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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We at the UTHealth Consortium on Aging believe that older adults deserve age-appropriate care delivered by those trained to do so. We are committed to interprofessional education, clinical care and research.

The current goal of the UTHealth Consortium on Aging is to test our model health care system to meet the specialized full-circle needs of older adults. It will provide a platform to train the geriatric workforce and facilitate aging science research. Our Consortium continues to grow and evolve as we work toward our goals, bringing new challenges and better solutions. Looking back at the year, I am so impressed by the work and scholarship each of you bring to the table.

We appreciate the continued efforts from community and university partners as we raise money for our education, research, and clinical care missions.

I look forward to seeing you at future events and thank you for your continued involvement in such an important work.

Carmel Dyer, MD
2017 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

ALZHEIMER'S DAY  
September 20, 2017

For World Alzheimer's Day, the Consortium on Aging collaborated with the McGovern Medical School Department of Psychiatry for a presentation by Betsy Broyles Arnold, CEO of the Frank and Barbara Broyles Foundation. She spoke on practical ways caregivers could connect with their loved ones struggling with dementia while also preserving their own health. We were proud to be part of such a successful gathering so appreciated by the community at large.

MEMBER RETREAT  
April 25, 2017

Dr. Amy Franklin and Joan Hernandez-McClain organized the Consortium on Aging's first ever member retreat. There were multiple presentations from a variety of Consortium members discussing collaborative efforts in four parts: community outreach, education, clinical care, and research.

With over fifty members in attendance, groups were set up for round table discussions. After each presentation, the different groups were given time to brainstorm ideas and opportunities for collaboration. We were left impressed by the work, creativity, and energy of everyone in attendance.

HOUSTON MEDICATION SAFETY SYMPOSIUM  
April 28, 2017

This inaugural event spearheaded by Dr. Holly Holmes brought together a diverse group of health care professionals to gain new perspectives on medication safety, especially among older patients. Supported by the Phyllis Gough Huffington Lecture Series and the Consortium on Aging, more than 130 practitioners, researchers, and

continued on next page
students from over 15 health care institutions in the Texas Medical Center attended this event.

We are excited to make this an annual event for the community.

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGING RESEARCH
June 27-28, 2017
The Consortium on Aging hosted the second annual aging research symposium, co-chaired by Drs. Carmel Dyer and Johnny Huard. This 1½-day event featured lectures by 16 aging researchers, including individuals from the University of Pittsburgh, Texas A&M University, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Methodist Hospital, and UTHealth. This Annual Symposium on Aging Research is intended to increase collaboration across aging researchers and build relationships that we hope will lead to increased translational research.

We received very positive feedback from attendees and look forward to another symposium next year.

Be sure to share any upcoming aging-related events with the Consortium so we can help spread the word.
The Consortium on Aging has 174 members from five UTHealth schools, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas Women’s University, University of Houston, Sam Houston State University and other local aging-related organizations.

A more complete list of efforts and contributions is included below.
REVIEW OF ACTIVITY

TEXAS GERIATRIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM

Thanks to generous support from President Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD, Dr. Dyer stepped down from her role as Chief of Staff at LBJ General Hospital in January 2017 to focus on developing a new model of care for older adults.

This initiative, the Texas Geriatric Hospital System (TGHS), will provide age-appropriate care delivered by specially trained health care practitioners using evidence-based practices. Similar to children’s hospital systems, TGHS specialists will work on teams in the hospital, clinics, rehab units and house calls. The goals are to improve patient outcomes and reduce costs, based on 20 years of medical literature.

A Consortium team is laying the foundation to make the TGHS a reality. They developed a comprehensive business plan that will be used to raise funds to support the initial program in order to demonstrate the quality and economic impact of the program.

The team has also assembled a community coalition to help engage civic leaders, including individuals from the philanthropic, governmental, business, and religious communities. We are honored that these leaders believe in UTHHealth’s ability to change the way care is delivered to older adult patients.

To further this effort, the Consortium has also formed the Advocates for Healthy Aging. Led by two grateful family members, this group of philanthropists and community leaders will work to raise the funds and awareness needed to implement the Texas Geriatric Hospital System in Houston.

Great strides were made in 2017 and we look forward to continuing this important work into the new year. For more information on opportunities to get involved, please reach out to Consortium leadership.
THE NATIONAL COLLABORATORY TO ADDRESS ELDER MISTREATMENT

Carmel Dyer, MD, serves as the principal investigator leading the Texas team, whose work is supported by a recent $240,000 award from The John A. Hartford Foundation in partnership with EDC. Jason Burnett, PhD, assistant professor in the Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, serves as co-investigator.

They have joined a national team of experts addressing elder abuse to ensure that our older patients seen in the health care system will be assessed for potential mistreatment and receive appropriate treatment and referral. UTHealth has the recognized experienced interprofessional faculty and necessary community partnerships to participate in the development of this model program.

The UTHealth project coordinators include faculty and staff at Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital. Other partnering sites include the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, and Weill Cornell Medicine School in NYC.

IN THE NEWS

Fran Floersheimer and Maureen Beck were featured in an April issue of the Wellness Spotlight for their work at the Center for Healthy Aging.

Several Consortium members contributed to an article about how to handle family during the holiday. This piece, "Seniors and the Holidays," was published in Health Leader and the Harris Health System blog.
Ines Moreno-Gonzalez, PhD, received a grant from the Department of Defense titled, “Identification and Characterization of Alzheimer’s Disease Associated Protein Misfolding Seeds After Traumatic Brain Injury.”

