

# 2016 GERIATRICS TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society Western Division (PAGS-WD) is pleased to announce the 2016 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award recipients Daniel DiCola, MD (Physician Awardee) and Betty Robison, MSN, RN-BC (Healthcare Professional Awardee).

The award is presented to two outstanding teachers for their dedication and commitment to geriatric education. Dr. DiCola and Ms. Robison exemplify geriatrics teaching excellence and made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics and to the progress of geriatrics education across the health professions.

Dr. DiCola is Director of Geriatrics Education, Latrobe Area Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program; Associate Professor of Family Medicine, Jefferson Medical College/Sidney Kimmel Medical College; Medical Director, IHS Mountain View Nursing Home. His commitment is evident at the hospital, health system and community levels, and despite the time involved in all of his clinical and teaching endeavors, he is invariably generous in sharing his time and knowledge with the community.

Michael Semelka, DO, FAAFP, who submitted the nomination for Dr. DiCola,



*Daniel DiCola, MD*

along with Courtney Floyd, MD, wrote, “Dr. DiCola represents our profession in the most positive light and serves as an outstanding role model for our residents, faculty, and the entire medical staff. Dan has also won numerous teacher of the year awards by residents, is actively involved in teaching third-year medical students from Jefferson Medical College, and runs our morning reports every day. If there were such a position in a residency program as ‘Designated Teacher,’ Dan would be it.”

“Our geriatrics curriculum is longitudinal, involving regular lectures, weekly nursing home rounds, journal clubs, board review questions, and patient cases – all of which Dan attends and leads. Dan is also present at every resident conference, often giving input from a geriatrician’s perspective on whatever is discussed. Due to the robust geriatric education our residents receive (under Dan’s guidance), many of our graduates work in nursing homes. Dan has even recently inspired some of our recent graduates to pursue fellowships in geriatrics.”

Ms. Robison, MSN, RN-BC, Gerontology Educator, Aging Institute (AI) of UPMC Senior Services, Adjunct Faculty, Chatham University.

Through her leadership and support, Ms. Robison formed the Western Pennsylvania chapter of the National Gerontological Nursing Association (NGNA), one of only three NGNA



*Betty Robison, MSN, RN-BC*

chapters statewide. She has worked closely with staff at UPMC McKeesport and through the contributions of her leadership, a core educational team was created at the hospital that worked to apply for and was awarded NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders).

In her nomination letter of Ms. Robison, Taafoi Kamara, MPH, wrote, "I have had the privilege to work closely with Betty Robison and am wholly inspired regarding her commitment to the older adult and her commitment to ensuring that professional caregivers are provided with the opportunity to learn and advance their knowledge and skills. She seeks to take learning to the next level and is constantly searching for the unmet needs and new and innovative ways to educate the front line."

Nominator Kelly Neal, DNP, CRNP-BC included, "Betty's passion for geriatrics and education coupled with her natural leadership ability and creative methods of teaching shine through in this small

sample of education projects she has developed and/or facilitated during her tenure as the AI Gerontological Educator: Ageless Wisdom – an interactive and experiential geriatric sensitivity program which assists participants to identify and experience sensory, cognitive, psychological, functional and social changes of aging; The Gerontological Nurse Certification Review – prepares nurses to sit for the Gerontological Nursing board certification."

Dr. DiCola and Ms. Robison will be recognized at an award presentation to take place prior to the dinner symposium held in conjunction with the 2016 Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine conference. The dinner symposium will be held April 7 at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center.

Awardees will be honored with a plaque and receive complimentary membership in the society for one year.