

# 2018 GERIATRICS TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society Western Division (PAGS-WD) is pleased to announce the 2018 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award recipients Jordan F. Karp, MD (Physician Awardee) and Heather A. Sakely, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP (Healthcare Professional Awardee).

The Geriatrics Teacher of the Year award is presented to two outstanding teachers for their dedication and commitment to geriatrics education and exemplify geriatrics teaching excellence.



**Jordan F. Karp, MD** is the 2018 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award recipient, which 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. Karp has maintained a clinical practice of psychiatry since 2003, in which he focuses on the care of older adults and patients living with both psychiatric and chronic medical conditions, in particular, chronic pain. He has served as medical director for psychiatry at UPMC Pain Medicine at Centre Commons from 2006 to 2017, is the director of Student Mental Health Services at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, serves as medical director for the UPMC LifeSolutions Employee Assistance Program, and is a staff physician at the VA Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Dr. Karp is a prominent teacher, mentor, and researcher in geriatric psychiatry and has worked to help strengthen the relationships between the educational missions of the geriatric psychiatry and geriatric medicine training programs at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He has provided scholarly mentorship to 20 trainees and serves as a faculty mentor on the University of Pittsburgh NIH-funded training grant, "Clinical and Translational Research Training in Geriatric Mental Health."

Dr. Karp is author of 86 peer-reviewed publications, numerous book chapters, and hosts a popular podcast describing research updates in geriatric mental health for the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry. He also serves as assistant to the editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry since 2016, editing a series entitled, "Treatment in Geriatric Mental Health: Research in Action."



**Heather A. Sakely, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP** is the 2018 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. Sakely is a leader in teaching geriatrics to both physicians and pharmacists. She directs UPMC St. Margaret's PGY2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency program and has developed a curriculum for a geriatric pharmacy residency that includes an integrated system of collaborating pharmacists and doctors in inpatient, outpatient, and long-term care settings.

Dr. Sakely is faculty in the Family Medicine Residency Program and Geriatric Fellowship at UPMC St. Margaret and adjunct instructor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. Dr. Sakely complements her role as an educator with strong research experience. She has been principal investigator and leader of the PIVOTs research (Pharmacist-led Reduction of Drug Therapy Problems in an Interprofessional Geriatric Practice) since 2012, which has helped assess the impact of collaboration between pharmacists and doctors in nursing home, assisted living and independent living environment for seniors.

Dr. Sakely is currently serving as a practice change leader for Aging and Health, Division of Health Care Policy and Research at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, funded through the John A. Hartford Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies. She is a regionally and nationally recognized presenter and has authored or co-authored numerous publications that have significantly contributed to the training of current and future health professionals in geriatric clinical practice.

# 2017 GERIATRICS TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society Western Division (PAGS-WD) is pleased to announce the 2017 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award recipients Debra K. Weiner, MD, FACP (Physician Awardee); Pamela E. Toto, PhD, OTR/L, BCG, FAOTA (Healthcare Professional Award); and Vincent Balestrino, MD (Lifetime Achievement Award).

The Geriatrics Teacher of the Year award is presented to two outstanding teachers for their dedication and commitment to geriatrics education and exemplify geriatrics teaching excellence.

The Lifetime Achievement Award 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.



Debra K. Weiner, MD, FACP

**Debra K. Weiner, MD, FACP**, is the 2017 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award recipient, which 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 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 twelve-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.



Pamela E. Toto, PhD, OTR/L,  
BCG, FAOTA

**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 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 one of the first occupational therapists 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 in Occupational Therapy Program since 2015. Dr. Toto also is a geriatric clinical consultant, UPMC Centers for Rehab Services in McKeesport.



Vincent Balestrino, MD

**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.

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

recently resumed on an interim basis after the 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 also extend to long-term care and palliative care and his particular areas of interest include end-of-life care and wound care. In April 2015, he took on a new role as senior medical director at Presbyterian SeniorCare.

Each will be recognized at an award presentation to take place prior to the dinner symposium held in conjunction with the 2017 Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine conference. The dinner symposium will be held April 6 at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center. Awardees will be honored with a plaque and receive complimentary membership in the society for one year.

# 2016 GERIATRICS TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society Western Division (PAGS-WD) is pleased to announce the 2016 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award recipients Daniel DiCola, MD (Physician Awardee) and Betty Robison, MSN, RN-BC (Healthcare Professional Awardee).

The award is presented to two outstanding teachers for their dedication and commitment to geriatric education. Dr. DiCola and Ms. Robison exemplify geriatrics teaching excellence and made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics and to the progress of geriatrics education across the health professions.

Dr. DiCola is Director of Geriatrics Education, Latrobe Area Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program; Associate Professor of Family Medicine, Jefferson Medical College/Sidney Kimmel Medical College; Medical Director, IHS Mountain View Nursing Home. His commitment is evident at the hospital, health system and community levels, and despite the time involved in all of his clinical and teaching endeavors, he is invariably generous in sharing his time and knowledge with the community.

Michael Semelka, DO, FAAFP, who submitted the nomination for Dr. DiCola,



*Daniel DiCola, MD*

along with Courtney Floyd, MD, wrote, “Dr. DiCola represents our profession in the most positive light and serves as an outstanding role model for our residents, faculty, and the entire medical staff. Dan has also won numerous teacher of the year awards by residents, is actively involved in teaching third-year medical students from Jefferson Medical College, and runs our morning reports every day. If there were such a position in a residency program as ‘Designated Teacher,’ Dan would be it.”

“Our geriatrics curriculum is longitudinal, involving regular lectures, weekly nursing home rounds, journal clubs, board review questions, and patient cases – all of which Dan attends and leads. Dan is also present at every resident conference, often giving input from a geriatrician’s perspective on whatever is discussed. Due to the robust geriatric education our residents receive (under Dan’s guidance), many of our graduates work in nursing homes. Dan has even recently inspired some of our recent graduates to pursue fellowships in geriatrics.”

Ms. Robison, MSN, RN-BC, Gerontology Educator, Aging Institute (AI) of UPMC Senior Services, Adjunct Faculty, Chatham University.

Through her leadership and support, Ms. Robison formed the Western Pennsylvania chapter of the National Gerontological Nursing Association (NGNA), one of only three NGNA



*Betty Robison, MSN, RN-BC*

chapters statewide. She has worked closely with staff at UPMC McKeesport and through the contributions of her leadership, a core educational team was created at the hospital that worked to apply for and was awarded NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders).

In her nomination letter of Ms. Robison, Taafoi Kamara, MPH, wrote, "I have had the privilege to work closely with Betty Robison and am wholly inspired regarding her commitment to the older adult and her commitment to ensuring that professional caregivers are provided with the opportunity to learn and advance their knowledge and skills. She seeks to take learning to the next level and is constantly searching for the unmet needs and new and innovative ways to educate the front line."

Nominator Kelly Neal, DNP, CRNP-BC included, "Betty's passion for geriatrics and education coupled with her natural leadership ability and creative methods of teaching shine through in this small

sample of education projects she has developed and/or facilitated during her tenure as the AI Gerontological Educator: Ageless Wisdom – an interactive and experiential geriatric sensitivity program which assists participants to identify and experience sensory, cognitive, psychological, functional and social changes of aging; The Gerontological Nurse Certification Review – prepares nurses to sit for the Gerontological Nursing board certification."

Dr. DiCola and Ms. Robison will be recognized at an award presentation to take place prior to the dinner symposium held in conjunction with the 2016 Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine conference. The dinner symposium will be held April 7 at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center.

Awardees will be honored with a plaque and receive complimentary membership in the society for one year.