



Texas OPTI



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Our Mission

Texas OPTI is an educational consortium committed to assuring the advancement of osteopathic postdoctoral training.

In fulfillment of that commitment we enhance osteopathic graduate medical education through quality program development and advocacy on behalf of our interns, residents, fellows and member institutions.

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This month...

We examine a national trend that is on the rise...baby boomers who are growing older and in need of medical care. Currently, there is a shortage of geriatric physicians to assist this population of aging adults. The GET-IT Program at UNT Health Science Center has a plan to address this issue.

Are You Ready to GET-IT?

David Farmer, Ph.D., GET-IT Program Director

It is estimated that by the year 2030 the youngest of the baby boom generation will be nearing retirement. One of the largest areas of population growth worldwide is among those ages sixty-five and above. Longevity estimates continue to increase, with a child born today likely living into their late nineties. Provision of health care to patients age sixty-five and above is rapidly becoming a large proportion of clinical practice. These trends are expected to continue.

Janice Knebl D.O., Chief of the Division of Geriatrics at UNTHSC, and a geriatrician, has a plan to meet the growing need for care for the geriatric population, those ages sixty-five and above. Nationally there is a shortage of geriatricians and projections do not indicate relief in sight. Dr. Knebl's plan involves development of a program to strengthen physicians' training in geriatrics. She has developed the Reynolds Geriatric Education and Training in Texas (GET-IT) Program which is funded by a four year grant through the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

The goal of the GET-IT program is the development and implementation of an innovative and sustainable program to strengthen physicians' training in geriatrics. This will be accomplished through four broad objectives which are intended to reach medical students, residents, faculty, and practicing physicians. Medical students will participate in an integrated geriatrics curriculum across all four years of their medical education. Osteopathic residents training throughout Texas will have access to an integrated geriatrics curriculum. Rural Osteopathic Medicine Education Faculty, and Texas Osteopathic Postgraduate Training Institution Program Directors will have access to a geriatrics faculty development program. In collaboration with the UNTHSC Professional and Continuing Education Department (PACE), the GET-IT program



will help develop geriatrics continuing medical education programs for practicing physicians.

Since its inauguration in January of 2009, the GET-IT program has begun to work toward its goals of geriatrics infusion. Geriatrics focused Grand Rounds are being offered once a month with CME credit available. Dennis McCullough M.D., of Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, New Hampshire spoke at Grand Rounds on April twenty-second on "An Introduction to Slow Medicine" a treatment philosophy in

treating older adults. The Geriatric focused Grand Rounds will be available through the internet for viewing and CME credit through the UNTHSC PACE website. Upcoming Geriatric Grand Rounds are scheduled for May 27, June 24, August 26, September 23, October 28, and November 18. All are held from 11:00 to 12:00 noon in the small auditorium at the UNTHSC campus, with lunch served on a first come first served basis.

A Texas OPTI Faculty Development Regional Meeting, a half-day faculty development opportunity with a segment on geriatric topics is scheduled for May 21 in Bryan with staff from the Reynolds GET-IT Program. The Reynolds Annual Geriatric Update (RAGU) an annual day-long symposium focusing on current and emerging issues in geriatrics will be held at the UNTHSC campus on November 14, 2009. Podcasts are also being created on relevant issues related to geriatric care and will be available to our OPTI and ROME faculty and residents.

We will soon be launching a Reynolds GET-IT Program web site to help keep you informed of upcoming opportunities, watch for details in future newsletters. You will also soon be receiving a Texas OPTI and ROME faculty needs on line survey to help us recognize how we can better serve you. In the meantime if you have questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me at dfarmer@hsc.unt.edu.

Save the Date!

OMM Resident Training
UNTHSC Campus
May 9th

Geriatric Grand Rounds
UNTHSC Campus
May 27th

**TOMA/TxACOFJ Joint
Annual Convention**
Arlington, Texas
June 11th—14th

Geriatrics...the Facts



By 2030, the estimate is that 33,000 geriatricians will be needed to care for the elderly. There are currently only 8,800 who are certified in geriatrics. Because of retirement and the 1994 change in requirements for certification in geriatrics, this number is expected to drop. This demand means that you'll have your pick of opportunities in geriatrics.

Geriatrics is a very intellectually stimulating specialty. Almost every older patient will have several concurrent problems. A 'simple' case is rare. This means that you, as their doctor, must know not only how to treat and manage each of these problems, but also the interactions amongst them.

AMSA.org

Congratulations to our family practice residents at Bay Area in Corpus Christi. Everyone passed their certifying exams with flying colors. Way to go, guys!

Texas OPTI Members

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