



Center on Aging

Director's Note

Dear Friend of the Center on Aging,

Thank you for working with me and nearly 100 of our colleagues in last year's UCSF/Mt. Zion Center on Aging Strategic Planning Retreat. Yes, it has been a year since we held the Retreat! In April 1999, we developed a joint vision of what we hoped the Center might be by 2005. We articulated the Center's mission, defined four major goals, and identified several action steps, recognizing the critical need for an infrastructure and financing to support this work. In the past year, the Center on Aging has made substantial progress, building on the ideas developed at the Retreat. Highlights of our successes include:

- Space at Laurel Heights for the Center on Aging
- Recruitment of Manager, Center on Aging
- Generous gift from the Koret Foundation
- Development of Center listserv

I look forward to working with you whenever possible over the coming years to advance the mission of the Center.

With my deep thanks and best wishes,

C. Seth Landefeld, M.D.
Director
UCSF/Mt. Zion Center on Aging

Introduction

In April 1999, the faculty and staff of UCSF and representatives of the Goldman Institute on Aging and the local community met for a Strategic Planning Retreat for the UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging. The goal of the meeting was two-fold: to reaffirm relationships among participants, all of whom share an interest in the development and expansion of geriatrics and gerontology in research, education and services, and; to design a shared vision and future direction for the Center on Aging.

During the course of two days almost 100 participants learned about current geriatrically focused activities on campus and in the community and discussed how the Center on Aging could build on these strengths. Through a series of discussions participants helped to re-craft the mission and goals of the Center and developed strategic recommendations to establish a solid footing for the Center on Aging. One significant outcome of the retreat was the enthusiasm with which participants expressed their satisfaction in knowing that there is a community of providers, researchers and educators dedicated to the field of aging and committed

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to making something happen. This confidence in the leadership and stakeholders is perhaps the most important strength upon which to begin the building process for an active and vibrant Center on Aging.

Background

As part of an ongoing commitment to geriatrics research and education, in 1992 UCSF, in partnership with the Mount Zion Institute on Aging (now Goldman Institute on Aging), established the UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging through an affiliation agreement to continue to develop new geriatric and gerontologic activities that were mutually beneficial. This affiliation built on a long-standing relationship between UCSF and Mount Zion Medical Center. With the recruitment of C. Seth Landefeld, M.D. as Chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Director of the Center on Aging, it was timely to revitalize the geriatrics and gerontology community by hosting the two-day retreat.

Strategic Recommendations

A draft of the Center on Aging mission and goals was presented by the retreat design team composed of C. Seth Landefeld, M.D., Mary Ann Johnson, M.D., Larry Feigenbaum, M.D., Carroll Estes, Ph.D., Pat Fox, Ph.D., and Wendy Max, Ph.D. Participants discussed and modified the goals and added their strategic recommendations to develop the following.

Mission

To promote the health and well-being of aging people by developing a center of excellence in aging.

Goals

Community

To build an interdisciplinary team of researchers, educators, clinicians, service providers and supporters committed to the Center's mission.

Recommendations:

To achieve this goal, participants recommended strategies for building community ties by developing a collaborative curriculum that might utilize computer resources, video conferencing and interdisciplinary teaching. The Center can also gain a more public presence on campus through seminars and outreach to students, as well as identifying and training community preceptors.

Progress:

The Center and the Goldman Institute continue joint outreach to the community through the Community Health Education Series featuring UCSF faculty presenters.

Plans are underway to build the Center on Aging website this summer. The website will serve as a point of unification for geriatrics activities at UCSF and in the community.

A listserv has been established to facilitate communication with the Center and its members. To be added to the list, please e-mail your name, title, department name, phone number, fax number, mailing/box address and e-mail to centeronaging@listserv.ucsf.edu.

Leadership

To provide leadership that enhances activities in aging and identifies and fosters new initiatives and models of collaboration.

Recommendations:

Here participants recognized that to be effective, the Director needs to have committed support staff to implement the initiatives and policies of the Center on Aging. It was recommended that in addition to the Executive Committee that heretofore represented the Center on Aging, a more active steering committee (or task force) might address operational or time-limited issues.

Progress:

The Center recently recruited Herodia Klatt, M.P.H. as Manager, Center on Aging, to work with Dr. Landefeld in moving forward the mission and goals identified. The Center was also joined in April by Maxine Selesky, Administrative Analyst who will have a key role in addressing operational issues.

Communication

To enhance internal and external communication about activities in aging.

Recommendations:

Participants expressed the need for more opportunities to exchange information and learn about new endeavors. The participants recommended the development of a resource center for both professionals and lay public which would provide information, resources and an interactive website about services, clinical research opportunities, continuing professional education and community education.

Progress:

This publication serves as the first step toward building a strong base for communication. The Center will distribute a regularly published newsletter and communicate via electronic means about Center activities and other aging events.

The Center's listserv and website (under construction) will go far to facilitate communication. To distribute notices about your geriatrically focused activities, please contact us at centeronaging@listserv.ucsf.edu. Messages will be reviewed and if appropriate broadcasted to the listserv mail group.

Financial Foundation

To build the financial foundation to support the activities of the Center and its participants.

Recommendations:

Participants recommended that the Center on Aging develop a planning grant designed to overcome financial and institutional barriers to advancing the goals of the Center on Aging. Participants recognized the importance of financial viability in the current environment. The real problems of equity, fund sharing, competition among programs and control and distribution of funds were brought up and commented on by all of the stakeholders. These and other issues would need to be addressed if the Center on Aging is to become a viable resource for all stakeholders.

Progress:

The Center on Aging has been supported by a generous gift from the Koret Foundation. The Center also plans to develop fundraising strategies in the next year, including grant proposals and private gifts.

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Center on Aging 2005

The group described a Center on Aging in 2005 housed in its own space and with the capacity, through its leadership and staff, to be a resource to both the professional and lay communities. A viable Center would have the ability to attract funding for major multi-disciplinary research and education projects, otherwise unavailable to its component parts. It would have a public profile on campus through its core geriatrics curriculum, seminars and colloquia and would be known throughout the lay community for its expertise in healthcare services, education and research. It would have leadership that would encourage cutting edge collaborative research in biomedical, social and behavioral sciences and health services delivery. Finally, it would provide a setting for cross-disciplinary initiatives, information exchange and collegiality among university and community stakeholders.

The Center on Aging is now housed in newly renovated space at the Laurel Heights campus. Dr. Landefeld has continued to build a secure financial base for the development of academic geriatrics at UCSF, most notably with a generous gift from the Koret Foundation. Geriatrics Research has expanded with the recruitment and on-going support of four physician research fellows and with a Paul Beeson Faculty Award granted to Kenneth Covinsky, M.D., M.P.H. in recognition of the program. The Goldman Research Center has expanded its capacity to conduct applied research under the leadership of Glenna Dowling, M.S., R.N., Ph.D. In addition, last year close to 35 UCSF students, residents and fellows had clinical geriatric rotations in Goldman Institute sites, building on the Center's strong relationship with community groups.

With the overwhelming support of the UCSF community and other stakeholders, the Center on Aging is on firm ground to achieve the goals described. The Center will remain focused on addressing the needs of the geriatric community and will continue to respond to the changing environment.