

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Geriatric Medicine Fellowship

University of Alabama at Birmingham Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program

Vision

The Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program will continually strive to be one of the best clinical and research geriatric medicine training programs for physicians in the United States.

The Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program will provide clinical and research training for fellows including innovative, integrated, interdisciplinary, cost-effective primary care, and specialty clinical services that meet the needs of older adults in all current and emerging health care settings; outpatient clinics; the home; assisted living facilities; the acute care hospital; day care or partial hospital; rehabilitation units; hospice; and the nursing home.

The Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program will provide high quality educational experiences for fellows that will enable them to practice state-of-the-art, compassionate, and cost-effective care for older adults in all health care settings.

The Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program will encourage fellows to conduct research that generates unique and fundamental knowledge that improves the health and quality of life for older adults in Alabama and throughout the nation.

Mission

The Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program strives to develop clinically competent trainees, who are experts in the care of older adults found in multiple health care settings. We seek to promote the strong foundation necessary for leadership in the aging field, whether in administration, clinical care, research or teaching. We carry out these activities in an interdisciplinary and caring manner that always respects the dignity of those we serve.

Values

The Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program is dedicated to training physicians to helping aging individuals attain their greatest productivity and the highest possible quality of life.

- ❖ We are committed to excellence in the accomplishment of all activities relevant to our mission.
- ❖ We recognize that excellence can be obtained only through teamwork and the acceptance of responsibilities by all Division members.
- ❖ We are committed to educating others in the care of the elderly as well as developing knowledge in areas relevant to the problems and challenges of the aging population. In these efforts we are guided by the designated competencies of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education including patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, system-based
- ❖ We are committed to providing a supportive work environment that recognizes and encourages innovation and initiative.

Overview of Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program

The VA-funded UAB Geriatric Fellowship Program is structured to provide a 12-month clinical traineeship for up to 3 fellows annually. While emphasizing the development of geriatric medicine academicians, the program also serves as a launching point for careers in administration and practice-based careers. For aspiring academicians, who desire to pursue clinician-educator or research-based careers in aging, the Southeast Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine (SCEGM) makes available grants to successful applicants for one or more years of additional career development support following the clinical fellowship. All efforts of the fellowship and associated committees are guided by the designated competencies of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). These competencies include patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and system-based practice.

Structure of the Program

Rotations

- Fellows participate in several month-long rotations, which have special relevance to the aging process. These include:
 - Acute Care
 - Geriatric Psychiatry
 - Medical Direction
 - Medical Wards
 - Nursing Home
 - Palliative Care
 - Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
 - Block Month (5 months)
 - VA Home-based Primary Care program
 - VA & UAB Continence Clinic
 - VA Geriatric Assessment Clinic
 - VA & UAB Memory Disorders Clinic
 - VA & UAB Neuropsychology Assessment Clinic
 - VA Fall Prevention and Mobility Clinic
 - VA & UAB Wound Care Clinic
 - VA & UAB Geriatric Heart Failure Clinic
 - UAB Thyroid Disorders Clinic
 - VA & UAB Movement Disorders Clinic
 - VA & UAB Inpatient Geriatric Consultation Service
 - Primary Care Acute Care Clinic
 - Healthy Older Adult Experience
 - Research

Longitudinal Patient Care Experiences

- Longitudinal patient care experiences include the:
 - Geriatric Medicine clinic (Spain-McDonald Clinic)
 - Fair Haven Nursing Home

Teaching of Medical Students and Residents

- In line with Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements that fellows participate in the teaching of medical residents and students.
 - Fellows rotate as junior attendings on the Birmingham Veterans Administration Hospital (VAMC) medical ward service

Didactics

- Fellows participate in interactive didactic sessions each Friday with UAB Faculty. Topics covered include but are not limited to (see Geriatric Review Syllabus):
 - Knowledge of aging and longevity
 - Aspects of preventative medicine
 - Geriatric Assessment
 - Pharmacological problems associated with aging
 - Psychological aspects of aging
 - Economic aspects of supportive services
 - Pertinent ethical and legal issues
 - Research methodologies related to geriatric medicine
 - Cultural aspects of aging
 - Other topics of special interest such as cognitive impairment, depression and related disorders, falls, incontinence, osteoporosis, fractures, sensory impairment, pressure ulcers, sleep disorders, elder abuse, nutrition, and functional impairment

Professor Rounds

- Fellows participate in interactive case-based discussions each Friday with senior UAB Geriatrics Faculty. Fellows rotate providing cases for discussion.

Scholarly Activities

- Attendance at weekly Geriatric Clinical Conference, presenting at least once
- Attendance at weekly Scientific Seminars
- Active participation in journal clubs and case conferences, presenting at least twice
- Completion of research project ranging from scholarly reviews of aging-related clinical topics to full proposal for SCEGM funding, depending on interest.
- Completion of a quality improvement project in the nursing home and primary care clinic.

Evaluation

- Preceptors complete fellow evaluations after each rotation (e*value)
- Fellows complete preceptor evaluations after each rotation (e*value)
- Fellows complete activity evaluations after each rotation (e*value)
- The Program Director holds formal fellow evaluation sessions twice during the clinical year

The Program Director meets with the fellows monthly. Trainees also meet monthly with the Geriatric Education Manager and quarterly with the Division Director.

Geriatric Fellowship Steering Committee Members

Richard Sims, MD

Associate Professor, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care
Director, Geriatric Fellowship Program; Chief, Geriatrics Section, Veteran's Administration
Medical Center (VAMC); Director, Geriatric Assessment Clinic, VAMC; Investigator,
Birmingham/Atlanta Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC)

Richard M. Allman, MD

Parrish Endowed Professor of Medicine and Director, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics and
Palliative Care; Director, UAB Center for Aging; Director, GRECC; Co-Director, Southeast
Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine

Angela R. Curtis, PhD

Assistant Professor and Geriatric Education Manager, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and
Palliative Care; Associate Director, Alabama Geriatric Education Center.

Andrew Duxbury, MD

Associate Professor, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care; Medical Director,
UAB Geriatric Clinic

Kellie Flood, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care; Director, ACE Unit
and UAB Silver Service

Patricia Goode, MD

Gwen McWhorter Professor of Medicine and Geriatric Education Director, Division of
Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care; Medical Director, UAB Continence Program;
Associate Director for Clinical Programs, GRECC

Caroline Harada, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care

Clare Hays, MD

Assistant Professor, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care; Medical Director,
Fair Haven Retirement Center

Marisol Lance, MD

Assistant Professor and Staff Physician, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care

Lesla Woodby, PhD

Assistant Professor, Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care; Associate Director
for Education and Evaluation, GRECC

Fellowship Workgroups

The VA-Funded Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program strives to develop clinically competent trainees, who are experts in the care of older adults found in multiple health care settings. Workgroups have been organized around specific topic areas that are crucial to the fellows' training. Each workgroup meets annually in April/May to revise the content of the fellowship curriculum/rotations pertinent to their content area, working with current and potential preceptors. In addition, each workgroup collaborates with the core fellowship committee to present didactic-based training to the fellows, contributing at least four one-hour sessions annually. The workgroups include:

- Medical Direction and Community-Based Care
- Palliative Medicine
- Geriatrics and Medical Subspecialty
- Geriatric Psychiatry and Gero-Psychology
- Rehabilitation and Musculoskeletal Disease/Rheumatology
- Research