

PENNSYLVANIA GERIATRICS SOCIETY WESTERN DIVISION



AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY

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SPRING 2017

Fall Program Highlights *"Natural Evolution of Telemedicine for Care of the Elderly"*

The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division (PAGS-WD) hosted their annual fall program Nov. 1 at the University Club, Pittsburgh. More than 75 attendees registered for this year's exceptional presentation, "Natural Evolution of Telemedicine for Care of the Elderly," which featured a panel presentation. The society gratefully acknowledges support from Curavi Health, Optum, Presbyterian SeniorCare Network, Sanofi, UPMC For Life and UPMC Resources for Life.

Moderated by Namita Ahuja, MD, senior medical director, Medicare and Geriatric Programs, UPMC Health Plan, clinical assistant professor, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, distinguished panel presenters

included: Jack Cahalane, PhD, MPH, chief, General Adult Service Line, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, UPMC Health System; Steven Handler, MD, PhD, CMD, associate professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine and Department of Biomedical Informatics, chief medical informatics officer, UPMC Community Provider Services; and Andrew Watson, MD,



From left are Fred Rubin, MD, PAGS-WD president; Jack Cahalane, PhD, MPH, presenter; Steven Handler, MD, PhD, CMD, presenter; Judith Black, MD, secretary/treasurer; Namita Ahuja, MD, moderator; and Andrew Watson, MD, MLitt, FACS, presenter.

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President's Message

Our Society continues to remain an important resource for healthcare professionals in this region who are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of older persons. This edition of the newsletter includes details on upcoming educational offerings and recognition of individuals who have made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics, through the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award. This award serves to recognize outstanding teachers for their dedication and commitment to geriatrics education and practice across the health professions. I would like to congratulate this year's awardees, Debra K. Weiner, MD, FACP; Pamela E. Toto, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA; and Vincent M. Balestrino, MD.



Fred Rubin, MD

In association with UPMC/University of Pittsburgh Institute on Aging, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences, the Society is proud to present the 25th session of our popular Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine on April 6-8, 2017. This is the largest ongoing CME event in Western Pennsylvania and has been the recipient of a national award from the American Geriatrics Society.

Our program directors, Judith S. Black, MD, MHA, Shuja Hassan, MD, and Neil Resnick, MD, have worked tirelessly with our dedicated Planning Committee, which includes: Daphne Bicket, George Gleeson, Christine Herb, Lisa Hilal, Rachel Jantea, David Nace, Karen Powers, Charles Reynolds, Victor Rudkin, Heather Sakely, Richard Schulz, Carey Vinson, and myself, to assemble an impressive lineup of speakers to present the latest information about clinical problems in geriatric medicine.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank our partners: Aging Institute of UPMC Senior Services and the University of Pittsburgh; Allegheny Health Network - Department of Medicine, Internal Medicine Residency Program and Forbes Family Medicine Residency Program; Heritage Valley Health System; Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, UPMC Health Plan; UPMC McKeesport; The UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute; UPMC Shadyside; UPMC St. Margaret; and Washington Health System.

Simultaneously, we will host the 15th Annual International Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) conference. This co-programming has worked extremely well to enhance the quality of both programs. In June, we will sponsor the 3rd Annual Controversies in Geriatric Medicine program. The program, which is in the planning stages, features a complex case, discussed by a panel of experts with audience interaction. The first two controversial cases received very favorable evaluations, and we look forward to offering another challenging program.

Your membership provides support to continue our program and award offerings, and strengthens our commitment to fulfill our mission of improving health care for all older persons. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming program.

Fred Rubin, MD

Fall Program Highlights

From Page 1

MLitt, FACS, chief medical information officer, International and Commercial Services, medical director, UPMC Telemedicine, medical director, Center for Connected Medicine.

The enlightening panel presentation reviewed the

background and evidence for telemedicine. Discussion included an overview of new applications in telemedicine and the value and role of telemedicine as an effective tool for physicians and health care systems in the care of elderly patients.

Thank you to our program sponsors:



Free Webinar: 2017 Geriatrics Coding Changes

In November 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized its Physician Fee Schedule rule for 2017, which includes several significant coding and payment changes of importance to geriatrics and geriatrics healthcare professionals.

