

Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology Newsletter

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MPGMG News & Awards

Department of Medicine (DOM) Grand Rounds on *Aug 14* will be by Dr. Amy Kind, the 2025 Solomon award winner and Intensive Course lecturer. Dave Reuben will be delivering DOM Grand Rounds on *August 28*. Save both dates. It will be good to have a big division showing in person and on Zoom.

Deb Saliba will be a discussant on a 2-day virtual NIA conference on patient experience and QOL in August.

Congratulations to David Lee, who was appointed Research Medical Director of the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program (ADC). Congratulations to Maris Garcia for being nominated for a Teaching award by Internal Medicine residents in Santa Monica hospital.

Connie Fung received notice of funding for her merit award to follow up on the study from her CDA. Congratulations to Connie.

Dave Reuben received an award from the Gilbert foundation to study capacity determinations for people with dementia and train staff to help caregivers of dementia patients fill out forms for benefits. Congratulations to Dave.

Josea Kramer is producing a podcast series on Managing Geriatric Syndromes with 3 podcasts hosted by David Lee - one on dementia, one on sleep, and one on Falls. David Ganz was featured on the Falls episode. It is not clear if these will be broadly available to be accessed outside the VA.

UCLA Geriatrics remains in the top 10 geriatrics programs in the country, according to the US News and World Report. This year, however, our ranking fell from 5 to 7; it appears to be driven by UCLA not having an NIH-funded Alzheimer's dementia research center (ADRC). We scored as well as the #1 ranked program, NYU Langone (whose chief is our own Josh Chodosh), in all categories (and even did better in expert opinion), but of the top 10 programs, we are the only one that doesn't have an ADRC. Neurology is putting together an application for an ADRC, led by Jason Hinman.

Geriatric Medicine Fellowship

The Meet the MPGMG Leaders event for the new fellows went well. We are grateful to the faculty and the leadership for showing up to support the new fellows and for helping in their orientation. The two-week orientation also went well; it allowed the new fellows to get to know each other better and gave us time to deal with on boarding issues at the multiple clinical sites.

We have started preparing for the new fellowship application and interview season. Applications opened on July 16. We received 49 applications in the first 2 weeks. If any of you want to be a part of the interview team, please let Erin and Angel Burrell know.

Erin is collecting the availability of research faculty to talk with applicants interested in pursuing a research career. If you are a researcher and did not receive this survey, please let Erin and Angel know. The plan is to set up applicants interested in research opportunities/career to meet with a research faculty member on the day of their interview and learn more about the variety of research opportunities open to fellows at UCLA.

This month Geriatrics Grand Rounds will be given by Dr. Dombrowski (Dementia Ideal Care Map) on 8/8; this month's journal club will be by Chris Willinger on Aug 29th.

Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR)

The final presentations event for this year was on July 24th and well attended. We continue to be amazed by how much MSTAR students get done in an 8-week period. At least 2 students indicated they would pursue a career in Geriatrics or affiliated field.

Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review

NexusCME is running the intensive course this year; we had 53 registrants by the end of July; this is comparable to last year at the same time. Our target number of registrations is 500 and we believe we will meet the goal.

Junior faculty and trainees can get a lower rate for registration; their mentor simply has to email Dan Osterweil and/or Sue Charette to ask for the discounted rate for mentees.

Recording of sessions for the intensive course has been completed.

Don't forget to register. (9/17-20/25 <https://intensivecourse-geriatricmedicine.cventevents.com/event/bd0d743d-b8b3-4fd3-b694-942cb2dc358f/home>)

Research Mission

We have 3 active recruitments. Martin Picard from Columbia U visited us and gave a well-received talk in CHS under the auspices of the DGSOM Metabolism Theme. The next visit, of Jennifer Carnahan from Indiana U, will be on 8/21-8/22. Steve Horvath's visit from Cambridge, UK, is tentatively scheduled for October 13 & 14.

A BOX folder repository of recent clinical research articles in geriatrics and gerontology is being beta-tested with the fellows. After kinks are worked out, we will open it to all faculty.
David

Just-in-Time documentation was submitted to the NIA for our Pepper center. There have been positive signals from the program officer that we could get funded; the score was 28.

A revised MSTAR application without DEI elements was also submitted.

On July 31st, several federal research grants were suspended; at least 3 grants in the division were affected. PIs need to stop using funds from suspended grants; the division and the department is working to minimize its impact on research, research staff, and faculty.

UCLA Health Geriatrics

We have four new clinician educators joining us this Fall. Jenny Ji, who was in the most recent fellowship class, joins in August. Tom Hashimoto (also a fellowship grad from our program from a few years ago, who has been working in Illinois) and Shyam Kolangara (who completed his fellowship in Baltimore and has been working in a FQHC clinic in Fillmore) will be joining in October. Tom will be based in Santa Monica and Shyam in Westlake Village. We plan to expand next year to Pasadena and the South Bay. Omar Amir (who won the AGS Clinician Educator of the Year Award this year) from Mt Sinai, New York, is joining us in November and will work mainly as a geriatric hospitalist towards building up inpatient geriatrics consult services.

The addition of 4 new faculty this year has allowed us to reduce patient eligibility age from 85 to 80 years.

Wendy Zachary took the lead in bringing in Internal Medicine residents from the Kern County IM Residency program to rotate with us in NPH along, co-managing older hospitalized psych patients with our fellows.

In Santa Monica hospital, on the Geri Med service, we will now have MS2s doing core IM clerkships, along with MS4s doing elective rotations.

ADC is in the final stages of offering a position to another NP for the program, which will allow us to expand to the Marina del Rey UCLA clinic by Fall 2025.

VA Geriatrics Research Education and Clinical Center – GRECC

Cathy Alessi is retiring from the VA in early 2026 after 35 years of service. We thank Cathy for her leadership and her multiple major contributions to geriatrics nationally and in UCLA.

A search committee has been created to launch a national search for a replacement for Cathy as GRECC director.

Researcher Spotlight: Dr Jennifer Martin

Dr. Jennifer Martin, Associate Director of GRECC for Clinical and Health Services Research, is a research scientist with PhD training in Clinical Psychology, who joined GRECC in 2003. She is a national expert in insomnia and subject matter expert for the VA's program to disseminate Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I). Dr. Martin serves on the Board of Directors for the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) and the AASM Foundation. She is considered a leading authority in behavioral interventions for sleep disorders and has impacted both research directions and patient care policy at the

national level.

Her current studies focus on evaluating novel psychological treatments for insomnia that increase patient engagement and adherence in veterans with insomnia and post-traumatic stress disorder. She is also currently pursuing funding to study comorbid insomnia and sleep apnea (COMISA), which is particularly common in older women. The overall goal of Jennifer's research is to improve sleep to ultimately improve physical and mental health as people age.