



COMMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Dakota Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) continues to forge ahead despite pandemic issues. As you will read in this newsletter, our GWEP is an innovator. We test new educational ideas and ways to improve Geriatrics knowledge and deliver better care for older adults. We expanded our ProjectECHO telemonitoring program to three sessions monthly to address three different professional groups: geriatric healthcare providers, community healthcare workers, and long term care staff. We also provided learning opportunities for the public around Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly Healthcare. Notably, we facilitated the creation of a new Memory Café, a first in the western part of North Dakota. We continue to build new partnerships with academia, area healthcare providers, and the community. In just three short years of existence, we have impacted hundreds of individuals interested in better healthcare for older adults. As we keep reminding folks: if aging is not your issue now, it will be.

GWEP INNOVATIONS

Dementia Friendly Health Care and the “CARE” program: Through a partnership with the North Dakota Alzheimer’s Association, the GWEP created and recorded eight caregiver training modules based on the HRSA resources for caregiver training. Training sessions were piloted as group visits with caregivers at Sanford Health’s Fargo Southpointe clinic via a Zoom. The meetings were hosted by faculty and students from Concordia College. Each session lasted one hour with questions and answers provided at the end of a video recording by a content expert. Early feedback is favorable and we plan to provide these sessions monthly.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR GERIATRICS KNOWLEDGE

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NURSING HOME ECHO

This past year, the Dakota GWEP received a supplemental award to train nursing homes across the Great Plains – Mountain region known as HRSA Region 8. The goal is to improve quality in long-term care facilities and build resiliency. The program is called ECHO Nursing Home which involves tele-mentoring of nursing home staff by national and regional experts on quality improvement, infection control, and resiliency. A series of 12 weekly presentations are delivered over three months and include topics such as emotional intelligence, age-friendly healthcare, and protection from the pandemic. Over 100 long term care facilities have engaged the program from North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, and even Hawaii.

AGE-FRIENDLY HEALTHCARE

Age-Friendly Health Systems is an initiative of The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) whose goal is expanding the 4Ms Framework to 20% of U.S. medical practices by the end of 2023. The 4Ms Framework is an essential set of evidence-based practices addressing: What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility. Dakota Geriatrics continues to work with a number of health systems across the state, including Indian Health Service and rural critical access clinics, in adopting the 4Ms Framework and becoming age friendly recognized health systems. Much of this year's focus has been on establishing workplans for the facilities we work with and completing the IHI Age Friendly assessments.

AGE-FRIENDLY HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS WITH ANNUAL WELLNESS EXAM

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GERO CHAMP CURRICULUM

The Gero Champ Curriculum aims to improve core geriatric knowledge for medicine, nursing, psychology, social work, physical therapy, and multidisciplinary professionals, along with competencies for interprofessional practice applying to older adult teams. We want learners to attain the competency of a geriatrician by the end of the modules in this program. New efforts by the Dakota Geriatrics Team have been to transform the Gero Champ Curriculum into micro-learning modules. With a new learning management system, healthcare personnel can take their time completing the microlearning sessions and keep track of their completion as well as receive a digital badge as the trainings are completed.

NEW GWEP PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- Rick Boehm, Pharm.D., from the North Dakota Long Term Care Pharmacists Association.
- Bismarck Memory Café.
- Black Hills Café.
- Nancy McDonald and the SD Foundation for Medical Care.
- Jennifer Lauckner, R.N., from QHA (see her bio on QHA).
- Linda Edelman, UTAH GWEP and our ECHO NH project. Dr. Edelman is a professor of nursing and the GWEP Project Director for Utah. She oversees the Older Adult Indigenous Peoples GWEP consortium and is a co-PI for the HRSA supplemental project called ECHO Nursing Home which is designed to build resiliency in long-term care.
- Catherine Phillips Carrico, Ph.D., is a clinical associate professor and associate director at the Wyoming Center on Aging and the Wyoming GWEP. She has an interest in older adult care in rural Wyoming, and has been an integral member of the Great Plains – Mountain GWEP consortium and its ECHO NH project.
- Allision Heuther, R.N., is from SMPHC and is director of nursing at a Fargo skilled nursing facility. She serves as a peer mentor for the ECHO NH project.
- Liz Stevens, R.N., is an administrative director from SMPHC in Fargo and serves as a peer mentor for the ECHO NH project.

FACULTY AND STAFF



Donald Jurivich, D.O., Principle Investigator, Program Director

Dr. Jurivich earned his osteopathic medicine doctorate from the Midwestern University, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. His residency training was completed in internal medicine at Rush Medical Center in Chicago and the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., where he also completed a fellowship in geriatric

medicine. Dr. Jurivich is a Diplomate in Geriatric Medicine, which he earned from the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Gunjan Manocha, Ph.D., Associate Program Director

“Our mission is to incorporate best practices of geriatrics care in the curriculum of healthcare trainees and professionals,” said Dr. Manocha. A biomedical scientist by training, Dr. Manocha’s research has included understanding and identifying inflammatory mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative disorders for many

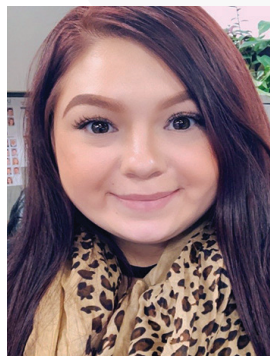
years. For the department of Geriatrics, she serves as the Director of Geriatric Education; her primary role is curricular development and research mentorship of the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship program’s clinical fellows, Medical Students in Aging Research (MEDSTAR) program Interns, and other trainees in the department.



Jeremy Holloway, Ph.D., Assistant Professor & Director of Geriatric Education

Dr. Holloway is a Geriatric Professor & Director of Geriatric Education at the University of North Dakota. The focus of his research is concentrated on the social determinants of health, specifically self-efficacy, connectedness, and resiliency of individuals, specifically older adults.

Dr. Holloway is exploring a curriculum focused on intergenerational programs that include growth mindset, reminiscence therapy, mindfulness, guided imagery, and S.M.A.R.T. goal-setting practices to nourish internal qualities and self-agency of older adults. These best practices address needs related to loneliness and isolation of older adults. Dr. Holloway also presents and facilitates workshops on best practices for diversity, equity, and inclusion within educational facilities and professional organizations.



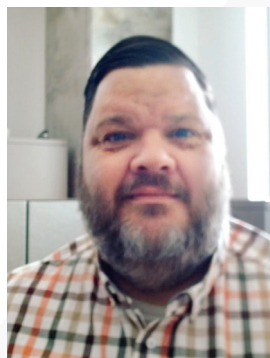
Meghan Jeanotte, Administrative Assistant

Meghan Jeanotte is the administrative assistant for the SMHS Department of Geriatrics at UND. In this position, Meghan will work for Dr. Jurivich and the Department of Geriatrics team as they educate students and the community about normal aging and geriatric syndromes. Meghan is from Belcourt, North Dakota, and relocated to Grand Forks in August 2018.



Bethany Reed, Program Assistant

Bethany assists with all projects. She creates a communication plan and does most of the background paperwork of the projects. Bethany provides support and create balance in the time. Bethany works under Dr. Jurivich. She currently resides in Minot, N.D.



Scott Gydesen, Program Assistant

Scott assists with all projects. He oversees Age Friendly Healthcare and Community Health Promotions initiatives. Scott provides support and creates workplans for timely progression of projects. Scott resides in Grand Forks, ND and is the newest member of the team.