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) is offering a free webinar that will discuss these updates, including payment for complex chronic care management, assessment and care planning for cognitive impairment, prolonged service codes, as well as existing codes of interest where requirements for billing may have been modified. The presenters will discuss the qualifying patients, qualifying services, and the basics for billing these services to Medicare and other payers. Following the program, the attendee should be able to introduce these new codes into their practices.

The webinar is presented by AGS Board Member and geriatrician Peter Hollmann, MD, and AGS consultant Denise Merlino, CPC, MBA, CNMT, who are both recognized for their expertise in payment and coding. This webinar is offered through the AGS GeriatricsCareOnline website. To view the webinar, please visit <http://geriatricscareonline.org> and click on webinars then "Coding Changes for 2017: Focus on New Codes for Geriatrics."

Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine

Registration is now open for the 25th annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine conference, jointly sponsored by the PAGES-WD, UPMC/University of Pittsburgh Institute on Aging, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences. The conference will be held April 6-8, 2017, at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center.

The fastest-growing segment of the population comprises individuals above the age of 85 years. The purpose of the conference is to provide an evidence-based approach to help clinicians take exceptional care of these often frail individuals. Designed by course directors Shuja Hassan, MD; Judith Black, MD; and Neil Resnick, MD; along with the PAGES-WD planning committee, this award-winning course is designed for family practitioners, internists, geriatricians and other health care professionals who provide care to older adults.

Speakers are selected by a multidisciplinary committee of academic and practicing clinicians based on two criteria: (1) expertise - nationally recognized and often responsible for advances relative to practice, and (2) ability - to share it in a practical, succinct and entertaining way to facilitate its easy incorporation into a practice.

This year's distinguished guest faculty include: William B. Applegate, MD, MPH, MACP, professor of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, Wake Forest Baptist Health, Winston-Salem, NC; Sharon K. Inouye, MD, MPH, Director, Aging Brain Center at the Institute for Aging Research, Hebrew SeniorLife, Boston, MA; Becky Brott Powers, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Geriatrics and Palliative Care), University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX; Deborah W. Robin, MD, MHCM, Corporate Medical Director, naviHealth, Nashville, TN; Stephanie Studenski, MD, MPH, Senior Investigator, Chief, Longitudinal Studies Section, National Institute on Aging, Baltimore, MD; and Arnold Wald, MD, Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology Hepatology, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI. Michael J. Yao, MD, CMD, Choctaw Health Services, Durant, OK, Former Chief Medical Officer, Golden Living, Plano, TX, and former president of the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division completes the list of guest speakers. Local expert faculty, most of whom also are nationally renowned, will further enhance the program with key, evidence-based sessions.

Conference highlights include:

- Evidence-based evaluation and treatment of multiple common clinical problems seen in the office, hospital and long-term care



Dr. Applegate



Dr. Brott Powers



Dr. Studenski



Dr. Yao

- Symposium on neurodegenerative diseases including Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's
- Symposium covering the latest updates for common cardiovascular conditions, including hypertension and acute MI in the elderly
- Multiple breakout sessions, including: Prognostication in Chronic Disease, Decision Making Capacity, Using Antipsychotics in Long Term Care, and Foot Problems

The dinner symposium, "The Future of Geriatrics," will be presented by Dr. Applegate, former president of the American College of Physicians, dean of the School of Medicine and head of Health Sciences at Wake Forest University, editor of the Journal of the AGS (JAGS) and primary investigator for the seminal SHEP study of systolic hypertension and the landmark SPRINT trial.

The conference brochure, including registration and complete credit information, is available on the society website, www.pagswd.org.

15th Annual HELP Conference

The International Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) conference will be held in conjunction with the Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine conference April 6-7, 2017, at the Marriot Pittsburgh City Center. Designed by course directors Sharon Inouye, MD, MPH; Fred Rubin, MD; and Sarah Dowd, LICSW, MPH, this two-day international conference educates HELP teams regarding strategies for delirium prevention, using HELP to improve hospital-wide care of the elderly, and creating a climate of change.

