

# PENNSYLVANIA GERIATRICS SOCIETY WESTERN DIVISION



AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY

VOLUME 27 No 2  
FALL 2023

Thursday,  
**November 2, 2023**

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
Rivers Casino



## Is it worth it?

**A debate about offering lecanemab  
to our patients with dementia.**

5:45 pm	Registration Opens
6:00 pm	Reception, Appetizers & Visit Exhibitors
6:50 pm	Welcome, Awards, & Business Meeting
7:05 pm	Dinner & Debate
8:00 pm	Q&A
8:30 pm	Conclusion

Join us at the Rivers Casino for our first in-person event since 2020! We are excited to network and catch up with members and guests, as we dine over a debate on lecanemab. We will also recognize the 2023 Geriatric Teacher of the Year Awardees.

**PAGS-WD Members | \$25.00**

**Non-Members | \$50.00**

**Students/Residents | Free**

**Rivers Casino | Allegheny Room  
777 Casino Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15212**

### Speakers:



Alison O'Donnell, DO, MPH  
Geri-PACT Medical Director  
Veterans Administration  
Pittsburgh Healthcare System



Steven M. Handler, MD, PhD, CMD  
Associate Chief of Staff, Geriatrics  
and Extended Care, Veterans  
Administration Pittsburgh  
Healthcare System (VAPHS)



Eric Rodriguez, MD, MPH  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Geriatric Division  
University of Pittsburgh



**Register  
online by 10/26**

This activity is approved for the following credit: AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™, ANCC, ACPE, and ASWB. Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

# Updates to the AGS Beers Criteria®

*American Geriatrics Society 2023 updated AGS Beers Criteria® for potentially inappropriate medication use in older adults.*

**Madeline Dillen, PharmD, Heather Sakely, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP**

In May of 2023, the latest edition of the publication commonly known as *The Beers Criteria*, was updated and published. Developed and maintained by the late Mark Beers, MD, and colleagues starting in 1991, The American Geriatric Society now updates the criteria at routine intervals, typically every three years. The intent of the criteria is specifically called out in this update and notes the primary target audience for the 2023 AGS Beers Criteria to be practicing clinicians. While many groups including researchers, regulators, pharmacy benefit managers and others may reference the criteria, authors note that it is a ‘blunt instrument’ and are unable to delineate all special considerations and exceptions. Shared decision-making about medications is something those of us practicing in geriatrics engage in daily with patients and care partners and it is the intent of the criteria to better support this. The conversations and care provided to older adults is often complex involving many nuanced factors including goals of care, level of care the patient is residing, medication time-to-benefit, functional status, and many others. As such, authors note that the criteria is not intended to be used in a punitive manner in such complex care.



**Dr. Madeline Dillen**



**Dr. Heather Sakely**

## What is a PIM?

A potentially inappropriate medication (PIM) is a medication that should be avoided in older adults for one reason or another. It may be a medication that is generally inappropriate for older adults, or a medication that is inappropriate under certain circumstances, like in specific disease states or care settings. In the setting of a medication being potentially inappropriate, the risk of using that medication may outweigh the benefit.

Structured Information per Table/Box in the 2023 American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria®	
Table 1	Designations of <b>quality of evidence</b> and strength of recommendation
Table 2	2023 American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria® for <b>potentially inappropriate medication</b> use in older adults
Box 1	Synthesis of <b>anticoagulation recommendation</b>
Table 3	2023 American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria® for potentially in appropriate medication use in older adults due to <b>drug-disease</b> or <b>drug-syndrome interactions</b> that may exacerbate the disease or syndrome.
Table 4	2023 American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria® for potentially in appropriate medications: <b>drugs to be used with caution</b> in older adults.
Table 5	2023 American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria® for potentially clinically important <b>drug-drug interactions</b> that should be avoided in older adults.
Table 6	2023 American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria® for medication that should be avoided or have their dosage reduced with varying levels of <b>kidney function</b> in older adults.
Table 7	Drugs with <b>strong anticholinergic</b> properties.
Table 8	Medications/criteria <b>removed</b> since 2019 American Geriatrics Society Beers Criteria®.
Table 9	Medications/criteria <b>added</b> since 2019 American Geriatric Society Beers Criteria®.
Table 10	Medications/criteria <b>modified</b> since 2019 American Geriatric Society Beers Criteria®.
Table 11	Principles for how patients, clinicians, health systems, and payors should use the AGS Beers Criteria®.

## Select Highlights of Changes

**1. Warfarin for treatment of non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAF) or venous thromboembolism (VTE):** There is a strong recommendation with a high level of evidence that warfarin has a higher risk of major bleeding compared to direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) along with a similar or lower effectiveness. DOACs should be the preferred choice in treating NVAF or VTE in older adults. In patients established on warfarin, it may be reasonable to keep them on warfarin if they have a well-controlled INR.

