Centers of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and Geriatric Psychiatry Program

2010 - 2011 - 2012 Scholars
The John A. Hartford Foundation Centers of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and Training Program was initiated in 1988 to address the critical shortage of geriatrics faculty at medical schools and to strengthen the academic geriatrics institutions across the country. Currently, 28 Centers of Excellence are training fellows and faculty in the special knowledge and skills needed to ensure quality healthcare for older adults. To date, over $53 million has been granted to create a cadre of academic leaders in geriatrics. As our nation ages, we need these leaders to teach optimal care of older adults and conduct the research necessary to improve that care.

The Centers of Excellence National Program Office, established at the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR), oversees the John A. Hartford Foundation’s Centers of Excellence Program.

In 2009, The John A. Hartford Foundation awarded the American Federation for Aging Research a three-year award to take over the management of the Centers of Excellence Program and create a National Program Office to more effectively meet the nation’s urgent need for geriatrician faculty.

The program underwent several significant changes; most notably, a peer review process to identify the most promising fellows and junior faculty in geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry in the nation. The revised program, now in its third year, has supported more than 200 fellows and junior faculty.

We are extremely grateful to the members of the Program Advisory Committee, comprised primarily of CoE Directors, who, each year have given an incredibly generous allocation of time to the review. And we are especially grateful for the leadership of William Hall, MD, chair, and Richard Besdine, MD, vice chair of the committee, who so deftly navigated the program transitions. With this publication we congratulate the 2010, 2011, and 2012 Hartford Scholars. To be a Hartford Scholar is to join a prestigious group of some of the nation’s best physician-researchers and clinician-educators who are improving the care of older adults. Their commitment to the health and well-being of older adults is changing the landscape of how we treat their medical and social needs. And they will strengthen the training in geriatrics of medical students, residents, and practicing physicians.

Hartford Scholars do not work in a vacuum. They are collaborating with their peers across multiple disciplines and educating and mentoring the next generation of leaders in geriatric medicine. Despite enormous challenges affecting the field and the healthcare system overall, we applaud their resilience and commitment and we are honored and pleased to introduce them in the following pages.

Corinne Rieder, EdD
Executive Director and Treasurer
The John A. Hartford Foundation

Stephanie Lederman, EdM
Executive Director
American Federation for Aging Research
My research interest is in changes of the angiotensin system and mitochondria with aging. We were the first to report a functional and independently operated angiotensin system that appears to influence energy regulation within the mitochondria. The system is activated by common blood pressure medications, and influences both nitric oxide and energy production when signaled. We also showed that this system declines with age but can be upregulated with L-arginine treatment. This system provides a novel foundation for understanding interactions between mitochondria and chronic disease states.

I am a clinician-educator in geriatric medicine and my Hartford projects include redesigning a chronic care geriatrics rotation for fourth-year medical students and implementing a falls prevention program in an anticoagulation clinic.

The purpose of my project is to better examine what barriers clinicians face when discussing advanced care planning with patients and families in theambulatory setting. I aim to examine how clinician (e.g. type of training) and patient characteristics (e.g. comorbidities and race/ethnicity), as well as the setting (e.g. clinic vs. home) influence these discussions. I will survey providers and patient groups to gather this information.
I am a geriatrician whose research is focused on patient and provider decision making in the management of chronic kidney disease. My clinical work includes geriatric assessment of older adults with advanced chronic kidney disease who are considering renal replacement therapy and evaluation for kidney transplant. I also coordinate a geriatric nephrology lecture series which includes joint journal clubs and case conferences between faculty and trainees in geriatrics, nephrology, and palliative medicine.

Sandy S. Chang, MD, MHS
Instructor of Medicine
Yale School of Medicine
sandychang@yale.edu

I completed my internal medicine residency at Hospital La Con cepción in Puerto Rico. I am currently completing my geriatrics fellowship and I am specializing in long-term outcomes of older adults who undergo mechanical ventilation. I am working on a project aimed at improving recognition of delirium in the Intensive Care Unit.

Francisco Jose Cardona, MD
Geriatrics Fellow
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
cardonaran@uthscsa.edu

My focus is on enhancing the quality of care received by older adults by improving the relationship-centered communication skills of their physicians. To achieve this, I am working on identifying the role clinical skills exams have in reinforcing or reducing the use of these behaviors. My clinical focus is primary and consultative care of older adults in the community as well as hospital settings, with these sites serving as my primary clinical venues for teaching of learners.

Danelle Cayea, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
dreyana1@jhmi.edu

I am a clinician-educator, leader, and scholar focusing on clinical skills and curriculum development in geriatrics and undergraduate medical education. I am currently leading a systematic review of geriatrics curricula mapped to the medical student geriatrics competencies.

Anna Chang, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
anna.chang@ucsf.edu

During my fellowship at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio I studied the biology, development, management, and prevention of insulin resistance with increasing age, with a clinical interest in the management of diabetes in older persons with Type 2 diabetes mellitus and its complications. I am currently a practicing geriatrician in the San Antonio area.

