

University of Pittsburgh Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program

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Welcome to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Division of Geriatric Medicine fellowship program. The faculty and staff are committed to making this a great experience for you and we hope that you will enjoy your time with us.

Overview

The Geriatric Medicine Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center is a one-year program designed to provide you with a comprehensive in-depth training experience with a second optional year for those interested in pursuing a career in academic geriatric medicine. The program is fully accredited through the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and is based at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Designated as a John A. Hartford Foundation "Center of Excellence," and with more than 20 fellowship-trained geriatricians on staff, the Division of Geriatric Medicine is well equipped to provide state-of-the-art training in clinical care, education and research. Moreover, the University of Pittsburgh's newly established Institute on Aging adds further strength to each of these areas. Upon completion of the program, you will be eligible for the American Board of Internal Medicine's Added Qualification in Geriatric Medicine.

Philosophy

The Fellowship Program trains physicians to become leaders in geriatric medicine. Training encompasses the full spectrum of clinical care, from prevention to end-of-life care. You will gain expertise in the evaluation and management of complex geriatric syndromes. You will have the opportunity to treat patients in multiple clinical settings and gain an understanding of the interdisciplinary approach to geriatric medicine. You will be encouraged to challenge current paradigms of care and to develop better methods for the care of older adults. You will also be exposed to the diversity of aging research within the University and if you opt for a second year of training, you will be given the opportunity to develop your own research skills and interests under the supervision of a select group of mentors.

Goals

First year:

- To understand the philosophy of geriatric medicine; the unique needs of older adults with multiple medical, cognitive, psychiatric, social, and/or functional impairments; and why the implementation of geriatric medicine principles is mandated for them
- To acquire the knowledge base that will allow the fellow to address the varied needs of frail older adults
- To develop superior skills in education and mentoring that will allow the fellows to train future care providers

Optional second & third years:

- To develop and refine research skills and establish a research agenda to improve the care of older adults

Faculty

The division faculty comprises about two dozen fellowship-trained geriatricians who participate in training and education. The University faculty includes more than three dozen senior, NIH-funded investigators with projects in virtually every aspect of aging.

Faculty, Division of Geriatric Medicine

Neil Resnick, MD, Chief	Subashan Perera, PhD, MS
Namita Ahuja, MD	Louis Piccoli, MD
Alfred Fisher, MD, PhD	Sangeeta Rana, MD
Amelia Gennari, MD	Eric Rodriguez, MD, MPhil
Susan Greenspan, MD	Michelle Rossi, MD, MPH
Steven Handler, MD, MS	Fred Rubin, MD
Joseph Hanlon, PharmD, MS	Christine Ruby, Pharm D
Susan Hardy, MD, PhD	Werner Schaefer, PhD
Susanne Hartmann, MD	Stacey Shaffer, MD
Shuja Hussan, MD	Stephanie Studenski, MD, MPH
David Nace MD, MPH	Stasa Tadic, MD
Anne B. Newman, MD, MPH	Adele Towers, MD
Elizabeth O'Keefe, BM, BCh	Adrian Visoiu, MD
Mark Overton, MD	Debra Weiner, MD
Robert Palmer, MD	Rollin Wright, MD
David Pasquale, DO	

Program Description

The year-long training program emphasizes developing skills in the evaluation and management of the geriatric population. If the fellow chooses to pursue training beyond one year, he/she may emphasize one of two tracks—the clinician educator or the clinician researcher. Either of these two tracks include formal advanced degree course work, and the completion of a research project. The core of the clinician-educator track consists of the Clinician Educator Training Program directed by Dr. Roseanne Granieri. The core of the clinician-research didactic training is completed as part of the Clinical Research Training Program directed by Dr. Wishwa Kapoor.

First Year – Primarily Clinical

Longitudinal experiences

- Ambulatory medicine – 1 half-day per week
- Long-term care – 1 half-day per week

Required monthly rotations

- Geriatric psychiatry
- Home-based care (8 weeks)
- Rehabilitation medicine
- Palliative care
- Neurology
- Inpatient hospitalist and consultative service
- Inpatient service
- Geriatric Evaluation and Management Clinic (GEM) + Older Adult Pain Management Program
- Ear, Voice and Swallowing Disorders

Other experiences

- 2 months of electives, designed by the fellow

For those interested in pursuing training beyond one year, the first year will also include:

- Course work for advanced degree training
- Development of research interests and goals

Second Year

- Completion of course work
- Completion of research project

Training Sites

UPMC Presbyterian-Shadyside

Part of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, these hospitals comprise a large, medical school-affiliated tertiary care center located in the Oakland and Shadyside sections of Pittsburgh. UPMC Shadyside is a community-based tertiary care center, located 1.5 miles from UPMC Presbyterian. Fellows spend two months each year at UPMC Presbyterian-Shadyside on the inpatient geriatric medicine hospitalist service (UPMC Presbyterian) and the inpatient hospitalist and consultative service (UPMC Shadyside), where they are responsible for coordinating care with the house staff teams and interacting directly with patients and their families. Teaching, both informal and didactic, of the residents and students is an expected component of these experiences. The Palliative Care and Ear, Voice and Swallowing Disorders rotation is also based at these facilities.

