

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 it 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. The event introduces them to the Geriatrics AOC, its wide array of activities, and many of 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. Some are lectures; others include research “speed dating” events, book clubs, movie viewings, and museum visits to consider conceptions of aging through art. Some are discussions with groups of older adults from the Pittsburgh area. Student leaders invite their own speaker, select a geriatrics-related lecture topic, and invite faculty, students, and older adults with related interests. This is also becoming a key forum for exploring our relationship with Pitt's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) as well as other Areas of Concentration within the medical school.

GEMS (MS1-MS2): A year-long series of monthly group meetings and monthly visits with an assigned older adult. Students learn first-hand about the experience of aging, gain interview and evaluation skills targeted at older adults, and begin 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 physiology, pathophysiology, and health issues differ in the aged; provide experience with the standard clinical approach to differential diagnosis and treatment planning; and incorporate a biopsychosocial perspective into care of the older adult.

Clinical Experiences in Geriatrics (MS3-MS4): There are several options available for clinical rotations in geriatrics:

- A geriatrics inpatient rotation during the MS3 Adult Inpatient Medicine Clerkship at Shadyside Hospital, as well as a Geriatrics clinical elective in the MS4 year.
- All outpatient geriatrics rotations provide exposure to ambulatory and long-term care settings
- Geriatric elective (MS4): see next entry

Geriatrics Elective (MS4): This elective can be used in a variety of ways. It can provide additional training in clinical geriatrics or pursuit of new or continuing research activities, community program development, or visits to other institutions to pursue aging-related interests. It can provide an opportunity to complete work on the Scholarly Project and a final manuscript for publication, if desired. In addition, it can support an all-expenses paid summer program in geriatrics, which is funded by NIH and held annually in June at Boston University.

Options for Completing a Scholarly Project for the Geriatrics AOC: For students interested in developing a more in-depth scholarly project in geriatrics than is possible during the elective, several other funding options are available, at both Pitt and elsewhere, under the guidance of the AOC Directors.

NIH T32 Pre-doctoral Student Training in Aging Research: For students with a strong interest in aging research, this program provides two years of tuition and a small stipend to support training and research linked to earning a PhD for an age-related project. Training can include graduate coursework in research. Support may also be available to enable presentation of findings at the annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society.

AWARDS

David C. Martin Award: This award, which includes a stipend of up to \$1500, recognizes student(s) whose research is accepted for presentation at the annual scientific meeting of the American Geriatrics Society. The stipend helps to defray the cost of the meeting.

F. Lorraine Bruni Award in Geriatric Medicine: This award fosters the philosophy and practice of geriatric medicine. It is presented to the senior medical student who best exemplifies excellence in this regard.

AOC DIRECTORS

Neil Resnick, MD

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