

KEY FACULTY PROFILES

Debra Weiner, MD (Program Director) is a Diplomate in Internal Medicine and Rheumatology and has a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine. She is also a licensed acupuncturist. As the Director of the Older Adult Pain Management program at the Pain Evaluation and Treatment Institute, University of Pittsburgh, she specializes in chronic pain in older adults and provides consultative services in her office at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Pain Medicine at Centre Commons. Dr. Weiner holds joint appointments as an Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and the Departments of Psychiatry and Anesthesiology. Dr. Weiner serves on editorial boards, and is a reviewer for numerous journals in Pain Management and Geriatrics. She has received numerous research grants and published many articles and abstracts, and three books on pain in older adults.

Elizabeth O'Keefe, BM, BCh (Associate Program Director) is an Associate Professor and Clinician-Educator who came to Pittsburgh via Mayo Clinic, Virginia Commonwealth University. She studied at Cambridge and Oxford Universities before completing her medical residency in London. She has gained experience in many fields of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics from the years she spent practicing in the United Kingdom and South Africa. While at Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. O'Keefe received a grant from the Alzheimer's and Related Diseases Award Fund to investigate "Decision-making with regard to PEG placement in elderly persons with dementia." She has several publications relating to functional bowel disease in the elderly and has served as a reviewer for Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

Hollis Day, MD, MS is currently Program Director of the Geriatric Track in the Internal Medicine Residency. In addition she is the Director of the standardized patient program at the School of Medicine. She also serves as the Chair for the Society of General Internal Medicine Geriatrics Interest group, as a member of the SGIM Geriatrics Task Force, and a member of the residency membership committee for the American Geriatrics Society Committee. Dr. Day's interests include integrating geriatrics into the internal medicine curriculum at the student, resident and faculty development level, establishing a geriatric area of concentration for internal medicine residents and inter-disciplinary team teaching. She has grants integrating geriatrics into the residency, and is working to enhance Geriatrics in General Medicine. She has had a Geriatric Academic Career Development Award to develop a team teaching program. Dr. Day provides primary care and consultative services at UPMC Senior Care-Benedum Geriatric Center, located in UPMC Montefiore Hospital.

Susan Hardy, MD, Ph.D. is a Diplomate in Internal Medicine and has a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine. She is interested in the care of vulnerable older adults and in functional trajectories and recovery from disability among frail older persons. Dr. Hardy provides long-term care and subacute care to older adults in skilled nursing facilities and provides care to geriatrics patients on the geriatric medicine service at Montefiore University Hospital. She serves as a preceptor for fellows at the Benedum clinic and in long-term care.

Steven M. Handler, MD, MS is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine who specializes in patient safety research in the long-term care setting. His research interests include the application of geriatric medicine and biomedical informatics tools and techniques to improve the medication safety of older adults. Dr. Handler was awarded a Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Scholar Career Development Award (K12), as well as a Merck/American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) Junior Investigator Award in Geriatric Clinical Pharmacology. Both grants are being used to develop and test a clinical event monitor (a type of automated computerized decision support system) to detect adverse drug reactions in the nursing home setting. As part of his career development award, Dr. Handler will complete a Doctorate in Biomedical Informatics, as well as a Certified Medical Director (CMD) certification sponsored by the American Medical Director's Association. Dr. Handler's also precepts fellows, residents, and medical students in the nursing home and on the geriatric hospitalist teaching service. He also teaches the clinical skills course to second-year medical students. Most recently, Dr. Handler was instrumental in developing a patient safety curriculum for internal medicine house staff.

David Pasquale, DO provides geriatric primary care and consultative services at the Benedum Geriatric Center located in UPMC Montefiore Hospital, and home care for veterans through the Home-based Primary Care Program at the Veterans Administration Pittsburgh Healthcare System, and attends on the UPMC Montefiore medicine inpatient teaching service. He is active in educating trainees at all levels and involved in geriatric educational curriculum development.

Neil Resnick, MD has devoted his career to caring for older adults and to studying the causes of incontinence and osteoporosis in this group. At Harvard, he founded the nation's first Continence Center. While treating his patients, he also conducted research into their problems. He used these findings to help his own patients and to devise ways to help other doctors care for theirs. His studies led to guidelines that have been adopted by the United States government for all incontinent adults, including those in nursing homes. More recently he was asked to help the World Health Organization adapt these guidelines for more widespread dissemination. His work has been continuously funded by NIH, and he has published more than 150 articles and chapters and also co-edited Cassel's geriatric textbook. His work has been honored by awards from the American Geriatrics Society, the American Urological Association, the International Continence Society, and the National Institutes of Health. He also has been included for 15 years in the "Best Doctors in America". In addition to his research and clinical efforts, Dr. Resnick led the Geriatrics Division at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital for a decade before assuming his current duties at the University of Pittsburgh. He currently serves as Professor of Medicine, Chief of the Geriatrics Division, and Director of the University of Pittsburgh Institute on Aging.

Stephanie Studenski, MD, MPH is Professor of Geriatric Medicine with co-appointments in the Schools of Public Health, Allied Health and Nursing. She focuses her clinical and research work on mobility, balance and falls in older adults. She is currently Principal Investigator of the Pittsburgh Claude Pepper Center, an NIH research center of excellence which focuses on mobility and balance disorders with over 50 participating multidisciplinary investigators. She leads the research fellowship program in geriatrics and is PI of two NIH research training grants in aging. She has a strong interest in mentoring and research training in aging. She has created a concentration in aging research methods in the Pittsburgh Clinical Research Training Program. She is active nationally in aging research and has led multiple NIH study sections, the Research Committee of the American Geriatrics Society and sits on the Editorial Boards of three aging journals.