


## Geriatric Emergency Medicine Education

*Incorporating Geriatrics into  
EM Training Curricula*


Eve D. Losman, MD  
University of Michigan  
Department of Emergency Medicine



- Disclosures: None
- Please e-mail me with any questions or if you want a copy of these slides / a list of references / web addresses for the curricular materials mentioned in the talk.  
[losman@med.umich.edu](mailto:losman@med.umich.edu)

There are many partners in Geriatrics and EM.

Work in the clinical arena and in clinician education is on going.

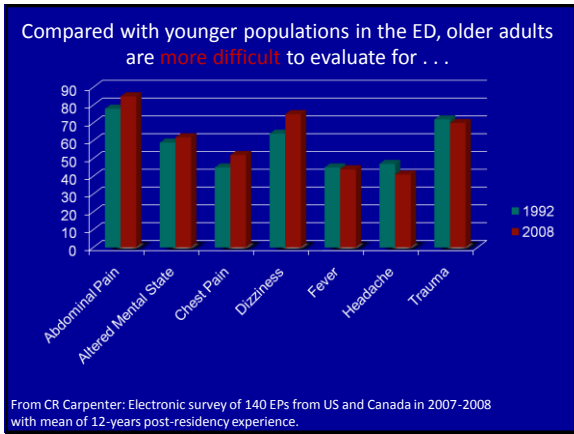


- Background
- The Geriatric Emergency Medicine (GEM) Competencies
- Existing GEM Curricula in EM
- GEM @ Michigan
- Dissemination
- Challenges and Opportunities

In 1990, the Hartford foundation awarded a needs assessment grant to the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) to document the status of ED care for older patients.

Inadequacies in training, research, and continuing education in geriatric emergency medicine were highlighted.

McNamara RM, et al. Geriatric Emergency Medicine: a survey of practicing emergency physicians. *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. 1992;21:796-801.  
Jones JS, et al. Geriatric training in emergency medicine residency programs. *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. 1992;21: 825-829.



## 2008 American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) White Paper

- detailed the challenges that the “grey tsunami” will have on the practice of EM
- primary recommendation is education:
  - A. prioritize and provide support for the development of an enhanced geriatric core curriculum for resident training.
  - B. prioritize and support the development and dissemination of core body of knowledge for practicing emergency clinicians similar to that for pediatrics and trauma.

## GEM Quality Indicators

- Cognitive Assessment
- Pain Assessment and Management
- Transitions of Care
- Next steps . . . Medication Management, Screening, and Prevention and Functional Assessment

Terrell KM, et al. Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) Geriatric Task Force. Quality Indicators for Geriatric Emergency Care. *Academic Emergency Medicine*. 2009; 16: 441-449.  
Carpenter, CR et al. Research Priorities for High-quality Geriatric Emergency Care: Medication Management, Screening, and Prevention and Functional Assessment. *Academic Emergency Medicine*. 2011; 18: 644-654.

## GEM Competencies

- Highlight *only* the critically important areas in the emergency care of elders that define COMPETENT care.
- Derived by consensus from existing resources and adapted to address the knowledge and skills required by the practice of EM.

Hogan TM et al. Development of geriatric competencies for emergency medicine residents using an expert consensus process. *Academic Emergency Medicine*. 2010; 17: 316-324.

## GEM Curricula: Many exist; dissemination has been slow.

Examples are available on POGOe and MedEdPortal:

- UC-Irvine: Geriatric Emergency Medicine Online Curriculum (GEM-OC)
- Brown: GEM Curriculum Using High Fidelity Simulation
- Cleveland Clinic: 8 GEM On-line Modules
- Indiana: EM Simulation Case: Septic Shock in the Geriatric Patient
- Harvard: Reynolds Geriatric Virtual Patient Modules
- Nebraska: Emergency Care For The Elder With Abdominal Pain

- Didactic lectures
  - Acute coronary syndromes
  - Depression
  - Delirium
  - Dementia
  - Geriatric trauma
  - Heart failure
  - Infectious disease
  - Physiology of aging
  - Polypharmacy
- Journal clubs
  - Abdominal pain in the elderly
  - Altered mental status
  - Bacteremia in the elderly
  - Do-not-resuscitate orders in the elderly
  - Elder abuse
  - Syncope
- Interactive question-and-answer sessions
  - Atypical presentations in the elderly: case studies
  - Geriatric pearls (Geriatric-Emergency Medicine board review questions)
  - Geography-based interactive session
    - Categories: physiology, pharmacology, nursing homes, longevity and survival, famous seniors
- Standardized patient encounters (SPEs)
  - A weak and dizzy 78-year-old woman
    - Atrial fibrillation
    - Acute myocardial infarction
    - Infection
    - Pulmonary embolus
- Oral board cases
  - Hip fracture in an elderly patient
- Intranet resources
  - Clinical guideline/review articles
  - Topic reviews
  - Learning modules (based upon Geriatric Review Syllabus)
  - Cross-cultural competency care in the elderly

### U. of Illinois curriculum

#### “Care of the Aging Patient in Emergency Medicine”

- fully integrated GEM content in all modes of didactic education.

