

## Newsletter of The Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology

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### Members of the MPGMG Executive Committee

- UCLA Division of Geriatrics: Arun Karlamangla, Patty Harris, Nelva Macdonald
- VA Division of Geriatrics: Cathy C Lee
- 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 (IC): 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).

### Updates from Multicampus Programs & Units

#### MPGMG Awards

The MPGMG recognizes exceptional and inspirational faculty with five annual awards (listed below). The MPGMG selection committee, composed of representatives from the IC and each MPGMG chose the following luminaries as the awardees this year.

1. *Arthur Cherkin Award* recognizes a distinguished career in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology: **To be announced** at the fellowship graduation, June 11<sup>th</sup>.
2. *Renata '58, MA '61, MA '66 and Peter '51, MD '56 Landres Award* for Clinical Teaching and Research Excellence that improves the health or well-being of older persons: **Dr. Susan Leonard, UCLA**
3. *Drs. Dan and Erna Osterweil Lectureship at the IC and Award* for Innovation in Geriatric Medicine: **Dr. Teresa Seeman, UCLA**
4. *Arthur C. Cherkin Memorial Lectureship at the IC and Award* in Neuroscience: **Dr. Gil Rabinovici, UCSF**
5. *David H Solomon Lectureship at the IC and Award* for lifelong commitment to Geriatrics: **Dr. Amy Kind, University of Wisconsin**

The Landres award will be handed out to Dr Leonard at the UCLA School of Medicine 2025 Awards For Education Reception on May 21, 2025, 4 to 5:30 pm in Iris Cantor Auditorium, Geffen Hall 130. Please plan to come join in celebrating Dr Leonard.

All 3 winners of the IC named lectureships have accepted the invitation to give the award lecture at this year's Intensive Course. Thanks to the selection committee and to Drs Cathy

Alessi and Greg Cole for reaching out to the awardees to inform them.

#### Geriatric Medicine Fellowship:

Geriatric Medicine fellows will all be at the AGS National Meeting in Chicago in May. Every fellow has a poster presentation. Ana is collating and will be distributing a list of presentations, discussions etc. by our faculty and fellows at the meeting. Please do make it a point to come to these events and show support. There will be an alumni get-together on May 9th; details to follow.

Fellowship graduation will be on Wednesday, 6/11, at Kerckhoff Hall. An invite will be sent soon. Start time will be 30 minutes earlier this year.

Faculty are encouraged to sign up to attend in person at least one end-of-year fellow presentation to show support and recognize the work they are putting in.

#### Advanced Fellowships

There are vacancies in the VA GLA GRECC Advanced Geriatrics fellowship for the 2025-2026 academic year. MD's and other doctoral level clinicians are eligible for the Advanced Geriatrics fellowship; fellows can begin later in the year. Please contact Homero del Pino regarding potential candidates.

One of our current geriatrics fellows will be an incoming NCSP fellow starting in July. The incoming VA health services research fellows include two post-doctoral nurses, a family medicine physician, an emergency medicine physician and a surgery resident.

The National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) had a retreat with community partners, the deans of the schools of medicine, nursing, and public health, co-director for RAND Health, President and CEO of Charles Drew, and representatives from AltaMed, Healthy African American Families, and Cedars Research. Applications for 2027 NCSP are now open.

#### Borun Center

Dr. Deb Saliba gave the Shine visiting lecture at UT Southwestern.

#### **Researcher Spotlight: Dr Peifeng (Perry) Hu**

Dr. Perry Hu is a clinician scientist with PhD training in Epidemiology and clinical fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine, both from UCLA. He joined our division as a faculty member in 2001. Since then, his research focus has been on the relationships of psychosocial factors with biomarkers and hard clinical outcomes in older adults. He has led biomarker measurements and the harmonized diagnostic assessment of dementia in multiple large, community-based, nationally representative, cohort studies in several countries, including the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI), the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS), and the Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS).

Through these studies, Dr. Hu has investigated the impact of socioeconomic conditions at the individual, community, and national levels on health and functioning of individual older adults, as these countries undergo rapid economic development. For example, LASI Dynamic Assessment of Dementia (LASI-DAD) team has conducted two waves of cognitive measurements, geriatric assessments, and venous blood-based assays beta-amyloids, tau

proteins, and cardiometabolic risk factors. This study has also collected extensive data on whole genome sequencing, DNA methylation (epigenetics), proteomics, neuroimaging, air pollution, and diet.

Dr. Hu's newest research project is the Longitudinal Study of Health and Ageing in Kenya, which is soon to launch, in collaboration with investigators from the University of Michigan and the Aga Khan University in Kenya. He is excited to be soon visiting Africa.