

ADVANCES *in Aging*

School of Social Work Faculty Are Engaged in Research on Community Engagement, Caregiving, and Substance Abuse in Older Persons

Several faculty members in the University of Maryland School of Social Work (SSW) are involved in a variety of research projects on older adults that address a continuum of health, mental health, and social and community issues.

Engaging Older Persons in Their Communities



Amy Cohen-Callow, PhD, MSSW



Banghwa Lee Casado, PhD, MSW

Amy Cohen-Callow, PhD, MSSW, clinical faculty in the SSW, and a former John A. Hartford Geriatric Doctoral Fellow, was the primary investigator on a recent project that completed an asset map of the experiences, skills, and community priorities of a group of older adults in six Baltimore City neighborhoods to better match them to volunteer activities in their communities.

The asset-mapping project lasted ten weeks and was part of the Baltimore Community Engagement Initiative, a national project funded by Atlantic Philanthropies to increase older adult participation in addressing community needs and improve the ability of service organizations to recruit older volunteers.

The local initiative is a partnership among the Baltimore Community Foundation, the University of Baltimore, and six Baltimore community service agencies: Dundalk Renaissance Corp., which serves the Dundalk area; Southeast

CDC, which serves the Highlandtown area; the Citizens Planning and Housing Association, in West Baltimore; CHAI, in Northern Park Heights; and Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, which serves the Govans, Stadium Place area.

“The older adults we surveyed are diverse representatives of their communities. They are over 50, predominantly female, and mostly homeowners who have lived in their neighborhoods for 15-40 years,” Cohen-Callow says.

Over the summer of 2009, the students (six in the SSW master’s program and one in the SSW doctoral program) and Cohen-Callow worked with the service agencies to identify older adult stakeholders who in turn helped them find additional seniors willing to be surveyed.

“The SSW students interviewed them door to door, at community events, at festivals, in their homes, in senior centers, and elsewhere in the communities,” says Cohen-Callow. “They had a great opportunity to interact with older adults, and it is my hope that they have an interest in continuing work with this population.”

Cohen-Callow hopes to continue her involvement with the project as well. A three-year pilot initiative will be implemented starting in January 2010. The plan is for her to conduct the local evaluation to determine the project’s success in achieving community, agency, and individual volunteer outcomes. This evaluation builds on her current research, which focuses on productive aging and the civic engagement of baby boomers and older adults.

“When we interviewed the older adults, they had great ideas for ways to improve their communities but couldn’t necessarily

articulate what they, themselves, could do to make a difference,” says Cohen-Callow. “Hopefully in the future, they will begin to see themselves as change agents. In general, society sees older adults as service recipients. This is an opportunity to highlight older adults as valued contributors to communities, a productive form of aging.”

Cohen-Callow is involved in another project that seeks to help older adults in their neighborhoods. With **Banghwa Lee Casado, PhD, MSW**, as the primary investigator, the two are conducting an evaluation of Neighborhoods for All Ages, a community-based project for older adult homeowners. It is a pilot project, funded by the Association for Baltimore Area Grantmakers and the Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative. Casado is an assistant professor in the SSW.

The Neighborhoods for All Ages project evaluation will determine whether providing information-and-referral and home repair and retrofitting services to older homeowners can help increase their safety and equity in their homes, and give them a greater connection to their communities, thereby allowing them to age in place longer, and, as a consequence, help maintain the stability of their neighborhoods.

The goal of the initiative is to draw on and build neighborhood capacity to support seniors who are aging at home and to acknowledge them as an important community asset.

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Social Work Dean Completes Hartford Foundation Social Work Leadership Institute and Establishes Geriatric Health Social Work Initiative

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This project evaluation will determine if the initiative has successfully created a range of services to help Baltimore City older homeowners in two selected neighborhoods with large older adult populations who live at or below the poverty line. The two grantees carrying out the initiative are the Bon Secours Foundation in West Baltimore and a partnership between Civic Works and the Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello Community Corporation in East Baltimore.

Each grantee offers a unique range of services for older residents, linking them to resources and re-engaging them in community activities.

Casado and Cohen-Callow became involved with the evaluation because they are interested in research that views seniors as assets to their communities. "Very often, older persons are seen merely as consumers of services, not as a source of benefit to their communities," says Casado, who notes that about 96 older homeowners have been involved with the ongoing initiative, which will be completed some time in 2010.

