Director’s Message

Dear Colleagues,

Research shows that the majority of older adults would like to remain in their own residence as they age. “Aging in place” enables older adults to stay in a familiar environment and maintain social support from friends and family.

The Village model is one of the new and most conspicuous community-based models for promoting aging in place. Villages are typically created by neighborhood residents, often older adults themselves. Direct leadership of members is usually exercised in every aspect of the organization. Financially, the village model stresses self-reliance rather than acquiring support from governmental and other organizational sources. As grassroots organizations, Villages provide community-dwelling elders with nonprofessional services, for example, housekeeping, transportation, companionship, and referrals to community services. Although some Villages have paid staff, services provided in the Villages rely heavily on volunteers.

A recent survey indicates that there are approximately 85 Villages present and 120 in development in the United States—including South Carolina. Details on Villages in South Carolina can be found on the website of the South Carolina Aging in Place Coalition, as shown in the newsletter. This newsletter also features the Palmetto State Geriatric Education Center and the South Carolina Dual Eligible Demonstration, among others.

I hope you are doing well.

Best regards,

Rita Jing-Ann Chou, PhD, MSSW
Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar
Associate Professor
College of Social Work
University of South Carolina
Greetings from the Palmetto State Geriatric Education Center (PS-GEC)!

Since 2007, we have focused upon activities to improve the health of South Carolina’s older adults through the provision of high quality geriatric education to health professionals and health professions students. We are funded by a federal HRSA grant through the USC School of Medicine (lead institution) and consortia partners: Palmetto Health, Inc., Clemson University and SC-AHEC.

Over time, we have presented multiple training programs in a variety of formats to make quality education more accessible. We offer well received, highly rated programs—one in End of Life care and another in Alzheimer’s and Dementia care; both are offered twice a year.

The **End of Life (EOL)** series consists of 24 hours of content provided across four, daylong sessions. Topics covered include: communication, legal/ethical issues, pain and non-pain symptom management, final hours and the dying process, grief and loss, culture and compassion fatigue in the health professional. The goal of this series is to relieve pain and suffering and improve the quality of life for elderly patients and their families. For only $25 you will receive a day of training, lunch and CE credits (SWK and nursing). If you are interested in improving your knowledge of end of life care, visit palmettostategec.eventbrite.com to register.

The **Alzheimer’s and Other Dementias (AOD)** series provides 18 hours of content in six half-day sessions. This series provides vital information and training for the care of patients with dementia. You will learn biology, assessment and diagnosis of the disease, how to communicate with family and professional caregivers, management and treatment options, adaptations and behavior management, caregiver burden and stress, and understanding and using resources. At only $10 per session or $25 for the day (which includes lunch) you can’t beat the price or the educational value. SWK and nursing CEUs available. Please visit palmettostategec.eventbrite.com to register today!

A last important focus for the PS-GEC is Health Literacy (HL). We have three unique programs that address the issue of health literacy- HL Immersion Training (24 hour Faculty Development program), HL for Clinicians and HL for health professions students. The faculty development program is a yearlong, self-paced program, which includes online modules, activities and exercises and traditional workshops. HL for Clinicians is a three-hour program to assist you in the application of health literacy principles into your practice. HL for health professions students is incorporated into class curricula at Clemson University and allows students to learn how important health literacy is to effective patient care. All health literacy classes are offered twice a year at no charge. Visit psgec.eventbrite.com to see upcoming dates.
A major initiative for the PS-GEC in the current funding cycle was the creation of the Palmetto State Geriatric Faculty Institute (GFI). This free, yearlong program is designed to provide comprehensive geriatric training for healthcare professionals, preceptors, community educators and individuals who are involved with the education of health professionals or health professions students. As a part of the program you will receive individual mentoring and the luxury of working at your own pace with training in multiple formats (online, traditional and hybrid methods).

Topics covered over the course of the year include: Interprofessional Teams, Health Literacy and Cultural Competence, Health Aspects of Aging, Economics, Health Policy and Systems, Programs and Services in Aging and Curriculum Design, Teaching and Learning in Geriatrics.

