Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are doing well. The past year has been an exciting one, especially in the development of the state’s field of aging. Here are a few highlights.

Dr. Sue Levkoff has been appointed as the endowed chair for SmartHOME, a component of SeniorSMART. While working at Harvard University, she received sizable grants for her research on aging from federal and private agencies. Dr. Levkoff’s focus as the endowed chair is developing technologies to enable older adults to age in place in the community. She is also bringing a health care technology company to South Carolina—her company has been developing health information technology products such as programs to create online communities for dementia caregivers and a health-risk appraisal tool. These products harbor enormous potentials for both domestic and international markets, and will be tested first in the state. In addition to engaging in these endeavors, Dr. Levkoff also serves as a faculty member of College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina.

The 7th annual conference of Aging Research Day, organized by the South Carolina Aging Research Network (SCARN), was held on February 4th in Columbia this year. There was an array of lectures and keynote addresses in this one-day conference. The topics presented included connection between movement disorders and cognitive impairment; advancing locomotor and rehabilitation measures in physical therapy; older drivers; substance abuse among older adults; and guidelines for rehabilitation in old age. Additionally, there were 32 posters covering a wide spectrum of topics on aging. The conference was well-received and attended by a total of 155 researchers, practitioners and students from across the nation.

Another recent development is the new service program “South Carolina Access,” sponsored by the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging. Older South Carolinians and their families are constantly facing complicated choices and decisions about income security, housing, health care, long term support, and other social services. To make informed decisions, peop-
Director’s Message  cont. from pg. 1

easily obtainable. “SC Access” has been developed to provide such access to useful information, and the service is also free and confidential. For more information about this new service, you can visit the program’s website at https://scaccess.communityos.org/cms/.

Thank you, and hope you have an enjoyable summer.

Warm regards,

Rita Jing-Ann Chou, PhD, MSSW
Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar

Aging News

2011 Advocacy Forum approaches

Even with Alzheimer advocacy victories such as the historic passage of the National Alzheimer’s Project Act and all-important wins on state and local levels nationwide, we must maintain the momentum.

Join us in our nation’s capital May 15-17, 2011, for the Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy Forum. Become educated about critical issues, learn new skills, network with fellow advocates and take our message directly to members of Congress to fight for our legislative agenda.

Visit www.alz.org/forum for program information and to register online.

Meet Your Members of Congress

Now that the 112th Congress is underway, many members have new leadership roles. Have you looked to see what leadership positions your representatives have in the 112th Congress? An easy way to look up congressional leadership is www.congress.org. At this website, you will be able to enter your address and find out information on your member of Congress. Find out if your Senator or Representative is on a key committee for Alzheimer’s issues.
U.S. Senate: Key committees in the Senate include the Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Finance Committee, and Appropriations Committee. Among its other duties, the H.E.L.P. Committee leads on key biomedical research and health issues (NAPA was approved by the H.E.L.P. Committee in the 111th Congress) while the Finance Committee has jurisdiction over Medicare issues. The Appropriations Committee determines how federal dollars will be spent in every federal agency. This committee is key this year as we work to protect research and other programs important to the Alzheimer’s community.

U.S. House of Representatives: Key committees in the House of Representatives include the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, and the Appropriations Committee. Among its other duties, the Energy and Commerce Committee leads on general health care issues. The Ways and Means committee considers revenue-related aspects of Medicare and other important social service programs. The Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives is important to the Association because it provides funding for key research and supports programs that help the Alzheimer’s Community. The Association is working to protect these key programs in the tough current fiscal environment.

MIND Act
While the Alzheimer’s Association remains focused on the development and introduction of federal priorities for the 112th Congress, we also support other Alzheimer-related federal legislation. One such bill, the Making Investments Now for Dementia Act (MIND Act) (H.R. 610), was introduced this week by Representative Michael Burgess, MD (TX-26). The bill would create a new form of U.S. Bonds that would specifically fund Alzheimer research at the National Institute of Health. While this is not one of our key federal priorities and no advocate action is needed at this time, the Association supports this act and its goal of increased Alzheimer research.

Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease
The Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease works to advance Alzheimer’s awareness and research and bring the disease to the forefront of the congressional agenda. Task Force members have been instrumental in securing policy victories for the Alzheimer’s Association and all people living with or caring for someone with Alzheimer’s disease.

Please take a moment to share your passion with your elected officials!

