

## Meeting the Oral Needs of the Aging Population Interdisciplinary Engagement

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## Retooling for an Aging America

IOM April 2008

- ◆ The number of older adults in the United States will almost double between 2005 and 2030 (17.6% Floridians are >65y)
- ◆ Elders are more diverse, will live longer, and have complex needs in the face of a shrinking health care work force
- ◆ **It is vital to**
  - **Enhance the geriatric competence of the entire workforce**
  - **Increase the recruitment and retention of geriatric specialists and caregivers**
  - **Improve the way care is delivered**

## Medical Student Education



Since virtually all health professionals care for older adults to some degree, geriatric competence needs to be improved through significant enhancements in educational curricula and training programs

IOM April 2008

## The Florida Coastal Geriatric Resources, Education and Training Center: The GREAT GEC






**GREAT GEC**  
 Nova Southeastern University  
 3446 South University Drive  
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328  
 (954) 262-1078  
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<http://www.nova.edu/gec>


## Mission of the GEC

- ◆ Maintain and improve the health of older adults
- ◆ Provide education and training in health promotion and disease prevention
- ◆ Provide innovative teaching and clinical experiences
- ◆ Promote the discipline of geriatrics

## GECs



- ◆ 50 GECs nationwide
- ◆ Funding
  - Three years
  - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), US Department of Health and Human Services
  - (Bureau of Health Professions under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act)




[www.nova.edu/gec](http://www.nova.edu/gec)

## NSU Academic Partners

- ◆ Housed in the College of Osteopathic Medicine
- ◆ Nursing
- ◆ Dentistry (special needs)
- ◆ Occupational Therapy
- ◆ Physical Therapy
- ◆ Optometry
- ◆ Pharmacy
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Psychiatry
- ◆ Public Health
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Lifelong Learning Institute
- ◆ Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness



## Consortium Partners

- ◆ Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County
- ◆ Lee Memorial Health System
- ◆ Southwest Focal Point Senior Center
- ◆ West Palm Beach VA Medical Center



## Online Geriatrics Course

- ◆ Can be used by all health professions colleges and departments at NSU
- ◆ Future goal: offer this course nationwide for education of students and continuing education of health professionals
- ◆ **Modules**
  - introductory module outlining general geriatric concepts, myths and misconceptions of aging and normal aging
  - Optometry
  - Nursing
  - Occupational therapy
  - Physical therapy
  - Pharmacy
  - Dentistry
  - Public health
  - Psychology
  - Podiatry
  - Nutrition
  - Disaster preparedness and response
  - Medicare/Medicaid



## Geriatrics Training at NSU COM

- ◆ One of 10 medical schools that have a required course in Geriatrics (125 responded)
  - 12 h case-based approach to geriatric syndromes
- ◆ M2 End-of-life seminar
- ◆ M3 geriatrics rotation is required
- ◆ Family Medicine residency geriatrics rotation is required
- ◆ 1 yr Geriatrics fellowship (FM- AOA accredited)
- ◆ Geriatric Education Center (HRSA funded)

## Current Medical Student Education in Oral Health at NSU COM

- ◆ 1 pathology lecture on the Oral Cavity in the Gastroenterology course
- ◆ 2 hr lecture on Examination of the Head and Neck including the Oral Cavity
- ◆ Included in a 2hr lab on Examination of the Head and Neck



## Educating Students, residents, and fellows

- ◆ Clinic, hospital, and nursing home rotations
  - Hospice, Urology, PT, Optometry, Podiatry and Wound Care
- ◆ Geriatrics modules for learning and testing during rotations
- ◆ Online Geriatrics Course
- ◆ Geriatrics Journal Club
- ◆ Grand Rounds
- ◆ Clinical research
- ◆ ADRC home visits with education coordinator



## Geriatric Collaboration Wins National Award July 2009



National Association of Area Agencies on Aging award presented to the ADRC of Broward County's Senior Intervention and Education Program for innovation and sound management practices

Students visit isolated seniors' homes to assess the elders' living environments and resources, as well as evaluate their ability to function within their own homes.