We are excited to announce that we are now accepting applications and would love to give you more information about the program and selection process. If you are interested in joining the GFI please inquire at ed.geri@uscmed.sc.edu.

At the Palmetto State GEC we strive to make South Carolina the best in older adult care. If you are interested in any of our programs please contact us at ed.geri@uscmed.sc.edu to join our mailing list for upcoming events and newsletters.

PS-GEC Spring Events

Alzheimer’s and Dementia Series

May 1, 2014
Management and Medical Treatment Options (morning)
Adaptations and Behavior Management (afternoon)

May 9, 2014
Caregiver Burden/Stress (morning) Understanding and using Resources (afternoon)

End of Life Series

April 17, 2014
Final Hours/Dying Process and Grief & Loss

May 22, 2014
Culture and Compassion Fatigue

If you are interested in any of the programs offered by the Palmetto State Geriatric Education Center or would like to be added to the mailing list please send your contact information to ed.geri@uscmed.sc.edu

Grants/Funding (2013)

Amella, E. J., & Sambamurti, K. (Dual-PIs). An interprofessional study on the role of nutrition on AD pathogenesis: Effects on biomarkers (11/13-10/14). South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research (SCTR) Institute, with an academic home at the Medical University of South Carolina, NIH/NCRR Grant number UL1 RR029882.

**Beer, J.** (University of South Carolina / Georgia Institute of Technology). RERC on Supportive Technologies for Successful Aging with Disability (Sub Grant). US department of Education, $125,000, Oct 2013 - Oct 2018.

**Dye, C. J., (PI), Pham, H., Eggers, J., Vincent, E., Gilbert, J., Dailey, S. (Co-Investigators).**
Environmental Approaches to Increase Engagement and Reduce Dementia-Related Disordered Behaviors of Those with ADRD. Institute for Advancement of Health Care (IAHC) Clemson University. 12-2012 to 12-2013.


*Improving Walking and Balance in Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury: a Pilot Study Examining Feasibility and Dosage.* The goal of this proposal is to improve therapeutic interventions for the recovery of gait and balance following traumatic brain injury (TBI) by assessing the efficacy of Intensive Mobility Training (IMT).

**Hills, W. E.** (2012-13). Fulbright Scholarship Teaching Award. Taught gerontology at Russian State Social University in Moscow.


**Hirth, V.A.** (Pl). Donald W. Reynolds Foundation: Next Steps in Physicians’ Training in Geriatrics, $1,000,000 – January 2011 to December 2014


**Stein, P. (Amella, E. J. Co-Project Director), NYU Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Program, Smiles for Life (10/12 – 10/13), University of Kentucky College of Dentistry.

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**Presentations (2013)**


**Scharf, S.** (Palmetto Health) Dementia and Driving. Lunch and Learn at Parkridge, Columbia, SC. (January 10, 2013)

**Scharf, S.** (Palmetto Health) Driving and Dementia. Columbia, SC. (January 11, 2013)

**Scharf, S.** (Palmetto Health) Driving and Senior Citizens-Are They Safe to Drive?"Columbia, SC. (February 22, 2013)
Scharf, S. (Palmetto Health) Guest speaker on Senior Connections, WIS TV Columbia, SC. (June 11, 2013)

Scharf, S. (Palmetto Health) Driving Rehabilitation to nursing staff Columbia, SC. (August 6, 2013)

Scharf, S. (Palmetto Health) Dementia and driving, Alzheimer’s Association Columbia, SC. (August 9, 2013)

Scharf, S. (Palmetto Health) Dementia and driving, Alzheimer’s Association Charleston, SC. (September 17, 2013)

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Publications (2013)


http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2013/525761  PMID: 24093063


http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2013/190868  PMID: 24392226


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**Awards (2013)**


**Hirth, V.** (2013). American Geriatrics Society, Outstanding Committee Service Award, Public Policy Committee.

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**Program Information**

**Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.**

**Neuropathology Laboratory**

(CCNL; MUSC Brain Bank)

Named in memory of former South Carolina Governor, Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., the Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Neuropathology Laboratory (CCNL) is dedicated to being the link between clinicians, scientists and pathologists involved in neuroscience research.