Caregiving in the Korean-American Community

In addition, Casado, a John A. Hartford Faculty Scholar, is the primary investigator on another grant, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, to study the caregiving experiences and service needs of caregivers of older Korean-Americans in the Washington/Baltimore/Northern Virginia area.

"Developing culturally appropriate services for this expanding group requires a good understanding of its health and social needs," Casado, who began the study in the fall of 2008, says.

The study's goals are threefold: to create a profile of caregivers of older Korean-Americans and their long-term care needs; to identify predictors of their needs for community-based long-term care; and to identify factors affecting the well-being of the caregivers themselves.



Richard Barth, PhD

Richard Barth, Professor and Dean of the School of Social Work, recently completed a year long fellowship in the first class in the Social Work Leadership Institute (SWLI). Funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and run through the New York Academy of Medicine, with technical support from the National Association of Deans and Directors (NADD) of schools of social work, this program was designed to support the capacity and commitment of deans of schools of social work to advance the gerontology teaching and research in the field.

The program involved workshops in New York, San Francisco, and Philadelphia with presentations by experts in specific areas required by successful deans, in general, and by deans developing their expertise in the aging areas. Expert presenters addressed issues such as aging research (Andrew Scharlach, UC Berkeley), communications (Lisa Witter, Witter Communications), and development (Marilyn Flynn, USC). Dean Barth was also given the opportunity to select a mentor (Dean Flynn) who visited him at UMB and provided him with feedback based on previously submitted questions and her observations. A modified 360° evaluation was completed that drew on feedback from colleagues at UMB.

Fellows were asked to identify a project to develop in the aging area. Dean Barth drew on the support of the SWLI to help develop a proposal involving Union Memorial Hospital and Keswick Multi Care Center, the Geriatric Health Social Work Initiative. The 3-year project established a field unit that is shared by Keswick and Union Memorial. The recently launched Geriatric Health Social Work Initiative has an experienced geriatric social worker (Gary Franklin, LCSW-C, ACSW, BCD) providing student field instruction and direct social work services on a full time basis; stipends for up to 8 students per year; and an evaluation. The goal is to increase the supply of social workers who are prepared to work in health and aging settings in order to better meet the unmet and accelerating need for related expertise. ■

"Older Korean-Americans have unique needs because many don't speak English very well," Casado explains. "What's more, many were self-employed and don't have health insurance or qualify for Medicaid or don't know how to navigate the health care system. These factors make it more difficult for them to find and access older-adult services."

For the ongoing study, about 200 caregivers, primarily relatives of the older adults, are being recruited from social service agencies, churches, and adult day care centers in the Washington/Baltimore/Northern Virginia area.

Using Korean-Americans as an example, this study, Casado hopes, will provide a model for caregiver research in other linguistically or socially isolated ethnic minority groups.

"I am passionate about this work because 'language minorities' are often left out, not only when it comes to services, but also research. Research on aging and language minority communities is very limited, especially with regard to caregivers," notes Casado, who says hers is the first study to evaluate the needs of Korean-American caregivers in the Washington/Baltimore/Northern Virginia area.

Substance Abuse and Gambling in Older Persons

New SSW faculty member **Paul Sacco, PhD**, an assistant professor and a John A. Hartford Faculty Scholar who joined the SSW in July, specializes in alcohol and illicit drug abuse in older persons. He will publish



Paul Sacco, PhD

an article in the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* in late 2009 or early 2010.

“It is a latent class analysis of drinkers aged 60 and older and the risks associated with low-, moderate-, and

high-risk of binge alcohol consumption, at-risk alcohol consumption, and alcohol abuse/dependence,” explains Sacco, who conducted the research while completing his doctorate. “The paper shows that a subpopulation of older drinkers may exceed consumption guidelines without manifesting DSM-defined alcohol-related problems. However, for some older drinkers, risky alcohol use is part of a larger pattern of health risks including current smoking, major depression, and alcohol abuse/dependence history. My findings support the need for continued outreach to older problem drinkers, as their drinking often goes unrecognized and its health impacts are substantial.”

Sacco adds that his research interests in aging are broad and include not only licit and illicit drug use, but also the “young old,” (persons over 50), and gambling and the elderly. He recently co-authored an article on lifetime and current gambling behaviors in the elderly, which was published in March in *Aging & Mental Health*.