Primary Care Clinics

UPMC Senior Care-Benedum Geriatric Center (BGC)

UPMC Senior Care-Benedum Geriatric Center, located at UPMC Montefiore, part of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, is a multidisciplinary ambulatory clinic designed to meet the diverse needs of the older adult population. It provides for primary and consultative medical care, psychiatric care, and social assessment for frail older adults living in the surrounding communities. Fellows have a one half-day per week clinic session in which they provide longitudinal and consultative care under the supervision of the faculty, either at BGC or at UPMC Senior Care (see below).

UPMC Senior Care-Shadyside

Located at UPMC Shadyside, UPMC Senior Care-Shadyside is a multidisciplinary ambulatory clinic designed to meet the diverse needs of the older adult population. It provides for primary and consultative medical care, psychiatric care, and social assessment for frail older adults living in the surrounding communities. Fellows have a one half-day per week clinic session in which they provide longitudinal and consultative care under the supervision of the faculty, either here or at BGC (see above).

Veterans Affairs Hospital, University Drive

The Veterans Affairs Hospital, University Drive is the site of the VA Pittsburgh Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Care Center (GRECC). This multidisciplinary collaboration of clinicians, educators, and researchers serves as a focus of geriatric care within the VA setting. The Geriatric Evaluation and Management Clinic is based here. Fellows typically spend five to 10 sessions in the GEM clinic and assume the role as leader in this interdisciplinary team. The VA is also the site of the Neurology rotation.

H. J. Heinz III VA Progressive Care Center

H. J. Heinz III VA Progressive Care Center is a sub-acute and long-term care Veterans Affairs Hospital. The Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) service, which provides comprehensive, interdisciplinary care to home-bound veterans, is based at this site. Fellows spend 6 weeks on their HBPC rotation during which

they provide primary care in the home environment in the context of an interdisciplinary team. Fellows also spend one week at this site during their palliative care rotation.

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic is part of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Fellows typically spend one month on the inpatient geriatric psychiatry program at the hospital. This program provides comprehensive evaluation and short-term hospitalization for older adults with a range of mental health problems associated with aging. Under the supervision of a geriatric psychiatrist, fellows manage a panel of inpatients and participate in ward rounds and patient-focused conferences.

Long-Term Care

Long-term care experiences are available at multiple sites in the Pittsburgh area, including Asbury Health Care Center, Canterbury Place, Heritage Shadyside and Charles Morris Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Fellows assume the role of primary care provider for a panel of patients at one of these facilities.

UPMC Pain Medicine

The Pain Medicine program of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center is a comprehensive research, clinical, and education program committed to the evaluation and treatment of the entire range of pain, disability, and rehabilitation problems. UPMC Pain Medicine at Centre Commons in Shadyside, is the site of extensive National Institutes of Health-funded research programs in aspects of various pain syndromes. Fellows will participate in an interdisciplinary team of health professionals who work to reduce pain, improve functional status, and enhance physical and mental well-being of older adults living with persistent pain through the Older Adult Pain Management Program.

UPMC South Side – Rehabilitation Unit

UPMC South Side, part of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, is a full-service community hospital located a few miles from UPMC Presbyterian. The Rehabilitation Medicine rotation is based here.

Research

Research activities at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center span the entire spectrum of gerontology, geriatric medicine, geriatric education, and health services.

Both didactic and participatory research activities are included in the program for interested fellows. Those who choose the clinician-researcher track are expected to participate in the development and completion of a research project under the supervision of an experienced mentor. A significant amount of time during the second and third years is dedicated to this endeavor. Second and third year fellows who are U.S. citizens or residents may be funded by the division's T-32 training grant. Funding for non-US citizens (primarily J-1 visa holders) is available through the VA special fellowship program.

Advanced Degree Training

Fellows who elect to engage in training beyond one clinical year are expected to complete advanced degree training in clinical research or education with a view to becoming a clinician scientist or clinician educator.

Alternatively, advanced degree training may be in any health-related field, such as public health, biomedical informatics, or other areas of concentration offered through the University of Pittsburgh Schools of Health Sciences.