

Integrating Geriatrics Champions Group
Quarterly Conference Call
Thursday, November 5, 2009

Minutes

Participants: Jan Busby-Whitehead, MD, Paula Busse, MD, Cathleen Colon-Emeric, MD, Karen E. Hall, MD, PhD, Kevin P. High, MD, Manisha Juthani-Mehta, MD, Heidi Klepin, MD, Michael Rich, MD, Margaret Pisani, MD, Jocelyn Wiggins, BM, BCh, and Susan J. Ziemann, MD, PhD; Catherine M. Scott and Erika D. Tarver (Staff)

The conference call began with a discussion regarding resources the American Geriatric Society's (AGS) Research Committee could provide to specialists performing research in aging. Dr. Colon-Emeric led the discussion and outlined the following resource areas:

1. Identifying research mentors to promote cross institutional collaborations.
2. Resources for working with long term care facilities.
3. Clinical trial exclusion criteria and how to amend this criteria so older patients can be included in clinical trials.

Next Dr. High led a discussion about future collaborations the Association of Specialty Professors could pursue through their next grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation. The following three areas were discussed:

1. Developing data repositories:
Participants commented it would be beneficial to develop clinical data repositories as well as provide researchers with methods for obtaining IRB approval for research on older patients.
2. Networking events:
Participants suggested holding networking events for researchers both within and outside of specialties.
3. Developing tools for recruitment:
Participants noted that there is a need to establish statistical methods for handling aging variables. Methods developed should standardize inclusion criteria and outline appropriate outcomes in older adults. Most important in this area are mechanisms for funding the professional effort of study coordinators who would be responsible for recruiting older adults into clinical trials at an institution.
4. Participants identified various modes of resource dissemination as:
 - a. Email: Emails to society members is an effective technique for not only disseminating information but also for obtaining feedback.
 - b. In person meetings at:
 - i. Society annual meetings.
 - ii. Pre- and post meeting sessions.
 - iii. Meet the Professors sessions.
 - c. Society journals and website content.

The call adjourned.