

**Integrating Geriatrics Champions Group  
Quarterly Conference Call  
Tuesday, August 25, 2009  
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT**

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*Minutes*

Participants: Christine Abrass, MD, Paula Busse, MD, Richard J. Castriotta, MD, Sita Chokhavatia, MD, Karen E. Hall, MD, PhD, Jeffrey B. Halter, MD, Kevin P. High, MD, Keith S. Kaye, MD, Monroe J. King, DO, Sameer K. Mathur, MD, PhD, Margaret Pisani, MD, Richard J. Saad, MD, and Susan J. Zieman, MD, PhD; Catherine M. Scott and Erika D. Tarver (Staff)

The conference call began with ASP Grants Assistant Catherine Scott giving a brief overview of the goals and objectives of the day's conference call.

**Development of the GI Core Curriculum**

Dr. Hall began with an overview of the Gastroenterology (GI) Core Curriculum. The curriculum was first developed in 1996 and has since undergone revisions with the most recent revision occurring in 2007. Dr. Hall joined the curriculum revision project in 2003 in order to assist in writing the "Training in Geriatric Gastroenterology" chapter. The curriculum breaks down training objectives into two levels. Level 1 provides the basic training in geriatrics that all gastroenterology fellows should know. Level 2 provides "advanced training in geriatric gastroenterology and is limited to individuals who complete the fellowship requirements for board certification in both gastroenterology and geriatric medicine." The designation of two different levels of specialization allows for the possibility of developing combination training programs that would allow for dual board certifications in geriatric medicine and gastroenterology. In the future the "Level 2" classification will be clarified and directed towards certain institutions that are qualified to train fellows at this level of specialization.

**Fellowship Curriculum Development Process**

Joanne Wilson, MD, Dr. Chokhavatia, and Dr. Hall attended a gastroenterology mini-fellowship at Duke University to learn how to develop a geriatric gastroenterology curriculum at the fellowship level. The group modeled their approach after the geriatric cardiology fellowship led by Dr. Zieman, Karen Alexander, MD, and Andrew Miller, MD. In order to develop a curriculum that would best meet the needs of training directors, Dr. Chokhavatia developed a survey based on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's core competencies.

The survey included questions that, if answered in the affirmative, would give permission to the gastroenterology group to develop curriculum materials. The survey was distributed at the February 2009 GI Program Director's meeting. Most survey respondents indicated that they would use a curriculum program if it was readily available. In addition, respondents identified three subject areas within gastroenterology, that they felt required additional curriculum material/resources. The topics were "Common Gastroenterological Diseases in the Geriatric Patient," "Geriatric

Pharmacology for the Gastroenterologist,” and “Geriatric Syndromes that Affect Gastroenterology Practice.” Respondents also indicated they would like to see materials presented via online modules or invited speaker.

Dr. Chokhavatia also gave the survey to 14 GI fellows at Mount Sinai School of Medicine program to answer. The survey revealed fellows were comfortable discussing colon cancer screening guidelines in the oldest old but not in the middle age group. The fellows also rated “Geriatric Pharmacology for the Gastroenterologists” as a primary concern.

### **Development of Curriculum Materials**

At the University of Michigan, Dr. Saad and Dr. Hall developed a lecture for the first year fellows’ gastroenterology summer lecture series. The lecture focused on various ways of assessing a patient for geriatric syndromes (i.e., depression) using office based tools; specifically Beer’s list which provides information on possible pharmacological interactions in geriatric GI patients. In addition, the lecture provided a summary of age-related changes in the digestive track and the presentation of these changes in the elderly. In Dr. Saad and Dr. Hall’s opinion, the lecture was well received but in the future it could be developed into two separate lectures.

Dr. Hall plans to have a lecture similar to the one given during the summer series presented in the lecture series curriculum for both first and second year GI fellows.

Dr. Chokhavatia, Dr. Hall, and Dr. Wilson are applying to present a session at the American Geriatrics Association 2010 Digestive Diseases Week to present the information they have gathered in the Growth, Development, and Aging Section.

### **Request for Proposals (RFP)**

ASP Grants Administrator Erika Tarver gave the participants an overview of the RFP’s focus and requirements. ASP will fund four projects at \$15,000 each to internal medicine specialty societies to launch projects that address the goal of improving the quality of care delivered to the aging population. The deadline for applications is **Monday, September 14, 2009.**

### **Curriculum How to Guide.**

Ms. Scott gave a brief overview of the guide “Incorporating Competencies Focused on the Older Population into the Fellowship Curriculum: An ASP How-To Guide.” The guide was assembled based on research and interviews with Dr. Alexander, Mitchell T. Heflin, MD, Hyman Muss, MD, and Jocelyn Wiggins, BCM, BCh, who were selected for their prior success with developing curriculum materials focused on the aging population.

The guide breaks the curriculum development process into seven major steps:

- Conduct a General Needs Assessment.
- Recruit an inclusive team.
- Review the pertinent literature.
- Secure funding.
- Identify and write the domains and competencies.

- Develop methods for integration and dissemination.
- Evaluation.

The guide provides various examples of how each step was executed by different curriculum development groups. The guidelines can be used altogether or can be used for projects other than curriculum development, such as workshop development and for the development of other educational projects.

Any additional questions regarding Dr. Hall's talk, ASP's RFP, or the guide "Incorporating Competencies Focused on the Older Population into the Fellowship Curriculum: An ASP How-To Guide" can be directed to Catherine Scott at [cscott@im.org](mailto:cscott@im.org) or (202) 861-9351.