

Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology Newsletter

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Editor: Arun Karlamangla

MPGMG News & Awards

Kemi Reeves had a recent publication on the origin story of the Nursing Professional Governance Council and the work of building the nation's First Health Equity Press Ganey questions - now adopted by dozens of health systems around the country.

Family and friends of Dr. David Solomon, who was instrumental in starting the UCLA Division of Geriatrics and the Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, as well as the UCLA Center on Aging (now the Longevity Center), created the David H Solomon Term chair in Geriatrics, after he passed away in 2013. It is an incredible honor for me to be the inaugural holder of the David H Solomon Chair. I consider myself immensely fortunate and I am very grateful to Dr Solomon's family for their generosity.

Grace Chen was recognized for her decade as clinical chief at the November in-person division faculty meeting. The division presented her with a plaque recognizing her many contributions to the division and its faculty. We also recognized Dave Reuben's three decades of service as division chief and presented him with a plaque in gratitude for his service and legacy.

A major donor-curated event this month recognized Brandon Koretz and Jon Wanagat as well as Dr Eric Esrailian (Chief of GI) for innovations in geriatric medicine.

Education News:

Geriatric Medicine Fellowship & Teaching Medical Students and Medicine Residents

The fellowship executive committee finalized the rank list for the next year's class.

Kern County 3rd year Internal Medicine residents started rotating with us last month, doing one week of inpatient consults in RRUCLA hospital and co-management in RNPH, plus one week of clinic and SNF work in the Simi Valley UCLA geriatrics clinic with Lucia Dattoma. Verbal feedback from the residents has been that they are learning a lot.

We had a Geriatrics bootcamp for UCLA Internal Medicine residents in the primary care track on Nov 3rd. Its success last year prompted a request for the bootcamps to be expanded to all Internal Medicine residents. This year we are conducting bootcamp for categorical IM residents for the first time, on 11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17, all Weds mornings, 8:30-11 am. Faculty who want to teach should contact Erin Cook ASAP.

UCLA 2nd year medical students (MS2s) started inpatient core clerkship on the Geriatric medicine team in Santa Monica hospital in October. Shoutout to Matt Mulroy for organizing our new MS2 clerkship rotation and taking over the clerkship directorship for both MS2 core and MS4 elective clerkships.

MSTAR has officially been renewed for the next 5 years. David Lee is joining the leadership

team. Requests for applications to the program are coming in from medical students; the portal to applications for the coming summer is now open. We will also have a UCLA MS3 Discovery Year cohort doing MSTAR; we will be targeting students working with Geriatricians and those on the primary care track. We'll start them 8 weeks before their Discovery Year presentation to go through formal work in progress didactics to prepare for their presentation and add a Geriatrics lens to their project.

Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review

The 2025 intensive course had 273 participants – 186 physicians, 28 fellows, 33 pharmacists, 23 NPs. To increase subscription to the 2026 course, we will be creating a presence on the web. We will pilot a series of mini courses, using assets from the library for the current course, on 5 topics for a small subscription fee. We can also consider in the future, allowing people to subscribe to access the entire library. Nexus (who ran the intensive course for us this year) has a YouTube channel, on which we will start a podcast series, in May, with 10-15 minute episodes in a question-answer interview format. Faculty will get called to volunteer either as the interviewer or the expert geriatrician.

Research News:

We have three active recruitments, two for senior PhD research scientists (one is in the LOU stage, one will come in January for a formal interview and talk) and one junior clinician scientist, who will do a job talk (hybrid) on Dec 3rd at noon.

The mPIs of our UCLA-USC-Cedars Older Americans Independence Center (Pepper Center) met with mPIs of the Boston Pepper to discuss how to overcome challenges and maximize opportunities in a multi-institution OAIC.

Perry Hu received an R01 from U of Michigan for the Health and Retirement Study cousin in Kenya.

UCLA Health Geriatrics

We have four new faculty in UCLA Geriatrics who started this Fall. A big Geriatrics welcome to Drs. Jenny Ji, Tom Hashimoto, Shyam Kolangara, and Omar Amir. Omar is our newest geriatric hospitalist, Jenny is doing a mix of hospital and SNF work, and Tom and Shyam are mostly in ambulatory clinic practices. Tom is based in Westwood and Shyam in Westlake Village (La Venta location). Shyam will be also doing some SNF work in the Simi and Conejo Valleys. We are currently interviewing one other candidate who could start in the Spring of 2026.

VA Geriatrics

We have openings for the GRECC Director and GRECC Associate Director for Research positions, since Cathy Alessi (current director) is retiring in the spring and Jen Martin (previous associate director for research) left UCLA for the University of Miami. We have 4 excellent candidates who have applied for the director position.

All org charts in the VA have been frozen, which means we can only backfill vacant position.

We have continued to backfill positions; we are onboarding 2 NPs at West LA HBPC and another at Ventura HBPC. We are considering converting an NP position in West LA HBPC to an MD position. If any of the fellows are interested in home care, please connect with Manuel Eskildsen.

The National Center for Warriors project, put forth in a presidential executive order, is moving forward. A redesign of CLC connected to this is in the works.

GeroScience Research Spotlight (Curated by Jon Wanagat)

The Article

Adkins BD, Raza S, Costa V, Allen ES, Stephens LD, Woo JS, Booth GS, Jacobs JW. Confronting medical grifting: Fraudulent and unproven products and interventions in apheresis, transfusion and biotherapies. *British Journal of Haematology*. 2025 Oct 11. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/bjh.70194>

Summary

We are entering an era when authentic advances in biotherapies and aging research hold transformative promise, yet this progress is threatened by grifters who exploit that optimism. This review article warns of the growing infiltration of unproven and fraudulent “longevity” and regenerative treatments—such as plasma exchange, platelet-rich plasma injections, and unlicensed stem cell infusions—into legitimate medical spaces. The authors describe how commercial opportunism, misinformation, and cognitive biases have fueled the rise of these pseudoscientific practices, eroding public trust and diverting resources from evidence-based care.

Implications

The paper calls for stronger institutional safeguards, regulatory enforcement, and professional vigilance to distinguish true innovation from exploitation as we stand on the cusp of genuine longevity interventions.

Researcher Spotlight: Dr Cathy Lee

Dr. Cathy Lee is Chief of Geriatrics at the Greater Los Angeles VA. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, and a 2-year Geriatrics Fellowship at the University of Michigan where she also earned a master’s degree in clinical research design and statistics. She is a member of the national VA Age-Friendly steering committee and is an Age-Friendly clinical champion committed to implementing Age-Friendly care throughout the Greater Los Angeles VA.

She currently directs the Greater Los Angeles VA Gerofit Program, a supervised exercise program for older Veterans. She has been funded to evaluate the effect of participation in Gerofit on physical and cognitive functioning and is site PI for the PREVENTABLE Trial to evaluate the effect of atorvastatin on cognition and physical function in adults over the age of 75 years. The overarching focus of Cathy’s research is on interventions to improve metabolic health in older adults and maintain physical and cognitive functioning.

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