



GRECC Education Programs Offer Value to Veterans, Trainees and Providers

...what follows is a small sampling of initiatives from among the many Educational Activities currently underway in VHA's Geriatrics Research, Education, and Clinical Centers

Tennessee Valley collaborates with Hartford's Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE)

HPPAE is a unique program in collaboration with the GRECC and TVHS Social Work service (for both Master's and Bachelor's students). Program participation enables social work students to develop specific geriatric competencies across service sectors in caring for Veterans. GRECC faculty helped develop a comprehensive one year curriculum that includes competency based course work and field experience for the trainee.

Puget Sound implements Shared Decision Making (SDM) for Long-term Services and Support (LTSS)

Dr. Sheri Reder continues implementation and assessment of SDM for LTSS in sites across the country including VISNs 1, 9 and 20. The findings of an FY15 assessment reinforced its value for Veterans and families, and supported FY16 plans to enhance orientation and training for staff. The goal is to effectively orient SDM facilitators to consistently inform Veterans and caregivers of the comprehensive range of LTSS available. The focus of the project is supporting for use of home and community based services for Veterans needing LTSS and on improved Veteran, family caregiver, social worker, and medical care team participation in LTSS decisions.

Bronx spearheads GRECC Connect Project Collaboration

Bronx GRECC serves as the coordinating center for the GRECC Connect Project, an Office of Rural Health funded clinical demonstration and education program aiming at improving access to geriatric care for rural Veterans and providing ongoing education for rural frontline staff and providers. The GRECC Connect collaborative includes 8 GRECCs (Bronx, New England, Pittsburgh, Durham, San Antonio, Madison, Puget Sound, and Nashville) and the Canandaigua VAMC serving as resources for rural clinics. GRECC Connect provides monthly case based videoconferences on geriatrics topics, teleconsultation support, Tele huddles for PACT teams, and CVT Tele geriatrics Assessment in conjunction with PACT providers.

Cleveland's Delirium Interdisciplinary Resource Team Expands Physicians' and Nurses' Educational Needs

The Delirium Interdisciplinary Resource Team is designed to include a critical care task force to review educational needs of physicians and nurses caring for older adults in a range of inpatient settings. This task force has initiated an early mobilization program, protocol review for medication use for delirium and compliance with implementing the ABCDEF bundle of care (originally developed at the Nashville GRECC). Multi-modal interdisciplinary educational sessions including simulation training are currently underway.

GRECCs: VHA's Centers of Excellence focusing on vulnerable Veterans through the advancement and integration of research, education and clinical innovation in geriatrics and gerontology within the VA healthcare system. There are currently twenty GRECCs located nationwide with the common mission of improving the quality of care for older Veterans. For more information please visit us at <http://www.va.gov/grecc>

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Preparing Rural Primary Care Providers to Become Educational Leaders in Geriatrics

Rural primary care providers have unique challenges and barriers when caring for rural older Veterans. The needs of rural older Veterans are greater than their urban counterparts due to access and availability of primary care services. Many rural primary care providers are often unable to participate in continuing education courses due to the lack of access and/or lack of availability. In FY 2014, the VISN 2 GRECC, based at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in Bronx, NY, received funding from the VA Office of Rural Health to develop a web-based Virtual Learning Community under the Rural Provider and Staff Training Initiative program to address these issues. The *Geriatric Scholars Community* (www.gerischolars.org), a component of the VA Geriatric Scholars Program, was developed and implemented to "geriatricize" VA and non-VA primary care providers and staff in a web-based, interactive e-learning platform. This free website facilitates interdisciplinary learning and fosters an environment that allows healthcare providers to join an online community of practice. Flexible course materials include structured modules, webinars, videos, and comprehensive toolkits for download and are designed to enhance geriatric skills and offer training without the need to travel long distances to receive it. Upon site registration, users are given access to various geriatric resources including the following courses: Chronic Disease; Dementia; End of Life; Falls; Interdisciplinary Teamwork; Medication Management; Mental Health; Rural Health; Sexual Health; and Successful Aging. CMEs are also available.

For more information about the Geri Scholars website, contact Ms. Eugenia Dorisca, Program Coordinator, at (718) 584-9000, ext. 3836 or at Eugenia.Dorisca@va.gov