**2. Sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 (SGLT2 inhibitors):** There is a weak recommendation with moderate evidence to use SGLT2 inhibitors with caution in older adults due to increased risk of urogenital infections and euglycemic diabetic ketoacidosis. Older adults on an SGLT2 inhibitor should be monitored for urogenital infections and ketoacidosis.

**3. Aspirin for Primary Prevention of Heart Disease:** This recommendation was moved to table 2 (potentially inappropriate medication) from table 4 (drug to be used with caution); use with caution in all older adults. There is a strong recommendation with high quality evidence that use of aspirin for primary prevention of CVD has increased risk of major bleeding in older adults. It is still generally indicated for older adults with established CVD.

**4. Use of 3 or more CNS active agents:** Classes of CNS-acting medications of concern were listed in the table containing potentially clinically important drug-drug interactions. There is a high level of evidence and strong recommendation to avoid the use of  $\geq 3$  CNS acting agents at once in older adults, including antiepileptics (including gabapentinoids), antidepressants, antipsychotics, benzodiazepines, non-benzodiazepine hypnotics (“Z-drugs”), opioids, and skeletal muscle relaxants. Be mindful when adding these agents to older adults’ medication lists. Additionally, know that patients on combinations of CNS active agents are at higher risk of fall, so use caution when delivering physical therapy.

Benzodiazepines, non-benzodiazepine hypnotics (“Z-drugs”), opioids, and skeletal muscle relaxants. Be mindful when adding these agents to older adults’ medication lists. Additionally, know that patients on combinations of CNS active agents are at higher risk of fall, so use caution when delivering physical therapy.

The updated criteria dutifully point out challenges that may exist with deprescribing medications on the AGS Beers Criteria® and point to useful resources including <https://deprescribing.org/resources/> and <https://www.deprescribingnetwork.ca/professionals>. It takes time and attention to detail to ensure conversations are had with patients and care partners, medication orders are discontinued in all systems, and that patients feel supported.

In conclusion The 2023 AGS Beers Criteria® remains a tool in the toolbox of those providing care to older adults. It has become more widely accessible over the years with the 2023 AGS Beers Criteria® App, pocket care and via [GeriatricsCareOnline.org](https://www.GeriaticsCareOnline.org). Patient and public facing educational materials are free at [HealthinAging.org](https://www.HealthinAging.org).

## Reference

J Am Geriatr Soc.2023;1-30.



## 2023 Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award

*The Society is pleased to announce the Recipients of the Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award.*

**The Award is presented to outstanding teachers for their dedication and commitment to geriatrics education.**

Each exemplifies geriatrics teaching excellence and has made significant contributions to the education and training of learners in geriatrics and to the progress of geriatrics education across the health professions.

### Karen Scandrett, MD, MPH

**Karen Glasser Scandrett, MD**, has been the program director for the geriatric medicine training program at UPMC Presbyterian-Shadyside Hospital since 2015. She received her medical degree from the University of Chicago, completed her primary care internal medicine residency at the Cambridge Hospital, and her geriatrics fellowship at the Harvard Division on Aging. While at Harvard she completed her master's in public health before taking her first faculty position at Northwestern University Medical School in 2004. She has been involved in medical education at every step of her professional journey.



After moving to UPMC in 2012, she piloted the geriatric trauma consultation service at Presbyterian Hospital. This is now a core training site for internal medicine residents, emphasizing 5Ms competencies. She continued to teach in subacute and long-term care, developing curricula for medical students, residents, and fellows in geriatrics and palliative medicine. In 2019 she transitioned into her current roles in outpatient primary care and consultation, and hospital teaching at Shadyside Hospital. Dr. Scandrett emphasizes a biopsychosocial approach in all her teaching, and truly loves connecting with her patients and with her learners.

As fellowship program director, Dr. Scandrett has expanded training opportunities in geriatrics to reach a greater diversity of fellowship candidates. She has worked closely with IM and GME leadership to move geriatrics further upstream in the residency curriculum and to create multiple training tracks. These include an integrated 4-year IM-Geriatrics training program, an integrated fellowship in palliative medicine and geriatrics, a geriatric-cardiology track, a research track, and a geriatrics-hospitalist track. In addition, she has implemented structures for professional development, including mentorship and wellness activities, to enhance the learning experience for the fellows. Together with other division faculty, Dr. Scandrett aims to build a program that inspires and develops future leaders in our field.

