



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 Inter-professional 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>.

Salt Lake City GRECC

Associated Health Trainees (AHT) Program

The Salt Lake City GRECC hosts interdisciplinary learners through the GRECC Associated Health Trainees (AHT) program. We offer an interactive set of geriatrics trainings for Allied Health Trainees in fields including nursing, social work, physical and occupational therapy, psychology, audiology, and speech pathology. Trainees have field placements at the George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center in VISN 19. An innovative aspect of our training program is the use of peer teaching methods. In this approach trainees present to each other, creating an interactive and interdisciplinary learning environment with deep investment from the learners.

Each month, in addition to their clinical experience, Associated Health Trainees have the opportunity to attend interdisciplinary presentations and other educational opportunities. During FY18 we have offered didactic and interactive sessions on topics including: Aging Veterans and Veteran Resources; Physical and Occupational Therapy in Productive Aging, The Aging Eye and Common Eye Related Geriatric Pathologies and others. Both online and face-to-face presentations focus on gerontology, geriatric care, and interdisciplinary teamwork through various methods, including case analysis and interactive exercises. Our goal is to continue to provide new and relevant training that will continue to aid trainees in better understanding services available, understanding of their patients, and improve their assessment of veterans. AHT trainees have also been given the opportunity to attend the 16th Annual Rocky Mountain Geriatrics Conference, hosted by Denver GRECC in 2018, titled "Aging in Place: Promoting independence and planning for the future of our aging population." Live streaming of the conference is offered to Salt Lake City AHT's free of charge.

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