chair’s message

This edition of the Research Newsletter once again demonstrates the breadth of ongoing scholarly activities within the Department of Geriatrics. We have just completed our first year of funding for the North and Central Florida Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Partnership (NCF-GWEP) and are delighted that we have been able to achieve all of our stated goals in the allotted time frame.

The NCF-GWEP has a project that seeks to “geriatricize” a federally qualified rural health clinic. Dr. Brummel-Smith highlighted this project to a national audience at the annual American Geriatrics Society meeting in Long Beach. Dr. Terracciano continues to work with our community partners on an innovative project sponsored by the Florida Department of Health that is exploring the benefits of a structured caregiver training program. Dr. Pomidor’s leadership role in the new NHTSA guidelines for older drivers is highlighted in their recently published guidebook.

Several new projects are in the development stage or are currently being implemented. Jack Larson, a 2nd-year medical student and recipient of a Charles R. Mathews summer scholarship is working with Suzanne Baker, John Agens and myself on a study that seeks to document the “Impact of an Integrated Geriatric Curriculum on the Practice of First-Year (PGY-1) Internal Medicine and Family Medicine Residents.” I have the honor of co-directing an initiative sponsored by Baycrest Health Science Centre in Toronto and the Rand Corporation that seeks to develop a new set of quality measures specific to medical providers practicing in the post-acute and long-term care continuum. In concert with Greg Turner, we have also recently developed a train-the-trainer project directed at Florida nursing home medical directors. A newly developed set of nursing-home attending-physician competencies and online curriculum will provide the core elements of this initiative. Extramural funding will be sought this year to begin this ambitious project.

All in all, this year is shaping up to be as exciting and fulfilling as last year. We’ll be sure to highlight our progress on these many fronts in subsequent newsletters.

CHAIR
Paul Katz, MD

ASSOCIATE CHAIR
Lisa Granville, MD

WRITERS AND EDITORS
Suzanne Baker, MA
LaVon Edgerton
Carolyn Muse, MS

DESIGN
Carolyn Muse, MS

The Department of Geriatrics Research Newsletter is produced by the Florida State University College of Medicine, Department of Geriatrics, 1115 West Call Street, Suite 4300, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4300
(850) 645-8440

geriatrics.research@med.fsu.edu

TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE FSU DEPARTMENT OF GERIATRICS
Go to oneFSU to find out about the types of gifts you can give and their impact. If you have questions, call the FSU Foundation at (850) 644-4389.
Dr. Pomidor and Suzanne Baker Participate in a WFSU interview to discuss societal impacts of an aging population.

Meet Alexandra “Xan” Nowakowski, our newest faculty member.

Meet Lametra Smallwood, a new member of the Department of Geriatrics Team.

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In The Spotlight

Marshall Kapp, JD, MPH

Professor Kapp was appointed to a joint Task Force established by the American Geriatrics Society and the American Thoracic Society on “Making Medical Decisions for Unrepresented Incapacitated Patients.”

On May 4, 2016, he met with the Advisory Board for the Retirement Research Foundation Project, “Developing Educational Modules for Physician/Attorney Collaboration on Behalf of Older Individuals.”

Professor Kapp will be teaching a course on “Current Legal & Ethical Controversies in American Health Care” through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Florida State University in Fall 2016.

Professor Kapp and the Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law sponsored the following events which were live streamed and recorded. (Recordings provided in Silverlight and other formats.)

May 16, 2016

“Bioethical Dilemmas in Mental Health Care and Law: An International Perspective” was presented by Dr. Samuel Wolfman. Dr. Wolfman is a partner at Wolfman, Shaked & Co., Tel Aviv, Israel, Professor at Haifa University Law Faculty, Israel, and Chair of the Statutory Tribunal for Involuntary Admissions of Psychiatric Patients of Tel Aviv, Israel. He discussed the process of involuntary commitment of psychiatric patients in Israel and contrasted that with the involuntary commitment of psychiatric patients under Florida’s Baker Act.

July 6, 2016

Professor Kapp facilitated the discussion, “Health Law Cases from the U.S. Supreme Court 2016 Term.” This free event was held at the FSU College of Medicine and open to the public.

We All Have Aging in Common

On May 5, 2016, Alice Pomidor, MD, Suzanne Baker, MA, and Walter “Wally” Boot, PhD with the FSU College of Arts and Sciences participated in a WFSU interview with host Tom Flanagan titled “Perspectives: Aging Issues.”

The discussion focused on the societal impacts of a steadily aging U.S. and worldwide population encompassing significant changes in everything from home design to public transportation to healthcare policy.

