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GET-IT Newsletter

Special Interest Articles:

- Geriatric Infused Curriculum
- Surgery Clerkship Embraces Geriatrics
- Meet the Reynolds Staff

Infusing Geriatrics into UNTHSC

The GET-IT Program staff in a cooperative effort with the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine has been working diligently to integrate geriatrics into the school of medicine. This is to address the national shortage of Geriatricians and the medical needs of a growing geriatric population. In this newsletter, the GET-IT Program will provide updates about progress made toward the objectives of infusing geriatrics into all areas of the medical school. The program seeks to embed excellence in geriatrics in

medical education.

The specific goals of the project are to: (1) Implement an integrated Geriatrics Curriculum throughout all four years of an innovative application-oriented undergraduate medical education curriculum; (2) Implement an integrated Geriatrics Curriculum during osteopathic residency training throughout the Texas Osteopathic Postgraduate Training Institution (OPTI); (3) Establish a Geriatrics Faculty Development program for the Rural

Osteopathic Medicine Education (ROME) faculty and Texas OPTI Program Directors; and (4) Develop Geriatrics Continuing Medical Education programs for practicing physicians.

More information about the key initiatives of the Reynolds GET-IT Program will be available on our new website coming soon.

Clinical Medicine Embraces Geriatrics & the GET-IT Program!

Dr. Tom Dayberry, Course Director for Clinical Medicine, understands that it is not enough to only present a geriatric case but one must differentiate between the aspects of normal aging and function versus abnormal aging and function and the role they may play in disease development.

The Reynolds GET-IT Program worked closely with Clinical Medicine on

August 13th to present 5 seniors that Dr. Amy Moss, a Geriatrician along with family medicine faculty members could demonstrate the differences in the skin/HEENT and Thorax & Lungs of geriatric patients as examples of normal aging.

Clinical Medicine has also embraced the SAGE (Seniors Assisting in Geriatrics Education) program by not only recognizing the

importance of introducing osteopathic students to the elderly early in their education but carving out time in the curriculum for the students to visit the seniors several times each semester.





“Our goal is to provide our students a working knowledge of the distinctness of the geriatric population who require surgical intervention.”

Dr. Yurvati

Integrating Geriatric Teaching into a Surgery Clerkship, Is it Important??

The department of surgery was quite enthusiastic when we were approached by the UNTHSC **Reynolds GET-IT** team to develop a geriatric teaching component to our surgical core clerkship TCOM Course 710. As the average age of the population increases there are over 15 million patients in the octogenarian age group, and these patients will require some type of surgical intervention. Silvey (2008) reported that the ability of physicians to address the specific needs of the geriatric population is essential if we are to impact surgical outcomes in this age group.

The department of surgery had already

developed web based interactive student modules. We integrated specific geriatric surgical problems to include preoperative, intraoperative, and post operative problems specifically related to the geriatric population.

Our students access the case on line and are assigned small groups that interact as they develop the case, decide on diagnostic studies, surgical procedures and post operative management, and the inclusion of psycho- social components. In addition we added to our didactic lectures geriatric specific topics, which address specific geriatric surgical issues to include patients undergoing

cardiovascular procedures. Liu (2000) identified in their population of 367 geriatric patients undergoing surgery that about 255 developed an adverse post operative outcome. The most common complications involved the neurological or pulmonary system. Our flexibility with a web based teaching program allowed us to easily integrate concepts into our teaching modules.

**A. Yurvati DO FACOS
FICS FAHA
Professor and Chairman
of Surgery
UNTHSC TCOM
Fort Worth, Texas**

SAGE (Seniors Assisting in Geriatrics Education)



An exciting new program called the SAGE Program has been developed to pair first year medical students (Class of 2013) with a volunteer senior adult from the Meals on Wheels Program of Tarrant County. This program will aid medical school students in their

understanding and communication in working with older adults.

The goals of the program are to strengthen the TCOM medical students' medical education through increased development of competency in

attitudes, knowledge, and skills in their care of older adults. The older adult serves as a mentor for 2 years. The Texas Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2013 will be the first to experience a truly geriatrics infused curriculum.