Maria Y. Cipriani, MD
Geriatrician, Internist
(COE: the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio)
nocarella@uthscsa.edu

I am a practicing hematologist/oncologist who completed a fellowship in geriatric oncology. During my fellowship I focused on applying geriatric assessments to oncology patients. I developed an interactive teaching module on the American Society of Clinical Oncology Oncology website on geriatric assessment in older cancer patients, which is used by oncology fellows and licensed oncologists for continuing education credit. My research was focused on using geriatric screening tools to help predict chemotherapy tolerance in older patients with cancer.

Melissa J. Cohen, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco
mjcohen@mx.ucsf.edu

I am a practicing hemato/oncologist who completed a fellowship in geriatric oncology. During my fellowship I focused on applying geriatric assessments to oncology patients. I developed an interactive teaching module on the American Society of Clinical Oncology Oncology website on geriatric assessment in older cancer patients, which is used by oncology fellows and licensed oncologists for continuing education credit. My research was focused on using geriatric screening tools to help predict chemotherapy tolerance in older patients with cancer.

Denise R. Dahm, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine/Geriatrics
University of Pennsylvania
dahlm@upsan.edu

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Linda J. DeCherney, MD
Assistant Professor of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
linda.decherney@mssm.edu

I am a geriatrician whose long-term objective is to improve the care and health outcomes of older adults with multimorbidity. My current line of research focuses on enhancing our understanding of multimorbidity in older adults with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as the index condition. My Hartford project seeks to determine the impact of co-existing cognitive impairment on adverse health outcomes in older adults with COPD.

Julie C. Defillo, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Brown University
jdefillo@gmail.com

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Jessica L. Colburn, MD
Instructor of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
jcolburn1@jhmi.edu

I am a second-year geriatric medicine fellow specializing in the healthcare of our older adults within long-term care, and I am currently developing a videoconference training curriculum for members of the long-term care interdiscipli- nary team, focused on teamwork skills and interprofessional geriatric competencies.

Timothy Mark Corbett, MD
Geriatric Medicine Research Fellow
Wake Forest School of Medicine
tcorbett@wakehealth.edu

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I am currently developing a geriatric curriculum for family medicine residents to include geriatric consultative services within the residency practice and reorganizing the residents’ long-term care experience.

I am a cardiology fellow interested in improving systems of care for older persons, and I am studying treatment complexity and acute multimorbidity in patients hospitalized with heart failure.

I am the primary geriatric clinician-educator for the family medicine and internal medicine residents at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island. I am currently developing a curriculum to standardize the educational experience as it relates to the core geriatric competencies.

I am currently a VA research fellow through the VA Special Fellowship in Advanced Geriatrics. My research is focused on diabetes in older adults, analyzing the impact of age on A1c, and aiming to improve our understanding of diabetes in the older adult population.

I am a cardiology fellow specializing in patient care services and research expertise with family caregivers and the development of psychosocial treatments for dementia. My Hartford Foundation support adds work focuses on improving the post-hospital transition for individuals with advanced dementia, and enhancing support services for family caregivers, to prevent unnecessary rehospitalization.

I am currently developing a geriatric medicine fellowship within the training program in order to better prepare residents and fellows to improve the quality and safety of care for older patients.

I am a fellow in geriatric medicine specializing in patient safety and quality improvement with an interest in palliative care. I am currently studying symptom burden in those hemodialysis patients who are deemed unsuitable candidates for renal transplant. The goal is to develop a comprehensive palliative care intervention that targets this vulnerable and understudied subgroup of patients.

I am dual-boarded in internal medicine and dermatology, with geriatrics, medical education, and dermatology as my academic niches. My long-term goals are to become a nationally renowned clinical expert and educator in the emerging field of geriatric dermatology, who teaches medical trainees, primary care physicians, geriatricians, and dermatologists how older patients with dermatoses can be optimally managed, as well as a medical education research scholar who develops effective and individualized curricula and evaluative tools using new learning technologies.

I am a geriatrician and sleep physician who specializes in treating older people with various sleep disorders. I am currently developing curricula for geriatric medicine fellows about sleep disorders in the elderly and also developing curricula for sleep medicine fellows regarding geriatric syndromes.

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Constance H. Fung, MD, MSHS
VA Advanced Geriatric Medicine Fellow
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
constance.h.fung@gmail.com

I am a VA Advanced Geriatric Medicine Fellow who is specializing in geriatric sleep medicine, and I am currently developing a program to improve treatment of older adults with sleep apnea.

Gelareh Z. Gabayan, MD, MSHS
Assistant Professor of Medicine/ Emergency Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
gelareh@ucla.edu

I am an emergency medicine health services researcher focused on improving emergency department care for older adults through assessing the predictors of poor outcomes following the emergency encounter. Understanding these predictors will help shape my future research aimed at developing interventions, such as patient discharge tools or checklists that will improve patient safety.

