CRRVP, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO, COLLEGE OF NURSING

The Center for Reducing Risks in Vulnerable Populations (CRRVP) is a P30 Center funded since 2004 by the National Institute of Nursing Research/National Institutes of Health (Grant # P30 NR09014). The overall purpose of the CRRVP is to
- Advance the science of biobehavioral health for vulnerable populations, emphasizing issues associated with vulnerability related to age (very young and elderly adults), minority status, and lower socioeconomic status.
- Reduce disparities in disease and illness.
- Support research training by providing core services and resources to investigators.

Emphasis is placed on developing interventions to promote exercise and self-care and to minimize high-risk behaviors. Special attention is given to the development of appropriate interventions and biobehavioral outcome measures. The CRRVP achieves these goals through three major research cores—Biobehavioral Methods Core, Development and Dissemination Core, and Multiethnic Emphasis Core.

As a part of the Biobehavioral Methods Core, the CRRVP sponsors a monthly program, Gerontology Research Interest Group, with speakers from the University of Illinois at Chicago covering various gerontological topics. Previous topics and speakers can be seen on the website, and the CRRVP is planning speakers for the fall semester. The CRRVP has a DataBANK developed as a semi-automated web-based system, and is currently requesting and receiving donated datasets for the purpose of secondary analysis. Access to the CRRVP DataBANK will be available through the CRRVP website.

Another useful tool is the Instrument Library of questionnaires. Information about instruments and the authors, journal citations, website, contact information, and copyright permission is available on the CRRVP website. The center also publishes a semi-annual newsletter “The Core Corner,” which also is available on the center's website.

For more information on the CRRVP and its cores, access www.uic.edu/nursing/crrvp/. For additional information or questions, contact Linda Graham, MS, RN, at lgraham@uic.edu, or call 312-413-3695.

THE ATLANTIC PHILANTHROPIES

VNAA CHAMP

The Visiting Nurse Associations of America Curricula for Homecare Advances in Management and Practice (VNAA CHAMP), a $4.4 million geriatric practice improvement program funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, is creating a whole new way for home care providers to simultaneously improve individual nurse managers’ skills and improve agency-wide practices affecting older persons. CHAMP, supported by a 4-year grant begun in 2004, empowers participating nurse managers to embed evidence-based best practices in their agencies using a unique combination of on-line and traditional learning tools.

In just over 14 months, the VNAA CHAMP program has gone from proposal to launch with impressive early results. One hundred thirty nurse managers are already enrolled in the program from 35 home care agencies across the country. By training these nurse managers, who collectively supervise 3,000 clinicians, CHAMP has the potential to affect the care of 200,000 patients in its first year.

The CHAMP curriculum takes an innovative approach to improving quality of care by bringing evidence-based practices to home care. In its first module, CHAMP combines the important clinical topic of medication management with organizational management concepts and practices, teaching nurse managers how to...
manage for quality and hone their team-building skills. A sophisticated yet easy-to-use E-Learning system developed for the CHAMP program allows learners to easily absorb the curriculum, test themselves on key concepts, and share knowledge with other learners.

Nurses also use a web-based E-measurement system, developed for CHAMP, to enter and track performance data and review their progress. They can even compare their own results to other students’ across the country. Face-to-face workshops and group coaching calls allow for essential personal interaction between students and faculty, and offer students an opportunity for shared problem solving and support.

Home care agencies in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and California are already on-line with VNAA CHAMP and have met in three regional face-to-face CHAMP workshops taught by national nursing, geriatric, and home care experts. These workshops, a critical component of CHAMP’s educational strategy, garnered an outstanding 95% overall satisfaction rate from participating nurses. The VNAA CHAMP Program is currently developing new clinical courses and expects to offer an additional course on Geriatric Pain Management and care for frail older adults in 2007.

For more information on the program, please access www.vnnaasonline.org/champ/. For more information on nursing-related activities of The Atlantic Philanthropies, contact Christopher A. Langston, PhD, Program Executive, U.S. Program on Aging, The Atlantic Philanthropies (USA) Inc., 125 Park Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10017-3581, call 212–916-7301, fax 212-368-9207, or e-mail c.langston@atlanticphilanthropies.org, or access the website at www.atlanticphilanthropies.org.

**AARP FOUNDATION**
**Disaster Management Report**

As part of its ongoing support of post-hurricane relief efforts in the Gulf states, the AARP Foundation has provided funding to Baylor College of Medicine for the production of a report entitled “Recommendations for Best Practices in the Management of Elderly Disaster Victims.” The AARP Foundation, along with the American Medical Association, Harris County Hospital District, and Care for Elders, provided financial support for the research and production of the report, which will help federal, state, and local government disaster planning teams understand the unique problems that face frail older and vulnerable adults during disasters and other emergencies.

Because more than 60% of those who died or suffered medical problems were frail older adults, this is an area that deserves special attention and the creation of practices that will ensure their safe and rapid transfer after disasters strike. The report describes the lack of sufficient numbers of gerontological professionals and recommends policies that will promote increased enrollment in training programs. The report also recommends including roles for gerontologists in the planning processes of direct response teams and disaster management organizations.