Niharika Suchak, MBBS, MHS

Dr. Suchak completed a mini-fellowsip through the Duke University School of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics in March 2016. These mini-fellowships provide clinician educators an opportunity to learn from expert faculty and focus on the development of individualized career planning for teaching and scholarship.
Florida Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting

Dr. Suchak is the incoming President for the Florida Geriatrics Society and will be presenting at this year's conference, July 30-31, 2016, in Orlando, Florida, at Disney’s Yacht & Beach Club Resort. Her presentation is titled “The Year in Geriatrics”, which will review the latest clinical advances in geriatrics.

Dr. Brummel-Smith, Charlotte Edward Maguire Professor in Geriatrics, will deliver the Keynote address titled, “Rehabilitation in Geriatric Practice” describing the important role rehabilitation plays in improving the functional ability of older adults.

Dr. Pomidor will be presenting “Assessment of Driving Ability” as part of her continuing work with the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition.

Alzheimer’s Disease Education & Training Conference

The 31st Annual Alzheimer’s Disease Education and Training Conference was held on February 20, 2016. This annual conference is organized by Alzheimer's Project, Inc., a local nonprofit organization, and its partners, including the College of Medicine. This year, Dr. Pomidor was the FSU College of Medicine host.

This conference provides free education and training for family and professional caregivers as well as social workers, nurses, administrators of nursing homes and assisted living centers, and clergy.

This year’s conference workshops included:
• Managing adverse behaviors
• End-of-life care and dementia
• Legal issues
• Alzheimer’s disease research update
• Promoting safety in the home
• Music therapy and dementia
• Health practices for mind-body-spirit
• Swallowing difficulties and dementia

Conference handouts and videos are available on the Alzheimer’s Project website.

Geriatrics Interest Group Awards

The FSU College of Medicine, Geriatrics Interest Group (GIG) was awarded the 2016 Intergenerational Award (for multigenerational, educational, social, recreational and wellness programs and activities to bridge the gap between the generations within the community) by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Office of Volunteer and Community Services. This award was presented by Ms. Janine Rogers, Director of the Office of Volunteer & Community Services, Intergenerational & Faith-Based Initiatives, Florida Department of Elder Affairs at a GIG-sponsored lunch-and-learn event at the College of Medicine on March 21.

GIG also won the 2016 FSU Graduate Organization of the Year Award that was announced during the FSU Leadership Awards Night on April 5, 2016 at the Oglesby Union Ballrooms. Unlike some of the other awards, this award is given to only one organization.

OLLI Student Award

David “Chase” West, was selected by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Board of Directors as one of the OLLI 2016 Scholarship winners. The Certificate of Award was presented to him at the OLLI Spring Picnic and Business Meeting held on April 7th at the FSU Reservation. Chase is the past president of the GIG.
Announcements

Annual AGS Lunch and Learn

Dr. Pomidor and Dr. Brummel-Smith will present at the Annual AGS Lunch and Learn workshop on July 27, 2016. This faculty development workshop, held at the College of Medicine in partnership with our Office of Faculty Development, is an opportunity to share information from the 2016 American Geriatrics Society Conference.

This year’s topics and objectives are:

**Topics**
- The Florida Driving Needs Assessment
- Clinician’s Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Adults
- Person-Centered Care
- Medical Literature Update

**Objectives**
- To describe the knowledge, community practices, and issues reported by physicians and other healthcare professionals in addressing concerns with Florida’s aging at-risk drivers.
- To describe at least one activity to determine whether older adults are at risk of driving disability.
- To use a clinical reasoning algorithm to evaluate and treat or refer at-risk older drivers for appropriate care.
- To define person-centered care.
- To discuss ways of implementing a person-centered care approach in all medical encounters.
- To describe two important potential changes in practice as evidenced by recent publications in the medical literature.
- To describe two examples of questionable new medical products released on the market last year.

Register online or email Melanie Hill at melanie.hill@med.fsu.edu. College of Medicine Faculty Development Credit is available.

New Faculty Member

The Department is pleased to announce the appointment of Alexandra “Xan” Nowakowski, PhD, MPH as Assistant Professor in Geriatrics. Dr. Nowakowski will be working to develop a senior care, community-based research network, as well as continuing her work on asthma with the Department of Health.

Alzheimer’s Project, Inc.

- The 12th Annual Parrothead Phrenzy to benefit Alzheimer’s Project, Inc., will be held on August 20, 2016, at The Moon in Tallahassee, Florida. Proceeds from this tropical concert help lift the burden on caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s disease in the Big Bend area.

  Contact Penny Weimer at (850) 321-0287 or Sherry Foster at (850) 264-3111 with questions about the event.