David A. Ganz, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor in Residence
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
dganz@mednet.ucla.edu

I am a geriatrician-researcher focused on developing better quality improvement programs to prevent falls. Our research team has created and evaluated a program to prevent falls using an electronic health record-based clinical reminder system in primary care clinics.

Cesar H. Garcia, MD
Advanced Geriatric Fellow
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
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I am an advanced geriatrics fellow who is interested in the association of health literacy levels between Hispanic geriatric patients and their caregivers and the impact of health literacy on their health status. I conducted a study of 174 patient-caregiver dyads to answer these questions.

Adit A. Ginde, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine
University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus
gindea@ucdenver.edu

I am studying the role of high dose vitamin D supplementation in immune responses to infection and vaccines in older long-term care residents.

Robert Gorney, MD
Geriatric Psychiatry Clinical Fellow
University of California, San Diego Medical School
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I am committed to an academic career as a clinician-educator, with an emphasis on geriatric psychiatry and addictions. My research plan is to link these interests to my clinical duties as a fellow and assist with a curriculum with a focus on addiction for residents and medical students in their geriatric psychiatry rotations. My long-term goal is to become an academic clinician and medical educator specializing in both geriatric and addiction psychiatry. My current interest is the relationship between alcohol use in the older population and successful aging.

Laura P. Gelfman, MD
Associate Mount Sinai School of Medicine
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I am currently in a one-year dedicated research fellowship in palliative medicine with a focus on the role of palliative medicine in my older adult patients with heart failure. Specifically, I am examining how palliative medicine impacts the health care utilization and costs of hospitalization of older patients with heart failure.

Liza Geno, MD
Post-Doctoral Scholar
Duke University School of Medicine
liza.geno@duke.edu

I am a geriatric fellow clinician-investigator looking to improve the outcomes of older adults with end-stage lung diseases. I am currently analyzing the impact of lung transplantation on patients’ use of healthcare resources.

Maria Kristina Gestuvo, MD, MHA
Assistant Professor of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
maria.kgestuvo@msm.edu

I am developing a conversation framework that will act both as a decision support and documentation tool to help primary care physicians frame their conversations with older adults on colorectal cancer screening (CRC) with colorectaloscopy. This framework will incorporate the latest guidelines and evidence reports on CRCs, time to benefit from screening, benefits, harms, burdens, and prognosis.

Suzanne M. Gillespie, MD, RD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
suzanne.gillespie@urmc.rochester.edu

My research and teaching focus on using quality improvement to teach geriatrics and improve quality of care for older adults. Current projects include a quality improvement learning collaboratives for rural and underserved nursing homes, a geriatric education initiative for hospice providers, medical, and surgical sub-specialists, and participation on a project developing a telemedicine-enhanced care model for assisted living residences.

Anne Hall-Tierney, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Birmingham School of Medicine
ahall-tierney@bham.medicine.uab.edu

I aspire to become a leading geriatric educator and aim to achieve excellence in clinical and academic geriatrics, and I also hope to inspire others to pursue careers in geriatrics. I plan to develop several curricula, for multiple educational levels, to disseminate practical knowledge necessary to care for the complicated older patient. I will provide outstanding care for the elderly and will train other clinicians who will be able to meet the medical needs of the growing older population and who will be willing to educate future generations in geriatric care.

Angela J. Hanson, MD
Senior Fellow, Geriatric Medicine
University of Washington School of Medicine
hansonaj@uw.edu

I am a geriatrics fellow actively involved in clinical research in the field of dementia. Our laboratory investigates the role of insulin in cognition, and how metabolic risk factors such as obesity and insulin resistance may play a role in causing Alzheimer’s disease.

Caroline N. Harada, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Diego
charad@ucsd.edu

I am a junior faculty member in the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care at UAB. I am currently working on the development of an online curriculum on geriatrics for residents, as well as a Train the Trainer workshop for health professions faculty interested in teaching geriatrics.

Tanya R. Gure, MD
Assistant Professor of Geriatrics
University of Michigan School of Medicine
tanya@umich.edu

I am a geriatrician whose clinical interests are in providing high-quality primary care to medically-complex older adults. My research focuses on the epidemiology of cognitive impairment in older adults with heart failure.

Heather L. Harrington, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine
harrington@bham.medicine.uab.edu

I am a geriatrician and current GAACA awardee. I am developing a curriculum to teach geriatrics principles to hospice providers, primarily in the community outlying side of our academic center.
I am a geriatrician interested in studying the relation between cardiometabolic risk and cognitive impairment in older adults. My current research focuses on the potential roles of insulin resistance and vascular dysfunction in the development and progression of cognitive impairment.

I am a general internist studying transitions of care among older patients, particularly those involving discharge from hospital to home.

I am a physiatry resident in my final year of training, who is interested in fostering clinical and research collaborations between physiatry and geriatrics. I plan to develop a clinical education program for geriatricians and primary care providers on the evaluation of low back pain in older adults.

