

PENNSYLVANIA GERIATRICS SOCIETY

WESTERN DIVISION



AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY

VOLUME 25 No. 1
SPRING 2021

Fall Program Highlights

First Virtual Offering a Success

The Fall program continues to be a popular event. More than 64 internists, family practitioners, geriatricians, pharmacists, nurses, nursing home administrators, and social workers participated in the evening program. Due to crowd restrictions imposed by the CDC to avoid the spread of COVID-19, this was the first "virtual" program using the Zoom platform organized by the Society in collaboration with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Thanks to program sponsors: AHN Healthcare@Home, Community LIFE, Optum, Grane Hospice Care, Inc., Presbyterian SeniorCare Network, and Oasis Senior Advisors, educational program costs were minimal for the Society to host.

The program, which began in 2003, is popular with members and attracts distinguished guest speakers comprised of both national and local faculty. This year was no exception, with an expert panel comprised of ER, Critical Care and Long-term Care physicians and a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Infectious Diseases exploring: COVID-19 Across the Healthcare Spectrum.

Leading the panel presentation and serving as moderator was David Nace, MD, MPH, Clinical Chief of

Geriatric Medicine, Director, Long-Term Care Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh; Chief of Medical Affairs, UPMC Senior Communities.

The remaining panel members included: Eitan Dickman, MD, MMM, FACEP, FAIUM, Executive Vice Chairman and Medical Director, Department of Emergency Medicine at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY; Aaron Pickering, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist - Infectious Diseases at UPMC St. Margaret; and Douglas White, MD, MAS, Vice Chair and Professor of Critical Care Medicine, UPMC Endowed Chair for Ethics in Critical Care Medicine, Director, Program on Ethics and Decision Making in Critical Illness at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Presenters explored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in detail, each providing their expertise and experiences with patient care on several levels and the effect of this crisis on physicians and frontline caregivers.

Continuing Medical Education credits were provided to participants.



PAGS-WD welcomes newly installed president

Christine Herb, MD, assumed the role of president of the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division (PAGS-WD) Jan. 1, 2021, and will serve a two-year term. Dr. Herb will oversee the Board of Directors, which is comprised of 19 healthcare professionals representing various disciplines and local institutions throughout the region.

Dr. Herb is a board-certified internist and geriatrician. She is a native of Pittsburgh and completed her residency training at Allegheny Health Network, where she also served as a chief resident. She completed her fellowship training in geriatric medicine at the UPMC Presbyterian program. Currently, she works as an associate program director for the Allegheny Health Network Internal Medicine Residency. Prior to this, she served as core faculty and the subspecialty education coordinator for geriatrics at AHN. In this role, she designed the curriculum for the geriatric rotation that every third-year resident completes. Dr. Herb sees inpatient geriatric consults at Allegheny General Hospital and serves as a teaching attending at West Penn Hospital. She also sees both long-term and rehabilitation patients at the Willows skilled nursing facility in Oakmont.

As president, Dr. Herb will work with the Board to further the Society's goals, which include:

- Develop, support and promote the clinical practice of geriatrics and support practitioners who provide such care.
- Increase the number of physicians knowledgeable about geriatrics and committed to the clinical care of the aged.
- Engage with the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) on public policy efforts that will result in improved health care for older people.
- Increase the membership base of the society, to foster and encourage active participation by its members and to serve the needs of the membership.
- Develop and maintain productive and collaborative relationships with other professional organizations, provider groups, political and lay organizations concerned with the healthcare of older persons.



Dr. Herb

Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division

MISSION: The PAGS-WD, formed in 1991, is a non-profit organization comprised of physicians and health care professionals from all disciplines committed to the provision of quality health care for older persons. As a regional affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), the organization aids in the efforts of the AGS in developing, implementing and advocating programs in patient care, research, professional education, public policy and public information for the Western Pennsylvania region.

Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine

The 29th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine will be held virtually April 8-9, 2021, in observance of CDC regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Presented by the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division, UPMC/University of Pittsburgh Aging Institute and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in Health Sciences, the program will be an evidence-based approach to help clinicians take exceptional care of these often-frail individuals. This conference is set with question-and-answer sessions, vendor halls, and opportunities to engage in conversations with speakers, exhibitors and fellow attendees.

With the fastest-growing segment of the population comprised of individuals more than 85 years of age, this conference is a premier educational resource for healthcare professionals involved in the direct care of older people. As the recipient of the American Geriatrics Society State Achievement Award for Innovative Educational Programming, the Clinical Update attracts prominent national and international lecturers and nationally renowned local faculty. Continuing Medical Education credits are available to participants.

