



GRECC Education Programs Offer Value to Veterans, Trainees and Providers

...what follows is a small sampling of initiatives from among the many Educational Activities currently underway in VHA's Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECCs).

Eastern Colorado GRECC: Interprofessional Case Conferences - Associated health professional trainees such as social work, pharmacy, occupational health, and psychology get together with Geriatric Fellows and participate in a monthly Interprofessional Case Conference. Information from an actual case that is specific to a given discipline, like pharmacy, is provided to the associate health trainees and clinically-relevant information is presented to fellows such as pharmacological aspects are provided to pharmacy residents. Trainees must ask one another questions necessary to elicit other information, which will allow the team to co-create an appropriate care plan. Preceptors observe and provide feedback. This method has been implemented with all of the GRECC trainees. Feedback from trainees has been extremely positive as they feel that this activity enhances their training experience. For more information, contact Kathryn Nearing, PhD at kathryn.nearing@ucdenver.edu or by phone at 720-475-6234.

Salt Lake City GRECC: Rocky Mountain Geriatric Conference - The Salt Lake City GRECC hosted the 15th Annual Rocky Mountain Geriatrics Conference held August 28-29, 2017, titled "Getting to the Heart of Aging: An Interprofessional Approach to Cardiovascular Health." The focus of the conference was on patient centered approaches in cardiac care specifically related to older adults. The conference planners utilized technological innovations to promote distance learning modalities (web-streaming) that allowed participants to participate remotely. There were thirty-two participants who attended in person, ninety-seven that participated through Adobe Connect video, and eleven that attended from other VISNs around the country. For more information contact, Jorie Butler at Jorie.butler@va.gov or 801-582-1565 x. 1964.

New England GRECC: Home Safety Workbook - Dr. Lauren Moo led the modification and dissemination of "[A Guide for Families: Keeping the Person with Memory Loss Safer at Home](#)," a home safety workbook for caregivers of Veterans with dementia. The workbook is extremely popular among clinicians and caregivers. It is a stand-alone, self-paced educational workbook with practical tips for home safety written with literacy considerations. The workbook is 508 compliant for distribution and available on the GEC internet site: https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/docs/home_safety_booklet_8-1-17.pdf For more information, contact Dr. Lauren Moo; lauren.moo@va.gov or 718-687-2596.

GRECCs: VHA's Centers of Excellence focusing on vulnerable Veterans through the advancement and integration of research, education and clinical innovation in geriatrics and gerontology within the VA healthcare system. There are currently twenty GRECCs located nationwide with the common mission of improving the quality of care for older Veterans. For more information please visit us at <http://www.va.gov/grecc>.

Bringing Together Multiple Disciplines for Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Training

In 2016, Dr. Philip Choe and Dr. Terri Huh of the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) GRECC developed an Interprofessional Team Training based on an educational activity developed at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. The Palo Alto GRECC training is geared toward geriatric medicine fellows and allied health trainees (optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology). The focus of the training is to model an interprofessional team assessment for a patient establishing care with the VA for the first time. A scripted simulation with a volunteer patient takes place with assessments from nursing, social work, psychology, geriatric medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy and optometry. After the scripted simulation, the trainees are broken up into interprofessional teams and asked to develop a plan of care that takes into account the goals of the patient, the family, and the interprofessional team. Training evaluation results in 2016 and 2017 demonstrate a significant improvement in knowledge, abilities, and skills related to interprofessional team interactions. The annual training continues with the next training planned for July 2018 for the incoming Geriatric Medicine Fellows and allied health trainees.

In addition to the Interprofessional Team Training, the geriatric medicine and allied health trainees will come together on June 19th for the 1st Annual GRECC Allied Health Scholars' Symposium. Geriatric Medicine fellows and Pharmacy residents will present their quality improvement projects conducted during their training year. Optometry residents will present case studies. Judges from each discipline will rate the presentations. All are invited to drop-in between 2:00 and 4:00pm on Tuesday June 19th to view the presentations. The symposium will take place in the Palo Alto GRECC Conference Room (C-260) in Building 4, on the 2nd floor.

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