Jason Burnett, PhD, served as Program Evaluator for the National Study of Adult Protective Services Investigations of Elder Self-Neglect (September 1, 2016- August 31, 2017), a study funded by the US Administration on Community Living.

Jason Burnett, PhD, (Director of Operations), John Halphen, MD (Medical Director), and Leslie Clark, RN (Nurse Coordinator) support the Forensic Assessment Center Network-Adult Division, which is funded by Texas Adult Protective Services.

The Senior Justice Assessment Center, funded by a VOCA grant to Harris County Protective Services, includes Jason Burnett, PhD (Program Evaluator) and Garima Arora, MD (Geriatric Psychiatrist).

Hyochol “Brian” Ahn, PhD, MSN, MS-ECE, MS-CTS, APRN, ANP-BC received a Rising STAR Award from The University of Texas System to establish a Pain Assessment and Management Laboratory (PAMLab) and to pursue a program of clinical and translational pain research. He seeks collaborators who are interested in the pain in older adults.

Sarah Schwallier, MPH, is working with the Memorial Hermann-Red Duke Trauma Institute’s community-based fall prevention program and offering A Matter of Balance, an evidence-based fall prevention program, to older adults at senior centers and senior living facilities.

Carmel Dyer, MD, and Johnny Huard, PhD submitted a P30 grant application in November to become the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center: Bone and Joint Health and Repair.

Frieda Wiley, PharmD, BCGP, updated drug information charts that appeared in white papers for a Scientific American publication targeting the 65+ population.
The Consortium on Aging serves as the presenting sponsor for the Doug Pike Fifty+ Radio show. This radio show is broadcast Sundays at 11 am on AM950 KPRC and again at 4 pm on NewsRadio 740 KTRH. The following Consortium on Aging members gave radio interviews over the last year:

Pre-operative care – Carmel Dyer, MD
Stroke-related communication issues – Lynn Maher, PhD
Dementia Prevention – Holly Carlson Zhao, PhD
Benefits of Pet Companionship – Sandy Branson, PhD, RN
custodial Grandparents Raising Grandchildren – Mary Ellen Ross, DrPH, RN
Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Spinal Pain - Kenneth Wu, MD
Advice for Aging in Place – Jing Wang, PhD, MPH, RN
How to Spot the Signs of Elder Abuse – Victoria B. Titterington, PhD, LMSW
Post-operative care – Camel Dyer, MD
Brain Myths – Cameron Jeter, PhD
Financial Elder Abuse – Jason Burnett, PhD
Alzheimer’s disease – Ines Moreno Gonzalez, PhD
Frailty – Jessica Lee, MD
When folks need a nursing home – John Halphen, MD
Geriatric dentistry – June Sadowsky, DDS, MPH
Active aging – Crystalyn Richard, PT, DPT, GCS, CEEAA
Holistic care – Ellen Siegel, RN


Setters B and Holmes HM. Hypertension in the Older Adult. Primary Care Clinics, in press.


Daquinag A.C. et al., Kolonin M.G. Non-glycanated Decorin is a Drug Target on Human Adipose Stromal Cells, Molecular Therapy Oncolytics. 6:1-9, 2017.


Wiley, F. Heat Stroke Is Especially Dangerous, Even Deadly, In Older Adults: Take heed of the warning signs and stay cool this summer. Next Avenue, July 2017 (online).


INTERNATIONAL


Holmes, HM. The Role that Geriatricians Can Play in the Care of Older Patients with Cancer Across the Care Continuum, Second Sapporo Conference for Palliative and Supportive Care in Cancer, Sapporo, Japan. June 17, 2017.

NATIONAL
Holmes, HM. Improving Medication Use in Older Adults, Plenary Presentation at the Inaugural Research Symposium for the Plein Center, University of Washington School of Pharmacy, Seattle, Washington.

Holmes, HM. Panel Discussant, Effective Medication Management in the Older Adult with Cardiovascular Disease, American College of Cardiology Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.


PRESENTATIONS CONT’D


LOCAL


Flores, R. Reproductive Biology Course: The Aging Male. McGovern Medical School, UTHealth.


FUTURE GOALS

2018 will be an exciting year for the Consortium on Aging. We are continuing our efforts to deliver age-appropriate care to older adults while stimulating this progress through research and education opportunities.

Please see below for some of our goals for this coming year.

- Continue to submit proposals for projects outlined in the 2015 Strategic Plan.
- Develop a Handbook for Healthy Aging to be published in modules.
- Develop a manual for the Texas Geriatric Hospital System.
- Create a Handbook for Dementia
- Stimulate aging research through various grants.
- Increase our reach with education programs.
UPCOMING EVENTS

In the next year, we hope to continue our involvement in important geriatric events and look forward to hosting our annual events as well. Please keep a look out for more information regarding these opportunities.

HOUSTON MEDICATION SAFETY SYMPOSIUM
April 13, 2018
Hosted by UTHealth and the UH College of Pharmacy, this continuing education course explores high-risk medications and prescription abuse.

HOT TOPICS IN AGING
April 23, 2018
Mark your calendars for a full-day interprofessional continuing education course featuring discussions on health policy and ethics as well as healthy aging.

THIRD ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGING RESEARCH
June 18, 2018
The planning process for this burgeoning event has begun and we hope to have more details soon.

CONSORTIUM ON AGING MEMBER RETREAT
TBD
After a successful retreat last year, we look forward to hosting another session in 2018.
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