Back by popular demand, a Geriatric Cardiology Expert Panel will be part of the agenda with Parag Goyal, MD, MSc, providing an update in heart failure; Ashok Krishnaswami, MD, MAS, FACC, discussing a case-based approach of balancing benefit and harm during hypertension treatment in older adults; Nicole Orr, MD, FACC, presenting post-acute cardiac management; and Daniel Forman, MD, offering a statins update. All of these physicians will participate in a live, rapid-fire question-and-answer session. In addition, Jennifer McComb, MD, will be featured in a live session of "Ask the Pulmonologist," and Krishna Tummalapalli, MD, will conduct a similar live session of "Ask the Cardiologist."



Dr. Goyal



Dr. Krishnaswami



Dr. Orr



Dr. Forman



Dr. McComb



Dr. Tummalapalli

Registration began February 5. Members of the PAGS-WD receive a discount when registering. To check on your membership status, please contact Michelle Besanceney at michelle@acms.org.

For more information on conference details, please visit our website: <http://www.dom.pitt.edu/UGM> or email us at pagswd@acms.org.

PAGS-WD welcomes two new Board members

The Society is pleased to welcome two new members who will serve on the Board of Directors: Michelle Criss, PT, PhD, and LezleyAn DeLucia, LPN.

Dr. Criss received her initial physical therapy training (MSPT) at Virginia Commonwealth University, a clinical doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) from the University of Pittsburgh, and a PhD in Physical Therapy from Nova Southeastern University. Missy is board certified in geriatric physical therapy and is Assistant Professor in Chatham University's DPT Program. Her clinical experience spans 25 years and several practice settings (SNF, IRF, HH, adult day program, out-patient neuro), but her expertise is in SNF. She is the proud recipient of the President's Award from the American Physical Therapy Association's Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy, APTA Pennsylvania's Geriatric Special Interest Group Award of Excellence, and the Clinician-Educator Award from Chatham University's DPT Program.

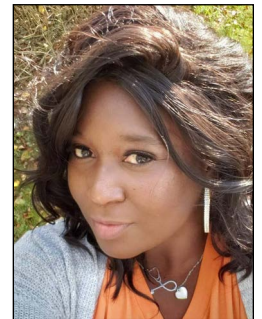


Dr. Criss

Dr. Criss is proud to have developed the accredited UPMC Centers for Rehab Services Geriatric Physical

Therapy Residency program, in which she continues to serve as a faculty member. Her research interests include use of standardized tests and measures to guide practice, ageism/attitudes about aging, and student-resident intergenerational living programs. At home in Pittsburgh, Missy enjoys spending time with her husband and two girls, volunteering with her church and community, and still taking a dance class here and there.

Ms. DeLucia has been working in the field of nursing for 17 years. Her career started as a CNA in long term/skilled care. While working at Grane Hospice Care, she was compelled to choose a career in nursing. She received her nursing license in 2016 from the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology. She continues to gain experience in skilled care nursing/rehab at Presbyterian SeniorCare of Oakmont, where she was awarded Care Giver of the Year in 2020 and participates in recruitment services.



Ms. DeLucia

Ms. DeLucia enjoys planning special events, spending time with her family and attending her children's sporting events.

Assisted Living in Pennsylvania – Free Resource Available

Many seniors are unaware of the available care options and programs that can help maintain their independence and quality of life. A free resource that provides comprehensive information on topics like financial support, organizations, and available care options (that are in every city in Pennsylvania) has been developed that can help senior citizens stay connected with their community.

Visit <https://www.caring.com/senior-living/assisted-living/pennsylvania/>

2021 Officers and Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Christine Herb, MD - President
Judith Black, MD, MHA - Secretary/Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Namita Ahuja, MD, MMM
Melissa Connelly, DNP, FNP-BC (Social Media Committee)
Michelle Criss, PT, PhD
LezleyAn DeLucia, LPN
Lauren Dornin, DNP, AGNP
Anthony Giampolo, MD, MBA, DAAPM, ABPN, NBPAS

Shuja Hassan, MD (Course Director, Clinical Update)
Elizabeth Mohan, MD
Neil Resnick, MD (COSAR Rep/AGS Cosar Co-Chair; Course Director, Clinical Update)
Fred Rubin, MD
Heather Sakely, Pharm.D, BCPS, BCGP (By-Laws Chair)
Lalith K. Solai, MD
Kawita Vichare, MD (Nominating Chair)
Lianne Glaus Vighetti, DHCE, LSW (Social Media Committee)
Lyn Weinberg, MD (Course Director, Clinical Update)
Rollin Wright, MD (Awards Chair)
David Yuan, MD (Membership Chair)

MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL FOR 2021

It's not too late to renew! Society membership dues are renewed on an annual basis. Your dues are instrumental in providing quality educational programs to healthcare professionals in our region. In addition, dues support the David C. Martin Award, making it possible to offer financial support to qualified medical students interested in the field of Geriatrics. Membership dues also are instrumental in recognizing outstanding teachers for their dedication and commitment to Geriatrics education with the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award.