“Recreational gambling is a common social activity among older persons. There are many health-related risk factors associated with problem gambling, and traditional psychometric measures don’t necessarily capture them in older people,” Sacco says. “There may be significant differences in how problem gambling affects older adults compared to younger adults, and clinicians need to know what to look for.” ■

UMB Faculty and Student Presentations at Gerontological Society of America, 2009

University of Maryland Baltimore and University of Maryland Baltimore County faculty and students are presenting a wide array of oral presentations and posters at the Gerontological Society of America’s 62nd Annual Scientific meeting in Atlanta, Georgia from November 18 – 22, 2009. The University of Maryland Baltimore Gerontology Programs will have a booth with the Doctoral Program in Gerontology. The following is a list of the symposia, papers and posters being presented at the conference by the UMB/UMBC community of researchers in the field of aging.

Wednesday, November 18

The PRAISED Program: Lessons Learned to Change Health Behaviors in Low Income Older Adults (*paper*) M Shaughnessy; B Resnick; E Galik

Thursday, November 19

Predicting Enrollment into the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy Program Using Enhanced Financial Indicators (*paper*) J Shoemaker; B Stuart; A Davidoff; T Shaffer; J Lloyd

Family Dynamics and Interdependence within Custodial Grandparent Families (*paper*) ML Dolbin-MacNab; F Strieder

Medication Use by Community Dwelling Medicare Beneficiaries at the End of Life (*paper*) T. Shaffer; L. Simoni-Wastila; W Toler; B. Stuart; JADoshi

“We Know What It Means to Serve”: Volunteerism among Older Adults in Senior Residences (*symposium presentation*) L Keimig; S Zimmerman; AD Peeples

The Stigma of Inactivity in an Active Adult Community: “Age is Really Irrelevant” (*symposium presentation*) E Roth; L Morgan; L Keimig

Friday, November 20

Symposium: Vitamin D and Precursors to Disability: Potential Pathways for Decline and Recovery in Older Adults

Longitudinal Associations of Vitamin D with Muscle Composition and Strength: The InCHIANTI Study G Hicks; M Shardell; RR Miller; D Alley; A Cherubini; S Bandinelli; L Ferrucci

Association of 25(OH)D Levels with Decline and Recovery from the Pre-frail State: The InCHIANTI Study M Shardell; G Hicks; RR Miller; D Alley; A Cherubini; S Bandinelli; L Ferrucci

Longitudinal Associations of Serum Vitamin D Levels with Recovery of Walking Ability Following Hip Fracture: The Baltimore Hip Studies RR Miller; G Hicks; M Shardell; D Orwig; J Yu-Yahiro; M Hochberg; EA Streeeten; J Magaziner

Application of the Life Course Model: Differences between Younger and Older Workers in the Public Sector (*symposium presentation*) A Cohen-Callow; K Hopkins; H Kim

The Persistence and Reduction of Fear of Falling in Community-dwelling Older Persons (*symposium presentation*) G Kempen; B Resnick

Predictive Modeling of Pressure Ulcer Development in Elderly Hip Fracture Patients (*paper*) M. Baumgarten; D Margolis; W Hawkes; M Shardell; P Langenberg; SE Rich; D Orwig; B Kinoshian

Socioeconomic Health Disparities: New Measures, New Insights? (*symposium presentation*) D Alley; J Kelley-Moore

Material Resources and Population Health: Disadvantages in Health Care, Housing, and Food among Adults over 50 (*symposium presentation*) D Alley; BJ Soldo; J Pagan; J McCabe; M deBlois; SH Field; D Asch; C Cannuscio

The Associations between Baseline Serum Vitamin E Concentrations and Recovery of Physical Function during the Year after Hip Fracture (*poster*) C D’Adamo; M Shardell; RR Miller; G Hicks; D Orwig; M.Hochberg; L Ferrucci; J. Magaziner

The Role of Spirituality in the Relationship between Chronic Illness and Psychological Well-Being (*poster*) SH Ballew; SM Hannum; JM Gaines; KA Marx; JM Parrish.