Registrants benefit from the shared knowledge of experts and peers, state-of-the-art geriatrics updates, presentations from HELP sites across the country and updates from HELP Central, as well as networking with colleagues.

For more information on the conference, please email elderlife@hsl.harvard.edu or visit the HELP conference website periodically for updates: <http://www.hospitalelderlifeprogram.org/about/help-conference/>

Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine

Visit <https://ccehs.upmc.com/liveFormalCourses.jsf>. For additional information, contact (412) 647-8232 or email ccehsconfmgmt101@upmc.edu.

15th Annual HELP Conference

Email elderlife@hsl.harvard.edu or visit the HELP conference website: <http://www.hospitalelderlifeprogram.org/about/help-conference/>

Society Announces Award Recipients

The Awards Committee, chaired by Rollin Wright, MD, is pleased to announce the 2017 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award winners: Debra K. Weiner, MD, FACP, Pamela E. Toto, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, and Vincent Baletrino, MD.

Each will be honored at a ceremony during the dinner symposium at the 25th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine on April 6, 2017.

Physician Award

Debra K. Weiner, MD, FACP, is the 2017 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award recipient. The award recognizes a physician who has made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics and to the progress of geriatrics education across the health professions.

Dr. Weiner brings a highly developed, quintessentially geriatric approach to care through all of her educational efforts. She is involved in precepting, lecturing and curriculum design in many settings. She has coached, mentored and taught patients, caregivers and health professionals in a multitude of disciplines.



Dr. Weiner

Dr. Weiner has developed case studies and questions for modules for the American Board of Internal Medicine and lectures extensively at many local, national and international forums. She has authored or co-authored numerous publications throughout her career, including a recent 12-part series on chronic low back pain in the respected journal, *Pain Medicine*, that was developed in collaboration with approximately 40 colleagues across the country.

Dr. Weiner currently serves as program director, Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Training Program, and professor, Medicine, Psychiatry, and Anesthesiology at the University of Pittsburgh. She is on staff at the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and serves on many of its committees.

Healthcare Professional Award

Pamela E. Toto, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA, is the 2017 recipient of the Healthcare Professional Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award, which recognizes a healthcare professional who has made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics and to the progress of geriatrics education across the health professions.

Dr. Toto is a nationally recognized educator, practitioner and leader in geriatric occupational therapy. Throughout her career, she has taught and interacted with countless students, practitioners, healthcare professionals, and consumers with the goal of promoting and



Dr. Toto

advancing evidence-based strategies to promote health and well-being in older adults.

Dr. Toto has presented numerous national and regional peer-reviewed presentations on geriatric topics ranging from best practice physical activity strategies for older adults to client-centered goal setting for older adult well-being.

Dr. Toto was the first occupational therapist in the United States to become board certified in gerontology by the American Occupational Therapy Association in 2000. She has served as assistant professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, since 2011 and has been the program director for the Clinical Science Doctorate Program since 2015. Dr. Toto also is a geriatric clinical consultant, UPMC Centers for Rehab Services in McKeesport.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Vincent Balestrino, MD, is the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, which recognizes and honors a physician who has made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics education, with the utmost dedication, commitment and teaching excellence spanning their professional career.

Dr. Balestrino has made significant contributions to the growth of geriatrics education in the Pittsburgh region and has inspired numerous learners to be passionate about the specialty.



Dr. Balestrino

He has been a clinical assistant professor of Family Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine since 1997 and served as the director of the Geriatric Fellowship program at UPMC St. Margaret from 2004 to June 2012; a role that he is currently filling again after the recent departure of the fellowship director. Dr. Balestrino currently serves as associate director of the Family Practice Residency program at UPMC St. Margaret Hospital.

Dr. Balestrino is director, Geriatric Services, UPMC St. Margaret. His experience and leadership extends to palliative care, and he is an expert in the medical care of nursing home patients, particularly end-of-life care and wound care. In April 2015, he took on a new role as senior medical director at Presbyterian SeniorCare.

Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division

Serving as a resource in providing information and educational programming among a society of professionals who are dedicated to advancing clinical care and quality of life for the elderly.