Membership renewal is conveniently offered online with payments accepted using the following credit cards: Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express.

Contact Michelle Besanceney, administrator, at (412)321-5030 or michelle@acms.org to receive an e-invoice or inquire about your membership status.

Annual Report 2020

The Annual Report can be viewed by visiting the society website: https://pagswd.org/resources/Documents/PAGSWD_AnnualReport_2020%20Final.pdf. This yearly report summarizes the activities of the organization.



Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society
Western Division

An Affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society
850 Ridge Ave • Pittsburgh, PA 15212 • Phone (412) 321-5030 • Fax (412) 321-5320 • www.pagswd.org

2020 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, and I thank the Board of Directors for their support and dedication to achieve our goals set at the beginning of the year. I would like to thank all of our members, who are the strength of the organization. We accomplish more when we work together! I am pleased to present the 2020 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 challenging yet productive year with enormous time and energy spent on continuing our tradition of providing quality programming for members.

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, 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 2020. In addition to the Board of Directors, a "Healthcare Professional Advisor" contributes to Board activities. Our healthcare professionals serving on the Board are: Melissa Connelly, DNP-FNP-BC, Allegheny Health Network, and Lauren Dornin, DNP, AGNP, UPMC Health Plan.

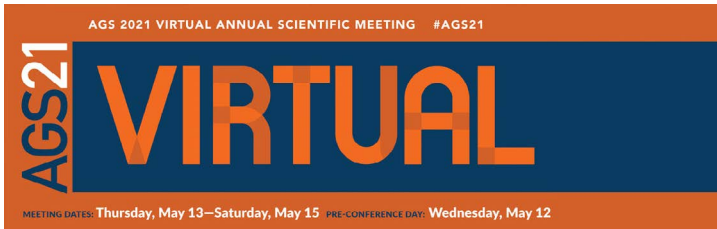
The following strategic goals were approved by the Board on January 14, 2020. Throughout the year, an emphasis was placed on each item, and all were successfully accomplished.

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.

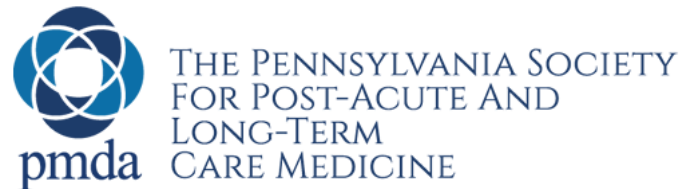
2020 Annual Report – Page 1
December 2020



Mark Your Calendar - Virtual Meetings



National Conference of Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)
40th Annual GAPNA Conference
Website: <https://www.gapna.org>
Now accepting abstracts.



American Geriatrics Society
2021 Annual Scientific Meeting
Website: www.americangeriatrics.org
May 13-15, 2021

PMDA – The Pennsylvania Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
PMDA 29th Annual Symposium
Website: <https://pamda.org>
March 11-14, 2021

American College of Physicians
Internal Medicine 2021
Website: <https://annualmeeting.acponline.org>
April 29-May 1, 2021

PPTA - APTA Pennsylvania (a chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association)
MovePA Annual Conference
Website: <https://www.apropa.org/quicklinks1>
October 22-24, 2021
Omni William Penn Hotel (pending virtual)

American Society on Aging 2021 Conference
Website: <https://www.asaging.org/on-aging>
April 6-15, 2021

Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting
Website: <http://www.sjim.org>
April 20-23, 2021

National Healthcare Decisions Day – April 16, 2021

National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) is April 16, 2021. The NHDD exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. It is an initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding healthcare and for providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be. For more information, visit <https://theconversationproject.org/nhdd/>.

COVID-19 Update

The Conversation Project has been continuing to put together new COVID-19 specific resources to help you, your loved ones and your communities during this difficult time. We encourage you to check out this new [COVID-19 specific conversation guide](#). We also invite you to take a look at these other useful COVID-19 resources we've compiled.