

Newsletter of The Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology

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Welcome

Welcome to the Introductory issue of the Multicampus Program Newsletter. The Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology (MPGMG) was set up by John Beck and others, decades ago, to promote collaboration and coordinate activities among the different units in and affiliated with UCLA that were active in Geriatrics and Gerontology. It is run by an executive committee that is comprised of representatives from these units and meets once a month. At the October 2024 meeting, as the newest member of the executive committee and chair of the group (since traditionally, the chief of the UCLA division of Geriatrics is the chair of the committee), I asked that we discuss what people feel is the program's mission and that we create a formal mission statement. During that discussion, it was suggested that one of the purposes of the program is (or should be) to celebrate achievements of our colleagues and disseminate updates across the different units. That is the primary purpose of this new newsletter.

Your representatives on the Executive Committee

UCLA Division of Geriatrics: Arun Karlamangla, Grace Chen, Nelva Macdonald

VA Geriatrics Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC): Cathy Alessi

VA Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC): Manuel Eskildsen

Harbor UCLA Geriatrics: Mailee Hess

Borun Center and Advanced Research Fellowships: Deb Saliba

Geriatric Medicine Fellowship: Erin Cook

Intensive Course: Dan Osterweil

Mission/Charter of MPGMG

- 1) Provide guidance for all multicampus geriatrics initiatives/programs, such as Geriatric Medicine fellowship, Advanced geriatrics research fellowships, Intensive Course, CAGI (California Academic Geriatrics Institutions) meetings, and Geriatrics Grand Rounds.
- 2) Recognize exceptional/inspirational faculty with awards.
- 3) Facilitate and champion communication/collaboration (including research) between campuses
- 4) Disseminate selected list of achievements (such as grants/honors/awards) to faculty and to lay public using for instance social media (e.g., in the Geriatric Medicine fellowship X feed).

Achievements & Updates from Units & Multicampus Programs

Education Programs:

1. The virtual monthly CLC case conferences organized by Sarah Samandary have received rave reviews.
2. The Geriatric Medicine fellowship received 49 applications this year; 16 of them are interested in the combined Geriatrics & Palliative care fellowship.
3. To attract fellowship applicants interested in a research career (a major objective of the MPGMG), we are hosting a *Meet the Researchers* event on 10/29 at 5 pm.
4. There will be a Geriatrics workshop for 1st year medical students on Mon, 12/16. Erin encourages all faculty to attend.
5. The Geriatric Medicine fellowship program will have an Associate Program Director at each

of the VA and UCLA sites. Valerie Wong will lead the UCLA site and Cathy Lee the VA site.

6. Applications for a combined 4-year IM residency and Geri Med fellowship program for the class joining in 2027 will be due a year from now. We will start talking with the IM residency program about applying. Faculty interested in participating should contact Erin Cook

Advanced Fellowships:

1. The VA advanced fellowship program that was directed by Nancy Weintraub is now being directed by Homero del Pino.
2. National Clinical Scholars Program (NCSP) interviews are complete for the 2025 class.
3. The Health Systems Research Fellowship is currently accepting applications

AGS and CAGI: The CAGI meeting which took place on 5/31/24 at UC Irvine was a huge success. The CAGI planning committee has decided to hold the meeting every year (instead of alternate years when AGS is virtual, which was the original plan). The next meeting is expected to take place in 2025 at the same location. A nominal registration fee to be paid by attendees is being considered for future meetings to reduce no-shows. Cathy Lee is on the organizing committee.

GRECC:

1. The VA Department of Medicine held a department-wide meeting in which Cathy Lee (Chief of VA Division of Geriatrics) presented on behalf of the VA Division of Geriatrics: Age-friendly initiatives, STRIDE project collaboration with PM&R, and other topics; it was well received.

VA GEC:

1. GEC is about to start interviewing candidates for a program director for the Home based primary care program.

Borun Center:

1. Deb Saliba was appointed to the LA Jewish Health Brandman Research Institute Board of Directors.
2. They are getting started on 5 newly funded NIH projects, including a U24 that aims to support clinical trials in nursing homes.
3. The maiden lecture of the Borun Visiting Lectureship was given by Dr. Vincent Mor last month and was a big success. Over 100 people attended (online) his Medicine Grand Rounds. Multiple emerging investigators and faculty also met with him during his visit.

Finally, a fun knowledge question:

Q: Why is the Executive Committee of the MPGMG called MC squared?

If I receive a good answer, I will include it in the next issue.