



## GERIATRIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN TEXAS

 DONALD W. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION

### 2013 SPRING NEWSLETTER

#### **From the desk of the Geriatric Section Chief & PI of the Reynolds GET IT Program**

The GET-IT Program successfully completed their four year funded project from the WR Reynolds Foundation meeting and/or exceeding the goals of the grant! The Reynolds GET IT Team accomplished the integration of geriatrics education into TCOM undergraduate medical curriculum, Texas OPTI Programs, as part of UNTHSC faculty development and for practicing physicians in Texas and throughout the USA. Many thanks goes out to the Reynolds GET IT administrative team, evaluation team, Oversight Network, UNTHSC faculty and most of all to our learners who have embraced the geriatrics content. A special thank you goes out to **Meals on Wheels** as a dedicated partner, the Tarrant County seniors who have become **SAGE Mentors** and simulated patients, our Technical Assistant sites **University of North Carolina, Virginia Commonwealth University** and the **Healthy Aging Council** who have supported aging and geriatrics educational efforts. We look forward to continuing the geriatric education that will remain part of the Reynolds GET IT Program at UNTHSC! **Janice Knebl, DO, MBA**

**David Farmer, PhD** says farewell to the Reynolds GET-IT Program. In December the former director of the Reynolds GET-IT Program became director of the newly created Department of Interprofessional Practice. He will lead the UNT Health Science Center's initiatives in development of interprofessional training opportunities across UNTHSC's five schools and with community partners. UNTHSC desires to create a culture of interprofessional education to advance integrated health services and improve the health and quality of life for the people of Texas and beyond.

Initial Interprofessional Practice Goals include:

- Development of an infrastructure for interprofessional education
- Expansion of high quality interprofessional education
- Promotion of achievement of interprofessional competencies
- Development and enhancement of interprofessional education partnerships

The GET-IT Program extends best wishes to Dr. Farmer in his new role.



**Drs. David Farmer and Janice Knebl at Blue House, December 2012 during Dr. Farmer's Farewell and Good Luck Celebration**



**Sandra Marquez-Hall, PhD** joined UNTHSC as Director of the Reynolds Geriatric Education & Training in Texas Program (GET-IT) replacing David Farmer.

Dr. Marquez-Hall holds a Bachelor's Degree in American Studies and a Master's in Education from California State Universities. She earned a PhD in Family & Consumer Sciences Education from Texas Tech

University. She has 20+ years of experience in teaching and administration in higher education. Dr. Hall established the first Assessment and Planning Office at Texas Tech and has extensive experience in strategic planning, assessment and student life research. Prior to joining UNTHSC she served as a Department Chair and Director Academic Services at the Art Institute of Dallas where she focused on coordination of curriculum, faculty development, academic and student support services. She has received awards for her leadership and service from professional associations at the state and national level.

**UNTHSC Reynolds Geriatric Education and Training in Texas (GET-IT) Program** four (4) year grant officially ended in 2012 and the 4<sup>th</sup> year report showed all grant goals for developing and implementing an innovative and sustainable program to strengthen physicians' training geriatrics were met or exceeded. Grant achievements included integrating geriatric curriculum into all four years of medical school, a highly successful Seniors Assisting in Geriatric Education (SAGE) senior mentor program, faculty development in geriatrics for practicing physicians throughout the state, and development of Geriatric Knowledge Based inference Tool (KBIT) modules. The Reynolds Foundation 4<sup>th</sup> year official site visit and final report were highly positive and contained glowing recommendations such as "...met all stated goals, extremely successful, strong institutional commitment, outstanding leadership, and outstanding faculty." The GET-IT Program wants to acknowledge the continuing support of **UNTHSC, TCOM** and the **Department of Internal Medicine** for helping make the program successful and sustainable.

## What's next for the GET-IT Program?

In 2013 the GET-IT Program will continue in a no-cost year using funds not depleted during the initial 4 year grant period as well as continuing support from UNTHSC and The Healthy Aging Council. The Reynolds Foundation "Next-Steps" is a four year grant available to previous recipients for continuing geriatric program development. We are pleased to inform you that the UNTHSC Reynolds GET-IT Program is a finalist for this 4 year award. An official presentation was made to the Foundation on April 1<sup>st</sup> and final awards will be announced in May.