Generation Alzheimer’s: The Defining Disease of the Baby Boomers
This year, the first baby boomers turn 65. Age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease. The new Alzheimer’s Association report Generation Alzheimer’s: The Defining Disease of the Baby Boomers conveys the burden of Alzheimer’s and dementia on individuals, families, government and our Nation’s healthcare system. If you have not previously seen it, you can find the report here: http://www.alz.org/boomers/

Questions? E-mail Advocate@alz.org.
Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Neuropathology Laboratory

In February of 2010, MUSC opened the Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Neuropathology Laboratory with a generous donation from the Carroll Campbell family. This Laboratory is a novel MUSC research center, committed to being the link between clinicians, scientists and pathologists involved in aging and dementia research throughout the state of South Carolina by:

1. Coordinating the brain tissue donation program to seek donors both with AND without neurological disorders
2. Providing post-mortem diagnosis information to family members
3. Leading research trials to better understand the mechanisms of neurodegenerative disorders
4. Fostering close collaboration with clinicians to rapidly transfer discoveries in the laboratory to patients in need

Our primary goal is to improve the care and treatment of patients suffering from devastating neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, cancer, and stroke. To do this, we must increase the brain tissue available to our researchers for study. Currently, we have collected 20 brains and are actively recruiting donors, both with neurological disorders and without, for age-matched control tissue.

The Neuropathology Laboratory is the only human brain bank in SC, and serves the entire state, including the Upstate and Midlands regions. Our hope is that scientists at MUSC, and other institutions, can utilize the human brain tissue to develop improved treatment options and prevention strategies, as well as determine biological factors underlying the high incidence of the disorders in certain regions of our state.

For specific questions, you may contact the Brain Donation Coordinator, Nicholas Gregory, at (843) 792-7867 or gregoryn@musc.edu.

If you are interested in participating in fundraising towards the Brain Bank initiative please contact Rebekah Hardin at (843) 792-3699 or hardinr@musc.edu.

Please visit our website at: www.musc.edu/aging.

South Carolina’s Geriatric Loan Forgiveness Program

Moving into the sixth round of awards, South Carolina’s Geriatric Loan Forgiveness Program is paying dividends in terms of increased interest in the fellowship programs at the University of South Carolina Medical School and the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, according to USC’s Dr. Victor Hirth, chairman of the advisory committee established to oversee the program.

Administered by the South Carolina Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging, the Geriatric Loan Forgiveness Program will forgive up to $35,000 of student loan debt incurred during medical school for each year of specialized fellowship training in geriatric medicine or geropsychiatry undertaken by successful applicants. To be awarded the loan forgiveness, the applicant must also agree to establish a practice in geriatric or geropsychiatric medicine in the state for a minimum of five years.
Loan Forgiveness  cont. from pg. 4

The loan forgiveness program was supported by the AARP and the South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature and approved by the General Assembly in 2005.

“We have a shortage of geriatricians in South Carolina and our country as a whole. Since this program started, we have gained 18 geriatric specialists in this state increasing the overall number by nearly 50%,” said Tony Kester, Director of the Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging. “We are drawing national attention with this program, and other states, including California, Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Washington are calling the Office on Aging for guidance on creating their own program. I am proud that our state is taking the lead in caring for our seniors one program at a time.”

Doctors currently practicing who complete a fellowship in geriatrics as part of their training, and medical residents who are currently participating in fellowship programs interested in practicing in South Carolina can apply for the loan forgiveness program. The application process is competitive, and applicants are judged on academic accomplishment and references. In accordance with the legislation that created the program, native South Carolinians completing in-state programs at the MUSC in Charleston or the USC Medical School in Columbia will receive priority in the application process, followed by out-of-state residents in those programs, South Carolina natives completing out-of-state fellowship programs and out-of-state applicants completing out-of-state fellowships. Fellowship training must be in a program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in geriatrics or geropsychiatry.

For more information about the program, contact John Roberts in the Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging at (803) 734-9940, or via e-mail at robertsj@aging.sc.gov.

Upcoming Events

The Alzheimer’s Association invites people to attend the Advocacy Day at the state capitol on April 6. Stories will be shared with legislators about how respite reduces caregiver stress and helps family caregivers to provide care at home longer. For more details about this event, call Beth Sulkowski at 1-800-908-9690 or check the website www.alz.org/sc

Two all day education conferences sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association S.C. Chapter, will feature Teepa Snow. She is renowned for teaching techniques that help caregivers see beyond the disease process and fully connect with the person with dementia. The conference in Greenville will be on Tuesday, May 24 from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM, at the Carolina First Center, will offer 6 CEUs.

Call 1-800-273-2555 for a brochure. The same program will be presented at the Elks Lodge in Charleston on Sam Rittenburg Blvd. on May 25 from 8:30AM until 4:00 PM. Call 1-800-860-1444 for more information. Check the chapter website at www.alz.org/sc for information on other programs around the state.

Recent Grants/Funding

Amella, E.J. (MUSC). US Department of Agriculture Nutrition and Food Safety Education Targeting Rural Older Adults: A Volunteer-Based Train-the-Team Approach, sub-award from Clemson University. (9/10-9/11).
Recent Grants cont. from pg. 5

Amella, E. J. Co-PI (MUSC). A train-the-trainer program for respite center staff. Center for Community Health Partnerships – Community Engaged Scholars program Funders: South Carolina Clinical & Translational Research (SCTR) Institute, with an academic home at the Medical University of South Carolina, NIH/NCRR. $10,000 (8/10-12/11).


