GERIATRICS
Care and Education

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
“Commonwealth Fund Scorecard on State Health System Performance, 2019”

South Carolina (overall ranking 41/51)
(HC Disparities rank 47/51)

Our Bottom Ranked Indicators:
• Adults who are obese
• Elderly patients who received a high risk prescription drug*
• Children who did not receive needed mental health care

*On this indicator we were ranked 47th of all states
The Opportunity

- Persons over 65 are 13% of the population & account for 40% of visits to internists

- Currently there are about 7,000 geriatricians, or one per 5000 persons age 65+ in America
Who will care for the elderly?

Prevalence & Cost of Chronic Disease

**Acute Illness:** Signs and symptoms are of short duration, usually severe, and impair the normal functioning of the patient.

**Chronic Illness:** Persists, usually > 3 months, affects physical, emotional, intellectual or social functioning of patient.

- Average person over 65 has 1.5 recognizable chronic diseases.
- Almost half of the U.S. population is affected.
- Persons with chronic illnesses account for 75% of the health care costs in the United States.
So, we teach...

• Gerocentric care – recognizing that this population is unique

• Functional assessment – addressing the impacts of health issues

• Team-based & Interprofessional education and care – health professions at UofSC
So, we teach... Gero-centric Care

What:
- Geriatric Syndromes
  - Falls
  - 3 D’s – Delirium, Depression, Dementia
  - Incontinence
- Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment
- Critical Conversations
- Basic Sciences - elders

To whom:
- Medical students
  - Senior Mentor Program
  - Medication Review with Pharmacy Students
  - Vertical Curriculum
- PA Students
- Interprofessional Health Science Students
- Primary Care Residents
We teach... Functional Assessment

Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment = History & Physical "+

+ Cognitive screening
+ Depression/Anxiety
+ Medication Review
+ Mobility/Balance
+ Social Supports
+ Self-rating of Health

... the "so what" of medicine, the meaning for that person.
We teach... Interprofessional Care

- Through PACER – Professionals Accelerating Clinical and Educational Redesign [https://pcpacer.org/](https://pcpacer.org/)
- Elective in Geriatrics for Medical Students & Residents
  - PACE site – Palmetto Senior Care
  - Geriatric Practice – Senior Primary Care
  - HBPC – Home based primary care at the WJBD Dorn VAMC
- IHI Open School Chapter and UofSC (student – led)
- IPE – Interprofessional Education in the Health Sciences Committee and Courses
  - Includes HRSA – funded HIV-IPE elective 5x/year
  - Annually “Transforming Health” introductory course
  - Others
We teach... Team-based Care

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Jot down your questions...