## The Healthy Aging Council

The Healthy Aging Council is made up of a group of members from the local community interested in geriatric education and research. Their research focus involves the causes and cures of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. The Council is organized into an Advisory Board and functional units of sub-committees that focus on top priorities each year. Sub-committees develop and implement community outreach and awareness of aging-related programs at UNTHSC. One of the programs of focus is the Reynolds GET-IT Seniors Assisting in Geriatric Education (SAGE) program coordinated by **Yolanda Pitts, MEd, CHES**.

SAGE is an innovative senior mentoring program that partners with Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County and other community resource centers along with senior volunteers in the community in order to better prepare healthcare students to serve the distinctive needs of the aging population. The Healthy Aging Council SAGE

sub-committee worked to help identify and secure funding for the program that resulted in a \$150,000 annual donation over the next 5 years. The GET-IT Team is appreciative of the Council's commitment and effort on our behalf. Look for the SAGE Program to expand to include other student health care professions in the near future.

### SAGE Statistics

<b>684</b>	<b>Seniors Served</b>
<b>657</b>	<b>Students Involved</b>
<b>347</b>	<b>SAGE Mentors</b>

## Spotlight on Geriatric Grand Rounds

**Heidieh Davanloo, MD, D.ABSM, CSM and Katura Bullock, PharmD, BCPS** both from **UNTHSC** presented a highly interactive and informative session on the "2012 Beers Criteria on Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults."

**Carmel Bitondo Dyer, MD, AGSF, FACP**, Professor and Director of Geriatric Medicine Division at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. Dr. Dyer's topic "Why Culture Matters in Cases of Elder Mistreatment and Self-neglect," had data from studies conducted with Texas Social Service Agencies using the Texas APS Client Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CARE) Tool to help medical providers to evaluate elder mistreatment and neglect.

**A Scott Winter, MD, DFAPA of UNTHSC** presentation "The Hidden Epidemic: Geriatric Substance Abuse" provided a comprehensive review on the impact and challenges of alcohol and prescription, OTC, and/or illicit drug use in the aging population.

**Rosanne Leipzig, MD, PhD**, Professor and Vice Chair of Geriatric Education, Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Leipzig's topic "Don't Kill Granny: Becoming a Better Doctor for Older Adults" highlighted the complexities physicians face in caring for seniors and provided a 5 Step Methodology to guide the care of seniors.

### **MORE Reynolds GET-IT Program and Geriatric Section Activity**

#### **Research Appreciation Day (RAD)**

**Dr. Janice Knebl** helped host Nobel Laureate and keynote speaker Stanley B. Prusiner, MD, Director of the Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Professor of Neurology at University of California in San Francisco.

Dr. Prusiner discovered an unprecedented class of pathogens that he named prions. Prions are infectious proteins that cause neurodegenerative diseases in animals and humans. He predicted a prion etiology for common degenerative diseases based on his seminal discovery and much of his current research focuses on developing therapeutics aimed at halting neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, the frontotemporal dementias and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

RAD included a poster presentation by the SAGE team entitled: "Changing Student Perspectives One Senior at a Time; Developing Well-Rounded Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine" that was presented by **Yolanda Pitts**, MEd, CHES.

Reynolds GET- IT faculty **Drs. Roy Martin, Sarah Ross** and **Sandra Marquez-Hall** acted as TCOM judges for RAD student research presentations.

**CONGRATULATIONS - Student Chapter of the American Geriatrics Society (SCAGS)** for being awarded "Most Improved Organization," the organization that has made significant strides towards achieving their goals and in recognition of their valuable contributions to the UNTHSC Community.

### **The following students have received American Federation for Aging Research-Medical Students Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Scholarships**

Five students are confirmed to work with aging research in Geriatrics this summer as well as in geriatric clinical preceptorships:

- **Jay Lee** has been awarded an MSTAR scholarship and will be working with **Dr. Sonny Singh** in research and with Geriatrics for clinical preceptorship
- **Horacio Sosa** has been awarded an MSTAR scholarship and will be working with **Dr. Sid OBryant** in research and with Geriatrics for clinical preceptorship
- **Stephen Regina** is on the wait list for MSTAR scholarship and will be working with **Dr. Sid O'Bryant** in research and with Geriatrics for clinical preceptorship
- **Sina Najafi** will be working with **Dr. Janet Lieto** on a clinical research project and with Geriatrics for clinical preceptorship and will receive \$1000 for the summer activities
- **Heinz-Dieter Schwarzkopf** will be working with **Dr. Amy Moss** on a clinical research project and with Geriatrics for clinical preceptorship and will receive \$1000 for the summer activities.