I recently completed both a clinical geriatrics fellowship and an advanced geriatrics research fellowship at the University of Chicago. As a new faculty member, I am studying the relationship between obesity and frailty and how physical activity plays a role in preventing frailty progression.

I am researching the association between oral health and quality of life in older adults with diabetes, and am also researching how to reduce potentially inappropriate medication use in older adults.

I am a geriatric medicine fellow with an interest in preferences for end-of-life care in older adults and patient-physician communication. I am currently conducting projects to evaluate a novel inpatient model for care for older adults and to implement an inpatient care transitions model.

I will be teaching emergency medicine residents an "Emergency Department Care of the Older Adult Patient" based on the Geriatric Competencies for Emergency Medicine Residents. I will be PI in a project developing optimal emergency department pain management for older adults. My long-term goal is to be a successful, independent academic physician/scientist, and leader in improving care of older adults.

I am a geriatric medicine fellow who is interested in developing and evaluating geriatric models of care. I am currently conducting projects to evaluate a novel inpatient model for care for older adults and to implement an inpatient care transitions model.

I am a junior faculty member in geriatrics who is interested in developing and evaluating geriatric models of care. I am currently conducting projects to evaluate a novel inpatient model for care for older adults and to implement an inpatient care transitions model.

I am a geriatric medicine fellow and clinician-educator interested in transitions and coordination of care across different settings, readmission prevention, and care of complex older adults. I am currently funding this work through a new faculty research grant. My Clinical Research Training Program is to develop skills in clinical research and the development, implementation, and evaluation of my curriculum for medical residents.

I am a physiatry resident in geriatrics and surgical specialties who is interested in clinical research and teaching geriatric clinical reasoning to geriatrics fellows. I have developed the Harvard CoE Geriatric Clinical Reasoning Curriculum which is used by geriatrics fellows.

I am an academic geriatrics investigator in clinical research in dementia and Parkinson’s disease, specifically in the interdisciplinary care of these patients in long-term care, and have developed a curriculum on this subject for medical students, residents, fellows and allied health professionals. I am currently a co-investigator in the Honolulu Asia Aging Study, a 20-year longitudinal cohort study of dementia in Japanese-American men in Honolulu, and recently received a small grant from the National Parkinson Foundation to conduct analyses on these data.

I am a bilingual/bicultural Mexican-American primary care internist trained in health services research. My career goal is to become an innovator and leader in Latino aging-related research and medicine. I seek to advance knowledge about older adult Latinos’ engagement in and access to health care services for depression and other chronic illnesses, and develop novel, culturally relevant interventions for use in community and primary care settings to promote the quality of life of low-income older adult Latinos with depression.

I am an advanced geriatrics fellow and clinician-educator interested in transitions and coordination of care across different settings, readmission prevention, and care of complex older adults. I am currently funded through a new faculty research grant. My Clinical Research Training Program is to develop skills in clinical research and the development, implementation, and evaluation of my curriculum for medical residents on transitions from skilled nursing facilities to the community, and additional study of risk factors for early readmission among low income community dwelling seniors.

I am a geriatric psychiatrist researching cognitive impairment in the elderly. My research focuses on developing innovative methods for treating geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry.

I am a rehabilitation medicine specialist who is interested in teaching geriatric clinical reasoning to geriatrics fellows. I have developed the Harvard Geriatric Clinical Reasoning Curriculum for the Harvard Geriatric Medicine Fellowship and am currently teaching the course. On the clinical side, I am developing collaborative services between geriatrics and surgical specialists at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

I am a geriatric psychiatrist specializing in the treatment of depression and other chronic mental illnesses. I am a member of a large academic psychiatry program in a teaching hospital with an active inpatient services program for geriatric psychiatry.

I am a general internist studying the relationship between obesity and frailty and how physical activity plays a role in preventing frailty progression.

I am a geriatric medicine fellow with an interest in end-of-life care in older adults and patient-physician communication. I am currently conducting projects to evaluate a novel inpatient model for care for older adults and to implement an inpatient care transitions model.

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Palliative Medicine Fellowship

I am also the associate program director for the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship program at Brown.

I am a junior faculty member in the clinician-educator track specializing in the provision of high quality palliative care service to geriatric and pediatric patients. I am also the associate program director for the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship program at Brown.

Noel S.C. Javier, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
nejavier@lifespan.org

I am an internist and geriatrician and currently a first-year health services research fellow. My research program focuses on ways to improve multidisciplinary care for older adults with HIV. My proposed Hartford project is to conduct a pilot study examining the feasibility of implementing a program to identify and address geriatric syndromes in HIV-infected adults 50 years of age and older in an HIV care setting.

Lee A. Jennings, MD
Primary Care Health Services Research Fellow
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
ljajennings@mednet.ucla.edu

I am interested in how changes in kidney function, fibrinolysin growth factor-23, and active vitamin D (1,25 dihydroxy vitamin D3) affect immune function in older adults.

