

# GERIATRIC MEDICINE AREA OF CONCENTRATION

The Geriatrics Area of Concentration (AOC) is a supracurricular, four-year program sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Its goal is to promote interest in the effects of age on health and health care, and is relevant to students with a broad range of career plans.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

**Geriatrics AOC Welcome Event (MS1-MS4):** Each fall, the Geriatrics AOC organizes a welcome dinner event for all four classes, but mainly targeted at new MS-1s, to introduce them to the Geriatrics AOC and numerous, active faculty in the Division of Geriatrics in the Department of Internal Medicine.

**Geriatric Evening Institutes (MS1-MS4):** Each Geriatric Evening Institute features an aging-related topic given by a University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine faculty member over dinner. Student leaders invite their own speaker, select a geriatrics-related lecture topic, and invite faculty with related interests. This is also becoming a key forum for exploring our relationship with Pitt's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI).

**GEMS (MS1-MS2):** A year-long series of monthly group meetings and monthly visits with an assigned older adult. Students will learn about the experience of aging, gain interview and evaluation skills targeted at older adults and to understand how to use health system services on behalf of older adults. Minimum participation is at least 3 home visits and 3 group sessions. This activity provides credit in the MS2 Clinical Experiences program.

**American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Noontime Clinical Case Series (MS1-MS2):** This is a series of monthly noontime case presentations linked to the second year block curriculum. Cases are presented in the format used by all physicians to evaluate patient problems. The goals of the program are to provide clinical correlation with the block curriculum, highlight how health issues differ among the aged, provide experience with the standard clinical approach to differential diagnosis and treatment planning, and to incorporate a biopsychosocial perspective into patient care of the older adult.

**Clinical Experiences in Geriatrics (MS3-MS4):** There are now options available for clinical rotations in geriatrics. These include:

- A geriatrics elective during the MS3 CAMPC
- A geriatrics sponsor for the MS3 CAMPC Internal Medicine portion at either the Benedum Geriatrics Clinic at Montefiore Hospital or the Senior Care Clinic at Shadyside
- A geriatrics inpatient internal medicine rotation during the MS3 Adult Inpatient Medicine Clerkship at Magee Women's Hospital or Shadyside Hospital Geriatrics clinical elective in the MS4 year.
- All outpatient rotations provide exposure to ambulatory and long-term care settings.

**Geriatrics Elective (MS4):** An MS4 geriatrics elective can be used to pursue individual interests such as new or continuing research activities, community program development, or visits to other institutions to pursue aging related interests. This elective can provide an opportunity to complete work on the Scholarly Project and produce a final manuscript for publication, if desired. A special all-expenses paid summer program in geriatrics funded by the NIH is held every year at Boston University in June and can be accommodated within this elective.

**NIH T32 Predoctoral Student Summer Training in Aging Research:** A funded 8-12 week, paid research experience during the summer. Participants develop a research plan with the assistance of a mentor and present their findings at an end-of-summer event. Students participate in bi-weekly group sessions and have the option of exploring clinical activities and other research settings. Support can be sought for students interested in presenting their work at the National American Geriatrics Society meeting in May.

**NIH T32 Predoctoral Student Year-long Training in Aging Research:** For students with a strong interest in aging research, this new program offers a paid, year-long individualized program funded by the NIH that can include graduate coursework in research as well as time to pursue a research question of interest.

**Optional Alternatives to Complete a Scholarly Project for the Geriatrics AOC:** For students who would like to develop a scholarly project in geriatrics without the NIH T32 research program, alternative options can be considered at Pitt or elsewhere.

#### **AOC DIRECTORS**

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