



Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society

Western Division

An Affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society

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2016 ANNUAL REPORT

As President of the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society – Western Division (PAGS-WD), I am pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report, which outlines the achievements of the organization. As a regional affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), the PAGS-WD is a thriving specialty organization within the region. The Society has consistently grown and continues to educate healthcare professionals from multiple disciplines to foster professional and public awareness in geriatric medicine.

The organization provides awareness through outstanding educational offerings for the western region, as well as serves as a leader for healthcare professionals from all disciplines involved in eldercare. The Society's website, www.pagswd.org, is a convenient resource for relevant and timely information for those involved with the quality of care for the geriatric population.

The Board of Directors provides active oversight of our organization's mission and goals. The Board maintained a full slate for 2016, which is comprised of two Officers and thirteen Directors for a total of fifteen members. In addition, two "Healthcare Professional Advisors" contribute to Board activities. Serving as Healthcare Professional Advisors for 2016 are Rachel Jantea, MD, a fellow in Geriatric Medicine, and Priya Murali, MD a resident in Internal Medicine. Both Dr. Jantea and Dr. Murali will continue to serve in 2017.

Your support is a testament to the success of the organization as your membership is instrumental in the Society's achievements and ability to create awareness to healthcare providers in our region.

The following strategic goals were reviewed and approved by the Board on January 8, 2016. Throughout the year, an emphasis was placed on each item and has been successfully accomplished.

- 1. Promote geriatric education for all geriatric healthcare professionals.*
- 2. Provide an opportunity for networking with other professionals who share an interest in improving care for older adults.*
- 3. Advocate for programs and public policy which will improve the health and well-being of older adults.*
- 4. Encourage students and residents to pursue careers in geriatrics.*

Finances. The Society's finances remain sound. The Secretary/Treasurer (working with the President and Board of Directors) oversees all accounts for the Society to operate efficiently and effectively within the organization's budget. The three primary accounts include the checking account, business money market and the special education business money market.

Membership. Membership continues to be solid with multiple healthcare disciplines comprising the organization. Total membership stands at 226, as compared to 221 members in 2015. This year's resident recruitment outreach produced 10 new members, which brings the total number of resident members to 40. Program directors of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine residency programs received membership information and were asked to distribute to their resident and fellows. Each can join the organization at no cost for the duration of their training.

Recruitment of new members continues to be a top priority. Resources for recruitment outreach campaigns include: the registration list of the annual Clinical Update conference; the Pennsylvania Medical Directors Association membership list; the American Geriatrics Society state listing, and the Fall Program attendee list. They all serve as valuable resources to outreach to prospective members. Furthermore, the Board of Directors is directly involved in the recruitment and retention process. Each Board member sends personalized recruitment letters to colleagues. Membership support enables the organization to continue to provide quality education programs and sustain the various society awards.

The Society continues to have a strong collaborative partnership with the Allegheny County Medical Society (ACMS), which provides administrative services and additional resources for new membership outreach campaigns.

Educational Programming. The organization seeks to increase the geriatrics expertise of healthcare professionals who care for older adults by providing high quality educational programs. Each program is detailed below. The society relies on collaborative opportunities and partnerships from various companies and organizations to aid in offsetting the costs of these programs. This year was an exceptional year for partnering, allowing us to remain financially strong.

Controversies in Geriatric Medicine (June Program)

Established June of 2015, the "Controversies in Geriatric Medicine" series is a unique offering. What differentiates the course is the focus on audience participation and interaction throughout the presentation.

This year's program was held June 16, 2016 at the Herberman Conference Center of UPMC Shadyside Pittsburgh, PA, with 45 attendees. The program presented the case of an elderly patient with severe dementia who is bedbound and is frequently hospitalized. The complex management of the patient, made more challenging by the need to negotiate every step with a difficult family member, was the focus of the conversation.

Syeda Arabi, MD, geriatric medicine fellow, presented the case with Fred Rubin, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Chief of Medicine, UPMC Shadyside, serving as moderator. Expert panelists included: Jason Byron, MA, Manager of Medical Ethics at UPMC, Co-Chair of the UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside Ethics Committee; Amelia Gennari, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of



Geriatric Medicine, University of Pittsburgh; James O'Toole, MD, Director of Wound Care, UPMC Shadyside, Associate Chair, Department of Plastic Surgery, UPMC; and Timothy Patton, DO, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Dermatology, University of Pittsburgh.

24th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine

This exceptional program continues to be a premier educational conference. The conference is directed by Drs. Shuja Hassan, Judith Black and Neil Resnick. The course directors, working with dedicated members of the planning committee, consistently provide attendees a unique award-winning conference.