Determinants of Persistent Medication Use among Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes (*poster*) J Lloyd; B Stuart; J Shoemaker; T Shaffer

Health Care Delivery in Assisted Living: The Emerging Role of Health Care Supervisors (*poster*) B Harris-Wallace; J Schumacher; S Zimmerman; P Sloane; JK Eckert; R Perez; PJ Doyle; C Mitchell

Saturday, November 21

Active Maintenance of Healthy Lifestyles: Understanding and Promoting Resilience in the Face of Aging's Challenges (*symposium presentation*) PG Clark; B Resnick

Creative Approaches to Prevention and Healthy Aging (*symposium presentation*) J Magaziner; L Anderson

Residents' Views of Self: Filling the Gap in Person-centered Perspectives (*symposium presentation*) K De Medeiros; P Saunders; A Mosby; PJ Doyle; ME Jeresano; KVan Haitsma

The Interface Between Research and Practice (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: 15 Years of Research, Theory, Policy and Practice) (*symposium presentation*) F Strieder

Symposium: Men with Hip Fracture, an Increasing Problem: How are They Different From Women Who Fracture?

Baseline Psychosocial Differences between Men and Women after Hip Fracture AL Gruber-Baldini; M Matheny; J Lloyd; N Chiles; D Orwig; M Hochberg; J Magaziner

Pre-fracture Markers of the Frailty Syndrome Among Men and Women Who Fracture a Hip in the Baltimore Hip Study 7 (Male Hip) Cohort D Andersen; D Orwig

Sex Differences in Bone Mineral Density in a Hip Fracture Population J Chan; M Hochberg; RR Miller; M Shardell; W Hawkes; J Magaziner; D Orwig

Men with Hip Fracture, an Increasing Problem: How are They Different From Women Who Fracture? D Orwig; J Guralnik

Thigh Muscle Composition Findings 2 Months After Admission For Hip Fracture M Eastlack; RR Miller; G Hicks; B Goodpaster

Symposium: Prescription Drug and Alcohol Use Among Older Adults: Multidisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives

Prescription Drug and Alcohol Use Among Older Adults: Multidisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives T Shaffer; L Schonfeld

Stressful Events, Perceived Stress and Alcohol Among Older Adults: Does Family History Make a Difference? PG Sacco; KK Bucholz; N Morrow-Howell

Risk Factors Associated with Opioid Medication Misuse in Community-dwelling Older Adults with Chronic Pain J Park

The Influence of Culture on Prescription Drug Use among Older Women S.L. Canham

Measuring the Unmeasured – Establishing the Volatility of Drug Regimens for Residents in Long-Term Care Settings T Shaffer

Symposium: Not to be Over-looked: The Importance of Physical Environments for People with Dementia in Long-Term Care

Social Implications of Dementia Care Environmental Design: A Case Study of Bedroom Layout and Dining Room Seating (*symposium presentation*) PJ Doyle; K De Medeiros; P Saunders; A Mosby; ME Jeresano

Hospitalization and Changes in Body Composition in a Population-based Cohort of Older Persons (*paper*) D Alley; A Koster; L Ferrucci; D.Mackey; F Tyllavsky; P Cawthon; AB Newman; T Harris

Challenges and Strategies for Recruitment and Retention in Online Trials with Older Adults (*symposium presentation*) E Nahm; B Bausell; B Resnick; B Covington; J Magaziner; P Brennan

The Prevalence of Psychotropic Medication Use among Nursing Home Residents and Relationships with Functional and Psychosocial Variables (*paper*) E Galik; B Resnick

Relationship between Residents' Cognitive and Communicative Abilities and Staff Perceptions of Friendships in a Dementia Care Assisted Living Setting (*symposium presentation*) PJ Doyle; K De Medeiros; P Saunders; A Mosby; ME Jeresano

Driving Behaviors among the Older Old and Oldest Old (*poster*) J Gaines; K Marx; SM Hannum; S Ballew; K Burke; JM Parrish

Visual Acuity, Visual Speed of Processing, and Physical Activity in the Oldest Drivers (*poster*) J Gaines; G Dagnelie; K Marx; S Ballew; SM Hannum; K Burke; JM Parrish

Association Between Support Surface Use and Pressure Ulcer Incidence in Elderly Hip Fracture Patients (*poster*) SE Rich; M Shardell; W Hawkes; D Margolis; S Amr; RR Miller; M Baumgarten

Whistling in the Dark: Humor in an Active Adult Community Theater Production (*poster*) R Hrybyk; JK Eckert; A Frankowski; L Keimig; E Roth

Understanding Medication Administration in Assisted Living: Views of Physicians and Health Care Supervisors (*poster*) J Schumacher; S Zimmerman; P Sloane; J K Eckert; B Harris-Wallace; R Perez; PJ Doyle; C Mitchell

Age and Racial Differences in Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer and its Impact on Survival (*poster*) M Schneider; I Zuckerman; D Mullins; D McNally

More than a Game: Wii in Residential Care (*poster*) AD Peeples; A Frankowski; M Nemecc; JK Eckert.