- The Alzheimer’s Project Forget-Me-Not Walk will be held on November 6, 2016 in Tallahassee, Florida at Cascades Park. This fun event allows individuals or teams to participate in a one-mile walk to raise funds for the organization. The event also has food trucks, games, and a bounce house for kids, as well as a special “cake walk” where you just might win a delicious homemade cake.

  If you are interested in joining our College of Medicine team, please contact GIG’s incoming president, Kenneth Delgado, at kmd11k@med.fsu.edu.
American Geriatrics Society 2016 Conference

Health Care Providers: New Insights on Florida’s Aging Drivers

Dr. Pomidor and Suzanne Baker represented the Department of Geriatrics, FSU College of Medicine at the American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California, May 18 - 21, 2016. Their poster presentation was titled, Aging Drivers: What do Florida Physicians and Health Care Providers Say is Needed?

Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program Updates

Drs. Brummel-Smith, Agens, Granville, and Suchak represented the North and Central Florida Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Partnership (NCF-GWEP) in a pre-conference event titled “Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP): Integrating Geriatrics in Primary Care. The objectives were to review models for integrating geriatrics into primary care; to describe the Rapid Cycle Evaluation Process; and to discuss issues with colleagues related to: partnership building, defining and building teams, working with community-based organizations, and implementing GWEP activities in special populations.

Enhancing Geriatric Care in India

Dr. Suchak co-authored three poster presentations as part of her collaboration with medical residents in India.

• Cross Sectional Normative Physical Performance Data in a Sample of Elderly Indians: Gait Speed, Maximum Grip Strength and 30-Second Chair Stand
• Clinical Profile, Outcomes, and Functional Status of Elderly Patients in a Tertiary Care Medical ICU
• Knowledge About Alzheimer’s Disease Among Hospital-Based Health Care Professionals

Operationalizing Person-Centered Care

Dr. Brummel-Smith was Keynote Speaker at the symposium titled, “How to Operationalize Person-Centered Care: See the Person, Not the Patient.”

During this session, Dr. Brummel-Smith presented this expert panel’s definition of person-centered care and the research behind it. He also discussed ways to operationalize person-centered care when working with interprofessional teams.

Dr. Brummel-Smith posited that a standardized definition of person-centered care can provide a needed, consistent point of reference for provision of care, quality measures, research, and policy.

Clinical Skills for Assessing Older Drivers

Dr. Pomidor led a workshop titled “Clinical Skills Workshop II: Clinician’s Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers.” During this workshop the clinical reasoning algorithm presented in the Guide was discussed and interprofessional health care providers were offered the opportunity to apply screening, evaluation, counseling, and intervention strategies to cases involving older adult drivers and their caregivers.

Medication Management in Care Transitions

Dr. Granville moderated an interactive workshop where participants learned to perform a brown bag review and identify drug-drug interactions and potential adverse drug events. This session was titled “Beyond Competency: Medication Management in Care Transitions for Medical Students, Residents, and Other Health Care Practitioners.”

Want to hear more about these topics in person? Check out the upcoming Faculty Development Workshop.
Three Students Awarded Summer Scholarships – A Focus on Curriculum

The Florida State University College of Medicine, Department of Geriatrics announced the 2016 Charles R. Mathews Summer Scholarship recipients.

Each year, Mathews Scholarships are awarded to medical students seeking to engage in a geriatrics-related summer research project. Students from the departments of exercise physiology, nutrition, social work, music therapy, nursing, or law may also receive funding to work with a medical student on a single interdisciplinary project. These scholarships are made possible through the generous donations of the late Dr. Charles R. Mathews and his family. All projects receive the mentoring support of Department of Geriatrics Faculty.

If you are interested in learning more about previous Mathews projects, visit our [website](#).

**2016 Mathews Scholarships**

**FSU Medical Student:** Jack Larsen  
**Project Title:** “Integrated Geriatric Curriculum on the Practice of First-Year Internal Medicine and Family Medicine Residents”  
**Faculty Advisors:** Paul Katz, MD and Suzanne Baker, MA

The purpose of this research project is to study the impact of an integrated geriatric curriculum on the practice of first year internal medicine and family medicine residents.

**FSU Medical Student:** Wyndham Bonett  
**FSU Law Student:** Katherine Perdomo  
**Project Title:** “Assessment of Chronic Pain Curriculum in Florida Medical Schools”  
**Faculty Advisor:** Professor Marshall Kapp, JD, MPH

The purpose of this research project is to assess the preparedness of Florida medical schools and residency programs in handling pain-management education and determine the average sense of comfort a physician in training possesses in caring for patients with pain.
Updates

Annual Research Fair Poster Presentations

The 12th Annual Research Fair was held on February 8, 2016, in the FSU College of Medicine Atrium. This annual event is an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to learn about research being done at the College of Medicine and to meet the faculty and student researchers. It also serves as an opportunity for first-year medical students to identify potential research projects of interest for an application for a Medical Student Research Fellowship for the upcoming year.

