



Integrating Geriatrics into the Specialties of Internal Medicine

February 2009 Update

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Welcome to the first newsletter of 2009 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.

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.
- 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.
- Broaden the engagement of internal medicine specialty organizations in the agenda of improving care for elderly patients.
- Enhance the competencies of currently practicing internal medicine specialists to care for older adults.

More information about the key initiatives of the Integrating Geriatrics project is available [online](#).

Highlights of the 2009 American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting

ASP would like to highlight several events at the upcoming American Geriatrics Society (AGS) 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting that will be held April 30-May 2, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL.

Medical Management of HIV in Older Patients

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) will host a "meet the experts" session on the "Medical Management of HIV in Older Adults." This session will build on the success of last year's AGS HIV symposium "HIV in the Older Population: A Growing Problem," by providing an opportunity for geriatricians and primary care providers to meet with a team of experts. The symposium will feature selected case studies presented by Wayne C. McCormick, MD, a geriatrician who manages HIV patients, and Kelly Gebo, MD, an infectious disease specialist in HIV/AIDS with experience in the care of older patients. The session will focus on specific management issues such as testing older patients; how to select a HAART regimen for an older patient; complications of HIV and its therapy in older adults; and, special issues for older patients such as maintaining physical and cognitive performance, social issues, and support networks.

Prediction, Progression, and Outcomes of Chronic Kidney Disease in Older Adults

The "Prediction, Progression, and Outcomes of Chronic Kidney Disease in Older Adults" symposium focuses on the clinical care of older patients with chronic kidney disease not yet requiring renal replacement therapy and managed predominately in geriatric medicine and primary care practices. The symposium addresses problems faced by geriatricians and primary care providers in measuring renal function and interpreting test results in older patients; new concepts such as identification of "pre-clinical" kidney disease with biomarkers; evaluation of the etiology of newly recognized renal dysfunction in older patients; identification of patients at risk for progression; and, intervention to reduce risk factors for advancing disease. This symposium builds on the May 2008 "American Society of Nephrology-Association of Specialty Professors Workshop on Prediction, Progression, and Outcomes of Chronic Kidney Disease in Older Adults."

Medical Subspecialties Section Meeting

The Medical Subspecialties Section will meet Friday, May 1, 2009, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. CST. The Medical Subspecialties Section seeks to address the research needs, career development issues, and funding opportunities for medical specialist researchers and educators interested in aging research. This years program will highlight two leaders who have had success identifying geriatric competencies and integrating those competencies into curriculum, continuing medical education, maintenance of certification products, or guidelines supported by their specialty society. The speakers for this year's section meeting will discuss the success and challenges of their initiatives.

New Frontiers in Geriatrics: The Jahnigen and Williams Awardees Report on Research Leading to Improved care by Medical Subspecialists

Scheduled for Friday, May 1, 2009, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST, this symposium will highlight research supported by the Dennis W. Jahnigen Career Development Scholars Program and the T. Franklin Williams Scholars Program. The Jahnigen Scholars Program supports junior faculty in the surgical and related medical specialties, and the Williams Scholars Program supports junior faculty in the specialties of internal medicine. The symposium will highlight three Jahnigen and three T. Franklin Williams Scholars. This year's speakers are Lauren Brett Caram, MD, speaking on "Prospective Respiratory Epidemiologic Surveillance Study: Viral Infections in a Long-term Care Facility Population;" Carlos A.V. Fragoso, MD, speaking on his research entitled "Establishing Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in Older Persons;" and Mara A. Schonberg, MD, who will discuss her work in "The Psychological Impact and Decision-Making of Older Women after an Abnormal Mammogram."

IDSA-ASP Workshop Targets the Research Agenda in Immunizations in the Aging Population

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and ASP held a workshop on immunizations in the aging population December 15-16, 2008 in Washington, DC. The workshop convened participants from IDSA, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the NIA. ASP anticipates that an article detailing workshop outcomes will be published in an academic medical journal later this year.

The "Workshop on Immunizations in Older Adults" brought together specialists in infectious diseases, immunology, and geriatric medicine to discuss what is known about immunizations in older adults and to identify current research gaps. Answers to these questions will inform the research agenda in immunization in older adults, in the areas of vaccine efficacy in older adults, managing comorbidities and drug toxicities common in the aging population, and improving patient survival and quality of life.

The IDSA-ASP workshop is the third 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 fourth workshop in the series is scheduled for 2009 on the topic of "Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis in Older Adults." More information about the integrating geriatrics project is available [online](#).

NIH Announces Three HIV-Aging Funding Opportunities

In October 2008, the National Institutes of Health released three program announcements on the "Medical Management of Older Patients with HIV/AIDS." The release of the program announcements follows the publication, "Workshop on HIV and Aging: What is Known and Future Research Directions," in the August 15, 2008, issue of *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. The recommendations in this publication are a summary of ASP's October 2007 Workshop on HIV and Aging. The workshop was supported by a John A. Hartford Foundation grant to ASP's "Integrating Geriatrics into the Specialties of Medicine" project. The project aims to integrate geriatrics into the specialties of internal medicine by expanding research agendas through NIH meetings; providing continued career development to the T. Franklin Williams Scholars; and developing and fostering the growth of geriatrics special interest groups within internal medicine specialty societies.

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

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 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.

If you would like to highlight your efforts to integrate geriatrics into the specialties of internal medicine in the next newsletter, please submit an email to ASP Grants Assistant Catherine M. Scott at cscott@im.org.

Please provide questions or suggestions about this newsletter, the integrating geriatrics project, or ASP, to ASP Grants Assistant Catherine M. Scott at policy@im.org or by phone at (202) 861-9351.



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