Membership

2017 Renewals

Dues notices for 2017 have been mailed! Society membership dues are renewed on a yearly basis. Your dues are instrumental in aiding the society to provide quality educational program offerings to healthcare professionals in our region. Dues also support the David C. Martin Award, which provides financial support to qualified medical students who have an interest in the field of geriatrics, and the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award, which recognizes outstanding teachers for their dedication and commitment to geriatrics education.

Contact Nadine Popovich, administrator, at (412) 321-5030 to renew your dues by credit card or to inquire about your membership status.

Election Results

The following have been elected to serve as an officer, COSAR Representative, or on the Board of Directors. Officers will serve a two-year term, which began January 1, 2017, and will end December 31, 2018. Board members and the COSAR Representative will serve a three-year term, which began January 1, 2017, and will end December 31, 2019.

President

Fred Rubin, MD

Secretary/Treasurer

Judith Black, MD, MHA

Board of Directors

Anthony Giampolo, MD, MBA, DAAPM, ABPN

Shuja Hassan, MD

Christine Herb, MD*

Karen Powers, MD

Lyn Weinberg, MD*

Rollin Wright, MD

**Newly elected to serve on the Board of Directors*

COSAR Representative

Neil Resnick, MD

In other Board news, the Society appointed Rachel Jantea, MD and Priya Murali, MD as Healthcare Professional Advisors to the Board of Directors.



Dr. Herb



Dr. Weinberg

Mark Your Calendar

American College of Physicians Internal Medicine – 2017

When: March 30-April 1, 2017

Where: San Diego, CA

Phone: 800-523-1546 x2600 or 215-351-2400

Website: <https://IM2017.acponline.org>

Choose from more than 200 CME courses covering a wide variety of clinical and practice management tools.

Society of General Internal Medicine 40th Annual Meeting

Resistance & Grit: Pursuing Organizational Change and Preventing Burnout in General Internal Medicine

When: April 19-22, 2017

Where: Washington, DC

Phone: 800-822-3060

Website: www.sjim.org

Earn up to 16.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™ and a maximum of 16.5 MOC points

American Society on Aging 2017 Aging in American Conference

When: March 20-24

Where: Chicago, IL

Website: <http://www.asaging.org/aia>

Over 3,000 attendees from across the nation and abroad attend the annual ASA Aging in America Conference to learn, network and participate in the largest multidisciplinary conference covering issues of aging and quality of life for older adults.

IAGG WORLD CONGRESS 2017

Global Aging and Health: Bridging Science, Policy and Practice

When: July 23-27, 2017

Where: San Francisco, CA

Website: <https://www.iagg2017.org/>

Over 6,000 professionals in gerontology and geriatrics are expected to attend the World Congress in San Francisco. The theme "Global Aging and Health: Bridging Science, Policy, and Practice" will bring representatives from medicine, nursing, social science, psychological science, finance, policy fields, and other disciplines to address the latest approaches to improving the quality of life of the world's older adults. This is the premier meeting for professionals in gerontology and geriatrics.



THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY
FOR POST-ACUTE AND
LONG-TERM
CARE MEDICINE

2017 PMDA Annual Symposium

Save the Date!

October 20-21, 2017

Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA

Conference details will be posted on the PMDA website, pamda.org

American Geriatrics Society

2017 Annual Scientific Meeting

May 17-20, 2017

San Antonio, TX

Phone: 212-308-1414

Website: www.americangeriatrics.org

The AGS Annual Scientific Meeting is the premier educational event in geriatrics, providing the latest information on clinical care, research on aging, and innovative models of care delivery. The 2017 Annual Meeting will address the educational needs of geriatrics professionals from all disciplines. Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, social workers, long-term care and managed care providers, health care administrators, and others can update their knowledge and skills through state-of-the-art educational sessions and research presentations.

The 2017 Annual Meeting offers many continuing education sessions, including invited symposia, workshops and meet-the-expert sessions. Sessions will include information about emerging clinical issues, current research in geriatrics, education, health policy and delivery of geriatric health care.

