



GRECC Education Programs Offer Value to Veterans, Trainees and Providers

...what follows is a small sampling of initiatives from among the many Educational Activities currently underway in VHA's Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECCs).

Eastern Colorado GRECC: Interprofessional Case Conferences - Associated health professional trainees such as social work, pharmacy, occupational health, and psychology get together with Geriatric Fellows and participate in a monthly Interprofessional Case Conference. Information from an actual case that is specific to a given discipline, like pharmacy, is provided to the associate health trainees and clinically-relevant information is presented to fellows such as pharmacological aspects are provided to pharmacy residents. Trainees must ask one another questions necessary to elicit other information, which will allow the team to co-create an appropriate care plan. Preceptors observe and provide feedback. This method has been implemented with all of the GRECC trainees. Feedback from trainees has been extremely positive as they feel that this activity enhances their training experience. For more information, contact Kathryn Nearing, PhD at kathryn.nearing@ucdenver.edu or by phone at 720-475-6234.

Salt Lake City GRECC: Rocky Mountain Geriatric Conference - The Salt Lake City GRECC hosted the 15th Annual Rocky Mountain Geriatrics Conference held August 28-29, 2017, titled "Getting to the Heart of Aging: An Inter-professional Approach to Cardiovascular Health." The focus of the conference was on patient centered approaches in cardiac care specifically related to older adults. The conference planners utilized technological innovations to promote distance learning modalities (web-streaming) that allowed participants to participate remotely. There were thirty-two participants who attended in person, ninety-seven that participated through Adobe Connect video, and eleven that attended from other VISNs around the country. For more information contact, Jorie Butler at Jorie.butler@va.gov or 801-582-1565 x. 1964.

New England GRECC: Home Safety Workbook - Dr. Lauren Moo led the modification and dissemination of "*A Guide for Families: Keeping the Person with Memory Loss Safer at Home*," a home safety workbook for caregivers of Veterans with dementia. The workbook is extremely popular among clinicians and caregivers. It is a stand-alone, self-paced educational workbook with practical tips for home safety written with literacy considerations. The workbook is 508 compliant for distribution and available on the GEC internet site: https://www.va.gov/geriatrics/docs/home_safety_booklet_8-1-17.pdf
For more information, contact Dr. Lauren Moo; lauren.moo@va.gov or 718-687-2596.

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A Workforce Development Initiative to Prepare Associated Health Trainees to Effectively Care for Older Rural Veterans

The Hudson Valley Rural Geriatric Education Collaborative (HVRGEC) is an exciting, innovative program with the VISN 2 Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), based at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center (JJP), and the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System (HVVCS). This Rural Health Training & Education Initiative prepares associated health trainees to provide high-quality healthcare to older rural Veterans. Trainees represent a variety of disciplines, including social work, psychology, pharmacy, nursing, audiology, and physician assistants. HVRGEC supplements trainees' existing clinical experiences at the VA by offering exposure to various rural settings of care, telehealth, and curriculum content on critical rural health issues. Extensive clinical, didactic, and educational offerings are provided at the following locations: Castle Point and Montrose campuses of HVVCS; Monticello, Port Jervis, and Pine Plains Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) at HVVCS; and at JJP. Major program offerings include a weekly geriatrics focused Associated Health Seminar; access to a VA SharePoint site which stores over 1,250 interdisciplinary resources in rural health and geriatrics; monthly GRECC CBOC connection case conferences; free access to a geriatrics virtual learning community (www.gerischolars.org) which provides self-paced learning opportunities in geriatrics; annual rural health half-day conference for trainees, faculty, and staff; rural health webinars; and faculty development. By the end of FY 2018, the HVRGEC program will have trained approximately **300** associated health trainees in rural geriatrics. The program has been funded by VHA's Office of Rural Health (ORH) since FY2013 and has been recognized as an ORH "Best Practice".

For more information about the HVRGEC program, contact Annette Hintenach, Program Manager at (718) 584-9000, ext. 3853.

