



Center on Aging

Director's Note

Dear Friends,

This issue of our newsletter focuses on the UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging educational activities. Many of these educational activities are coordinated through the UCSF Academic Geriatric Resource Center (AGRC) and through collaboration with the Goldman Institute on Aging, the Family Caregiver Alliance, and the Alzheimer's Association.

The School of Medicine has recently made an important addition to UCSF's portfolio in geriatrics education: a grant from the Association of American Medical Colleges, "A Comprehensive Program to Strengthen Training in Geriatrics for Medical Students." C. Bree Johnston, MD, MPH (Assistant Professor of Medicine) is PI for this two-year grant, and will be assisted by Maxine Papadakis, MD (Associate Dean for Student Affairs) and me as Co-PI's.

Joan B. Wood, PhD, recently joined the Center on Aging as the Campus Planner for the AGRC. Dr. Wood is a nationally recognized gerontologist who was formerly at the Virginia Geriatric Education Center at Virginia Commonwealth University. She has extensive experience and expertise in geriatric education and distance learning. Her arrival has revitalized the AGRC, which promotes geriatric education in all UCSF schools. Dr. Wood is working closely with the Goldman Institute on Aging and other community agencies in producing health education seminars for the community. For more information on the AGRC, please visit us at:
<http://agrc.ucsf.edu>.



Joan B. Wood, PhD, Campus Planner, UCSF Academic Geriatric Resource Center

The Center on Aging and the Division of Geriatrics have also begun Geriatrics Grand Rounds, held on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 4:30-5:30 pm at the Parnassus Campus, room N-721. These multidisciplinary presentations will address various topics of interest to clinicians, students, teachers, and researchers.

For more information, please call us at: 415/514-0715.

Sincerely,

C. Seth Landefeld, MD
Director, UCSF/Mount Zion
Center on Aging
Chief, Division of Geriatrics

What is the AGRC?

Joan B. Wood, Ph.D.

The UCSF Academic Geriatric Resource Center (AGRC) serves as the resource and coordination center for campus-wide education and training activities in geriatrics and gerontology. It is part of the University of California Academic Geriatric Resource Program (AGRP), which was established in 1985 by Assembly Bill 2614 to promote geriatrics education and training at the UC health sciences campuses. Since the program's inception, AGRC support and resources have been essential and effective in developing, implementing and evaluating programs to educate health care providers through the health science graduate schools at UCSF.

Systemwide, the AGRP is administered from the Office of the UC Vice-President for Health Affairs. On the UCSF campus, the AGRC is administered through the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dorothy Bainton, MD. The Center Director is C. Seth Landefeld, MD. The UCSF Campus Advisory Committee is chaired by Dr. Landefeld (Medicine) and is composed of representatives of each of the schools: Mark Kirkland, DDS (Dentistry); Margaret Wallhagen, PhD, RN, CS, GNP (Nursing); R. Ron Finley, BS, Pharm., RPh (Pharmacy); Linda Mitteness, PhD (Social and Behavioral Sciences). In addition, there are two community members: Lawrence Z. Feigenbaum, MD (Goldman Institute on Aging), and Susan Kornblatt, MA (On Lok, Inc.).

In 1999, the AGRP began a three-year cycle of funding, which enables the AGRC to do more long-range planning and implement projects of longer duration. For the 1999-2002 funding cycle, the UCSF AGRC is focusing on three initiatives: 1) a web-based curriculum initiative, 2) experiential clinical curricula in geriatrics, and 3) expansion of the capacity of the AGRC to support geriatric education, training and research at UCSF. Activities to achieve these goals are well underway.

In September, the AGRP, which had been funded by the state legislature at the \$1 million level since 1985, was provided a one-time \$2 million augmentation for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. The primary intent for these funds is to enhance geriatric training and education in UC's five medical schools. The UCSF School of Medicine is undertaking a number of curriculum and program development activities. The Schools of Dentistry, Nursing, and Pharmacy will each receive a \$27,000 grant to facilitate long-range planning for geriatric education programs in their respective disciplines. AGRC Community Education Programs will be expanded, and a plan for evaluating the impact of all the AGRC education and training activities will be developed and implemented. To provide effective administrative support and coordination of these new efforts, a new AGRC Education Coordinator will be employed.

Visit our website: <http://agrc.ucsf.edu>.

Clinical Curricula Initiative

C. Bree Johnston, MD, MPH

Historically, the UCSF AGRC has focused on classroom-based teaching, with less attention given to the clinical training of students. In 1999, because of a critical need in the School of Medicine to provide appropriate clinical training in geriatrics to the nearly 1,500 clinical trainees (3rd and 4th year medical students, resident physicians, and geriatric fellows), the AGRC decided to focus on Experiential

Clinical Curricula in Geriatrics as one of its major goals for the 1999-2002 funding cycle.