Student presenters included Stephanie Poteau (mentors Suzanne Baker, MA and Angelina Sutin, PhD) whose project was titled “Exploring Depression in Older Adults-Understanding the Impact of Stigma on Individual Experiences;” Derek McCranie, (mentor Lisa Granville, MD) whose project was titled “Review of Choking Events in a Disabled Population;” and Lauren Jeck (Ken Brunnel-Smith, MD and Suzanne Baker, MA) whose project was titled “Medical Students and the Dying Patient: Reflections on Advanced Illness and Palliative Care.” The three students who presented are members of the class of 2018.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Lametra Smallwood, Research Assistant, is a new member of the Department of Geriatrics. Under the leadership of Dr. Antonio Terracciano, this Florida Department of health funded grant aims to measure the effectiveness of a structured educational program for caregivers of person with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

Lametra helps with all aspects of the project, including working with Alzheimer’s Project of Tallahassee, Westminster Communities of Florida, and other local community organizations to recruit and evaluate participants.

If you are interested in learning more about the study or the program, visit our website.

North and Central Florida Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Partnership (NCF-GWEP)

For more information about NCF-GWEP Projects and collaborative partners, check out the newly published NCF-GWEP Website, and NCF-GWEP Newsletter.
**Publications and Presentations**

**Marshall Kapp, JD, MPH**


**Paul Katz, MD**


**Antonio Terracciano, PhD**


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**Faculty Presentations**

**John Agens, MD**

Dr. John Agens represented Florida State University as session chair at the 5th European Nutrition and Dietetics Conference (June 16-18) in Rome, Italy. He was honored by being given Chair position of Day-1 of the conference.

Dr. Agens presented, “Fourth Year Medical Students’ Required Patient Care Reflections in Patients with Advanced Illness and Complete Functional Assessment. Are They Including Nutritional Status?”

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**Suzanne Baker, MA**

Dr. Pomidor and Suzanne Baker presented their poster titled Aging Drivers: What do Florida Physicians and Health Care Providers Say is Needed? at the American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California on May 19, 2016.

Suzanne Baker also presented, “Osteoporosis: Bad to the Bone”, at the Capital Health Plan *Savvy Senior* lunch and learn program at Governor’s Square health Center on June 3rd and 17th, 2016.

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The Savvy Senior is a series of monthly lunch and learn programs for older adults who want to learn more about creating and maintaining healthy, happy, and active lifestyles.

**Ken Brummel-Smith, MD**

Drs. Brummel-Smith, Agens, Granville, and Suchak represented the North and Central Florida Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Partnership (NCF-GWEP) in a pre-conference event titled “Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP): Integrating Geriatrics in Primary Care. The objectives were to review models for integrating geriatrics into primary care; to describe the Rapid Cycle Evaluation Process; and to discuss issues with colleagues related to: partnership building, defining and building teams, working with community-based organizations, and implementing GWEP activities in special populations.

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**Alice Pomidor, MD**
Dr. Pomidor presented “End of Life Care in Dementia” and “Research Update” at the Alzheimer’s Education and Training Conference on February 20, 2016.

She appeared on a national webinar on March 9, 2016, on the “Clinician’s Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers: An Overview of Older Adult Driver Safety”.

Dr. Pomidor presented at the Thomasville Road Baptist Church on “Clinical Aspects of Caregiver Stress and Burnout” on April 9, 2016.

On April 19, 2016, she presented on “The Geriatric Family” for the Lifespan Development course at the FSU College of Education.

Dr. Pomidor appeared on WFSU’s Perspectives talk radio show on “Aging Issues” with Suzanne Baker and Wally Boot, hosted by Tom Flanagan on May 5, 2016.

She also presented at the American Geriatrics Society on May 19, 2016:
- Clinical Skills Workshop—Clinician’s Guide to Assessing and Counseling Older Drivers
- Poster—Aging Drivers: What Do Florida Physicians and Health Care Providers Say is Needed?
- Chaired the Public Education Committee

**Niharika Suchak, MD**
Dr. Suchak co-authored three poster presentations as part of her collaboration with medical residents in India.

- Cross Sectional Normative Physical Performance Data in a Sample of Elderly Indians: Gait Speed, Maximum Grip Strength and 30-Second Chair Stand
- Clinical Profile, Outcomes, and Functional Status of Elderly Patients in a Tertiary Care Medical ICU
- Knowledge About Alzheimer’s Disease Among Hospital-Based Health Care Professionals