



Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society

Western Division

An Affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society

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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.*

EDUCATE
COMMUNICATE
and
ENGAGE
healthcare
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provision of
QUALITY
HEALTHCARE
for all older persons.



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

Membership. Membership continues to remain steady with multiple healthcare disciplines comprising the organization. The COVID-19 pandemic had a minimal impact on membership as total membership dropped slightly to 233 members, compared to 238 members in 2019. This year's resident recruitment outreach produced 1 new member, which brings the total number of resident members to 34. 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.

Recruitment of new members and retention of existing members is 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. Furthermore, the Board of Directors is directly involved in the retention process. Each Board member sends personalized retention letters to colleagues. Membership support enables the organization to continue to provide quality educational 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.

Educational Programming. The organization seeks to increase the geriatrics expertise of healthcare professionals who care for older adults by providing high-quality educational programs. The Society continually and reliably provides outstanding learning opportunities for those who care for the geriatric population. This year's suite of programming was no exception (highlights below).

To offset programming, the Society relies on collaborative opportunities and partnerships from various companies and organizations. This year was an exceptional year for partnering, allowing us to remain financially strong.

28th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine

This exceptional program continues to be a premier educational conference. Under the leadership of course directors Shuja Hassan, MD, Neil M. Resnick, MD, and Lyn Weinberg, MD, who worked diligently with the planning committee, the course was a premier educational event in the region and attracted prominent international and national lecturers and nationally renowned local faculty.

More than 380 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 28th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine conference held at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center Hotel, March 5-7. The course attracted registrants from all over the country.

The conference was jointly provided by the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society-Western Division (PAGS-WD); University of Pittsburgh Division of Geriatric Medicine; and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences.

Back by popular demand, a Geriatric Cardiology Expert Panel Q&A was well received and a crowd favorite for a second year in a row. Daniel Forman, MD, chair, Geriatric Cardiology, UPMC, moderated the session, which included guest faculty Deirdre O'Neill, MD, MSc, assistant professor of medicine, Division of Cardiology, University of Alberta Hospital, Canada; Parag Goyal, MD, MSc, assistant professor of medicine, director, Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction Program, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York; and Ashok Krishnaswami, MD, MAS, cardiologist, clinical researcher, Kaiser Permanente, San Jose Medical Center, California.

Each lecture, symposium, and break-out session offered participants evidence-based “pearls for practice” designed to be immediately incorporated into the realities of daily practice. Additional highlights of the conference included two separate “rapid” question-and-answer sessions. A panel of experts within their own field, many of which practice in the Pittsburgh region, answered numerous questions from the audience.

A Vendor Bingo also was provided, which generated excellent opportunities for engagement between vendor representatives and conference attendees. The Society would like to thank all 23 exhibitors who supported this year's conference.

Save the date! The 29th Annual Clinical Update will take place April 8-9, 2021, as a virtual conference.

28th Annual Clinical Update in

GERIATRIC MEDICINE



Cardiology Panel (with course directors) featured at the 28th Annual Clinical Update, from left, Ashok Krishnaswami, MD, MAS; Neil Resnick, MD (course director); Deirdre O'Neill, MD, MSc; Daniel Forman MD; Lyn Weinberg, MD (course director); and Shuja Hassan, MD (course director). Missing from photo: Parag Goyal, MD, MAS (who presented his lecture virtually).

Fall Program

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. For 2020, the organization realized a nominal profit from the program.

The program, which began in 2003, is popular with members, 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.

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. Eligible students will have their scholarly work accepted for presentation at the meeting. To date, the Society has awarded over \$84,500 to medical students in the region.

This year’s award recipient was Ms. Jymirah Morris, a third-year medical student attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Ms. Morris’ abstract was accepted for poster presentation by the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) at their 2020 Annual Scientific meeting, which was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since its inception, the Society has awarded over \$84,500 to medical students

Geriatrics 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 Awardee (Physician) was: **Amy M. Westcott, MD, MHPE, CMD, FAAHPM, AGSF**. Dr. Westcott joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania following her Geriatric Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowships at the University of Pennsylvania. During her tenure at the University of Pennsylvania, she created and implemented system-wide interprofessional geriatric education across undergraduate and graduate medical education.

Dr. Westcott was recruited to serve as associate professor, Geriatric and Palliative Medicine, Pennsylvania State College of Medicine in 2014. While at Penn State she designed, launched, and obtained ACGME-accreditation for the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship as well as developed a teaching nursing home that incorporated a longitudinal experience for Family Medicine Residents, patient navigation opportunities for medical students and medical direction electives for Internal Medicine Residents.

In 2018, Dr. Westcott accepted an industry position with Optum, a health care coordination and delivery organization, as the medical director for the Pennsylvania and Delaware-based providers, where she utilizes her skills as a teacher, educator, and role model for over 150 advance practice providers.

Elizabeth A. Mulvaney, MSW, LCSW, lecturer, University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work (SSW), was presented with the 2020 Healthcare Professional Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. Mulvaney holds a clinical social work license in Pennsylvania and has 14 years' practice experience as a gerontological social worker providing medical, care management, and program administration services, with experience in long-term care including behavioral care planning, dementia care, and end-of-life care. She has been a leader among SSW faculty in advancing interprofessional educational opportunities for SSW students, primarily teaching within both the MSW and BASW programs at the university.

Ms. Mulvaney served as the first Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) Coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh from December 2005 to 2011. Ms. Mulvaney's current research and practice interests include geriatric workforce development, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, ethics, palliative care and problem gambling prevention for older adults.

She also has been part of the team working on the Health Resources Services Administration grant funded Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program for the past four years, which is designed to improve health and human service professionals' capacity to serve people with dementia and their families.



Awardees honored for the contributions in the field of geriatrics include (left to right) Namita Ahuja, MD (president); Elizabeth Mulvaney, MSW, LCSW (Healthcare Professional award); Amy M. Westcott, MD, MHPE, CMD, FAAHPM, AGSF (Physician award); Sandra Gilmore, RN, MS (Lifetime Achievement award); Ms. Jymirah Morris (David C. Martin award); and Rollin Wright, MD, MS, MPH (Awards Chair).



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Legislative. In the political and public policy arena, PAGES-WD continues to be involved in state and local policy meetings. The Pennsylvania Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) advancement remains a priority. Throughout the year, Judith Black, MD, MHA, Secretary/Treasurer, apprised the Board of Directors on the status of the POLST program in Pennsylvania and will continue to do so in 2021.

On the national level, we work with the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) in their commitment to shape programs and policies that are important to older people, their families, and healthcare professionals. We are fortunate to have strong representation on the AGS Council of State Affiliate Representatives (COSAR) with Neil Resnick, MD, serving as Co-Chair for COSAR. The Society continues to be a role model which other AGS State Affiliates consult for best practices on membership renewal, educational offerings, and establishing a successful organization in their region.

2021

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 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.

The Officers 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 grow the organization with new members. Your 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 2021.*

Respectfully submitted,

Namita Ahuja, MD, MMM

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President