Sunday, November 22

Toward a Culture of Caring (*symposium presentation*) L Keimig; E Roth

Rules, Regulations, and Quality in AL (*symposium presentation*) LJ Clark; JK Eckert; E Roth

Three Dimensions of Medication Regimens for Residents in Long-Term Care Settings (*paper*) T Shaffer

GGEAR Sponsors Interdisciplinary Programs for Students

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) Program, Office of Academic Affairs is now in its 22nd year, and has continued to expand its series of elective, interprofessional opportunities for students on the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) campus, as well as for health and social work students from other University System of Maryland campuses.

The mission of the GGEAR Program includes the implementation of educational opportunities for students which emphasize the special skills needed in caring for frail older adults - as well as the clear benefits of collaboration among disciplines in order to insure proper intervention on behalf of this population.

A recent addition to the range of programs available to UMB students is the semi-annual Gero-Skills Workshops. The second of these workshops took place on October 8, 2009. The workshop was planned with the co-sponsorship of the student chapters of the American Geriatrics Society and the American Society of Consultant Pharmacy. Fifty students from the Dental, Graduate, Medical, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work Schools; and Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science participated in the afternoon program.

Students rotated among small group presentations on geriatric assessment tools provided by School of Medicine faculty **Jacob Blumenthal, MD** (sensory impairment), **Steven Gambert, MD** (frailty), **David Loreck, MD** (cognitive assessment); School of Nursing faculty member, **Elizabeth Galik, PhD, CRNP** (cardiac assessment); School of Pharmacy faculty member **Chanel Agness, PharmD** (medication adherence), Department of Physical Therapy faculty member, **Vincent Conroy, PT, DScPT** (balance) and



Dr. Chanel Agness (center) works on a medication adherence case with students during the workshop

School of Social Work faculty members, **Kelley Macmillan, PhD** (psycho-social-environment) and **Paul Sacco, PhD** (substance abuse). The fifty students gave the program an outstanding evaluation. The program was conceived from an American Geriatrics Society conference model.

Additional elective interprofessional opportunities are provided to University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) students through the Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team (GAIT) programs which join UMB health professional students with students from other University System of Maryland (USM) health professional students. GAIT programs are two day rotations on the Eastern Shore or Western Maryland. The Area Health Education Centers oversee the two day rotations which are scheduled throughout the academic year. GAIT is now in its fifteenth year and funded by a grant from USM.

Each GAIT rotation is located at a geriatric health care facility. The rotation has a subject focus such as rehabilitation, dementia care, adult day care, mental health issues or hospice care. Students also participate in an aging simulation program as part of GAIT.

UMB students will have the opportunity to enroll in the annual Geriatric Imperative Minimester course, which will be held from January 4-8, 2010. Students will hear geriatric care presentations given by faculty, community specialists, advocates, and family caregivers. In addition, the students will participate in case discussions and tour geriatric care facilities.

For further information about the GGEAR Program and its activities, please contact its director, **Reba Cornman, MSW**, rcornman@umaryland.edu. ■

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CONTRIBUTORS

Richard P. Barth
Reba Cornman
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Danielle Sweeney

DENTAL SCHOOL

Janet Yellowitz, DMD, MPH is one of three co-PI's for *The Maryland Regional Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Training Program*, supported by Health Resources Services Administration, which has been refunded for the third of three years. The grant is funded through the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The co-PI's with Dr. Yellowitz are Samuel Durso, MD and Constantine Lyketsos, MD. The grant provides training of physicians, dentists and behavioral medicine/psychologist in geriatric health care.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Medicine, Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine

Andrew Goldberg, MD was awarded a five year continuation to his T32 training grant entitled *The Biology of Exercise and Aging*. This grant will fund three postdoctoral fellows for five years.

Dr Goldberg was presented the Master Teacher Award from SUNY Downstate Medical Center on May 16, 2009.

