



PENNSYLVANIA GERIATRICS SOCIETY

Western Division

An Affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society

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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society-Western Division (PAGSWD) serves as the regional affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS), the PAGSWD is a thriving specialty organization. This year was a challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic and are thankful for our membership and all healthcare works who have continued to work hard on the front lines. 2021 was a productive year with enormous amount of 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 2021. In January, we welcomed two new members to serve on the Board of Directors: Michelle Criss, PT, PhD, and LezleyAn DeLucia, LPN.

Throughout the year, an emphasis was placed on each strategic goal item, and all 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

PAGS-WD

**EDUCATE
COMMUNICATE**

and

ENGAGE

healthcare
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QUALITY

HEALTHCARE

for all older persons.

the special education business money market. The Clinical Update in Geriatric Conference, offered in a virtual format, realized a strong profit and increased our account balance.

The Society is grateful for the partnership with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF), who graciously donated their time and talent to facilitate our Fall program.

Membership. Membership continues to remain steady with multiple healthcare disciplines comprising the organization. Our 2021 membership decreased slightly 225 members, compared to 233 members in 2020. This year's resident recruitment outreach was strong with 41 residents, a 20% increase. Program directors of Internal Medicine and Family Medicine residency programs were asked to distribute recruitment information to their residents and fellows. Each resident 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 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.

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.

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 who care for the geriatric population. This year's programming was no exception (see below).

To offset programming, the Society relies on collaborative opportunities and partnerships from various companies and organizations. Partnership continues to remain strong.

29th Annual *Virtual* Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine

This exceptional program continues to be a premier educational conference. Under the leadership of course directors Shuja Hassan, MD, Neil M. Resnick, MD, and Lyn Weinberg, MD, who worked with the planning committee, our shift to a virtual conference was deemed the most responsible path to maintain safe conditions for attendees, presenters, and exhibitors.

29th ANNUAL VIRTUAL
Clinical Update in
GERIATRIC
MEDICINE



More than 305 geriatrics professionals from all disciplines, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, social workers, long-term care and managed care providers, and health care administrators participated in the 29th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine conference. This two-day education event provided a hybrid of live and recorded sessions attracting registrants from numerous states, including California, North Carolina, New York, Texas and Washington. For the first time in the history of the course, attendees were from Germany, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.



It was important to continue to offer healthcare professionals an educational conference which helps provide superb care to older adults. Overall evaluations and comments were extremely positive on the new format. Many attendees recognized and appreciated the convenience of attending a session from their home or office, while participating in excellent educational sessions. An added benefit for all registrants was the ability to view recorded lectures and download the handout materials for several months after the conclusion of the Conference.

Back by popular demand was the Geriatric Cardiology Expert Panel. The expert panel provided geriatric updates and included the return of Daniel Forman, MD, chair (statins update), Parag Goyal, MD, MSc, (update in heart failure), and Ashok Krishnaswami, MD, MAS, (balancing benefit/harm during hypertension treatment). New to the panel was Nicole Orr, MD, FACC, who presented post-acute cardiac management. Following the updates, a live, rapid-fire Q&A session was moderated by Shuja Hassan, MD,

The conference remains a joint partnership with UPMC/University of Pittsburgh Aging Institute, and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in Health Sciences. Sponsorship was robust as we welcomed 14 virtual exhibitors who used the virtual exhibit hall to connect with participants. Attendees appreciated the opportunity to engage with representatives to learn more about their products and resources throughout the duration of the conference.

Fall Program

The Fall program continues to be a popular event. More than 65 internists, family practitioners, geriatricians, pharmacists, nurses, nursing home administrators, and social workers participated in the evening program. To avoid the spread of COVID-19, this was the second virtual program using the Zoom platform organized by the Society in collaboration with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation. Thanks to our sponsor Presbyterian SeniorCare Network. Five participants received a copy of Dr. Karlawish's book.



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 a presentation by **Jason Karlawish, MD** entitled *The Problem of Alzheimer's: How it became a crisis & what we need to do*. Jason is a Professor of Medicine, Medical Ethics and Health Policy, and Neurology, co-Director, Penn Memory Center, Director, Penn Healthy Brain Research Center, Director of Outreach, Recruitment, and Retention Core of the Penn Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

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 \$84,550 to medical students in the region.

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The 2021 David C. Martin Award recipient is **Ms. Kate Amodei**, a fourth-year medical student attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Ms. Amodei's abstract was accepted for poster presentation by the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) at their 2021 Annual Scientific meeting, held virtually on May 13-15.

Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award. The Award was postponed in 2021 due to the COVID-19 climate. 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.

Legislative. In the political and public policy arena, PAGS-WD continues to be involved in state and local policy meetings. 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 serving as Co-Chair for COSAR. 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.

Looking ahead ...

2022 will be an exciting year with PAGSWD remaining a dynamic geriatrics 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 and medical students through the Geriatric Teacher of the Year Award and the David C. Martin 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.

Acknowledging the growth of the Society is with maintaining members and attracting new members. Your loyalty, support, and participation is our strength. Together we can build a better future for older Pennsylvanians.

Your continued 2022 involvement is key to our success!

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Herb, MD

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President