The Georgia Geriatric Education Center (GGEC) is a statewide effort designed to help you access the latest resources and training about best practices in gerontology and geriatrics by providing continuing education for Georgia’s healthcare community.

The HRSA-funded center is a collaboration between the University of Georgia Institute of Gerontology, Armstrong Atlantic State University’s College of Health Professions, and Mercer University School of Medicine.

Georgia Geriatric Education Center

Health Promotion
Common chronic diseases that affect older adults.

Dementia: (1) Overview (2) Stages and Communication (3) Management of Challenging Behaviors
(1) Types and causes of dementias, with an emphasis on Alzheimer’s disease. (2) Stages and common characteristics associated with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. (3) Challenging behaviors that can occur in persons with dementia.

Ethnogeriatrics
Common health challenges among racial and ethnic minorities.

Falls and Fall Prevention
Causes of falls in older adults and interventions that could reduce or prevent falls.

Geriatric Care Management
Role, function and qualifications of Geriatric Care Managers.

Geriatric Urinary Incontinence and Overactive Bladder
Basic pathophysiology, relevant information, and treatment of urinary incontinence and overactive bladder.

Health Literacy: (1) Defining Health Literacy (2) The Older Adult Learner (3) Communication between the Healthcare Provider and the Older Adult (4) Developing Healthcare Materials
(1) Factors that affect health literacy among demographic populations. (2) Dispels some of the myths about older learners, and offers an introduction to the research about older adults and learning. (3) Communication between the patient and the healthcare provider and ways to improve upon it. (4) Innovative/culturally sensitive health educational materials can promote healthy outcomes for older adult patients.

Normative Aging
Normal and abnormal changes that occur in the aging process.

Oral Health: (1) Oral Health and Aging (2) Abnormal and Pathological Changes
(1) Common changes in the teeth and mouth during the aging process. (2) Abnormal and pathological changes that occur with elders.

Palliative Care: (1) Caring for Elders at the End of Life (2) A Win-Win Situation for Healthcare Systems and Elders
(1) Health care specialty of palliative care and provides information that supports informed choices for elders at the end of life. (2) Current inadequacies in end-of-life care for older patients and alternative approaches for palliative care.

Pharmacology: (1) Drug Interactions, (2) Patient Compliance (3) Special Considerations with Seniors
(1) Medication interactions that could be observed in elders. (2) Impact and effects of patient compliance. (3) Medications and elders, dosing, classifications, and adverse effects.

Public Health and Older Georgians
Demographics associated with older Georgians and challenges they create for healthcare professionals.

Georgia Geriatric Education Center

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Providing geriatric education to Georgia’s healthcare professionals.

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Georgia Geriatric Education Center

New Opportunities

The Georgia Geriatric Education Center (GGEC) is a statewide effort designed to help you access the latest resources and training about best practices in gerontology and geriatrics by providing continuing education for Georgia’s healthcare community.

Please visit us on the web at http://training.geron.uga.edu. The website features gerontology and geriatrics training modules appropriate for professional development, as well as modules for personal enrichment.

Topics for the training modules include:

• Dementia
• Health Literacy
• Health Promotion
• Oral Health
• Palliative Care
• Pharmacology Issues
• Public Health and Older Georgians

The GGEC, through its interdisciplinary training team, provides CEU and CME conferences and workshops, supervised on-site clinical training, and training through the internet. Participants can select from a variety of content areas.

Thanks to the HRSA grant, many training modules are offered at no charge; however, health care professionals who wish to receive CMEs or CEUs will be assessed a small fee to cover costs associated with the credit award approvals. For free modules, please see the GET-AGE section of our website, which incorporates another statewide collaborative effort hosted on this website, the Gerontology Education and Training Alliance of Georgia.

Health educators interested in using GGEC modules in the classroom can do so at no cost to their institutions. Please contact Dr. Donna Butler at (706) 425-3241 to discuss whether or not this program might benefit your students.

The Center also provides special opportunities for healthcare professionals practicing in under-served areas of Georgia and for the training of minority faculty and healthcare professionals throughout the state.

Our History

In 2007, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, (HRSA) funded the Institute of Gerontology in the College of Public Health at the University of Georgia in its efforts to develop the first Geriatric Education Center in the state. Joining the Institute in this endeavor are partners in the Departments of Medicine, Psychiatry, Neurosurgery, and Geriatrics from the Mercer University School of Medicine, the Georgia Neurosurgical Institute, and the College of Health Professions at Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Leonard W. Poon, Ph.D., and Anne P. Glass, Ph.D., of The University of Georgia are the director and associate director, respectively, of the Georgia Geriatric Education Center, and Donna Q. Butler, Ph.D., is the project coordinator. Partners at Mercer University School of Medicine include Lee A. Hyer, Ed.D., ABPP, and Richard J. Ackerman, M.D. Partners at Armstrong Atlantic State University College of Health Professions include Richard W. St. Pierre, Ed.D., and Anita S. Nivens, R.N., Ph.D.