Corman, C., Office for the Study of Aging, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Arnold School of Public Health, USC. Development of a Person Centered Hospital Discharge Planning Model. South Carolina Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging, $140,326 (7/01/10 – 9/30/11).

Corman, C., Office for the Study of Aging, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Arnold School of Public Health, USC. Partnerships Around Certified Nursing Assistant Training & Mentoring, Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlnds, SC Inc. $23,206 (2/21/11 – 8/30/12).

Corman, C., Office for the Study of Aging, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Arnold School of Public Health, USC. Alzheimer’s Disease Supportive Services Program, South Carolina Lt. Governor’s Office on Aging, $14,325 (9/01/10 – 8/31/11).

Donley J., Palmetto Health Physical Rehabilitation and Mobility Clinic In November 2008, Palmetto Health Division of Geriatrics received a grant for a combined project total of $1.8M to build a Comprehensive Geriatric Mobility Assessment Clinic for community-dwelling elderly serving Columbia, South Carolina seniors. The clinic is a multi-disciplinary team from the fields of geriatric medicine, physical therapy, nursing, exercise science, and social work. (2008-2012).

Dye, C. (PI), William, J. (Co-investigator). “Health Coaches for Hypertension Control”. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). D04RH12726-01-00. In this project, hypertensive patients over the age of 60 living in rural Oconee County, SC, participate in group classes, support groups and telephone coaching provided by Health Coaches (lay educators) indigenous to the area. Dye will be in charge of the selection and training of research team members including Health Coaches, communications with hospital and physician partners, oversight of development of educational materials, development of progress reports for funder, participation in meetings with funder and designated technical support group, developing PR plan and conducting PR activities, financial management of grant funds, responsibility for obtaining and maintaining Internal Review Board approval for Human Subjects protection, and development of sustainability plans with project partners. Funded, $375,000. (2009-2012).


Eleazer, P., Wieland, D., Dever-Bumba, M. & Stewart, T. Fulerton Foundation Grant: Senior Mentor Programs for the Carolinas. USC team collaborating with UNC-Chapel Hill and Wake Forest University for replication of Senior Mentor Programs (SMPs) at the Schools of Medicine. Addition planning work for National Clearinghouse for SMPs. $180,000 (2009-2010).

Gajadhar, R. Geriatric Academic Career Award DHHS, Health Resources and Services Administration (2010-2015).

Hirth, V. & Dever-Bumba, M. HRSA-Palmetto State Geriatric Education Center grant. $1,200,000 (2007-2010).


Porth, J. (Palmetto Health). Implementing a Care Coordination Model for Older Adults within an Accountable Care Organization. Practice Change Fellows Program, $90,000 (September 1, 2010 - August 31, 2012).


Grants/Funding cont. on pg. 7
Recent Grants cont. from pg. 6


Srinivasan, S. SCDMH ENSOR Foundation: $10,000 grant for clinical trial of open-label fixed-dose Buspirone for treatment-emergent sexual side effects in schizophrenia. Awarded November 2009.


Presentations


Aselage, M., Amella, E., Garrow, D. & Bowers, L. Feeding in Elderly with Late-stage Dementia (the FIELD Trial): Fidelity to treatment in an efficacy trial in the nursing home setting. 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (poster). New Orleans, LA, (November 2010).


Dever-Bumba, M. End of Life Care: An Overview. 6 hr CEU program, Loris, SC (March 18, 2010).

Dever-Bumba, M. Grief, Loss and Bereavement. 6 hr CEU program, Hardeeville, SC (February 18, 2010).

Dever-Bumba, M. End of Life Series which included discussions on communication, legal/ethics symptom management, pain management, dying process and the last hours, grief, loss and bereavement, and compassion fatigue/burn out. Florence, SC (January-April 2010).


Dever-Bumba, M. Cultural Aspects and Compassion Fatigue. Myrtle Beach, SC (September 26, 2010).


Dever-Bumba, M. Pain and Symptom Management at End of Life Series. Myrtle Beach, SC (October 13, 2010).

Dever-Bumba, M. Psycho-Social Aspects of Aging, 6 hr CEU program. Beaufort, SC (April 9, 2010) & Florence, SC (September 15, 2010).

Dever-Bumba, M. Tools for the Journey, the 11th Hour: Communication at End of Life and Legal/Ethics. Beaufort, SC (July 30, 2010).

Dever-Bumba, M. Older Adults in Medical Education: The Senior Mentor model (with Darryl Wieland, PhD) Geriatric Grand Rounds: University of Alabama- Birmingham (September 29, 2010).