Trevor A. Jolly, MBBS
Geriatric Oncology Fellow
University of North Carolina School of Medicine
Trevor.Jolly@med.unc.edu

I am a board-certified internist and geriatrician currently pursuing the geriatric oncology track of a medical oncology fellowship. My research, teaching, and scholarly interests focus on the Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment and its ability to predict chemotherapy toxicity, morbidity, and mortality in older adults with cancer.

Anna Jovanovich, MD
Neurology Fellow
University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus
anna.jovanovich@ucdenver.edu

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Helen Kao, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
helena.kao@ucsf.edu

My work is focused on building an academic community partnership to cultivate interdisciplinary geriatrics education for learners at all levels.

Mili Kannarkat, MD
Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine
Eastern Virginia Medical School (CoE: Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine)
kannarmj@evms.edu

I am a geriatric emergency medicine fellow interested in substance abuse in the elderly and I am currently doing research on alcohol withdrawal in the geriatric population.

Marianna Karounos, DO
Geriatric Emergency Medicine Fellow/Instructor of Medicine
New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College
mak9128@med.cornell.edu

I am a geriatrician and clinician-scientist in geriatric medicine fellow interested in sub- stance abuse in the elderly and I am currently doing research in the geriatric population.

Ilona M. Kopits, MD
Instructor of Medicine
Boston University School of Medicine
dkim2@bidmc.harvard.edu

I am working in the Geriatrics Section at Boston University and at the Uphams Corner Elder Service Plan (PACE) in Boston, Massachusetts. My project is to pilot a newly developed function and disability assessment tool in the PACE population.

Steve Koh, MD, MPH, MBA
Geriatric Psychiatry Research Fellow
University of California, San Diego School of Medicine
sakoh@ucsd.edu

I am a geriatrician and clinical scientist currently developing a surgical mouse model in order to investigate molecular changes induced by surgery and anesthesia that increase risk for adverse postoperative outcomes.

Helen Kao, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
helena.kao@ucsf.edu

I am a geriatrician and palliative care physician, specializing in health services research. I am currently working with the Health and Retirement Study and Medicare claims data to investigate the patient and regional factors as associated with treatment intensity among older adults with serious illness.

Amy S. Kelley, MD, MSHS
Assistant Professor of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
amy.kelley@msm.edu

I am a geriatrician and clinical investigator who is investigating the role of subclinical vascular disease in age-related functional loss and disability. I am also interested in clinical prediction modeling and epidemiological methods.

I am a clinician-scientist in geriatric medicine and I have been conducting research on the role of circulating osteogenic precur- sor cells in fracture healing and bone formation.

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I am a clinician-scientist in geriatric medicine and I have been conducting research on the role of circulating osteogenic precur- sor cells in fracture healing and bone formation.

Helen Kao, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
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I am a geriatrician and palliative care physician, specializing in health services research. I am currently working with the Health and Retirement Study and Medicare claims data to investigate the patient and regional factors as associated with treatment intensity among older adults with serious illness.

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At the start of the award, I will be an instructor of medicine working on a project to improve the competencies of second-year internal medicine residents at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the areas of medication reconciliation and polypharmacy through innovative teaching methods. My main responsibility as a clinician-educator is to coordinate the internal medicine residency geriatric rotation. My Hartford Foundation-funded scholarly project includes: 1) developing and implementing a unique geriatric curriculum for internal medicine residents encompassing inpatient Acute Care for the Elderly (ACE) unit and nonhospital (subacute, long term care, primary care) components and 2) developing a geriatric core competencies-based tool for faculty evaluation of medical residents.

I am an assistant professor of psychiatry specializing in diabetes mellitus among older adults with depression symptoms in older populations and am currently studying racial and ethnic differences in quality of life among older adults with diabetes.

I am a general internal medicine fellow specializing in diabetes in older populations and am currently studying racial and ethnic differences in quality of life among older adults with diabetes.

I am dual-trained in geriatric medicine and endocrinology, specializing in osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease. I am currently researching the interaction between osteoporosis and diabetes mellitus among older adults.

I am a geriatric junior faculty member specializing in the relationship between geriatric conditions, physical disabilities, physical activities, and chronic diseases (i.e., diabetes mellitus) in middle-aged and older adults. I am currently developing a study to better understand disabilities in older adults so that appropriate targeted interventions can be developed in the near future.

I am a general internal medicine fellowship coordinator. I am currently developing a study on outcomes following ICD implantation and replacement in older patients.

I am a general internist and an expert in the management of elderly patients. My research focuses on novel interventions to treat and prevent the inflammation and aging-related complications of hip-infection and antirheumatic therapy.
I am an emergency physician specializing in geriatric emergency medicine and am interested in developing both clinical protocols and an educational curriculum for emergency physicians in the management of geriatric patients in the emergency department.

