

Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology Newsletter

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MPGMG News & Awards

Dr. Amy Kind (University of Wisconsin, Madison), this year's Solomon lecture awardee, delivered Department of Medicine (DOM) grand rounds on Aug 14th – It was well attended. David Reuben delivered DOM Grand Rounds on dementia on the 28th of August. Video recordings of both presentations are available on DOM TV.

Dave Reuben was featured in a podcast episode of the UCSF Geri Pal podcast. Check it out: <https://t.co/jGnkoFRiOs>. He also participated in an AMA/CDC dementia workgroup on improving diagnosis and treatment of dementia in primary care, and in the Alzheimer's Association's Payor Summit in Chicago to make the case to big payors for managed care to start covering chronic dementia care management.

Education News: Geriatric Medicine Fellowship & Medical Student Teaching

Fellows' journal Club this month is by Suyee Win on Sept 26th. Interview season for the next year's fellowship class has begun.

This year's medical student teaching workshop/session will be on January 5 (12:30-4:30 pm): Clinician educators, please sign in to participate – contact Erin Cook. DGSOM medical education day is November 13 (abstracts were due Sept 1).

A SNF elective for 4th year med students (MS4) was started by UCLA hospitalists last year. Geri SNFists will add teaching of geriatrics principles to the elective's curriculum. MS2 students will have a new core IM clerkship rotation in the Geriatrics service in Santa Monica hospital, starting October 6th.

The clinician educator faculty development course on how to give feedback to learners is on October 23rd.

We received a notice of funding (NOA) from NIA for our Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) program, but OCGA is not releasing the money because the federal award ID number is the same as in the previous cycle of funding, and that previous award (which was in no-cost extension phase) is on the list of suspended federal grants. It may not have been NIA's intention that the new award also be suspended, but that is how we are interpreting the suspension order.

Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review

Our Intensive course runs 9/17-9/20, Wednesday - Saturday. We have 40 speakers with 3 award lectures, including one by Teresa Seeman, and 3 board review sessions. The total potential CME to be earned is 37.25 hours. We have 200 plus registrants so far.

To register: (<https://intensivecourse-geriatricmedicine.cventevents.com/event/bd0d743d-b8b3-4fd3-b694-942cb2dc358f/home>)

Research News:

Jennifer Carnahan from Indiana University gave an excellent research presentation that was well attended. We are still in the process of scheduling Steve Horvath's visit from Cambridge, UK in the Fall.

Our UCLA-USC-Cedars Older Americans Independence Center P30 (Pepper Center) received a notice of award. After a long break, UCLA will once again have a Pepper Center, thanks to the efforts of Jon Wanagat and others who took on roles as core leaders and helped write the proposal. David Ganz received a new NIH grant to conduct a pilot RCT targeting chronic pain in older veterans.

The department leadership has been reaching out to individual PIs of suspended federal grants to work out ways to keep the research progressing without using the federal money. Junior faculty and senior research staff are being prioritized, and PIs and the division are required to use discretionary funds available to them to keep key elements of their projects moving ahead.

New publications by our faculty: Josea Kramer in *Academic Psychiatry* and Dave Reuben in *JAMA* – attached.

UCLA Health Geriatrics

We have four new clinician educators joining us this Fall. Recent fellowship graduate, Jenny Ji, joined us last month. Jenny will spend most of her time as a hospitalist and will try to start a Geriatrics consult service in the ED and PACU at Santa Monica hospital. She, together with Tom Hashimoto (another new hire, starting in October) will start clinics in Westwood and in the 2020 building in Santa Monica. The third new hire (Shyam Kolangara) will start his practice in the Northwest Corridor, this month. Our 4th new geriatrician, Omar Amir, has moved to LA in time for his child's school year start. Omar will officially start with us in November. Thanks to the addition of four new geriatricians, we were able to bring down the minimum age for primary care in UCLA Health Geriatrics to 80 years from our previous eligibility threshold of 85 years.

Grace Chen will be starting / piloting geriatrics consult clinic in the 2020 Santa Monica building on Thursday afternoons. She will also help in osteoporosis clinic to fill in for Angela Primbas who had to leave and move to the Bay Area for family reasons.

We are close to making an offer to a Geriatrics-Palliative Medicine combined clinician educator -one of our previous Medicine chief residents who obtained both subspecialty training with us and has been working elsewhere.

The Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program will have its 8th dementia care specialist NP joining, and we will expand ADC services to the Marina del Rey UCLA clinic. As of this summer, UCLA ADC had seen ~7% of all GUIDE patients nationwide. We are one of the largest, if not *the* largest, provider in the country.

VA Geriatrics

The West LA Home-Based Primary Care team has 2 new NPs starting soon. The Greater LA VA medical center is in the process of finishing up the Age Friendly collaboration and will be able to apply for level 3 designation.

The search process for a new GRECC director (to replace Cathy Alessi, who retires in 2026) has officially begun; we have 4 applicants to date. We are sad yet excited for Jennifer Martin, who after 23 years at our VA is heading to a new leadership position as Director of the VA Miami GRECC, and Endowed Professor at Florida International University. We are grateful to Jen for her decades of service and we look forward to working with her as she takes on these new and exciting roles.

GeroScience Research Spotlight

The Article

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-mitochondria-are-more-like-a-motherboard-than-the-powerhouse-of-the-cell/>

Summary

In this *Scientific American* essay, Martin Picard, PhD reframes mitochondria as cellular “motherboards” that integrate stress signals and coordinate systemic responses, rather than merely serving as “powerhouses” for energy production. This view helps explain how mitochondrial dysfunction contributes to frailty, multimorbidity, and poor recovery in older adults.

Clinical Implications

For geriatric care, it highlights the potential of interventions that target mitochondrial signaling and quality control to enhance resilience and extend health span.