Members in the News

Society member serves on program panel



The Allegheny County Medical Society and the Allegheny County Bar Association hosted "Elder and End of Life Care: The Intersection of Law and Medicine" Nov. 16, 2016, at the Rivers Club. Society Secretary/Treasurer Judith Black, MD, Allegheny Health Network, left, served as a panelist. Also pictured is panelist Richard Hoffmaster, MD, UPMC.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ACBA

Board member chosen for Practice Change Leaders program

UPMC St. Margaret is pleased to announce that Heather Sakely, PharmD, BCPS, Director, Geriatric Pharmacotherapy, and Director, PGY2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency, was selected to participate in the fourth cohort of The Practice Change Leaders program. Dr. Sakely sits on the Board of Directors of the Society.

The 2017 class of Practice Change Leaders for Aging and Health were selected from professionals who responded to a highly competitive nationwide call for applications. Ten Leaders were selected to participate in the prestigious program, aimed at building leadership capacity among professionals who have a leadership role in a health care delivery organization, health-related institution, or community-based organization with direct responsibility for care that impacts older adults. Through participation in the fourteen month Practice Change Leaders program, awardees receive \$45,000 and the support of local and national Mentors to further develop



Heather Sakely,
PharmD, BCPS

their leadership skills and to complete a project aimed at implementing a new geriatric service line or aging program. Complementing their development as individual leaders, the Leaders will be joining a collegial network of dedicated professionals who share a commitment to improving health and health care outcomes in older adults.

As part of the PCL program, Heather Sakely has chosen to implement a program entitled PIVOTS-S: Pharmacist-led InterVentions On Transitions of Seniors - Scalability, A Skilled Nursing Facility Intensive Intervention For Hospital Readmission Reduction, which will demonstrate the role of the pharmacist within the interprofessional geriatric team, as both a direct patient care provider and change agent for improving care quality. The goals of this project are to create (1) local scalability of existing pharmacist-physician practices; (2) development of pharmacist-led institutional and health system level feedback loops, transparency, practice change and quality improvement around medication-related systems-based practice concerns and drug therapy problems, along with 7-day hospital readmission reduction from the skilled nursing facility (SNF); (3) regional and national scalability of our practice through creation of a working business plan.

"Poor quality of care during transitions is a major public health problem and is often highlighted by numerous risk points for medication misadventures. Our program is critically responsive to this need and places pharmacists in direct patient care provider roles in the SNF, partnered in real-time with the interprofessional geriatric team, responsible for all medication therapy needs, and providing actionable and timely follow-up for the patient's care," said Dr. Sakely. "It is our vision to afford this enhanced interprofessional patient care delivery system to all older adults."

The Practice Change Leaders program is made possible by the generous supported of the Atlantic Philanthropies, a limited life foundation, and the John A. Hartford Foundation. The program is under the direction of Eric A. Coleman, MD, MPH. To learn more about the program, see page 12 or visit www.changeleaders.org.

Controversies in Geriatric Medicine

Save the Date: June 22, 2017

Planning is underway for the 3rd annual Controversies in Geriatric Medicine program, scheduled for June 22, 2017, at the Herberman Conference Center, Pittsburgh, PA, beginning with registration at 6:00 pm.

The program features an actual case from a practice where the appropriate course of action was unclear, management was complex, or there were serious ethical issues. Members will receive the meeting notice once the program is finalized, with details also available on the society website at www.pagswd.org.

Call For Applications: Practice Change Leaders for Aging and Health

Program Description

The Practice Change Leaders for Aging and Health is a national program to develop, support and expand the influence of organizational leaders who are committed to achieving transformative improvements in care for older adults. The Practice Change Leaders program is jointly supported by the Atlantic Philanthropies and the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Context: Our nation's health delivery system frequently does not meet the unique needs of older adults. Wide gaps remain between evidence-based approaches, nationally recognized best practices, and how care is currently delivered for many conditions that disproportionately affect this population. Strong leadership is needed to ensure that promising innovations are implemented to improve health and functional outcomes in older adults.

Program Summary: The Practice Change Leaders program is a fifteen month opportunity to gain enhanced leadership skills and content expertise to positively influence care for older adults. Leaders complete a project aimed at integrating improved care for older adults within their organization, allowing them to remain at their full time job throughout the fifteen month program.

