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Abstract

One of the largest areas of population growth worldwide is among those age sixty-five and above. Provision of health care to this age group is rapidly becoming a large proportion of clinical practice. Nationally there is a shortage of geriatricians and projections do not indicate relief in sight.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center’s (UNTHSC) Reynolds Geriatric Education and Training in Texas (GET-IT) Program was introduced in 2009 to help meet the growing need to train physicians in the care of the geriatric population. This is accomplished through four broad objectives intended to reach medical students, residents, faculty, and practicing physicians. This four year program targets each of these populations through geriatrics integration tasks and requires highly coordinated and collaborative efforts between the Division of Geriatrics, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM), and other departments and schools in the UNTHSC system. Funding is provided by a four year grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and UNTHSC matching funds.

GET-IT Program Goal

To Develop and Implement an Innovative and Sustainable Program to Strengthen Physicians’ Training in Geriatrics

Target Populations

- Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Students
- Texas OPTI Residents
- Faculty
- Practicing Physicians

GET-IT Program Objectives

1. Implement an Integrated Geriatrics Curriculum in all four years of Undergraduate Medical Education.
2. Implement an Integrated Geriatrics Curriculum during Osteopathic Residency Training
3. Establish a Geriatrics Faculty Development Program for Osteopathic Residency Training
4. Develop Geriatrics Continuing Medical Education Programs for Practicing Physicians

TCOM Medical Students

SAGE(Seniors Assisting in Geriatric Education) A unique senior mentoring program in which all 1st and 2nd year TCOM Medical Students in pairs are assigned to a community senior for two years. Medical students complete assignments with their Senior Clients through in home visits to aid in the students’ attitudes, knowledge, and skills related to aging.

SAGE Program Partner

SAGE Program Impact

395 1st and 2nd Year TCOM Medical Students
230 Current Senior Client Participants

TCOM Medical School Curriculum

Geriatrics content is being integrated into the TCOM medical school curriculum years 1 through 4. This integration begins with the year one DO orientation and continues through year four with a mandatory month long Geriatrics Clerkship. The TCOM Class of 2013 will be the first class to experience the full four years of geriatrics integration.

Hands On Experience With Seniors

Medical Students are given the opportunity to examine geriatric standardized patients beginning in their first year of medical school through their Clinical Medicine course. This contact with geriatric patients is continued through the end of their second year, with geriatric patients participating in case presentations which are aligned with the particular problem or system being addressed in their classes.

Program Highlights

TCOM Year 1 Semester 1
32.25 hours of Geriatrics Integration
The Classes of 2013 and 2014 have been impacted
404 1st year medical students impacted (2009-2010)
39 Geriatrics Competencies addressed.

TCOM Year 1 Semester 2
27.25 hours of Geriatrics Integration
The Classes of 2013 and 2014 have been impacted
395 1st year medical students impacted (2009-2010)
70 Geriatrics Competencies addressed.

TCOM Year 2 Semester 1
27 hours of Geriatrics Integration
The Class of 2013 is the first to be impacted
176 2nd year medical students impacted (2010)
48 Geriatrics Competencies addressed.

TCOM Year 2 Semester 2
176 2nd year medical students impacted (2011)
In the Fall of 2010 a Geriatrics Track and Honors Certificate Program was Initiated.

TCOM Year Three and Four Core Clerkships
148 hours of Geriatrics Integration
Over 300 learners impacted
Mandatory 4th yr 1 Month Core Geriatrics Rotation

Evaluation Methods

End of Course Surveys Administered to Students by Semester
“Aging and Healthcare Medical Students’ Perceptions” Survey Administered TCOM years 1,2, and 4.
Evaluation of Students by (SAGE) Senior Clients Yearly
Geriatrics Content in Course Exams
AAMC and Osteopathic Recommended Minimum Geriatric Competencies for Medical Students are Being Tracked
Student Feedback on the GET-IT Program

Texas OPTI Residents

Residents within the Texas OPTI (Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions) are impacted by:

- Mandatory 1 mo. Geriatrics Rotation for local IM/FP Interns
- GET-IT Website Residents page with Geriatrics Resources
- Geriatrics Grand Rounds
  “Ask the Geriatrics Expert” Morning Report
  Access to Online Geriatrics Journal Club
  Access to OMM with Geriatric Patients Videos

Faculty and Practicing Physicians

- UNTHSC Faculty, Texas OPTI Residency Program Directors, ROME (Rural Osteopathic Medical Education) Faculty, and Practicing Physicians are impacted by the GET-IT Program through:
  - Geriatrics Grand Rounds
  - In partnership with the UNTHSC Department of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) these live events are also accessible by internet for CME.

- 2009 Geriatrics Grand Rounds
  39 Geriatrics Competencies addressed.
  2010 Geriatrics Grand Rounds
  60 Geriatrics Competencies addressed.

- RAGU (Reynolds Annual Geriatric Update)
  2009 RAGU “Alzheimer’s Disease”
  39 Geriatrics Competencies addressed.
  2010 RAGU “Falls and Immobility”
  67 Geriatrics Competencies addressed.
  2011 RAGU “ Palliative Medicine & Hospice Board Review”

Annual Primary Care Updates

- 2009 Stanley Weiss Primary Care Update
  30% Geriatrics Content
- 2009 North Texas Primary Care Update
  43% Geriatrics Content
- 2010 North Texas Primary Care Update
  40.11% Geriatrics Content
- 2011 North Texas Primary Care Update
  43% Geriatrics Content