Over 350 professionals, representing all disciplines, participated in the 24th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine held April 7-9, 2016 at the Marriott Pittsburgh City Center. The annual conference is jointly sponsored by the Society; UPMC/University of Pittsburgh Institute on Aging; and University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences. The course features prominent national speakers, as well as nationally renowned local faculty. Dan Blazer, MD, PhD; Lewis Lipsitz, MD; Barbara Messinger-Rapport, MD, PhD, Robert Palmer MD, MPH, Sharon Inouye, MD, MPH, and Donna Fick comprised this year's guest faculty.

International Hospital Elder Life Program

The 14th annual International Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP co-directed by Drs. Sharon Inouye and Fred Rubin) was again held in collaboration with the Clinical Update HELP attendees are provided the opportunity to participate in both educational programs. The HELP conference educates HELP teams regarding strategies for delirium prevention, and using HELP as a way to improve hospital-wide care of the elderly. In 2016, the course attracted a record number of attendees (81) from across the county, plus participants, from Canada, Germany and Japan.



Fall Program

The Fall Program continues to be a popular event. The evening began with the annual fall business meeting of the Society, followed by dinner and a symposium entitled “Natural Evolution of Telemedicine for Care of the Elderly”. We met at the University Club in Oakland on November 1, with generous sponsorship from Curavi Health, Optum, Presbyterian Seniorcare Network, Sanofi, UPMC For Life, and UPMC Resources for Life. There were over 75 attendees.



Moderated by Namita Ahuja, MD, distinguished panel presenters included: Jack Cahalane, PhD, MPH, Chief, General Adult Service Line, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, UPMC Health System; Steven Handler, MD, PhD, CMD, Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine and Department of Biomedical Informatics, Chief, Medical Informatics Officer, UPMC Community Provider Services; and Andrew Watson, MD, MLitt, FACS, Chief Medical Information Officer, International and Commercial Services, Medical Director, UPMC Telemedicine, Medical Director, Center for Connected Medicine. They reviewed the potential of telemedicine in care of the elderly, and demonstrated how widespread it has already become.

David C. Martin Award. Established in 1999, the David C. Martin award recognizes academic excellence in the field of geriatric medicine by medical students. This philanthropic effort, solely supported by society funds, provides each award recipient an honorarium (up to \$1,500.00) to defray the costs of attending the annual meeting of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS). Eligible students will have had their scholarly work accepted for presentation at the meeting. To date, the Society has awarded over \$78,000 to medical students in the region.

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Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award. Initiated in 2015, the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award is presented to two (2) outstanding teachers (a physician and a nonphysician healthcare professional) for their dedication and commitment to geriatric education. Members and non-members of the Society are eligible for the award with nominees having demonstrated leadership and inspired learners to better the care of older adults, as well as having contributed to the growth of geriatrics in their professions. The award committee, chaired by Rollin Wright, MD, oversees the selection process.



Inaugural awardees were Daniel DiCola, MD and Betty Robison, MSN, RN-BC. Dr. DiCola is the director of Geriatrics Education, Latrobe Area Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program; associate professor of Family Medicine, Jefferson Medical College/Sidney Kimmel Medical College; and medical director HIS Mountain View Nursing Home. Ms. Robison is a gerontology educator with the Aging Institute of UPMC Senior Services, and adjunct faculty, Chatham University. Each was honored at the 2016 Clinical Update dinner symposium, where they were recognized for their achievements.

Legislative. The Pennsylvania Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) advancement continued to make progress in 2016. Judith Black, MD, MHA Secretary/Treasurer, continually kept the Board of Directors apprised throughout the year on the status of the POLST program in Pennsylvania. The stakeholders group (originally convened by the Pennsylvania Medical Society in 2012) is working toward finalizing a set of parameters on key issues that will be used as the foundation for drafting legislation. The goal is to reach consensus for unification in urging the legislature to enact the proposed bill. Currently, there are no regulations or legislation that guides POLST use (as is in most states). The collaborative effort with POLST includes sending out timely information, as well as having a dedicated link to POLST activities on the PAGS-WD website. We will continue to be a POLST champion and monitor advocacy efforts in 2017.

2017. As we head into 2017, I am confident we will remain an important and active society in our region. The goal of engaging and educating healthcare professionals in the provision of quality health care for all older persons will remain our primary focus, while we also continue to recognize excellent geriatrics educators through our Geriatric Teacher of the Year award. We will continue to partner with the American Geriatrics Society and aid in their public policy advocacy efforts for older adults, as well as continue our relationship with key members of the POLST consortium. The Officers and Board of Directors will remain committed to providing strong leadership, as well as remain diligent in keeping members engaged. We continue to develop future Geriatrics professionals through our programs aimed at students, residents, and fellows.

I am confident that our Society will continue to build upon the accomplishments of previous years and that participation by all members will continue to grow. Your continued loyalty, support, and participation have been the bedrock of our success. Let's continue to build a better future for older Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to your continued involvement in 2017!

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Rubin, MD

Fred Rubin, MD, President