Lahey Clinic Internal Medicine Residency Program: Curriculum for Geriatric Medicine

Faculty representative: Wayne S. Saltsman, MD, PhD
Resident representative: Fares Mouchantaf, MD
Revision date: March 12, 2006

Overview

It is estimated that by the year 2030, elders (over the age of 65) will account for greater than 20 percent of the adult population, with those older than 85 representing the fastest-growing portion. Current literature reviews demonstrate that there will be a substantial deficit of geriatricians to meet the medical demands of this elder population.

The Geriatric Medicine department recognizes that the ever increasing needs of elders will continue to require both general and specialty medicine services. The Geriatric Medicine rotation aims to provide a learning environment that allows second-year medical residents the opportunity to understand this unique population of adults and the care they require. It is anticipated that this focused, month-long rotation will augment and facilitate elder care regardless of the resident's future field of specialization. *

Goals

1) Understand the normal processes of aging
2) Understand unique elder physiologies and pharmacology requirements
3) Appreciate the multidisciplinary approach to elder care
4) Be able to perform a geriatric assessment
5) Understand, approach and manage common geriatric syndromes
6) Improve skills and sensitivities in approaching end-of-life issues
7) Appreciate transitions of care (i.e., acute, post-acute and long term)

Educational Venues

1) Lahey Clinic Medical Center (both inpatient and ambulatory settings)
2) Domiciliaries
3) Woodbriar of Wilmington and Woburn Nursing Center (skilled nursing facilities)
4) Veteran's Administration, Bedford, Mass. (Geriatric Evaluation and Management unit)

Members of the Geriatric team include fellowship-trained and/or board-certified geriatricians; social workers; physical, occupational and speech therapists; nutritionists and nursing staff.

Principle Educational Goals Based on the ACGME General Competencies

In the tables below, the principle educational goals of the Geriatric Medicine curriculum are listed for each of the six ACGME competencies:

1) Patient Care
2) Medical Knowledge
3) Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
4) Interpersonal and Communication Skills
5) Professionalism
6) Systems-Based Practice.

The abbreviations for the types of learning environments and evaluation methods are defined below.

Learning Environments:

SDPC	Supervised direct patient care
ARDL	Attending rounds/didactic lectures
SGD	Small group discussions
AR	Assigned readings
LM	Learning modules
RP	Resident presentations
AOA	Attending-observed activity

Evaluation Methods:

GA	Global assessment
PPT	Pre- and post-test
SGP	Small group participation
MCX	Mini-Cex

1) Patient Care

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Perform a comprehensive history, physical examination or assessment	SDPC, AOA	GA, MCX
Formulate a management plan	SDPC	GA
Clearly document patient management in the medical record	SDPC	GA

2) Medical Knowledge

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Recognize age-related changes in patient care	SDPC, ARDL, SGD, LM, AR	GA, PPT
Use medications appropriately in elder care	SDPC, LM, AR	GA, PPT
Testing for urgent and routine elder care	SDPC, SGD	GA
Management of common geriatric syndromes	SDPC, ARDL, SGD, LM, AR	GA, PPT
Manage patients in outpatient, acute, post-acute and long term care settings	SDPC, ARDL, SGD	GA, SGP

3) Practice-based Learning and Improvement

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Identify deficiencies in knowledge base and develop independent means to address them	SDPC, SGD, AR, LM, ARDL, RP	GA, PPT
Be able to perform a literature search to answer clinical questions	SGD, ARDL	SGP
Facilitate the learning of other health care team members.	SGD	GA

4) Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Communicate effectively and compassionately with elderly patients and their families	SDPC, AOA, ARDL	GA
Effectively communicate elderly	SDPC, AOA, SGD	GA

patient's needs to other providers (especially in transitions of care)		
Facilitate the functioning of the multidisciplinary team	SDPC, ARDL, AOA	GA , RP

5) Professionalism

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Work to insure elder safety, dignity, comfort, independence and quality of life	SDPC, SGD, AOA, ARDL	GA, MCX, RP
Treat all patients, colleagues and hospital/facility staff with respect and equality	SDPC, SGD, AOA, ARDL	GA
Maintain patient confidentiality and HIPAA guidelines	SDPC, SGD, AOA, ARDL, LM	GA

6) Systems-Based Practice

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Mobilize resources to optimize elder health care delivery	SDPC, ARDL, SGD	GA, MCX
Work as an equal member of a multidisciplinary team	SDPC, SGD	GA, RP
Facilitate elder care within a transition-based system	SDPC	GA

** References available in the Geriatric Medicine Department.*