#### Thomas Jefferson University Geriatric Education Center (GEC) Interprofessional Teams

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# **Objectives**

#### The learners will:

- Describe the process of developing interprofessional curriculum for chronic illness management
- Provide examples of chronic illness management curriculum, including slide sets and an innovative web module
- Work through an interprofessional team case study
- Experience the efficacy of working in these teams for collaborative and creative problem solving
- Discuss the elements of effective interprofessional teamwork as well as the challenges in managing chronic illness

#### Eastern Pennsylvania – Delaware Geriatric Education Center (EpaD GEC)

#### Background

- GEC received a HRSA Grant to address the interprofessional geriatric education needs of Thomas Jefferson University.
- This Grant partners with Marywood University in Scranton, PA and and the Delaware Area Health Education Center in Delaware.

## Background

- GEC is committed to improving the health and quality of life of older adults and their caregivers by translating new evidence and innovative practice models developed within the partnership into practical curricula and programs.
- Innovative practice sites include a network of nursing homes, traditional geriatric assessment, rehab units, and LIFE programs in Pennsylvania.

## Background

- Team care is modeled through interprofessional geriatric objective structured clinical experiences, which serve as practical teaching tools for teams of learners.
- EPaD GEC has already developed preliminary plans for a structured program to provide intensive geriatric retraining for interprofessional faculty teams.
- The GEC grant will lead to measurable health improvements for older adults in the region.

### Purposes of GEC

- Establish the EPaD GEC, which will provide excellence in interprofessional geriatric education in Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware.
- Support the training and retraining of faculty to provide instruction in geriatrics.
- Develop model interprofessional gerontology courses which can be implemented across the consortium.

### Purposes of GEC

- Support continuing education of health professionals who provide geriatric care.
- Provide students with clinical training in geriatrics in nursing homes, chronic and acute care disease hospitals, ambulatory care centers, and senior centers.

### GEC Development

- The interprofessional team includes a project director and additional faculty from medicine, nursing, social work, pharmacy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, public health, and Gerontology.
- The formal interprofessional team met solidified the goals and have been meeting on a regular basis since 2005.

### GEC Development

- These meetings are essential to maintaining efficiency and the work necessary to move the goals forward.
- Members of the team are involved in structuring and developing curriculum on specific topics that will be posted on the GEC website, as well as collecting data that will measure outcomes.

### **GEC Development**

- The team is developing and will market interprofessional team training in geriatric/interprofessional education.
- Some topics include:
  - Effective interprofessional team management of chronic conditions
  - Evidence-based management in chronic conditions
  - Caregiver and family support in managing chronic disease

#### Benefits

- The GEC Grant will assist current and future health care needs of older adults and meet the needs of their caregivers and families, which will include rural, and urban African Americans.
- Education, training, and retraining health profession faculty members who provide geriatric care will be implemented.

#### **Benefits**

- A web site has been developed that will provide cd-rom based self-study modules and practice support for professionals and students.
- Clinical sites will be provided for interdisciplinary teams of students at each consortium site with core curriculum developed by the GEC faculty team.

### Challenges

- The Executive steering Committee and Steering Committee will need to bridge cultural gaps between regions, institutions, and disciplines.
- The physical size of the region covered by the EPaD GEC will be a challenge, since the grant spans Pennsylvania and Delaware. A wide range of cultures, ethnicities, and languages, as well as extremely rural and major urban centers are represented in these regions.

### Challenges

One of our greatest challenges was understanding the differences in practice and guidelines for each of the professional disciplines, and the levels of knowledge of the learners in each discipline.

#### **Post-Presentation**

- Case Presentation
- Workshop
- Discussion

#### References

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