



Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society

Western Division

An Affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

As this year ends, I will have served my first term as President of the Society. It is an honor and privilege to serve in this role and I thank the Board of Directors for their support and dedication to achieve our goals set at the beginning of the year. I would like to thank all our members, who are the strength of the organization. We accomplish more when we work together! I am pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report, which outlines our yearly achievements.

As a regional affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), the PAGS-WD is a thriving specialty organization. This was a productive year with enormous time and energy spent on continuing our tradition of providing quality programming for members.

The Society remains true to the mission of *educating healthcare professionals from multiple disciplines to foster professional and public awareness in geriatric medicine*. We provide awareness through outstanding educational offerings, as well as serve as a leader for healthcare professionals from all disciplines involved in eldercare. The Society's website, www.pagswd.org, is a convenient resource for relevant and timely information for those involved with the quality of care for the geriatric population.

The Board of Directors provides active oversight of our organization's mission and goals. The Board maintained a full slate for 2019. In addition to the Board of Directors, a "*Healthcare Professional Advisor*" contributes to Board activities. We welcomed two healthcare professionals to the Board: Melissa Connelly, DNP-FNP-BC, Allegheny Health Network and Lauren Dornin, DNP, AGNP, UPMC Health Plan.

**EDUCATE
COMMUNICATE
and
ENGAGE**
healthcare
professionals from all
disciplines in the
provision of
**QUALITY
HEALTHCARE**
for all older persons.

The following strategic goals were approved by the Board on January 16, 2019. Throughout the year, an emphasis was placed on each item, and all were successfully accomplished.

1. *Promote geriatric education for all geriatric healthcare professionals.*
2. *Provide an opportunity for networking with other professionals who share an interest in improving care for older adults.*
3. *Advocate for programs and public policy which will improve the health and well-being of older adults.*
4. *Encourage students and residents to pursue careers in geriatrics.*

Finances. The Society's finances remain sound. The Secretary/Treasurer (working with the President and Board of Directors) oversees all accounts for the Society to operate efficiently and effectively within the organization's budget. The three primary accounts include a checking account, business money market and the special education business money market.

Membership. Membership continues to remain steady with multiple healthcare disciplines comprising the organization. Total membership rose to 238 members, compared to 209 members in 2018. This year's resident recruitment outreach produced 9 new members, which brings the total number of resident members to 38. Program directors of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine residency programs were asked to distribute recruitment information to their residents and fellows. Each can join the organization at no cost for the duration of their training.

Recruitment of new members and retention of existing members is a top priority. Resources for recruitment outreach campaigns include: the registration list of the annual Clinical Update conference; the Pennsylvania Medical Directors Association membership list; the American Geriatrics Society state listing, and the June and Fall Program attendee list. Furthermore, the Board of Directors is directly involved in the retention process. Each Board member sends personalized retention letters to colleagues. Membership support enables the organization to continue to provide quality educational programs and sustain the various society awards.

Society establishes Organization Membership Levels for 2020

Administrative services are handled through a partnership with the Allegheny County Medical Society (ACMS), which provides support and additional resources for new membership outreach campaigns, as well as maintaining all Society business.

New for 2020: To attract and engage organizations and companies, a new membership category was established and will be rolled out in 2020. The Organization membership offers various membership levels to fit a company's needs. Our goal is to increase membership and offer group pricing for organizations to enroll their healthcare team members. Christine Herb, MD, Chair, Membership Committee along with President, Namita Ahuja, MD, were instrumental in defining the new membership structure.

Educational Programming. The organization seeks to increase the geriatrics expertise of healthcare professionals who care for older adults by providing high quality educational programs. The Society continually and reliably provides outstanding learning opportunities for those that care for the geriatric population. This year's suite of programming was no exception (highlights below).

To offset programming, the Society relies on collaborative opportunities and partnerships from various companies and organizations. This year was an exceptional year for partnering, allowing us to remain financially strong. Due to the time frame of the 27th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine Conference (April 25-27) the Board of Directors and Planning Committee agreed to postpone the yearly Controversies in Geriatric Medicine program, typically held in June. This popular educational program will be offered in 2020.



27th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine

This exceptional program continues to be a premier educational conference. The conference is directed by Drs. Shuja Hassan and Neil Resnick. The course directors, working with dedicated members of the Planning Committee, consistently provide attendees with a world class conference.

More than 380 geriatrics professionals from all disciplines, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, social workers, long-term care and managed care providers, as well as health care administrators participated in the conference held at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center Hotel April 25-27. Registrants from numerous states, including California, North Carolina, New York and Washington, participated in this year's offering.

27th Annual Clinical Update in

GERIATRIC MEDICINE



New this year, a Geriatric Cardiology Symposium and Cardiology Expert Panel Q&A was a crowd favorite. The presentations featured guest faculty Parag Goyal, MD, MSc, and Benjamin Wessler, MD with local faculty presenters Daniel Forman, MD and Jared Magnani, MD, Barbara Messinger-Rapport, MD. Guest faculty also gave a superb lecture, a *"Year in Review for Geriatric Medicine,"* which highlighted recent advances and controversies.

