Geriatric Education and Training in Texas (GET-IT):

An Innovative and Comprehensive Approach to Strengthening Physicians’ Training in Geriatrics

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Abstract

One of the largest areas of population growth worldwide is among those age sixty-five and above. Provision of health care to this age group is rapidly becoming a large proportion of clinical practice. Nationally there is a shortage of geriatricians and projections do not indicate relief in sight.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center’s (UNTHSC) Reynolds Geriatric Education and Training in Texas (GET-IT) Program has been developed to help meet the growing need to train physicians in the care of the geriatric population. This will be accomplished through four broad objectives which are intended to reach medical students, residents, faculty, and practicing physicians. This four year program targets each of these populations through its forty-eight infusions tasks and requires highly coordinated and collaborative efforts between the Division of Geriatrics, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM), and other departments and schools in the UNTHSC system. Funding is provided by a four year grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and UNTHSC matching funds.

GET-IT Program Objectives

1. Implement an Integrated Geriatrics Curriculum in all four years of Undergraduate Medical Education.
2. Implement an Integrated Geriatrics Curriculum during Osteopathic Residency Training.
3. Establish a Geriatrics Faculty Development Program for Osteopathic Residency Training.
4. Develop Geriatrics Continuing Medical Education Programs for Practicing Physicians.

TCOM Medical Students

SAGE (Seniors Assisting in Geriatric Education) A unique senior mentoring program that pairs two 15-18 year medical students with a senior adult client of Meals on Wheels Inc. of Tarrant County for two years. Medical students complete assignments with their Senior Clients through home visits to aid in the students attitudes, knowledge, and skills related to aging.

Geriatric Student Grand Rounds

Introduced through the Medical Informatics Course, 1st year medical students are placed in groups of fifteen and assigned a complex geriatric case from the New England Journal of Medicine. Under the direction of a GET-IT Program Geriatrician, students research and present the case to their class.

TCOM Medical School Curriculum

Geriatrics content is being integrated into the TCOM medical school curriculum with each new semester beginning with the orientation and Fall semester for the Class of 2013. The Class of 2013 will be the first to experience this truly geriatrics enriched curriculum across all four years of medical school.

Medical Students are given the opportunity to examine geriatric standardized patients beginning in their first year of medical school through their Clinical Medicine Course. This contact with geriatric patients is continued through the end of their second year.

Semester 1 Year 1 Integration (Fall 2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours of Geriatrics Content</th>
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<tr>
<td>37.5 Hours Geriatrics Content Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Hours Geriatric Patient Contact</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Hours (CLIs) Geriatrics Cases</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.5 Hours Student Assignments on Geriatrics and Aging Topics</td>
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39 of 100 Geriatrics Competencies Addressed! Geriatrics content is being tracked by Course and Geriatrics Competencies

TCOM Year 3 & 4 Clerkships

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Geriatrics Content</th>
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<td>28 of 100 Geriatrics Competencies addressed.</td>
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RAGU (Reynolds Annual Geriatric Update) A 6.5 hour symposium on Geriatric Syndromes 2009 RAGU * Alzheimer’s Disease*

Primary Care Residents (% Geriatrics Content Added)

North Texas Primary Care Update 43%

Texas OPTI Residents

Residents within the Texas OPTI (Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions) are impacted by:

Local IM/FP Interns have a mandatory 1 month rotation with GET-IT Program Geriatricians

Geriatrics Lecture Series

Geriatrics Grand Rounds

Geriatrics “Ask the Expert” Geriatrics Journal Club Course

Refinement Activities:

Data Analysis
Outcomes Measured
Modifications Identified

Data Collection:

Focus Groups
Surveys
CME Evaluations
Curriculum Tracking

Planning Activities:

Advisory Board
Curriculum Committee
Management Teams Planning Groups

Program Implementation:

4 Year Schedule
Program Timelines
Coordination With Program Partners

Regional Texas OPTI Workshops

Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Demonstration Videos For students, residents, faculty, physicians

FACULTY AND PRACTICING PHYSICIANS

UNTHSC Faculty, Texas OPTI Residency Program Directors, ROME (Rural Osteopathic Medical Education) Faculty, and Practicing Physicians are impacted by the GET-IT Program through:

Geriatric Grand Rounds in partnership with the UNTHSC Department of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) these live events are also accessible by internet for CME.

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