



UNT | HEALTH
SCIENCE CENTER

GERIATRIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN TEXAS

 DONALD W. REYNOLDS FOUNDATION

2013 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Reynolds Interprofessional Geriatrics Education and Training in Texas (IGET-IT) Next Steps Award

The UNT Health Science Center's (UNTHSC) Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Health Professions will expand its SAGE program and partner with the UNT System College of Pharmacy, along with the Texas Christian University Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Department of Nutritional Sciences, to develop and implement a partnership to improve the ability of physicians to work in teams among health care disciplines. The four-year, \$1 million grant funds the new NEXT STEPS Program that will employ three major innovations under the direction of Reynolds Fellow Janice Knebl, DO, Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Endowed Chair in Clinical Geriatrics, and Professor of Internal Medicine at UNTHSC, to provide better team care for older adults:

- Expand the Seniors Assisting in Geriatrics Education (SAGE) program for students of various health professions, including physician assistants, physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing and nutrition;
- Create an Inter-professional, web-based Team Capstone (ITC) geriatrics experience for all senior-year health professions students at the participating institutions; and
- Develop inter-professional e-learning modules in collaboration with the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) for residents and practicing physicians.

UNTHSC will collaborate with Donald W. Reynolds Foundation grantee Virginia Commonwealth University to adapt its Virtual Classroom as the model for the ITC geriatrics experience, which matches older patients with students studying medicine, physician assistance, physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing and nutrition. Both students and Fort Worth Metroplex senior adults benefit from this innovative senior mentoring program.

SPOTLIGHT ON Seniors Assisting in Geriatric Education (SAGE)

Individuals sixty-five and over represent a rapidly growing portion of our population worldwide but the number of geriatricians falls far short of this need and the gap is continuing to widen. Older patients bring highly complex medical issues and require physicians who are able to help maintain their quality of life, with dignity and independence while also being able to discuss end of life planning and other concerns unique to these patients and their families. Through the SAGE program, UNTHSC Division of Geriatrics and the IGET-IT program has implemented an educational model for preparing doctors to better serve older patients.



SAGE SPOTLIGHT

The SAGE program is an opportunity to transform medical education. The SAGE program pairs 1st and 2nd year medical professions students, as well as physician assistants, physical therapy, and beginning in 2013 pharmacology students with a senior citizen volunteer who either receives home delivered meals through the Meals on Wheels Program, participants at local senior centers and volunteers from the local community.

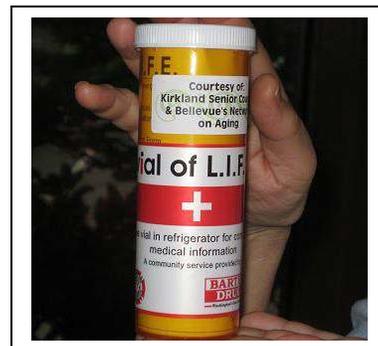
Students make home visits as an interdisciplinary medical team where they apply their classroom education in the context and care of an older patient. Students practice and demonstrate basic clinical skills, such as taking histories, interviewing clients, conducting physical exams and cognitive assessments, and advising clients on nutrition, home safety, and discussing community resources and advanced care planning. The program ensures that all medical students from UNTHSC will have a level of familiarity and comfort in treating older patients.

In 2011 the SAGE Program received a national award from the American Association for best community service program. In 2013 SAGE received a \$150,000 foundation grant from the Healthy Aging Council and will receive funding as part of the Donald W. Reynolds Interprofessional Geriatric Education and Training in Texas Next Steps Grant.

What's new in the SAGE Program?

This year SAGE has completed a strategic plan with updated mission, vision, values and goals. In addition the course curriculum and student assignments have been reviewed and updated and will be migrated in to UNTHSCs new CANVAS Online Learning System. Another addition to the SAGE Program will be the **Vial of Life Program**, a senior safety program.

The Vial a Life program is nationally recognized as saving countless lives each year by providing emergency responders with lifesaving medical information during an emergency. Visiting students record senior mentors' medical information during their visit and place it in a prescription bottle that is placed in the refrigerator with an identifying decal on it. Another decal is placed on the front door or window of the seniors' residence and that will direct emergency personnel to where the information is kept. **The Vial of Life Program** will be included in a SAGE visit to senior mentors as a way to provide their medical information when the patient is not able to speak or remember their medical information.



Vial of Life Bottle

Seniors Assisting in Geriatric Education (SAGE)

Mission: To strengthen health professions students' medical education in the development of competency in attitude, knowledge and skills in the care of older adults.

Vision: The SAGE Program will impact the way future doctors and other health care professionals care of older adults.

Values: Communication, Teamwork, Empathy and Communication.

Goals:

- (1) Health professions students will develop competency with older adults;
- (2) Strengthen health care students clinical applications of medical education through an Interprofessional team experience in the SAGE Program.

Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County has been a partner in the SAGE program since inception and as an ongoing partner recruits and helps coordinate approximately 60% of the participating senior mentors that students visit. At the IGET-IT Grant Kick-Off Meeting MOW was honored and received a \$20,000 donation from the Reynolds GET-IT Program. Meals on Wheels Director of Client Services, Lynell Bond, MSW, accepted the check on behalf of the organization.