The course directors welcome Lyn Weinberg, MD, who was invited to serve as a course director for the 28th Annual Clinical Update.

Fall Program

The Fall program continues to be a popular event. More than 75 internists, family practitioners, geriatricians, geriatric psychiatrists, pharmacists, nurses, nursing home administrators, and social workers attended the evening dinner program. Attendees enjoyed networking and socializing with colleagues prior to the educational portion. This educational program costs a minimal amount to the Society to host, due to strong sponsorships. For 2019, the organization realized a nominal profit from the program.

The program, which began in 2003, is popular with members, attracts distinguished guest speakers comprised of both national and local faculty. . This year was no exception, with an expert panel comprised of local faculty exploring: Drinking and Dementia: a toxic cocktail in senior residential communities.



Leading the panel presentation was Rollin Wright, MD, MS, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Director, Geriatric Track Program UPMC Internal Medicine Residency Training Program. The remaining panel members included: Brendan Hanley, Division Chief of Care Coordination, Area Agency on Aging; Lalith Kumar K. Solai MD, Chief and Medical Director, Geriatric Psychiatry; Medical Director, Center for Interventional Psychiatry; Director, Patient Safety, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Lianne Glaus Vighetti, DHCE, LSW, Gerontological Social Worker, UPMC Shadyside. Namita Ahuja, MD, MMM, President, served as moderator.



Presenters explored the controversial case in detail, each providing their expertise to the question of the ramifications of behavior problems related to obligations and rights of the patients, healthcare providers, personal care facilities, and power of attorney.

Since its inception, the Society has awarded over \$84,500 to medical students

David C. Martin Award. Established in 1999, the David C. Martin award recognizes academic excellence in the field of geriatric medicine by medical students. This philanthropic effort, solely supported by Society funds, provides each award recipient an honorarium (up to \$1,500.00) to defray the costs of attending the annual meeting of the American Geriatrics Society. Eligible students will have their scholarly work accepted for presentation at the meeting. To date, the Society has awarded over \$84,500 to medical students in the region.

This year's award recipients are Mr. Tyler Paras and Ms. Vivianne Oyefusi, each second-year medical students attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Each awardee's abstract was accepted for poster presentation by the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) at their 2019 Annual Scientific meeting, held May 2-4 in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Paras' abstract was also selected for presentation as a poster during the Presidential Poster Session. Abstracts receiving the highest scores through the peer review process are included in the Presidential Poster Session.

Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award. Initiated in 2015, the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award is presented to two outstanding teachers (a physician and a nonphysician healthcare professional) for their dedication and commitment to geriatric education. Members and non-members of the Society are eligible for the award, with nominees having demonstrated leadership and inspired learners to better the care of older adults, as well as having contributed to the growth of geriatrics in their professions. Dr. Rollin Wright chairs the selection committee.

This year's Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Awardees were: Geriatric Teacher of the Year recipient Christine Herb, MD, Associate Program Director, Allegheny Health Network (AHN) Internal Medicine Consortium; and Geriatric Teacher of the Year Award for a Healthcare Professional Victoria Hornyak, PT, DPT, GCS, Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Each was honored at the Clinical Update dinner symposium, where they were recognized for their achievements.



Legislative. In the political and public policy arena, PAGS-WD continues to be involved in state and local policy meetings. The Pennsylvania Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) advancement continued to make progress. Throughout the year, Judith Black, MD, MHA Secretary/Treasurer, apprised the Board of Directors on the status of the POLST program in Pennsylvania and will continue to do so in 2020.

On the national level, we work with the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) in their commitment to shape programs and policies that are important to older people, their families, and healthcare professionals. We are fortunate to have strong representation on the AGS Council of State Affiliate Representatives (COSAR) with Neil Resnick, MD assuming the role as Co-Chair for COSAR in May. The Society continues to be a role model which other AGS State Affiliates consult for best practices on membership renewal, educational offerings and establishing a successful organization in their region.

We will continue, as an organization and as the experts in the care of older adults in Western Pennsylvania, to let our voices be heard by those who ultimately make policy and distribute resources.

2020 As we head into the new year, I am confident we will remain a dynamic organization in our region and a model for other state affiliates. The goal of engaging and educating healthcare professionals in the provision of quality health care for all older persons will remain our primary focus, while we continue to recognize excellent geriatrics educators through our Geriatric Teacher of the Year Award. We will continue to partner with the American Geriatrics Society and aid in their public policy advocacy efforts for older adults.

The Officers and Board of Directors will remain committed to providing strong leadership, keeping members engaged, and continuing to develop future Geriatrics professionals through our programs aimed at students, residents, and fellows.

We will build upon our accomplishments and grow the organization with new members. Your loyalty, support, and participation have been the bedrock of our success. Let's continue to build a better future for older Pennsylvanians. *I look forward to your continued involvement in 2020.*

Respectfully submitted,

Namita Ahuja, MD, MMM

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President