Intended Outcomes: The intended outcomes of the Practice Change Leaders for Aging and Health program are twofold: First, the goal of the program is the development of effective leaders who champion high quality care and promote a prominent role for older adults in defining the type, intensity, and setting of care they choose to receive. Second, the goal of the program

is the resulting improvement in the organization and delivery of health and health care services to older adults.

Program Activities: Through participation in this fifteen month program, Practice Change Leaders will further develop their leadership skills through completing a project aimed at improving care for older adults. With the support of national Senior Leaders, Practice Change Leaders will engage in self-directed acquisition of the necessary skills and content expertise to become more effective leaders.

To create maximum efficiency and leverage, the Practice Change Leaders program will focus on four core topic areas that are central components of national reform efforts. These core topics include enhanced primary care (to include but not limited to person-centered medical homes), accountable care organizations, transitional care and hospital readmission reduction, and programs designed to meet the needs of dually eligible beneficiaries.

Practice Change Leaders applicants are expected to have an existing project underway that addresses one or more of the four core content areas. The projects will serve as an important vehicle for "hands-on" learning of critical and transformative leadership skill development.]

Award Details & Eligibility

Application Deadline: Wednesday August 16, 2017 at 12:00 PM PDT, 1:00 PM MDT, 2:00 PM CDT, 3:00 EDT
No exceptions will be made.

Start of Award: January 1, 2018

Amount of Award: Practice Change Leaders receive \$45,000 during the fifteen month award. The applicant's home institution is expected to provide cost-sharing support as described below in section C of "Conditions of the Award."

Number of Awards: Up to 10 awards will be made.

Eligibility: Applicants must hold a leadership role in a health care delivery organization, health-related institution, or community-based organization with direct responsibility for care that impacts older adults. The applicant's home institution may be a health plan, hospital, ambulatory clinic, home health agency, assisted living facility, nursing home, or community-based agency providing health-related services to older adults. Irrespective of practice setting, applicants must be senior enough in their organization to have decision-making authority and be able to effectuate change. Applicants must live and practice in the United States.

Selection Criteria: A selection committee comprised of nationally prominent experts will select the Practice Change Leaders. In their evaluations, committee members will consider the following factors:

- Demonstrated commitment to improving care for older adults
- Demonstrated leadership capacity
- Potential for future accomplishments
- Impact of applicant's project on quality of care for older adults
- Impact of the applicant's project on the applicant's career trajectory
- The proposed budget and how it reflects the home organization's commitment
- The home institution's commitment to the applicant as evidenced by meeting the required cost-share of \$20,000

- The home institution's letters of support conveying a high level of support for the applicant's participation in the Practice Change Leaders program and specifically address the relevance and importance of the proposed project to the home institution's mission and strategic direction.

- Overall presentation of application, including writing ability and style, reasoning, and clarity

Applications will be further judged and selected based on potential to exert a profound impact on care for older adults, commitment to self-directed and peer learning and improvement, and a strong professional record reflecting positions of increasing leadership responsibility.

To Request An Application: To request an application send an e-mail to info@changeleaders.org. The application will be sent to you within three business days of receiving your request.

To Learn More About the Program: We anticipate applicants will have questions and wish to discuss their proposals with us. Please visit www.changeleaders.org where you can learn more or you can contact us directly via the website.

Potential applicants are invited to attend one or more informational teleconferences. During these calls, the National Program Office will address questions and concerns. Individuals who are considering applying are encouraged but not required to participate and can participate in the call anonymously if they so choose.

Applicants may participate by dialing our call-in toll number 1-650-479-3208 and then entering 665 018 610

The dates/times for the informational teleconferences will be posted to the www.changeleaders.org in May 2017. The complete application can be found on the Society's website, www.pagswd.org.

National Healthcare Decisions Day 2017

In September 2014, the Institute of Medicine released the report *Dying in America: Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life*.¹ The report confirms what healthcare practitioners know, that most people are unable to make their own decisions about care when they're nearing the end of life, and recommends advance care planning as a strategy to improve care at that time.

For 2017, National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) will be a weeklong event, from April 16 to 22. NHDD exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. NHDD is an initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding healthcare and for providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be. The theme for 2017 is "It Always Seems Too Early, Until It's Too Late." To learn more about the weeklong event, visit www.nhdd.org

It is helpful for medical practices to make advance directives available. The Health Care Power of Attorney and Living Will form endorsed by doctors and lawyers in Pennsylvania is available free on the ACMS website at <http://www.acba.org/public/livingwill>.