The AGRC Campus Planner, Joan Wood, Ph.D., has worked with C. Bree Johnston, MD, Director of the UCSF Geriatrics Fellowship Program, to organize and upgrade curriculum materials in preparation for accreditation review of the Fellowship Program by

Clinical Curricula Initiative (continued)

the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education later this academic year. With funds available under the 2000-01 augmentation of the AGRC budget, plans are underway to develop a geriatrics curriculum for all primary care residents; to develop curriculum in the hospitalist track in the medicine residency; and to develop a geriatrics curriculum in subacute care.

An extensive curriculum reform process is underway in the Medical School. Funds from the AGRC will be used in conjunction with a grant from the Hartford

Foundation and the American Association of Medical Colleges to enhance geriatric education during the entire four years of medical school. Geriatrics faculty are working with the UCSF curricular reform effort to integrate geriatric material through every level of the curriculum. One exciting new program under development is SAGE (“Students and Great Elders”), a program that will pair first and second year medical students with healthy elders in order to give students a balanced view of aging.

AGRC Web-Based Course

Meg Wallhagen, PhD, RN, CS, GNP

For a number of years, the UCSF AGRC offered a multidisciplinary course in gerontology/geriatrics involving the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and the Social and Behavioral Sciences. By the mid-1990s, this course was causing a drain on faculty resources, student enrollment was in decline, and the various disciplines were not equally represented. Recognizing a critical need for curricular innovation within this context of limited faculty resources and difficulties in scheduling multidisciplinary courses for both faculty and students, the AGRC Advisory Committee proposed to develop a Web-based Curriculum Initiative. The use of internet technology seemed to offer a solution that would address these issues and enhance classroom-based teaching. A web-based course would allow for a more self-paced, but still interactive, experience where larger numbers of students from all the disciplines could strengthen their gerontology/geriatrics knowledge base without the requirement of being in one location at a specified time.

Thus, the concept of a UCSF AGRC web-based course in gerontology/geriatrics was born. A faculty committee, chaired by Meg Wallhagen, Ph.D., RN, CS, GNP (Nursing), and composed of Judith

C. Barker, Ph.D. (Social and Behavioral Sciences), Ron Finley, B.S., Pharm., RPh (Pharmacy), Mark Kirkland, DDS (Dentistry), and C. Bree Johnston, MD (Medicine), was selected to develop the course. The idea was to present the course content in discrete modules that could be assigned by faculty from any discipline to enhance either classroom or clinical teaching.

The first module, Demography and Epidemiology: The Changing Face of Aging, has been written and is currently being designed and implemented, using a WebCT platform. Subsequent modules will include content on the biology and physiology of aging (including pharmacologic principles), psychosocial factors influencing health care of older adults, health policy and economics of health care, and approaches to assessment and treatment of health problems in older adults. The course is case-based and interactive at a variety of levels. Students will have the opportunity for online multidisciplinary discussions with other students with comments and responses from faculty from different disciplines as well.

UCSF/Mount Zion Center on Aging

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Community Education Programs

Joan Wood, PhD

The AGRC and the UCSF Mount Zion Center on Aging have significantly expanded community education programs during this year. The Academic Geriatric Resource Program strives to provide educational programs for the general public on the processes of aging, health-enhancing behaviors for older adults, special geriatric health care needs, and access to resources to meet those needs.

The AGRC and the Center on Aging collaborated with the Family Caregiver Alliance in offering two programs. New Directions to Dementia Care was held on June 6, 2000. Bruce Miller, MD (Director of the UCSF Memory and Aging center), William Jagust, MD, of UC Davis, and Beth Logan, MSW, Education Consultant with the Family Caregiver Alliance, were the speakers. A second program on Parkinson's Disease was held on September 13, 2000, with J. William Langston, MD, and Caroline M. Tanner, MD, PhD, of the Parkinson's Institute in Sunnyvale, CA, as featured speakers. Both these

programs were offered as live, interactive video-conferences from the School of Nursing on the Parnassus Campus of UCSF and were linked to other sites throughout California. Other collaborating organizations were the Alzheimer's Association of the Greater Bay Area, American Society on Aging, Stanford/VA Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and the UCSF Memory and Aging Center.

On November 4, 2000, the Center on Aging, the Alzheimer's Association of the Bay Area, and the Goldman Institute on Aging will offer a community education program on Memory Loss and Aging: Normal Loss or Alzheimer's Disease. This program will be held at the Laurel Heights Conference Center of UCSF. Featured speakers will be David Coon, PhD, of the Goldman Institute on Aging, Elizabeth Edgerly, PhD, of the Alzheimer's Association, and Bruce Miller, MD.