



# Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society

Western Division

An Affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society

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## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

As this year ends, I will have served my final term as President of the Society. It has been an honor and privilege to have served in this role. I wish to thank the Board of Directors and Planning committee members for their support and dedication to achieve our goals, which include the provision of educational activities for our members and for the healthcare community in our region. I would like to thank all our members, who are the strength of the organization. We accomplish more when we work together! As my last duty as President, I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report, which outlines our yearly achievements.

As a regional affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), the PAGS-WD is a thriving specialty organization. This was a productive year with enormous time and energy spent on continuing our tradition of providing quality programming for members. In recognition of our tireless work, the Society was recognized for excellent educational offerings by the AGS and was named recipient of the 2018 State Affiliate Achievement Award (award recognition in its entirety can be found under the Education Section, Page 2).

The Society remains true to the mission of *educating healthcare professionals from multiple disciplines to foster professional and public awareness in geriatric medicine*. We provide awareness through outstanding educational offerings, as well as serve as a leader for healthcare professionals from all disciplines involved in eldercare. The Society's website, [www.pagswd.org](http://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 2018. In addition to the Board of Directors, a "*Healthcare Professional Advisor*" contributes to Board activities. The incumbent is Rachel Jantea, MD, a fellow in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

The following strategic goals were approved by the Board on January 16, 2018. Throughout the year, an emphasis was placed on each item, with all 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.*

*2018 American Geriatrics Society State Affiliate Achievement Award Recipient.*

*This is the third State Affiliate Award bestowed on the Society by the AGS.*

4. *Encourage students and residents to pursue careers in geriatrics.*

**F**inances. 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 a checking account, business money market and the special education business money market.

**M**embership. Membership continues to remain steady with multiple healthcare disciplines comprising the organization. Total membership stands at 209 as compared to 216 in 2017. This year's resident recruitment outreach produced 13 new members, which brings the total number of resident members to 41. Program directors of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine residency programs were asked to distribute recruitment information to their residents and fellows. Each can join the organization at no cost for the duration of their training.

The student category was revised this year. On the recommendation of Dr. Christine Herb, Chair of the membership committee, in September, membership dues became complimentary for students in healthcare disciplines, such as medicine, pharmacy, and physical therapy. As of October 1, the Society welcomed six students into the organization.

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 June and Fall Program attendee list. 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.

Administrative services are handled through a partnership with the Allegheny County Medical Society (ACMS), which provides support and additional resources for new membership outreach campaigns, as well as maintaining all Society business.

**E**ducational Programming. The AGS presented the Society with its **2018 AGS State Affiliate Achievement Award for Innovative Educational programming**. This prestigious award is given to an AGS state affiliate who has successfully achieved continued growth of educational programs.

The Society was recognized for the Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine conference, the Controversies in Geriatric Medicine program and the annual Fall Program. The David C. Martin award was also highlighted. On behalf of the Society, Neil Resnick, MD and Fred Rubin, MD accepted an honorarium of \$1,500 along with a certificate at the AGS Awards Ceremony held in conjunction with the national meeting on May 3-5, 2018.

This is the third time that this honor has been bestowed on the Society, with recognition in 2003 and 2011.



Highlights of each of our educational offerings are detailed below. To subsidize programming, the Society relies on collaborative opportunities and partnerships from various companies and organizations. This year was an exceptional year for sponsorships, allowing us to remain financially sound.

## Controversies in Geriatric Medicine (June Program)

Established June of 2015, the “Controversies in Geriatric Medicine” series is a unique offering. What differentiates the program is the focus on audience participation and interaction throughout the presentation. With robust sponsorship, we concluded the event with a small excess margin.

Over 40 attendees participated in the 4th annual program held June 19 at the Herberman Conference Center, Pittsburgh, PA. “*Navigating Difficult Decisions*,” presented the case of an 80-year old woman with diabetes and generalized atherosclerosis who underwent repair of a 5.7 cm AAA with an endovascular stent. A stormy post-operative course led to 4 months in the hospital.

Moderator for the evening was President, Fred Rubin, MD. Leading the panel discussion was Nivedita Gunturi, MD, geriatric medicine fellow, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Pittsburgh and Jane Schell, MD, FNKF, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of Palliative Care and Medical Ethics, Division of Renal and Electrolytes, University of Pittsburgh.



## 26th 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 world class conference.

More than 350 geriatrics professionals from all disciplines, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, social workers, long-term care and managed care providers, and health care administrators participated in the conference held at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center Hotel April 5-7. Registrants from

numerous states, including California, North Carolina, New York and Washington participated in this year’s offering.

At the conclusion of the conference, Judith Black, MD announced she is stepping down as a course director. Her leadership, dedication, and tireless commitment will be missed. She and Dr. Rubin co-founded the course in 1988, and she has served as a course co-director ever since.

## Fall Program

**T**he Fall program continues to be a popular event. Over 55 internists, family practitioners, geriatricians, geriatric psychiatrists, pharmacists, nurses, nursing home administrators, and social workers attended the evening dinner program. The Society made a small profit, due to solid sponsorship.

The program, which began in 2003, is popular with members, attracting distinguished guest speakers, comprised of both national and local faculty. This year was no exception, as we welcomed guest speaker Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF) and its three operating arms, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative (PRHI), Health Careers Futures (HCF) and the Women's Health Activist Movement Global (WHAMglobal).



Dr. Feinstein presented, *Living a Good Life, Not Just a Long One*. The presentation focused on the challenges adults face when aging and finding new meaning and purpose in life. Dr. Feinstein highlighted that a growing body of research suggests that finding renewed purpose later in life, can quite literally, be a life saver.

Since its inception,  
the Society has  
awarded over  
**\$81,000**  
to medical students.

**D**avid 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. Eligible students will have had their scholarly work accepted for presentation at the meeting. To date, the Society has awarded over \$81,000 to medical students in the region.

Benjamin Cahill, 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical student attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine was the 2018 recipient. Mr. Cahill was presented with a certificate of excellence and honorarium at the dinner symposium held during the Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine conference.

**G**eriatrics Teacher of the Year Award. Initiated in 2015, the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award is presented to two 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. Dr. Rollin Wright chairs the selection committee.

This year's Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Awardees were Jordan F. Karp, MD and Heather Sakely, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP. Each was honored at the Clinical Update dinner symposium, where they were recognized for their achievements.



**L**egislative. The Pennsylvania Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) advancement continued to make progress in 2018. 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. In October of 2018, legislation, Bill 623 - Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment Act, was overwhelmingly passed by the Senate on October 1.

SB623 creates a legal framework for POLST directives and ensures that a patient's wishes for end-of-life care follow the patient across health care settings. The bill now moves to the House for committee consideration. The collaborative effort with POLST includes sending out timely information, as well as having a dedicated link to POLST activities on the PAGES-WD website. We will continue to be a POLST champion and monitor advocacy efforts in 2019.

**2019** As we head into the new year, I am confident we will remain a dynamic organization in our region and a model for other state affiliates. 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 new President and Board of Directors will remain committed to providing strong leadership, keeping members engaged, and continuing to develop future Geriatrics professionals through our programs aimed at students, residents, and fellows.

We will build upon our accomplishments and continue to grow the organization with new members. Your continued loyalty, support, and participation have been the bedrock of our success. Let's continue to build a better future for older Pennsylvanians. *I look forward to your continued involvement in 2019.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Fred Rubin, MD*

Fred Rubin, MD, President