The CCNL was founded in 2009 at MUSC in order to enhance postmortem diagnostics and research on Healthy Aging and neurological disorders, including Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease, Autism, Down’s syndrome, Depression, Epilepsy, Hearing loss, Huntington’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease, Pick’s disease, and stroke. A brain bank is a centralized collection center for brain tissue, obtained after death for the purpose of research and accurate diagnosis of brain-related diseases. Our primary goal is to prevent devastating neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson’s disease, stroke, and Alzheimer’s disease and improve treatment through training and research.

Ongoing projects that are specific for the CCNL include working with SC legislature to put a brain on the driver’s license next to the heart, to promote the brain bank registry state-wide, and to increase the donation of tissue from healthy older adults through a contract with Life Point Inc., the designated organ procurement agency of South Carolina. A new development project, “Endow your Brain” is being developed in order to raise funds for the CCNL in the community.

The CCNL is also actively involved in research on neurological disorders. Active research studies include a stroke/vascular study, an Alzheimer’s disease collaborative study, and a cognitive study on Parkinson’s disease.

During the last year, Dr. Lotta Granholm, Co-Director of the CCNL, started and was elected chair of a new Professional Interest Area (PIA) within the International Alzheimer’s Association for individuals with Down Syndrome and Alzheimer’s disease. Over the next years, this special interest group will work with the Nationals Institutes of Health, Alzheimer’s Association and other funding
agencies in order to organize a National Repository for Data and Tissues from DS-AD individuals. It will also work with companies to organize and initiate clinical trials for these individuals. Dr. Granholm was recently funded from the Alzheimer Association to perform a research study designed to identify novel biomarkers in serum from individuals with Down syndrome and Alzheimer’s disease.

For more information on the brain bank, please go to: www.musc.edu/brainbank

**The South Carolina Dual Eligible Demonstration (SCDuE)**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is working in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on a new pilot program to provide integrated and coordinated care for individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. This innovative program, Healthy Connections Prime, realigns incentives so Medicare and Medicaid services can work in a single system, resulting in a simpler health care experience that improves quality, reduces costs and enhances patient satisfaction. CMS and SCDHHS signed a Memorandum of Understanding on October 25, 2013, approving the new program. Healthy Connections Prime will transform the state’s health care system to deliver patient-centered care that integrates all types of care services, including medical, behavioral health and long-term services and supports.

Beginning July 1, 2014*, Medicare and Medicaid enrollees who are age 65 and older will have a new health care option that will provide access to all Medicare and Medicaid services fully managed by one accountability entity. This program differs from other coordinated care models as it integrates and coordinates Medicare and Medicaid services through a person-centered model that delivers care at the right time and in the most appropriate setting.

For more information, please visit us on the web at http://www.scdhhs.gov/prime, or contact us by e-mail at prime@scdhhs.gov or by phone at (803) 898-0695.

*SCDHHS is currently in conversation with CMS regarding potential changes to the implementation timeline

**The Village: A Growing Option for Aging in Place**

*The Village* offers an option for meeting the needs of the growing older population by making it possible for people to stay in their communities and “age in place.” Neighborhood residents create villages to help coordinate and deliver services and supports within their communities. This consumer-driven and person-centered approach can help delay or even prevent the need for institutional care.


**Training and Resources for Kinship Caregivers**

The Center for Child and Family Studies at the College of Social Work, University of South Carolina provides training for kinship caregivers. The training is primarily for caregivers of children, and may provide useful information for elderly grandparents caring for grandchildren. More
information on the training and resources can be found at: http://kinshipcare.sc.edu/

We are excited to present this electronic Spring/Summer 2014 issue of the Aging Matters Newsletter. We welcome your suggestions and comments. If you wish to submit aging related items for future issues please e-mail them to Dr. Rita J. Chou at rjchou@sc.edu

Aging Matters, the newsletter of the South Carolina Center for Gerontology, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208

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