Ronald John Maggiore, MD
Geriatrics/Medical Oncology Fellow
University of Chicago School of Medicine
ronald.maggiore@uchospitals.edu
I am a geriatric oncologist interested in improving outcomes of older patients with cancer. My current research focuses on the development and testing of interventions to reduce chemotherapy toxicity and improve quality of life in older patients with cancer.

Andrew A. Monte, MD
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and Medical Toxicology University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus andrew.a.monte@ucdenver.edu

Kendall F. Moseley, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine kmosel4@jhmi.edu

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Karim Ouchida, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine Weill Cornell Medical College kar1006@med.cornell.edu

I am an endocrinologist specializing in metabolic bone disease and currently researching mechanisms by which deranged glucose metabolism adversely impacts bone health and pulmonary function.

Howard Nachamie, MD, CMD
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Timothy F. Platt-Mills, MD
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine University of North Carolina School of Medicine tplatm@med.unc.edu

Dennis M. Popeo, MD
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry Mount Sinai School of Medicine dtpopeo@gmail.com

I am an emergency physician with a career goal of becoming an independent researcher improving outcomes after minor trauma in older adults. I am currently conducting a prospective multi-center study to understand the processes leading to persistent pain and functional decline after minor motor vehicle collision in older adults.

I am a junior faculty member whose work has focused on training (medical students, residents, and fellows) in health literacy.

Supriya Gupta Mohile, MD, MS
Associate Professor of Medicine University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry supriya_mohile@urmc.rochester.edu

I am currently a geriatrics fellow studying ethnographies in the nursing home along with the cultural factors that influence the delivery of nursing home care. I am specifically interested in the palliative care practices of Hawaii’s Micronesian population.

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I am the current director of the ambulatory geriatric psychiatry clinic and co-director of the geriatric psychiatry fellowship. I am participating in a project to implement an interdisciplinary team-based approach to screening for and treating depression in a large academic geriatric primary care practice based on the IM-PACT project developed at the University of Washington.
I am an infectious disease physician interested in infection control and prevention in the nursing home setting. My current research explores facility risk factors associated with antibiotic resistance, and aims to reduce infections with antibiotic-resistant pathogens in nursing home residents.

Nahid J. Rianon, MD, MPH, DrPH
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine
University of Texas Medical School at Houston
(nahid.j.rianon@uth.tmc.edu)

The focus of my work is on the transition from hospital to home for older adults. My research includes process mapping of current discharge processes and developing a multimodal intervention to equip the interdisciplinary team with skills to effectively manage end-stage dementia and coordinate care during patient transitions. I also develop curricula on concepts of care transitions to medical students and residents. I am a practicing geriatrician in both inpatient and outpatient medicine and am the coordinator for our transitional care clinic within the ambulatory care practice.

Heather Riggs, MD
Hematology-Oncology/Geriatrics Fellow
Indiana University School of Medicine
hriggs@iupui.edu

My health services research focuses on determinants of effective delivery of adjunct chemotherapy for colon cancer among veterans. It is hoped that knowledge gained can be used to guide the design of larger projects as well as to improve delivery of care to those at highest risk of suboptimal outcomes.

Josette A. Rivera, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
veronica.rivera@ucsf.edu

With Hartford support, I am developing a curriculum for interdisciplinary teamwork in the context of geriatric care.

Jennifer M. Reckrey, MD
Chief Geriatrics Fellow
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Jennifer.reckrey@mssm.edu

After my geriatric fellowship I will become a home-based primary care provider at Mount Sinai and will work to develop curricula for residents and fellows teaching about the integral role of the interdisciplinary team.

Erika Ramsdale, MD
Genetic-Oncology Fellow
University of Chicago School of Medicine
Erika.Ramsdale@chs.uic.edu

I plan to pursue a career in academic medicine, focusing on genetics, oncology, and ethics to develop a career path that addresses important questions at the intersection of these fields. I am interested in the role of geriatric assessments in individualized therapy plans for older adults with cancer, as well as decision-making in older adults with hematologic malignancies, particularly in those patients with complex medical issues.

Matthew L. Russell, MD, MSc
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Boston University School of Medicine
Matthew.nasswil@mssm.org

My primary interest lies in quality improvement in the practice of geriatrics in both community and academic medicine. I hope to achieve this with teaching in the traditional academic sense toward other practitioners and trainees, but also want to expand this to include education directed toward patients and caregivers outside of the hospital or clinic room.

Jeff Sanders, MD, PhD
Geriatric Psychiatry Research Fellow
University of California, San Diego School of Medicine
jeff.sanders@ucsd.edu

I am a postdoctoral fellow specializing in mouse models of cognition and am currently developing innovative transgenic systems for studying brain activity in cognitive tasks.

Veronica Rivera, MD
Geneticist Fellow
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
veronica.rivera@ucsf.edu

I am a geriatric oncology fellow specializing in frailty prevention in older men, with castrate-resistant prostate cancer. I am currently developing novel exercise interventions in older men with prostate cancer receiving androgen deprivation therapy, under the mentorship of Dr. Mohile and Dale.

