



## Integrating Geriatrics into the Specialties of Internal Medicine

Fall 2007 Update

### In This Issue

[IDSA-HIVMA-ASP Workshop on HIV and Aging Materials Available](#)

[ASP Receives 'Gerontologizing Clinical Guidelines' Grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies](#)

[Medical Specialties Section Panel Discussion at AGS Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

Welcome to the second newsletter for the ASP project "Integrating Geriatrics into the Specialties of Internal Medicine: Moving Forward from Awareness to Action." In this newsletter, ASP publishes quarterly updates about progress made toward the objectives of integrating geriatrics into the medical specialties.

### Goals and Objectives of the Integrating Geriatrics Project

ASP seeks to embed excellence in geriatrics in the specialties of internal medicine. The specific goals of the project are:

- To develop a more robust academic base for geriatrics in the specialties of internal medicine.
- To create working groups of specialists within professional societies focused on delivering specific products in research, education and clinical care issues essential to the well being of older adults.
- To broaden the engagement of internal medicine specialty organizations in the agenda of improving care for elderly patients.
- To enhance the competencies of currently practicing internal medicine specialists to care for older adults.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the key initiatives of the integrating geriatrics project.

### IDSA-HIVMA-ASP Workshop Targets the Research Agenda in HIV and Aging

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA), and Association of Specialty Professors (ASP) held a workshop on HIV and Aging in Washington, DC, October 29-30, 2007. The workshop convened participants from IDSA, HIVMA, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the National Institute on Aging. Meeting presentations are now available on the [ASP website](#). ASP anticipates that an article detailing workshop outcomes will be published in an academic medical journal next year.



The HIV and Aging Research Workshop brought together specialists in infectious diseases and geriatricians to encourage collaboration among to identify research gaps on the topic of HIV and aging and to suggest questions for future research. Answers to

these questions will inform the research agenda in HIV in older adults, in the areas of minimizing progression of the disease, managing comorbidities and drug toxicities common in the aging population, and improving survival and quality of life.

The IDSA-HIVMA-ASP HIV and Aging Research Workshop is the first in a series of collaborative workshops supported by the ASP project, "Integrating Geriatrics into the Specialties of Internal Medicine: Moving Forward from Awareness to Action," funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation. The second workshop is scheduled for May 2008 on the topic of prediction, progression, and outcomes of chronic kidney disease in older adults. More information about the integrating geriatrics project is available on the [ASP website](#).

### **ASP Receives 'Gerontologizing Clinical Guidelines' Grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies (USA) Inc.**

In September 2007, the Atlantic Philanthropies (USA) Inc. provided a generous \$250,000 grant to ASP to improve the care older adults receive. The grant funds the augmentation of clinical policies, clinical guidelines, or quality improvement metrics, which frequently lack recommendations relevant to older patients with multiple comorbid conditions. Under the grant, 44 existing clinical policies or guidelines will be augmented with content appropriate for the increasing number of elderly patients cared for by internists. Under the grant, these augmented clinical policies will be produced and endorsed by 11 internal medicine specialty societies.

Under the Atlantic Philanthropies grant, ASP will work with specialty societies to conduct a review of existing clinical policies, propose targets and funding for clinical policy revisions through a request for proposal mechanism, fund appropriately constructed initiatives that will be pursued by the specialty societies and geriatrics interest groups, and evaluate the short-term outcomes of these initiatives through expert review.

ASP anticipates this project will have several important outcomes. Experts from each of the specialty societies will review and augment 44 clinical guidelines, policies, or quality improvement metrics with recommendations relevant to the growing elderly population. Once created, these new policies can be disseminated through specialty society websites and educational materials made available to improve the care internists deliver to elderly patients.

#### **About the Atlantic Philanthropies (USA) Inc.**

The Atlantic Philanthropies are a group of Bermuda-based charitable foundations whose grant investments are focused internationally in four program fields: aging, disadvantaged children and youth, population health, and reconciliation and human rights. Atlantic's legacy outcome in aging is for older adults to be an integral part of society, living healthier, independent lives with dignity and meaning. For more information, please visit [www.atlanticphilanthropies.org](http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org).

### **Medical Specialties Section Panel Discussion at AGS Annual Scientific Meeting**

The second annual meeting of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Medical Specialties Section will occur Friday, May 2, 2008, at the AGS Annual Scientific Meeting. The section meeting addresses the research needs, career development issues, and funding opportunities for medical specialist researchers interested in aging research. Each year, the section will present an annual educational and research

meeting in conjunction with the AGS and facilitate the exchange of information between medical specialists and geriatricians.

This year's program will highlight career development in geriatrics among the medical specialties through a panel discussion. The speakers for this year's section meeting include Karen E. Hall, MD, PhD, Michael W. Rich, MD, and Mary E. Tinetti, MD, who will lead interactive discussions focusing on opportunities and challenges in development careers in the medical specialties and geriatrics. All researchers, educators, and clinicians interested in this topic are invited to attend.

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Thank you for your continued interest in the success of the ASP project "Integrating Geriatrics into the Specialties of Internal Medicine: Moving Forward from Awareness to Action." The project is funded by a four year, \$2.6 million dollar grant from by the John A. Hartford Foundation, with additional support from the Atlantic Philanthropies (USA) Inc. The project is led by principal investigator Kevin P. High, MD, co-principal investigator Jeffrey B. Halter, MD, and co-investigator Kenneth E. Schmader, MD.

Please provide questions or suggestions about this newsletter, the integrating geriatrics project, or ASP, to John R. Ashworth at [jashworth@im.org](mailto:jashworth@im.org) or by phone at (202) 861-9351.

**Sincerely,**

John R. Ashworth  
ASP Project Coordinator  
Integrating Geriatrics into the Specialties of Internal Medicine



ASP is a member of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine.

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