From right:

Leslie Magee, Healthy Aging Council SAGE Sub-committee Chairperson; Yolanda Lane, SAGE Education Coordinator; Michelle Reynolds, Healthy Aging Council Chair; Lynell Bond, Director, Meals on Wheels; Dr. Janice Knebl, PI Reynolds GET-IT Programs, and Dr. Sandra Marquez-Hall, Director for IGET-IT Programs.



Campus Visitors and Scholarly Activity

International Sleep Medicine research experts, Drs. Fannie Onen and Hakki Onen visited UNTHSC and conducted several presentations for faculty and students.

From right: Dr. Hakki Onen; SCAGS officers Walker Pierce and Hannah Rios; Yolanda Lane, SCAGS officers Sina Najafi and Jay Lee; Drs. Janice Knebl and Fannie Onen at a special Grand Rounds Presentation.

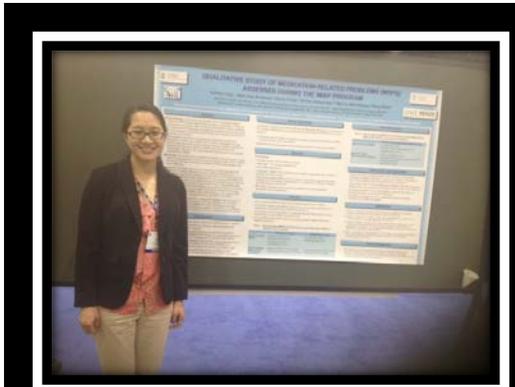


Academic Excellence Award in Core Clinical Geriatrics

Mehran C. Moradi received the 2013 Academic Excellence Award in Core Clinical Geriatrics for the highest combined scores in clinical rotation and final exam.

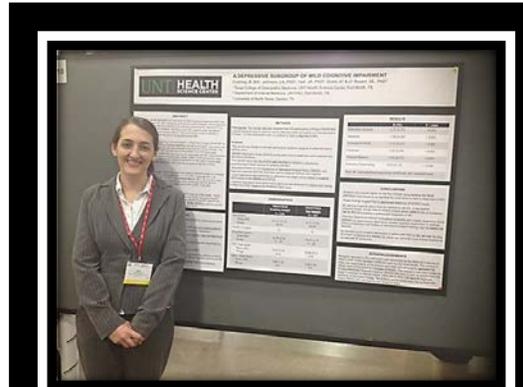
MSTAR Students

Five UNTHSC student poster presentations were selected and displayed at the American Geriatric Society 2013 Meeting.



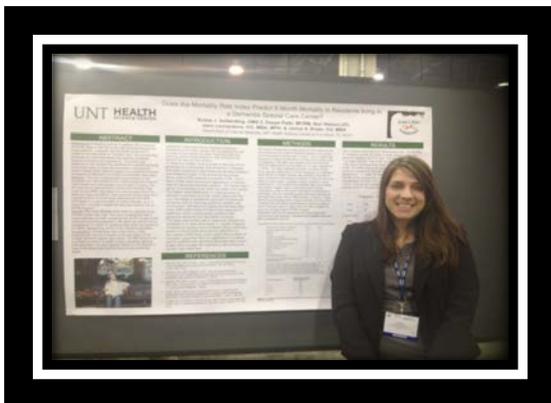
Ashley Liou

Qualitative Study of Medication-Related Problems (MRPs) Assessed During the iMAP Program



Blair Cushing

A Depressive Subgroup of Mild Cognitive Impairment



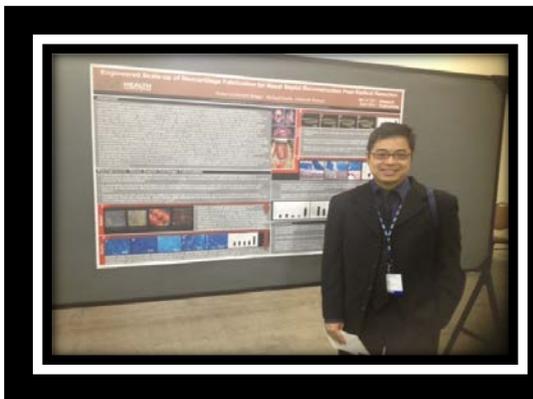
Krista Volberding

Does the Mortality Risk Index Predict 6 Month Mortality in Residents living in a Dementia Special Care Center?

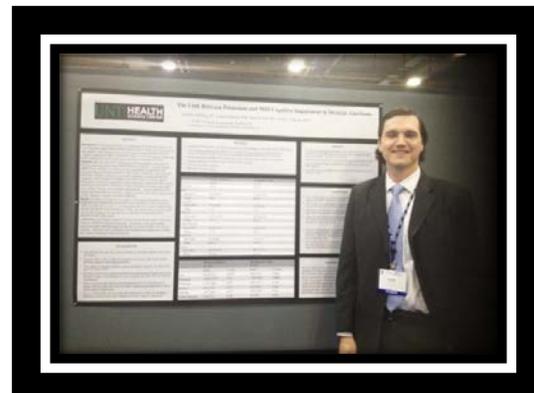


Eric Ho

Factors Related to Diabetes and Diabetic Control Among Rural Mexican American Adults and Elders



Victor Lin



Geoffrey Rohling

The Link Between Potassium and Mild Cognitive Impairment in Mexican Americans