Elizabeth Santos, MD
Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellow
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
elizabeth.santos@upmc.edu

My focus is on quality improvement in the practice of geriatrics and medicine. After completing a fellowship in Geriatric Medicine and Masters in Public Health at the University of North Carolina, I was accepted to a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. I have been doing research on how ICU clinicians elicit the values of incapacitated patients from their surrogate decision-makers. My long-term goal is to develop evidence-based interventions to improve decisions about value-based treatment pathways for incapacitated patients across the trajectory of critical care.

Jeff Sanders, MD, PhD
Geriatric Psychiatry Research Fellow
University of California, San Diego School of Medicine
jeff.sanders@ucsd.edu

My research focus is on developing pharmacotherapeutic strategies to prevent or treat the neuropsychological impairments mediating functional decline in elders with medical illnesses, particularly how frontal systems adapt and change over time. I plan to continue developing geriatric psychiatry learning opportunities by expanding the clerkship curriculum to include nursing homes, cognitive assessments sensitive to functional status, and Adult Protective Services home visits.

Elizabeth Schillerstrom, MD
Associate Professor/Clinical - Psychiatry
University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio
schillerstrom@uthscsa.edu

I am a geriatric oncology fellow focusing on colon cancer screening decision making in the older population. I am currently developing a curriculum to teach gerontology fellows about shared decision-making in colon cancer screening and assessment/evaluation tools to measure communication and geriatric patient care skills in this arena.

Sharda D. Ramsaroop, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Weill Cornell Medical College
shrdor@med.cornell.edu

I am an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and am currently doing research on how to be effective educators. After completing a Fellowship in Geriatrics Medicine and Masters in Public Health at the University of North Carolina, I was accepted to a Fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. I have been doing research on how ICU clinicians elicit the values of incapacitated patients from their surrogate decision-makers. My long-term goal is to develop evidence-based interventions to improve decisions about value-based treatment pathways for incapacitated patients across the trajectory of critical care.
My current research is in the field of HIV and aging, with a focus on the prevention and management of frailty. The overall aim in my research is to improve the quality of life in the older adult population.

Armin Shahrakni, MD, MPH
Geriatric Oncology Fellow
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
ashahrakni@mednet.ucla.edu

Kendra D. Sheppard, MD, MSPH, CMD
Assistant Professor of Gerontontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine
kapeshard@aging.uab.edu

Alexander K. Smith, MD, MS, MPH
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
aksmith@ucsf.edu

Rebecca Sudore, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of California, San Francisco
Rebecca.Sudore@ucsf.edu

My current work is to improve the quality of care, with a focus in palliative care and health services research interested in understanding quality of life concerns in late life disability.

I am a general internist trained in palliative medicine and health services research interested in understanding quality of life concerns in late life disability.

I am currently exploring symptom burden in community-dwelling older adults and how this affects healthcare transitions.

I am an academic geriatrician specializing in care for frail older adults and I am currently developing a curriculum to teach evaluation and management of frail older adults to internal medicine residents.

I am an academic geriatrician currently doing a post-doctoral research fellowship in aging. My research interests include disorders of lower urinary tract, incontinence, and nocturia in the elderly. Currently, my research project involves investigating the effect of behavioral intervention for insomnia on nocturia.

I am currently a junior faculty member in geriatric medicine with an NIA-funded career development (K23) project investigating the role of the brain and its age-related structural changes in bladder control and urinary incontinence in elderly. I use functional and structural brain imaging in my study and also see older subjects with voiding problems in a continuum clinic. My mentor is Dr. Neil Resnick, a nationally recognized expert on voiding dysfunction in the elderly.

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I am a geriatrician and a palliative care physician specializing in health literacy, health communication, and medical decision making. I am currently developing and testing an interactive, multimedia, web-based educational guide to increase patient and surrogate engagement in advance care planning.

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I am a geriatric oncologist specializing in elderly cancer survivorship care. Currently, I am developing a curriculum for trainees and health providers of different departmental and divisional affiliations about the management principles of elderly cancer survivors.

I am currently an Instructor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and am interested in strategies to optimize bone health in older adults. My research focuses on the impact of weight loss and weight regain on bone mineral density in postmenopausal women using a new imaging technique called quantitative computed tomography (QCT).

I am a geriatrician and immunologist leading a research program focused on advancing understanding of the aging immune system, integrating basic molecular and cellular investigations with epidemiologic approaches, and translating this knowledge into useful clinical interventions for older adults.

I am a geriatrics fellow whose research focuses on finding ways to utilize mobile health technology to better diagnose and treat chronic pain in the geriatric population.

My research interests are in the supportive care and assessment and management of complications in elderly cancer patients treated with chemotherapy. My current project is studying fall-related injuries in elderly patients who have received potentially neurotoxic chemotherapy. The study is a retrospective analysis of the SEER-Medicare database.