## Interdisciplinary Education for Students

- ◆ **Geriatrics**
  - Course: A Case Based Approach to Geriatrics
  - One month clinical rotations at the Ziff Clinic
  - Web based modules for geriatrics clinical rotation training for M3 students
  - 12-hour course to third year medical students
  - Geriatrics Fellowship program for osteopathic physicians
- ◆ **Nursing**
  - Modules within many nursing courses
  - One month clinical rotations in geriatrics at the Ziff Clinic
- ◆ **Public Health**
  - Elective: Public Health Issues in the Elderly
  - Modules within courses (public health and aging and cultural diversity and aging)
- ◆ **Physical and Occupational Therapy**
  - Intro to system changes/effects of aging
  - Courses on evaluation & intervention with older adults
  - Clinical experiences with elders in area facilities/LLI/health fairs
- ◆ **Optometry**
  - Clinical Gerontology course (3 credit hours)
- ◆ **Fischler School of Education**
  - Gerontology minor (18 credit hours)
- ◆ **College of Dental Medicine/Dentistry**
  - Didactic geriatric lecture series for Pre-doctoral dental students
  - Clinical experiences for pre-doctoral students and post graduate residents in an area long term care facility.
- ◆ **Pharmacy**
  - Clinical experiences with elders in area facilities/LLI

## Educating Professionals

- ◆ **Florida**
  - Broward Aging Network Conference
  - Florida Council on Aging
  - Florida Geriatric Care Manager's Association
  - Florida Occupational Therapy Association
  - Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
  - Florida Public Health Association
  - Governor's Hurricane Conference
- ◆ **National**
  - Administration on Aging
  - American Judges Association
  - American Medical Directors Association
  - American Occupational Therapy Association
  - American Physical Therapy Association
  - American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
  - California Association of Long Term Care
- ◆ **International**
  - Naushira Pandya and Leonard Levy - Fulbright Specialist Program in Slovakia, Fall 2009

## The Great Divide

- ◆ Medical and dental students rarely train together or interact professionally
- ◆ Physicians and dentists do collaborate routinely



## Areas of Instruction and Expertise

- ◆ Anemia
- ◆ Diabetes
- ◆ Cardiovascular health
- ◆ Pneumonia
- ◆ Parkinson's disease
- ◆ Wounds, Pressure Ulcers
- ◆ Infections
- ◆ Thyroid dysfunction
- ◆ HIV/AIDS
- ◆ Stroke prevention
- ◆ Delirium and dementia
- ◆ Falls and gait imbalance
- ◆ Aging eye/low vision
- ◆ Dehydration
- ◆ Weight loss/undernutrition
- ◆ Hip arthroplasty
- ◆ Amputations
- ◆ Morbidity/mortality in LTC
- ◆ End of life care
- ◆ Disaster preparedness
- ◆ Psychology of aging
- ◆ Aging and ethnicity
- ◆ Failure to thrive
- ◆ Geriatric psychiatry
- ◆ Geriatric dentistry
- ◆ Health policy
- ◆ Medication adherence
- ◆ Drug interactions
- ◆ Medications and the older patient
- ◆ Occupational performance, participation, and adaptation
- ◆ Community mobility & driving
- ◆ Caregiving
- ◆ Community-based services

## Projects

- ◆ Chronic Disease Self Management
- ◆ Broward Homebound
- ◆ Senior Citizen's Islamic Society
- ◆ South Florida Falls Prevention Coalition
- ◆ NSU Interdisciplinary Balance and Fall Prevention
- ◆ Thou Shalt Honor
- ◆ Aging Expo and other health fairs
- ◆ Annual Symposium (Closing the Gap in Eldercare)



Attendees get their blood checked at the 2008 Boomers and Beyond health fair

## Linkages

- ◆ National
  - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  - Environmental Protection Agency, Aging Initiative
  - National Association of GEC's
- ◆ State of Florida
  - Department of Elder Affairs
  - Health Foundation of South Florida
  - Governor's Cancer Control Advisory Committee
- ◆ Local
  - Broward Aging Alliance
  - ARC Broward
  - United Way of Broward County
  - Jessie Trice Community Health Center

Steps that could be taken **Everyday**  
while we are all discussing the  
issues

- ◆ Perform an oral exam on all older adults!
- ◆ Document your findings
- ◆ Try to understand the significance of abnormal findings
  - The effect of systemic diseases on the mouth
  - The manifestations of systemic disease in the mouth
- ◆ Hold our learners accountable for performing an oral exam and evaluate their competency
- ◆ Timely referral for dental care