Workshops Present Unique Information on What Physicians Need to Know about Caring for Older Adults

In its 1st year of funding, the Reynolds GET-IT Program has collaborated with PACE (Office of Professional and Continuing Education) to sponsor five Grand Rounds on: "Elder Law: What Practicing Physicians Need to Know"; Depression in and of Alzheimers Disease"; Introduction to Slow Medicine"; Life: A Circle with Challenges at Both Ends"; and the "Aging Tsunami: Can Osteopathic Physicians Ride the Wave?". The programs, approved for AMA Category 1 CME credit, were designed to increase awareness of future trends for the aging population and to discuss the role of the osteopathic physicians in geriatrics. These geriatric focused grand rounds are held once a month on Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

"We've been excited about working with the Geriatrics Department ever since Dr. Knebl approached us last year. Since we introduced a geriatrics component to Grand Rounds in February, we've educated almost 200 healthcare professionals on the latest in geriatric care. And the Geriatrics Department has added to the depth of our conferences at the 23rd Annual North Texas Family Medicine Update and the 29th Annual Dr. Stanley Weiss Practical Topics in Primary Care. PACE looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the Geriatrics Department." - Pam McFadden, Associate Vice President, Professional and Continuing Education

Continuing medical education credits are available through the Office of Professional and Continuing Education at UNTHSC. For more information regarding education credits, contact 817-735-

UPCOMING GRAND ROUNDS

Dr. Dan Swaggerty, UK – August 26th

Dr. Mindy Fain, UA – October 28th

Dr. Paul Elaezor, USC – September 23rd

Dr. A. Dentino, TTU – November 18th

Dr. Dan Swaggerty – University of Kansas

"The decision to focus my medical practice on older adults began with being close to my grandparents and other older adults as I was growing up. I was fortunate to see that most older people are vigorous and are in the community and contributing. As a geriatrician, I am able to provide both primary care and specialty medical services to a full array of older adults, from the completely independent to the very frail. It is satisfying to focus on individuals for all

of their health care needs and follow them throughout the various care settings - outpatient clinic, hospital, home care, assisted living, and long term care facilities".

Dr. Swagerty completed medical school, Family Practice residency, and Geriatric Medicine fellowship training at University of Kansas School of Medicine.

Dr. Swagerty's clinical interests include primary care, geriatric assessment and consultation, preventive

medicine, and long term care. He is medical director at the Kansas City Presbyterian Manor a primary teaching nursing facility affiliated with the Center on Aging. His research interests include malnutrition, medication use in the elderly, long term care system management, autonomy issues, and educational methodologies.

From: KU Medical Center
Landon Center on Aging



"My mom (now age 91) said, 'An old person needs an old doctor.' She's right!"



"Great presentation as is--personal touch is a major plus."

OMM Podcasts being developed!

The GET-IT Program is working with Dr. Gamber, DO and Dr. English, DO to develop Podcasts that demonstrate osteopathic OMM techniques with older adults.

What are we working on.....

- Reviewing previous year's curriculum for geriatric content
- Developing a Reynolds GET-IT website
- Creating a Reynolds GET-IT Logo
- Infusion into all 4 years of osteopathic medical school curriculum
- Surveys being implemented to 1st year medical students & Residents and Faculty
- Semester 2 Curriculum
- SAGE Program
- Reynolds GET-IT Advisory Board Meeting 9/11



Meet the GET-IT staff

Principal Investigator – Dr. Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, FACP, FACP

Dr. Knebl, developed and implemented the TCOM mandatory fourth year medical student core geriatrics rotation and has more than 20 years of clinical experience as a practicing fellowship trained Geriatrician with Certification of Added Qualifications in Geriatrics.

*Janice Knebl D.O.
Chief of the
Geriatrics Division at
UNTHSC and the
program Primary
Investigator believes
that most physicians
will be treating older
adults as a part of
their medical
practice. She believes
that enhanced patient
care can be promoted
through increased
training in geriatrics.*

Program Director-David Farmer, Ph.D.

Dr. Farmer has been in private practice with the Meier Clinics in Dallas and Fort Worth. David has over 23 years of experience in the fields of psychology, counseling, program management and education.

Education Coordinator –Yolanda Pitts, M.Ed., CHES

Yolanda is the Education Coordinator for the Reynolds GET-IT Program and comes to us from UNTHSC School of Public Health. Her background includes a Masters in Adult Education and she has previous experience in program development, aging services and education.

New Administrative Assistant – Linda Webb

Please Welcome- Linda Webb

Linda is the new Administrative Assistant for the Reynolds GET-IT Program and Geriatrics Department of Internal Medicine. Linda comes to us from Terrell, Texas with over 20 years of secretarial experience.