I am a geriatrician at Wake Forest School of Medicine with interest in new models of healthcare delivery as a means to improve medical education. My clinical and educational focuses are improving transitions of care and the development of a patient-centered medical home model for patients with dementia at a local adult day center.
I am an advanced geriatric medicine fellow and clinician-educator specializing in geriatric curriculum development. I teach a medical student elective on geriatric topics where I have piloted a service-learning curriculum. I have also developed a workshop using standardized patients to teach specialty faculty about delirium and contributed to an on-line module to teach nurses about delirium. My goal is to create a core competency geriatric curriculum for internal medicine residents and other disciplines such as nursing and social work.

I am an advanced geriatric medicine fellow and have a research interest in the prevention and treatment of cognitive impairment and the potential role vitamin D has in cardiovascular morbidity.

I am a geriatrics fellow and have a research interest in the prevention and treatment of cognitive impairment and the potential role vitamin D has in cardiovascular morbidity.

I am a geriatrician specializing in long-term care medicine and clinician education, and currently completing a Masters of Science in Medical Education. I am the director of the geriatrics track for our internal medicine residency program, and I have developed and begun to study a curriculum for the geriatrics track residents.

I am an endocrine surgeon interested in improving thyroid cancer outcomes in older patients by using molecular markers to help predict more aggressive tumors and to eventually direct effective therapies.

I am a clinical educator fellow who is developing a curriculum for internal medicine residents to teach about care of older adults in the hospital setting.

During my fellowship at UNC, I provided care to geriatric patients in multiple settings including a long-term care facility, a continuity clinic, and an inpatient geriatric service. I also developed and implemented, along with my mentor, Dr. John S. Kizer, the first Latino Geriatrics Specialty Clinic at UNC. I am currently a geriatric hospitalist practicing at the Appalachian Regional Healthcare System in Boone, North Carolina.

I am a geriatrician and my research, clinical work, and teaching are focused on late-life memory disorders. My research is in the pharmacology and late-life memory disorders, with special focus on identifying novel targets for pharmacological receptors that can lead to better treatment or prevention.

I am a urogynecologist focused on the clinical care of women with pelvic floor disorders, including urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse, and my Hartford Foundation-funded research is focused on the genetic epidemiology of these conditions.

I am a geriatrician specializing in quality improvement in the elderly. I am currently involved in quality improvement projects relating to recognition of delirium in the elderly in the emergency department and peri-operative care of the elderly. I am also involved in developing a curriculum for inter-professional faculty in quality improvement.

I am a gynecologist and my research is in the pharmacology of estrogen and how it affects ovarian function and ovarian cancer. My primary areas of focus are interdisciplinary team education and quality improvement (QI) project implementation, particularly how geriatric transitional care can be improved through system change, process improvement, and inter-professional team education. I plan to continue to expand the geriatric transitional care curriculum to include skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, home health care, and dementia care units, and incorporate QI projects and inter-professional learning into family medicine residents' curriculum.

I am a clinical geriatrics fellow pursuing an advanced year of fellowship as a clinician-educator with an emphasis in integrating geriatric competencies across the undergraduate and graduate medical education curricula. My project aims at defining discrete clinical milestones in two geriatric-specific areas of cognitive-behavioral health and falls/gait disorders.

I am a geriatric medicine fellow, focused on the clinician-educator track, planning to create and evaluate a curriculum for geriatrics fellows focusing rounds, focusing on their experiences with death, dying, and the declining health of the geriatric patients they care for.

I am a clinical geriatrics fellow who is developing a curriculum for internal medicine residents to teach about care of older adults in the hospital setting.

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These directors served on the 2012 Program Advisory Committee, along with Lisa Granville, MD, Kenneth Schmader, MD, and Gregg Warshaw, MD. Raymond Yung, MB, ChB, will be the director starting July 1, 2012.

Centers of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and Geriatric Psychiatry

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*These directors served on the 2012 Program Advisory Committee, along with Lisa Granville, MD, Kenneth Schmader, MD, and Gregg Warshaw, MD.

**Raymond Yung, MB, CHB, will be the director starting July 1, 2012.

About AFAR

Founded in 1981, AFAR has championed the cause and supported the funding of science in healthier aging. Due to the shortage of physicians and researchers dedicated to the bioscience of aging, AFAR partners with foundations, corporations and individuals to fund important research into the fundamental mechanism of aging, age-related health, and diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease, cancer, heart disease, and other illnesses.

For more information, please visit AFAR’s website www.afar.org or www.geriatricsrecruitment.org.

About the John A. Hartford Foundation

Founded in 1929, the mission of the John A. Hartford Foundation is to improve the health of older Americans. The Foundation is a committed champion of health care training, research, and service system innovations that will ensure the well-being and vitality of older adults. For more information about The John A. Hartford Foundation, please visit www.jhartfound.org.

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