Fred Ivey, PhD received a three year VA Merit Award for \$720,000 for his project, *Strength Training for Skeletal Muscle Adaptation after Stroke*. The project investigates the hypothesis that a novel, high intensity, high repetition ST program will improve abnormalities in paretic and non-paretic leg muscle volume and composition compared to an attention-matched control regimen of supervised stretching in older individuals disabled by stroke. The study further hypothesizes that ST-induced skeletal muscle adaptation will translate into improved insulin sensitivity, strength, and function in this population.

Michael Miller received a VA Merit Award entitled, *Comparative Effects of Mediterranean and AHA TLC Diets using the MOVE! Program in Veterans with the Metabolic Syndrome*. The merit award is for a three year period. Dr. Miller was awarded \$542,980. The project will study the effects of heart healthy diets in conjunction with the VA MOVE! Program. The MOVE! Program is a national weight management program designed by the VA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, a part of the Office of Patient Care Services, to help veterans lose weight, keep it off and improve their health. The hypothesis for this study is that combining the MOVE! Program with a heart healthy diet enriched with monounsaturated fats will be superior to combining it with a heart healthy diet enriched with polyunsaturated fats on heart disease risk factors such as lipids and lipoproteins, inflammatory markers such as CRP and adiponectin, lipid responses after eating a meal, and FMD.

Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Division of Gerontology

Ann Gruber-Baldini, PhD, received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act supplement for her *FOCUS Hip Fracture Transfusion Trial: Delirium & Other Cognitive Outcomes* grant (R01 HL085706). It is a two year administrative supplement totaling \$264,798.

The purpose of the administrative supplement is to hire pre-doctoral nursing student(s), previously unaffiliated with the grant, to work on the project. The addition of the nursing student(s) will help accelerate the coding of medication administration records, anesthesia reports, and other medical chart information on the project, which are necessary for comparing randomization groups at baseline (as specified in the original grant as a part of the analyses for the first aim) and in understanding the determinants of delirium severity (the main study outcome). The student(s) will also help in the analyses of the clinical data to address these aims.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Barbara Resnick, PhD, CRNP, Professor has co-edited *Assisted Living Nursing: A Manual for Management and Practice* with Ethel Mitty, EdD, RN. The book was recently published by Springer Publishing.

Dr. Resnick has been selected as the American Academy of Nursing's 2009 Nurse Leader in Aging. Dr. Resnick will be honored during the AAN's annual meeting in Atlanta, November 5 – 7, 2009.



Elizabeth Galik, PhD, School of Nursing has received two grants. Dr. Galik was selected as a Robert Wood Johnson (RWJF) Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar.

This appointment began in September, 2009 and will continue for a three year period. Dr Galik will conduct her study, *The Testing the Feasibility and Impact of Function Focused Care for Cognitively Impaired Residents in Assisted Living* with funding from the RWJF grant. This program was created to help junior nursing faculty advance in their careers by giving them the opportunity to develop a research program and participate in other scholarly activities; engage in institutional and national mentoring, leadership training, networking among scholars and colleagues in nursing and other fields; and have protected time to gain the critical skills needed for a successful career in academic nursing.

Dr. Galik was also awarded an Alzheimer's Association 2009 New Investigator Research Grant that will begin this fall. It provides funding for 2 years and will allow Dr. Galik to use a randomized controlled trial to test the impact of a Function Focused Nursing Intervention designed to improve functional performance, physical activity, and quality of life among nursing home residents with moderate to severe dementia.

Eun-ShimNahm, PhD has been awarded a R01 through NIH and the National Institute of Nursing Research for *Dissemination of a Theory-Based Bone Health Program in Online Communities*. The 2009-2013 grant was funded for \$1,800,000. Maximizing the popularity of the Internet, the study will examine the impact of two online motivational health promotion interventions on improving mature adults' bone health behaviors. With the rapid growth of active online communities, findings from the proposed study will significantly contribute to public health by advancing current face-to-face health promotion efforts to online settings serving as a model approach.

