Isolating Together
A COVID-19 Update: Michigan Medicine Geriatric Center

Dear Friends,

Across the globe, the COVID-19 virus has eroded our sense of security, altered our behaviors, isolated us from robust lives we’ve built, and taken our loved ones. It is our hope at Michigan Medicine that you are taking care of yourself, finding comfort in the safety of your home, and know that we are doing everything we can to keep our community healthy.

While few of us understood the toll COVID-19 would take on our nation and families, we consider ourselves fortunate to be part of one of the most forward-thinking, courageous, and tireless communities of physicians, researchers, trainees, and professionals who immediately came together on the front lines and in the laboratories to tackle this devastating health crisis.

In the Geriatric Center, not only are our investigators collaborating among institutions to plan a multi-center clinical trial to improve the outcomes of older adults with COVID-19, our geriatricians are taking a critical role in addressing this virus, which preferentially affects vulnerable community members. We have established temporary respiratory clinics for patients with respiratory symptoms; are coordinating the appropriate inpatient use of respirators; and helping transition hospitalized COVID-19 patients to their homes or rehabilitation facilities.

The COVID-19 crisis has also impacted our Geriatric Center Community Programs. We’ve closed the Turner Senior Resource Center in order to protect the health of our staff and participants. The team is still working hard to serve you, utilizing technology to stay connected. If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 734-998-9353 or visit our website.

It is our privilege to care for our patients and the community at the U-M Geriatrics Center.

Our thoughts and hearts are with you,

Raymond Yung, M.B., Ch.B.
Jeffrey B. Halter, M.D., Collegiate Professor of Geriatric Medicine
Director, Geriatrics Center and Institute of Gerontology
Chief, Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine
Dr. Shen Dewar- Inaugural Recipient of the Albert G. and Olive H. Schlink Foundation Scholars Award

Dr. Shen Dewar, Clinical Assistant Professor of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine, has recently been awarded the Albert G. and Olive H. Schlink Foundation Scholars Award.

Each year, this award program will provide modest salary (up to 10%) support for one faculty for a period of 6 months to 1 year, to enable the “Schlink Scholar” modest protected time to advance their academic/research pursuits. The program will initially target junior clinical faculty, especially those who are going up for promotion in the next 2-3 years.

Dr. Dewar will be using the protected effort to pursue her clinical research related to obesity in older adults.

Dr. Adam Marks, Clinical Assistant Professor of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, was recently elected into the Department of Internal Medicine’s Clinical Excellence Society.

An induction ceremony took place on March 13, 2020, to celebrate Dr. Marks’s entry into the society and to recognize him for outstanding clinical excellence in the department.

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Department of Internal Medicine’s Clinical Excellence Society Elects Dr. Adam Marks

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2020 Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award presented to Leslie Dubin!

The University of Michigan Geriatrics Center and Raymond Yung, MB, ChB, are pleased to announce that Leslie Dubin, MSW, LMSW, ACSW, Clinical Social Worker on the Michigan Medicine Geriatric Inpatient Consultation Team, has been selected as the 2020 Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award recipient. The award is presented annually by the U-M Geriatrics Center to recognize outstanding service, dedication and commitment to excellence in geriatrics education in Michigan.

Dr. Julie Bynum- New Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs

Julie Bynum, MD, MPH, Margaret Terpenning Collegiate Professor of Internal Medicine, Professor of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine Associate Director of Health Policy & Research, and Research Scientist of the Institute of Gerontology, has accepted the position of Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs. In this role, Dr. Bynum will be responsible for providing leadership and direction on faculty affairs issues and guiding the academic and administrative needs for over 900 faculty in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Bynum will begin in this role as the Associate Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs, working closely with Dr. Dick Simon, current Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs. Dr. Simon will relinquish his role in June 2021, at which time Dr. Bynum will assume the full role as Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs.

Community Programs COVID-19 Resources

Silver Club Memory Programs
Silver Club staff is calling families to ensure everyone has resources to care for loved ones safely at home. Free daily online activities allow members with moderate dementia and their families to participate. Silver Club’s mild memory loss programs are meeting virtually.

Other Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
OLLI is livestreaming several free lectures weekly, and The Daily at OLLI e-newsletter provides program updates and community resources. OLLI has also made past lectures public. Visit the OLLI site for information, or to sign up for the e-newsletter.

Turner Senior Wellness Program (TSWP)
TSWP is sending weekly e-newsletters to community resources and ways to engage. We are calling volunteers and participants to make sure resources are accessible and have partnered with community agencies to make reassuring calls to older adults. We are converting appropriate programs, including exercise and wellness presentations, to an online format. Visit our site for information.

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Let's Have Some Fun!
Can you match the GPM staff members to their childhood photos?

1. Casey Tankka  
2. Stacy Micou  
3. Stephanie Gatica  
4. Carly Kish  
5. Ryan McCleery  
6. Katie Hildebrand  
7. Julie Seeger  
8. Pam James  
9. Carly Kish  
10. Julie Seeger  
11. Laurie Belanger  
12. Samuel Rentsch

Answers: 1-Casey Tankka, 2-Stacy Micou, 3-Stephanie Gatica, 4-Carly Kish, 5-Ryan McCleery, 6-Katie Hildebrand, 7-Julie Seeger, 8-Pam James, 9-Carly Kish, 10-Julie Seeger, 11-Laurie Belanger, 12-Samuel Rentsch
Monthly Seminar Series

Clinical Epidemiology Seminars
2nd Thursday of every month
4:00-5:00 PM
*VIDEO CONFERENCE ONLY*

Interdisciplinary Research Conference (IRC)
2nd Thursday of every month
4:00-5:00 PM
*VIDEO CONFERENCE ONLY*

Research Education Core (REC)
3rd Thursday of every month
4:00-5:00 PM
*VIDEO CONFERENCE ONLY*

GRECC Interdisciplinary Clinical Conference (ICC)
4th Thursday of every month
3:00-4:00 PM
*VIDEO CONFERENCE ONLY*

Palliative Care Research Seminars
3rd Thursday of every month
4:00-5:00 PM
*VIDEO CONFERENCE ONLY*

U-M Geriatrics ranks 15th in

This year’s edition ranks U-M Geriatrics 15th in the top adult geriatrics hospitals in the country, with U-M Hospitals and Health Centers ranking 11th on the Honor Roll of Best Hospitals 2019-2020.

This is the 27th year in a row that Michigan Medicine has been recognized for strong across-the-board performance on a national level.

If you would like to make a gift to support geriatrics training and research, please visit: http://victors.us/geriatricsgiving