoor
TCOM 2013

This program was developed to provide students with a firsthand experience with older adults from diverse backgrounds. We realize it has taken patience and persistence to coordinate visits with your senior clients.

We want you to reflect on what it was like to communicate with the senior client and/or their caretaker, to experience the environment they live in and the difficulties they experience on a daily basis. Realizing that you do not know everything you need to know we tried to coordinate SAGE with your coursework so that over time you will develop the ability to empower your future patients.

We are learning daily what works well in this program and where the challenges are. We will continue to work to refine the program, and with your help we believe it can be a model for other medical schools.

Student Chapter of American Geriatrics Society (SCAGS) – Memory Walk

SCAGS will be participating in the annual Memory Walk to support Alzheimer's Disease. Memory Walk is the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. When you participate in Memory Walk, you join other frontline champions in the growing movement to end Alzheimer's. Here is some more information about the event:

When: Saturday, October 17th, 9:00am - 1ST AND 2ND YEARS HAVE TEST THE FRIDAY BEFORE, so this is a great day to participate!!!

Where: LaGrave Field in Fort Worth. Participants can also meet at school to ride together.

Who can participate: All students, faculty, staff, family members, and friends are encouraged to participate in this event.

How to get involved: There are many ways in which you can participate in this event:

1. **Join Our Team!**
2. **Volunteer - VOLUNTEERING COUNTS TOWARDS CLIN MED HOURS!**
3. **Donate**

If you are interested in any more information, please feel free to email Amanda Brooke Hall at abowling@hsc.unt.edu

Thank you so much for your interest in participating in the fight against Alzheimer's Disease!

UPCOMING GRAND ROUNDS

Dr. Ron Cook, Texas Tech – November 18th

All are invited to attend – so please mark your calendars!

Dr. Mindy J. Fain, MD - October 28th Grand Rounds

University of Arizona

Mindy J. Fain, MD is Director of the Arizona Geriatric Education Center (AzGEC). She is also Section Head for Geriatrics and Gerontology at the University of Arizona, Associate Professor of Medicine and Nursing, University of Arizona Colleges of Medicine and Nursing, and Medical Director for the Home-based Primary Care Program at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System, recognized nationally for her contributions in education, clinical care, and program

development. Since joining the University of Arizona medical faculty in 1985, she has made a remarkable difference in the availability and quality of health care in Arizona, especially among the state's burgeoning population of elderly. Among her achievements, she expanded one of the first geriatric home care programs in Arizona and received the Under Secretary for Health's Award as a Clinical Program of Excellence in Home-based Primary Care. Extremely active in

the Arizona medical community, Dr. Fain is a member of the board and editor of the Journal of the Arizona Geriatric Society. She also contributes to the continuing education of medical colleagues and other health professionals through numerous presentations on geriatrics. Dr. Fain is tireless in her efforts to raise community awareness about the growing problems of Elder Abuse and neglect and what can be done to combat it.



Death by Bed Rest!
Superimposed problems of bed rest and the process of care, clinical complications, prevention and management strategies.

SAVE the DATE

Reynolds Annual Geriatric Update

Alzheimer's Disease: Implications for an Aging Society

Saturday, November 14, 2009

UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth

This conference will train healthcare professionals on the latest diagnosis and treatment approaches to Alzheimer's Disease.

KENOTE SPEAKER:

Rachelle Doody, MD, PhD

Professor of Neurology

Effie Marie Cain Chair in Alzheimer's Disease Research - Baylor College of Medicine

Register online at www.RegisterWithUNT.com

Up to 6.5 CME Credits

6.5 Hours Category 1A, AOA; 6.5 Category 1 Credits AMA PRA; Includes Ethics/Professional Responsibility; 6.5 Hours of continuing education for nurses, social workers, & CHES.

Geriatric Fellowship Program

A shortage of geriatricians exists in the United States and is projected to worsen over the next 20 years. Currently, there is one geriatrician for every 5000 adults age 65 and older, according to the American Geriatric Society.

Geriatric medicine offers some of the greatest career opportunities for modern healthcare professionals. Strengthening your credentials with a Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine could help you be in the right place at the right time with the right expertise!

One and two year training programs are available. The curriculum encompasses didactic coursework, teaching, clinical experience, healthcare management/administration, palliative/end of life care and research. Stipends are competitive.

For additional information contact: Dr. Moss at 817-735-0660 or Email: amoss@hsc.unt.edu

Provider Fact Sheets.....

The Reynolds Program has a compendium of engaging single page, practical, evidence-based Provider Fact Sheets synthesizing key concepts in common geriatric syndromes and common diseases in older adults. These provider facts sheets were developed by the University of Arizona.

Fact Sheet Topics:

- Delirium in Elders
- Depression
- Fall in Elders
- Systolic Hypertension
- Urinary Incontinence Treatment
- Urinary Incontinence Diagnosis
- Health Literacy
- Elder Abuse

In 2030, it is estimated that there will only be one geriatrician for every 7,665 older adults, representing a 50% decline over the next 25 years

Reynolds GET IT Program Staff to attend Reynolds Meeting in Las Vegas – October 21-23rd

The Reynolds GET-IT Program Staff and Faculty Members will be attending the 8th Annual Reynolds Grantee Meeting on October 21st-23rd in Las Vegas, Nevada. The UNTHSC Reynolds GET-IT Program staff will have the opportunity to meet with the other Reynolds Grantee Universities from across the United States representing the four cohorts of universities having received this grant. It will be a time of training and an opportunity to share our first year accomplishments and to get feedback on what other Reynolds programs are implementing. The keynote address will come from Dr. Christine K. Cassel, MD, MACP, President and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the ABIM Foundation. Other presenters include Eric S. Holmboe, MD, of the American Board of Internal Medicine, and Aggie Butler, PhD, and Kathy Holtzman, PhD, of the National Board of Medical Examiners.



Americans are living longer and older adults can now live for many years with multiple chronic illnesses.