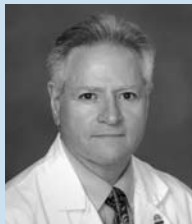
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research

Amy Davidoff, PhD, received a R21 grant entitled for *Patient Performance Status: Prediction Model Development and Validation* from the National Cancer Institute for the sum of \$371,250. The grant will use the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey to develop a prediction model for poor performance status, using claims based measures as independent predictors. The model will be validated in several analyses using SEER-Medicare data. Performance status is a measure of overall functional status, and is used by clinicians in selecting treatment regimens for cancer patients. Information on performance status is not available within administrative enrollment and claims datasets commonly used to analyze treatment patterns and health outcomes for cancer patients.

Gail B. Rattinger, PhD, received an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Pharmacy College Faculty Development Fellowship in Geriatric Pharmacy for Development of a Geriatric Pharmacy Practice Model in Epidemiology.

New Gero Faculty at UMB



Steven R. Gambert, MD, AGSF, MACP has joined the School of Medicine as Professor of Medicine where he is also Associate Chair for Clinical Program Development and Clinical Director of the Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine in the Department of Medicine. He is Director of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Maryland Medical Center and Director of the Geriatric Medicine Program at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Immediately prior to joining the faculty at the University of Maryland, he held positions as Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, and Program Director of the Johns Hopkins University/Sinai Hospital Residency Program in Internal Medicine. A graduate of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, he received Post-graduate training at Dartmouth and Harvard Medical Schools where he specialized in Internal Medicine, Endocrinology and Metabolism, and Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine.

As Director of the Geriatric Program at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center he has already established a clinical Geriatric program at that site working with the critical care, surgical and orthopedic specialists. He will expand research and educational activities that already exist to focus on elderly patients who suffer from traumatic injury. Electives are being offered for health professionals interested in learning more about Trauma Care in the Elderly.



Gail Rattinger, PhD, joined the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Sciences Research, School of Pharmacy as an assistant professor after completing a two year post doctoral fellowship in that department. Dr. Rattinger received her PharmD from the University of California, San Francisco and her PhD in Physical Inorganic Chemistry from University of Illinois Champaign -Urbana. Her areas of interest include: outcomes, health and public policy, study design, evidence based medicine and drug information/ safety in older adults.



Paul Sacco, PhD, LCSW has joined the faculty of the School of Social Work as an assistant professor. Dr. Sacco received his doctorate from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work Washington University in 2009 and his MSW from Arizona State University. Dr. Sacco was a Hartford Doctoral Fellow and was also the recipient of a John A. Hartford Pre-Dissertation Award, a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award and a NIDA Predoctoral Traineeship award.

Geri Projects Announced

Medication Management in Assisted Living Facilities is a web based project produced by the Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program (GGEAR) with funding from the Johns Hopkins Geriatric Education Center Consortium (JHGECC).

The multidisciplinary project was written and presented by **Nicole Brandt, PharmD, CGP, BCPP, FASCP**, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy; **Jackie Pinkowitz, MD, Futurage, Inc.**; **Barbara Resnick, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP**, University of Maryland School of Nursing, and **Richard Stefanacci, DO, MGH, MBA, AGSE, CMD**, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Geriatric Health Program, Center for Medicare Medication Management.

The program is available on the Geri-Ed Programs, University of Maryland

Baltimore web site, geri-ed.umaryland.edu. The 4 presentations and case discussion provides long term care staff, health professional trainees and families guidance on the following topics:

- Improved Prescribing for Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Residents
- Assessing and Monitoring Medication Management
- Improving Medication Management in ALFs: A Pharmacist's Perspective
- Understanding Families' Roles in Medication Management

A second project entitled, **You Can Save a Life: Reporting a Change in Mental Status to Ensure Prompt Treatment**, a Video Press production written by **Elizabeth Galik, PhD, CRNP** and **Ann Scheve, MS, RN**, faculty of the University of Maryland School of Nursing concerns the identification and proper interventions associated with delirium. The film

can currently be viewed at <http://geri-ed.umaryland.edu>. A written curriculum will soon be available on the web site. The film was produced under the guidance of the GGEAR Program with funding from the JHGECC.

Medication Management Receives National Award

Medication Management in Assisted Living Facilities was awarded a Center for Excellence in Assisted Living (CEAL) Promoting Excellence in Assisted Living's Health Care Award. At the time of this writing, the award is scheduled to be presented to Reba Cornman, Director of the GGEAR Program and the project team, Dr. Brandt, Dr. Resnick, Ms. Pinkowitz and Dr. Stefanacci which produced, wrote and presented the session at the CEAL award ceremony held on October 27 in Washington, DC. ■



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