Dever-Bumba, M. Sexuality while Aging: 3 hr CEU program, Beaufort, SC (October 18, 2010).

Dever-Bumba, M. Senior Mentor Experience (with Ellen Roberts, PhD, Thomas Stewart, PhD, and Darryl Wieland, PhD). Gerolina Meeting. Charleston, SC (December 3, 2010).

Kurent, J. Ethics, Professionalism and the Patient-Physician relationship. White Coat Ceremony speaker, St. George University, Grenada, West Indies (January 2010).

Kurent, J. Pain assessment and principles of pain management: selected patient case-based studies. St. George University, Grenada, West Indies (January 10, 2010).

Kurent, J. Improving palliative and end of life care in South Carolina. SCMA Bioethics Committee annual retreat, Hilton Head Island (February 5-7, 2010).

Presentations cont. from pg. 7.


Kurent, J. Ethics, decision-making and assisted living facilities policy. South Carolina Association for Residential Care Homes conference, Wild Dunes Conference Center, Charleston, SC (September, 2010).


Spencer, S. M. Evidence of health pessimism among older African Americans. Department of Psychology, Radford University, Radford, VA. (December 2010).


Spencer, S. M. From the Cotton Belt to the Stroke Belt: Policy challenges in the South. The Roosevelt Institution Seminar Series, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. (February 2010).

Tavakoli, A., Register, M. E. & Herman, J. Using SAS to examine missing data in psychometric research. South East SAS User Group Annual Conference, Savannah, GA. (September 26, 2010).

Recent Publications


Publications cont. from pg. 8


Recent Published Abstracts


Published Abstracts cont. from pg. 9


Books


Other Aging News

The Alzheimer’s Association S. C. Chapter announces the opening of an office in Myrtle Beach that will serve Horry, Williamsburg, Georgetown, and Marion counties. Natalie Bankowski is the part-time program director. Call her at 843-213-1516. An Open House was held on March 11 at 1039 44th Ave. North, Suite 201, the Mayfair Building in Myrtle Beach.

The Alzheimer’s Association has introduced TrialMatch to help connect persons with clinical studies around the country. Volunteers are needed in order to help find more effective treatments. Go to 800-272-3900 (National Alzheimer’s Association) or visit www.alz.org/trialmatch

M. Elizabeth Register was given the 2010 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award at the University of South Carolina, College of Nursing. Currently enrolled graduate students in the College of Nursing nominate graduate faculty for this award. Additionally, M. E. Register received the 2010 New Investigator Award from the University of South Carolina, College of Nursing. The purpose of the New Investigator Award is to recognize a junior tenure-track faculty member with an earned doctoral who has demonstrated excellence in nursing research or related health systems. Nominations come from faculty members and the winner is competitively selected.

Dr. Shilpa Srinivasan, along with the assistance of Carol Natrigo-Waters, LISW-CP and Maureen Dever-Bumba, DrPH, are conducting a study entitled “Sexuality, Intimacy and Dementia: A Case-Control Survey.” This research study is sponsored by the Division of Geriatrics through Palmetto Health, at Senior Primary Care Practice. The intent of this study is to obtain information related to attitudes about sexuality and intimacy when a spouse or partner has some form of cognitive impairment. Sexuality and intimacy are an important part of a relationship between older adults. This study examines the effects of caregiver burden on sexual attitudes and behaviors of the spouse or partner who is caring for a loved one with cognitive impairment.

Dr. Mintzer was a guest lecturer for two sessions for the medical school class “Molecular Approaches to Experimental Medicine” at MUSC and at the end of the month will be a guest for a special humanities course lecture entitled “Aging, Grief, and Identity,” also at the medical school. He continues his work as the principal investigator at the multi-trial clinical site Alzheimer’s Research and Clinical Programs, and in September will assume his role as president of the International Psychogeriatric Association.

Jerome Kurrent continues to be a Chair Member in the Ethics Section of the American Academy of Neurology. He was also invited to be a guest member for the Ethics, Law and Humanities Committee from 2009-2011.

Elaine J. Amella was awarded the 2010 MUSC Teaching Excellence Award as Educator-Mentor: Academic/Scholarship.

Other Trainings

Jan Merling, Dementia Dialogues, a 5 part learning experience designed to educate individuals who care for persons who exhibit signs and symptoms associated with Alzheimer’s Disease or related dementia.

Jan Merling We Each Have a Story, Preventing Elder Mistreatment in Long-Term Care Facilities, for Direct Care Staff and Management. This training emphasizes the prevention of mistreatment by addressing what can be done before mistreatment occurs.
New Subscribers Wanted

If you think someone else may be interested in receiving this electronic newsletter, please ask him or her to email: Rita J. Chou rjchou@sc.edu, with his/her full name, occupation/position, and name of organization/agency/business.