Medical practices can advise everyone age 18 and older to complete a Health Care Power of Attorney to name their medical decision-maker. It also is useful to convey the importance of patients having an ongoing conversation over the years with their healthcare decision-maker, family and health care provider about values and goals of care.

Discussions with older and sicker patients are more complex. The Serious Illness Conversation Guide can facilitate such conversations between doctors and their patients and families. Patients then have an opportunity to make informed choices that reflect their values, reduce suffering, enhance family well-being and improve quality of life.² These are patients who can be advised to document choices in a living will. For patients for whom you would not be surprised if they died within the year, a POLST form can be completed. For information on POLST, contact the POLST coordinator at PAPOLST@verizon.net.

Since January 2, 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is reimbursing physicians for conversations with Medicare patients about advance care planning. Payment is not limited to particular physician specialties, and nurse practitioners whose scope of practice allows independent billing to Medicare also may be reimbursed for such discussions. This service is billable in both facility and non-facility settings.

References

1. <http://iom.nationalacademies.org/Reports/2014/Dying-In-America-Improving-Quality-and-Honoring-Individual-Preferences-Near-the-End-of-Life.aspx>
2. <https://www.ariadnelabs.org/programs/serious-illness-care/>

POLST update

The Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) has identified Pennsylvania Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) as a key healthcare priority for the 2017-18 legislative sessions. Along with a larger group of stakeholders, PAMED is advocating for legislation for the POLST Paradigm which enables physicians and other healthcare providers to help assure patients' preferences for life-sustaining treatment near the end of life are followed.

According to David Thompson, PAMED Director of Legislative Affairs, two members of the legislature, Sen. Gene Yaw (Lycoming County) and Rep. Bryan Cutler (Lancaster County) have agreed to serve as sponsors of legislation. The senator and representative have agreed to hold a joint press event on the introduction of their respective pieces of legislation which is expected to occur in late March or early April.

Members of the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division are encouraged to send correspondence to the House of Representatives encouraging legislators to co-sponsor Rep. Cutler's POLST legislation and do the same in the Senate for Sen. Yaw's POLST proposal.

POLST Training

In other POLST news, the Jewish Healthcare Foundation is presenting the "POLST: Doing It Right" Training Course at its location in downtown Pittsburgh May 17, 2017. The course offers both 8.0 CME and CEU credit hours. It is presented under the direction of Judith Black, MD, along with Denise Stahl, RN, MSN, ACHPN, and Marian Kemp, RN, POLST Coordinator.

The major focus of this course is to advance participants' understanding of advance care planning and the role of POLST. Emphasis will be on the development of skills to facilitate effective goals of care discussions for individuals with serious health conditions, advanced illness and medical frailty.

Healthcare professionals, including physicians, physician assistants, CRNPs, nurses, social workers, chaplains and others, who care for individuals approaching the end of life and wish to enhance their ability to engage in effective goals of care conversations with patients, families and surrogates are invited to attend. The only cost is a minimal charge for those who want to earn CEU social worker credit.

For further information, contact Marian Kemp at PAPOLST@verizon.net.

Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division
Promoting geriatric education to all healthcare professions.

PA GERIATRICS SOCIETY – WESTERN DIVISION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Send completed application and payment to

Nadine Popovich, Administrator
PA Geriatrics Society-Western Division
713 Ridge Ave ♦ Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Questions?

Email npopovich@acms.org ♦ Phone (412) 321-5030
Visit WWW.PAGSWD.ORG

Please check one:

- Student (\$10.00 / year)
 Resident /Fellow (FREE) Resident/Fellow Year: Start date __—__ End date
 MD, DO, PharmD, RN, CRNP or other healthcare professional (\$60.00/ year)

Checks may be made payable to “PA Geriatrics Society”

Credit Card information: Visa/Mastercard _____

Card Billing address: _____

Exp date _____ Last 3 digits on the back of card _____ Amount to be charged _____

Name _____ Title _____

Business Address

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Home Address

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Preferred Address (Business / Home)? _____