Prendergast HM, et al. Preparing The Front Line For The Increase In The Aging Population: Geriatric Curriculum Development For An EM Residency Program. *Journal of Emergency Medicine*. 2010; 38: 386-392.

### Geriatric Emergency Medicine Online Curriculum

Welcome to the Cleveland Clinic's online curriculum for Geriatric Emergency Medicine. The curriculum includes basic and advanced courses. The basic courses are designed to improve your knowledge of the basic principles of geriatric emergency care with an emphasis on quality of care issues. The content is presented through questions, most of which are case-based. Questions include a brief discussion in the feedback for each answer chosen as well as suggested readings.

The curriculum consists of the following five courses:

- Altered Mental Status
- Geriatric Abdominal Pain
- Geriatric Trauma and Elder Abuse
- Inappropriate Prescribing and Adverse Drug Events
- Pain Management and Procedural Sedation

The advanced courses provide the opportunity to apply what you have learned in the basic courses to case simulations in which you work through historical information and physical examination findings, choose appropriate diagnostic testing and therapeutic interventions, and decide on correct diagnoses and dispositions. Each decision includes feedback regarding appropriateness of care.

The curriculum consists of the following course:

- A Case of Geriatric Abdominal Pain
- A Case of Altered Mental Status
- A Case of Geriatric Trauma

The entire curriculum provides links to key references in PubMed

<https://www.cchs.net/onlinelearning/mainmenu.asp>

### Cleveland Clinic's curriculum:

- online
- asynchronous
- case-based
- free



## The Michigan Experience

- Participated the Cohort I: a “teacher the teacher” model of knowledge and skill dissemination.
- Wrote: “Rapid Assessment of Older Patients in the Emergency Department: A Resident Manual”
- Created Lectures: Older Adults in the ED, Falls & Trauma, Infection, Delirium, Transitions of Care
- Incorporated GEM in annual Mock Oral Exams for EM2 and EM3 residents.
- GEM SPI: safe discharge of an older adult from the ED.
- Incorporating GEM into Simulation Sessions.

## Dissemination

- EM educators have had success in publishing their work.
- EM researchers are focusing on GEM.
  - Cognitive Assessment
  - Pain Control / Inappropriate Medications
  - Falls
  - Infection
  - Utilization / Crowding
  - Care Transitions

## Dissemination

- SAEM 2011: “Opportunities for Basic and Translational Research in Aging and Emergency Care”
  - ~80 people were in the audience
- Creation of the G-EM Academy in SAEM in 2010.

## Challenges

- Published curricula ≠ Adoption or acceptance
  - GEM Competencies and Quality Indicators presented to an near empty room at the annual Council of Residency Directors meeting in 2009.
  - “The Model of the Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine” is focused on symptom and acuity level (Critical, Emergent, Lower acuity).

We are still a small group of  
educator / researcher champions.

## Opportunities

- Small but important group of champions in graduate medical education.
  - We are Residency Program Directors.
  - We are experienced educators.
  - We create cutting edge products (on-line media, OSCEs, Standardized patients, and Simulations).
  - We are studying the validity and effectiveness of our educational tools vis a vis knowledge and skill acquisition as well as the ACGME 6 core competencies.

## Opportunities

- GEM champion is now an item writer for the American Board of Emergency Medicine (T.Hogan)
- Growing number of curricula will make it easy for late adopters to incorporate material into their training programs.
  - Dovetail well with the ACGME Core Competencies, e.g. Systems Based Practice
  - Current work – focused on creating an EM “one stop shop” for curricular materials.

## Opportunities

- “Senior EDs” are becoming more common in the community hospital setting.
- “Patient Safety” is increasingly a focus of attention and much of it revolves around geriatric issues.
- ~50% of Emergency physicians still feel uncomfortable with the care of older adults.

## Conclusion

EM is still a young specialty.

It took > 20 years for Pediatric EM  
to gain a firm foot hold.

The time for Geriatric EM is upon us; the once  
small group of champions is growing in  
numbers and influence.