Equally as significant as the immediate disaster response is the ongoing management of displaced persons, particularly the elderly. The physical and mental stress of living in temporary housing, insufficient hygiene, interruption of access to medications, and other challenges make the elderly especially vulnerable and prone to disease, and may aggravate already present illnesses or conditions. The report advises planners, policymakers, and social workers on planning for and meeting the needs for post-disaster case management and provision of services.

The report includes a thorough set of recommendations, a case study with lessons learned, a review of current literature on the impact of disasters on elderly victims, a description of SWiFT (Screening Without Families Triage), a tool developed to identify those with greatest needs for rapid care, and also features an annotated bibliography. For information on ordering the publication, contact Dr. Carmel Bitondo Dyer at carmel_dyer@hchd.tmc.edu

**Disaster Relief Work**

The AARP’s Public Policy Institute’s report, “We Can Do Better: Lessons Learned for Protecting Older People in Disasters,” identifies useful tools and practices for policymakers at all levels of government and to others providing assistance. The AARP and its state offices in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas have developed a straightforward guide, “Dealing With Disaster” to help individuals in preparing for and responding to disasters.

The AARP Foundation led a large-scale fundraising effort to provide disaster relief services—health, housing, legal assistance, and more—to older victims of the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. After the hurricanes, the Foundation established the AARP Foundation Disaster Relief and Recovery Fund. Working with AARP’s state offices in the region, the AARP Foundation was able to quickly review grant applications and provide support to various agencies to assist older victims. By the end of 2005, 41 grants totaling almost $1.6 million...
were issued to local organizations in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Texas to provide food, water, shelter, health services, housing, and legal assistance.

To learn more about AARP’s efforts to address the needs of older adults in the face of a disaster, please access www.aarp.org/katrina/.

THE JOHN A. HARTFORD FOUNDATION
Hartford Initiatives Featured in Nursing Outlook

The Hartford-funded Centers of Geriatric Nursing Excellence (HCGNE)—Oregon Health & Science University, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, University of California San Francisco, University of Iowa and University of Pennsylvania—are the subject of the June/August special edition of Nursing Outlook.

The five Centers, part of Hartford’s Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) initiative, coordinated by the American Academy of Nursing, have significantly expanded the cadre of emerging geriatric nursing leaders through a variety of innovative efforts. Although different in their approaches, each Center creatively developed their strengths to enhance clinical practice and models of care, improve education and training, implement better treatment methods, conduct research, and positively affect health care policies. The practices, materials, and models that have resulted are available to all nursing schools.

This special issue provides the historical framework for the Hartford Centers of Nursing Excellence, describes the evolution of the HCGNEs at nursing schools involved, and provides a detailed look at each of the Centers’ programs and accomplishments in the areas of geriatric nursing practice, education, and research. The issue also highlights the BAGNC scholars and fellows programs and the American Academy of Nursing Coordinating Center.

The final article in this issue discusses the major outcomes of the HCGNE and BAGNC initiative as well as additional results from the independent evaluation of the initiative. Lessons learned from this multifaceted initiative can be used by schools of nursing throughout the country to build geriatric nursing capacity within their institution and possibly develop other centers, or be used by special interest groups that would find willing collaborators among like-minded colleagues.

BAGNC Call for Applications

The BAGNC awards program is seeking applicants for three scholarships and fellowships:

- The Predoctoral Scholarship program is designed to support 2 years of doctoral work for nurses committed to careers in academic geriatric nursing. The program offers support at the level of $30,000 in stipend and up to $20,000 in tuition and fee support for each of 2 years.
- The Claire M. Fagin Fellows program provides $60,000 of support for each of 2 years of advanced research training and mentorship designed to assist doctorally prepared nurses committed to faculty careers in geriatric nursing.
- The Masters in Business Administration Scholarship program is designed to support 1 year of work toward a Masters in Business Administration or related degree. The program provides a total of $50,000 in support.

The Mayday Fund provides an additional $5,000 award to selected candidates whose research includes the study of pain in elderly adults.

Information about the 2007 Call for Applications is available on the BAGNC website at www.geriatricnursing.org/applications. Applications are due January 9, 2007.

The BAGNC is part of the Hartford Geriatric Nursing Initiative (HGNI). To learn more about these efforts, access www.geriatricnursing.org and www.hgni.org.

The Editor and staff of the Journal of Gerontological Nursing encourage an ongoing dialogue with our readers. Your comments and feedback regarding the Journal in general or specifically about an article, special issues, sections, or the appearance of the Journal are important to us.

Please send Letters to the Editor to the Executive Editor, Journal of Gerontological Nursing, SLACK Incorporated, 6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, NJ 08086, or fax (856) 853-5991, or e-mail: jgn@slackinc.com. You may also access our website at www.slackinc.com/jgn.htm.

We look forward to hearing from you!