



# 2019 GERIATRICS TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDEES

**T**he The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society – Western Division (PAGS-WD) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Awards.

Christine Herb, MD, associate program director, Allegheny Health Network (AHN) Internal Medicine Consortium, is the recipient of the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award for a Physician. Victoria Hornyak, PT, DPT, GCS, assistant professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, is the recipient of the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award for a Healthcare Professional.

The awards recognize a physician and a healthcare professional who have made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics and to the progress of geriatrics education across the health professions.

**Christine M. Herb, MD** served as director of Geriatrics Education and Core Faculty at Allegheny Health Network from 2012 to 2017. She is currently the chair of AHN's Academic Improvement Committee and contributor to the Clinical Competency Committee.

As a highly respected teacher, mentor, and innovator, Dr. Herb developed a comprehensive geriatric curriculum that is mandatory for all third-year residents at AHN. The multifaceted curriculum incorporates didactic lectures, simulation, home visits, nursing home rotations, outpatient and inpatient geriatric elective rotations, and more. More than 150 residents have participated in the geriatric curriculum thus far and 13 residents have pursued a Geriatric Fellowship since 2013 at several prestigious institutions across the country.



Christine M. Herb, MD

Dr. Herb has also conceptualized and implemented a unique team-based multidisciplinary model of care for long term care facilities and a highly successful Geriatric Trauma Service to support elderly patients with complex co-morbid conditions admitted for trauma, which has been acknowledged for improved outcomes, patient satisfaction, and reduction in hospital length of stay.

Dr. Herb is working with the Senior Markets team at Highmark to transform the way physicians and care teams manage elderly populations and to educate the next generation of providers in these new models of care delivery.



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**Victoria Hornyak, PT, DPT, GCS** practiced physical therapy at several regional nursing facilities and UPMC Presbyterian Hospital prior to becoming a full-time faculty member within the Department of Physical Therapy (DPT) at the University of Pittsburgh in 2008, where she is responsible for coordinating and serving as the primary instructor for courses related to patient management and geriatrics in the DPT program.

To further stimulate the interests of DPT students in geriatrics, Dr. Hornyak serves as the faculty mentor for the students' Geriatrics Special Interest Group. She was also appointed to the University of Pittsburgh's Working Group on Interprofessional Education as a representative of the University's school of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.



Victoria A. Hornyak, PT, DPT, GCS

In 2010, Dr. Hornyak successfully competed for and was named as the first non-physician Geriatric Scholar in the Geriatric Academic Career Award (GACA), supporting her research project that compared two continuing education methods on practice patterns of physical therapists who work in skilled nursing settings.

Dr. Hornyak is currently working on a project addressing Advancing Dementia-Care Competency and Preparedness Across Disciplines through a grant as part of the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP). The project goal is to adapt existing communication skills programs to better interact with patients who have dementia.

Dr. Hornyak has disseminated her work on use of virtual patients and inter-professional education through oral and poster presentations at the American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting and the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting.

Drs. Herb and Hornyak will be recognized at the dinner symposium held in conjunction with the 2019 Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine, Thursday, April 25, at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center. For more information, contact Nadine Popovich, administrator, at [npopovich@acms.org](mailto:npopovich@acms.org) or (412) 321-5030.