



Integrating Geriatrics into the Specialties of Internal Medicine Spring 2009 Update

In This Issue

[Funding Opportunity Announcements for CKD in Older Adults](#)

[ASP Awards Kevin P. High, MD, with the Eric G. Neilson, MD, Distinguished Professor Award at the 2009 American Geriatric Society Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

[POGOe Begins Matching Geriatric Competencies to Teaching Materials](#)

[Reynolds Mini Fellowships](#)

[Help Populate the Special Interest Group Portal](#)

Welcome to the 2009 spring 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.

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](#).

Funding Opportunity Announcements for CKD in Older Adults

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released April 17, 2009, two funding opportunity announcements (FOA) titled "Renal Function and Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in Aging." The FOAs, sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), will support awards at the level of R01 (also supported by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease) and R21. These FOAs will support basic, clinical, and translational research applications in both animal models and in humans that address the etiology, pathophysiology, risk factors, consequences, prevention, or treatment of CKD in older patients. Beginning May 18, 2009, applicants can begin applying for both the R21 and R01; application deadlines follow standard dates for R01 and R21 grants. Additional information can be found at [R01](#) and [R21](#).

ASP Awards Kevin P. High, MD, with the Eric G. Neilson, MD, Distinguished

Professor Award at the 2009 American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting



Kevin P. High, MD, was named the 2009 recipient of the ASP Eric G. Neilson, MD, Distinguished Professor Award. Named for the association's founder, the Neilson Award recognizes a leader who has shaped the specialty internal medicine landscape. The award acknowledges and promotes the work of outstanding leaders to bring about change for specialty medicine and the internal medicine community. Dr. High was honored with the award "for his impact across multiple specialties of internal medicine through his leadership in geriatrics-related initiatives implemented by ASP," at the 2009 American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting Award Ceremony.

POGOe Begins Matching Geriatric Competencies to Teaching Materials

In July 2007, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the John A. Hartford Foundation (JAHF) hosted a National Consensus Conference on Competencies in Geriatric Education to establish minimum competencies in geriatric education and create performance benchmarks for all US medical school graduates. These minimum competencies are endorsed by the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) and the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs and are under review by several other organizations. AAMC and JAHF have begun disseminating these competencies through various mechanisms, including the Portal of Geriatric Online Education (POGOe).

In spring 2008, the POGOe staff began matching the hundreds of teaching products on its website - and in educators' inventories of geriatric teaching tools - to the medical student competencies in geriatrics. By linking the competencies to existing educational resources, POGOe hopes to enhance the medical student's learning experience and encourage medical educators to incorporate these competencies into their medical school curriculums. The resources can be found [online](#).

Reynolds Consortium Mini-Fellowships

The Donald W. Reynolds Consortium to Strengthen Faculty Expertise in Geriatrics in US Academic Health Centers is entering into the fifth year of a six-year grant to fund fellowships in geriatrics. This series of four grants, totaling \$12 million, provides funding to Duke University School of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles to train faculty at medical schools and teaching hospitals in geriatrics.

- **Duke University Mini-Fellowship**

Duke's one-week mini-fellowships cover key topics and trends in medical education on the care of older adults. Focused on faculty development, the programs are aimed at expanding the curriculum design and clinical teaching skills of clinician-educators. For additional information about this program, contact Emily Herbert, Education Program Coordinator at

herbe008@mc.duke.edu or visit [Care in Aging: Faculty Development](#).

- **Johns Hopkins Mini-Fellowship**

John's Hopkins three-and-one-half day mini-fellowship program targets surgical and medical subspecialists, including hospitalists, internal medicine specialists, emergency room physicians, general surgeons, and orthopedic surgeons. This program provides didactic and experiential instruction in teaching techniques and instruction in critical geriatric content areas, end-of-life care, quick functional assessment, and effective transition of care for elderly patients. For more information about Johns Hopkins' program, contact Laura Gibson at lcgibson@jhmi.edu or visit [Donald W. Reynolds FD~AGE Mini Fellowship Program at Johns Hopkins](#).

- **Mount Sinai Mini-Fellowship**

Mount Sinai's three-day "Physician Mini-Fellowships: Geriatrics for the Non-Geriatrician" targets non-geriatrician physicians responsible for teaching medical students and residents how to care for older adults. The course covers geriatric content, palliative medicine, the geriatrics approach to patient care, advanced teaching skills, and curriculum development. For additional information about this program, contact the Mount Sinai Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development at GeriEd.Programs@mssm.edu or visit [Mount Sinai - Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development](#).

- **University of California, Los Angeles, Mini-Fellowship**

The University of California, Los Angeles provides an innovative curriculum in medical education and advanced geriatrics teaching skills through experience, training, and personal mentorship. The program targets clinician-educators who have teaching appointments in internal medicine, family medicine, and other subspecialties that encounter a large number of elderly patients with common geriatric conditions. For additional information about this program, contact Anne Hu at AnneHu@mednet.ucla.edu or visit [Donald W. Reynolds Mini Fellowship at UCLA](#).

Help Populate the Special Interest Group Portal

In June 2008, ASP launched the Integrating Geriatrics Project Interest Group portal to promote communications among specialty societies, share ideas and best practices, and assist with the larger agenda of forging cross-specialty collaboration to integrate geriatrics into the internal medicine specialties. The website offers funding information for small grant awards for specialty-specific geriatric projects, publicizes the activities of the 11 special interest groups (SIG) at ASP's partnering internal medicine specialty societies, and provides resources to geriatric content. In an effort to populate the portal, ASP requests updates from its partnering SIGs and information regarding resources of possible interest be sent to Catherine M. Scott, Grants Assistant at cscott@im.org. To view existing resources visit the [Special Interest Group Portal](#).

- **Medical Subspecialties Section Meeting**

The Medical Subspecialties Section met Friday, May 1, 2009, and highlighted Dimitrios Oreopoulos, MD, and Mitchell T. Heflin, MD, two leaders who have had

success identifying geriatric competencies and integrating those competencies into curriculum, continuing medical education, and maintenance of certification products. Their presentations were followed by updates on specialty societies' current geriatric initiatives. The presentations from this year's meeting are available on the SIG Portal.

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.

ASP is the organization of specialty internal medicine divisions at medical schools and community teaching hospitals in the United States and Canada.

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