## Christine O'Neil, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, FCCP, FASCP, TTS

**Dr. Christine O'Neil** is a Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Duquesne University with a clinical practice site at St. Barnabas Health System, a continuum of care community. She is a passionate advocate for the integration of geriatrics throughout the pharmacy curriculum and promotes an interprofessional approach to care. Dr. O'Neil serves as the Residency Program Director of PGY1 Pharmacy Residency in a long-term-care facility and is thrilled with the achievements of the residents since 2012. She serves as a preceptor for pharmacy students, coordinates a Concentration in Geriatric Pharmacy, and teaches introductory lectures on geriatrics and advanced topics on Parkinson's disease, osteoporosis, and palliative care. Dr. O'Neil is an active member and fellow of ASCP and serves as secretary of Pennsylvania chapter. She is the advisor of the student chapter of ASCP at Duquesne, is an active member of MSTOC subcommittee, and is a frequent contributor to *The Senior Care Pharmacist*. Since graduating from Duquesne with a BS/Doctor of Pharmacy and completing a PGY-1 residency at Mercy Hospital, Dr. O'Neil has focused her efforts on optimizing senior care in a variety of practice settings and is committed to sharing her passion with the next generation of pharmacists and healthcare leaders.



From 1990 through 2002, Dr. O'Neil served as Coordinator of the Medication Management Center at St. Francis Health Care System. Building on this prevention and wellness experience, she was cofounder and director of the Center for Pharmacy Care, a university based-wellness center, from 2002 through 2010. From 2004 through 2013, she maintained an active consultant practice at St. Clair Senior Care Network. In 2011, she developed her current practice model which involves providing on-site clinical pharmacy services within a senior continuum of care. Dr. O'Neil is the author over 40 publications and the recipient of several teaching, scholarship, and service awards including the Armon Neel Senior Care Pharmacist Award from ASCP in 2019.

## Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division

Serving as a resource in providing information and educational programming among a society of professionals who are dedicated to advancing clinical care and quality of life for the elderly.

Save  
the  
Date!

April 25-26, 2024

32nd Annual Virtual Clinical Update in

# GERIATRIC MEDICINE

Due to the  
overwhelming  
survey  
responses, we  
are **VIRTUAL**  
once again!

Presented by: The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division  
UPMC/University of Pittsburgh Division of Geriatric Medicine and  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in the Health Sciences

*Brochures will be mailed in January 2024. Conference information will  
also be available online at [www.pagswd.org](http://www.pagswd.org) in early 2024.*

**Questions? Eileen Taylor | [etaylor@acms.org](mailto:etaylor@acms.org) | (412) 321-5030 x105**

## PAGS-WD IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

FOLLOW US WHEREVER YOU GO  
FOR UPDATES ON PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND NEWS



Instagram:  
[@PAGSWD](https://www.instagram.com/PAGSWD)



Facebook:  
Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society Western Division



LinkedIn:  
Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society Western Division



Twitter:  
[@PAGSWD](https://twitter.com/PAGSWD)



**Would you like us  
to promote your  
publications  
on social media?**

**As a member of the PAGS-WD,  
you may email any publications  
or newsworthy items to**

**Eileen Taylor ([etaylor@acms.org](mailto:etaylor@acms.org)) to  
post on any of our social media channels.**

# Mark Your Calendar

**October 6-7, 2023**

**PMDA 31st Annual Symposium**

Wyndham Gettysburg • Gettysburg, PA  
<https://www.pamda.org/annual-symposium.html>

**October 26-29, 2023**

**American Society of Consultant Pharmacists  
2023 Annual Meeting & Exhibition**

Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center |  
Kissimmee, Florida  
[https://www.ascp.com/events/  
eventdetails.aspx?id=1556344](https://www.ascp.com/events/eventdetails.aspx?id=1556344)

**November 2, 2023**

**PAGS-WD Fall Program: Is it worth it?  
A debate about offering lecanemab  
to our patients with dementia.**

Rivers Casino  
<https://pagswd.org/event-5384049>

**November 7-10, 2024**

**2024 Annual Meeting & Exhibition**

Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center |  
Aurora, Colorado  
[https://www.ascp.com/events/event\\_list.asp](https://www.ascp.com/events/event_list.asp)

**March 9-12, 2024**

**American Medical Directors Association (AMDA)  
the Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care  
Medicine – PALTC 2024**

San Antonio, TX  
<https://paltc.org/events>

**April 25-26, 2024**

**32nd Annual Virtual Clinical Update  
in Geriatric Medicine**

Virtual  
[https://pagswd.org/Clinical-Update-in-  
Geriatric-Medicine](https://pagswd.org/Clinical-Update-in-Geriatric-Medicine)

**May 15-18, 2024**

**Society of General Internal Medicine  
2024 Annual Meeting**

Boston, MA  
<https://www.sгим.org/meetings/future-meetings#>

**May 9-11, 2024**

**American Geriatrics Society 2024  
Annual Scientific Meeting (Virtual)**

[https://meeting.americangeriatrics.org/about/  
past-future-meetings](https://meeting.americangeriatrics.org/about/past-future-meetings)

A letter from the AGS President on the decision to pilot an alternating schedule of virtual and hybrid (in-person with an on-demand option). If you have any questions or comments, email [LSaunders@americangeriatrics.org](mailto:LSaunders@americangeriatrics.org). The AGS Annual Scientific Meeting is the premier educational event in geriatrics, providing the latest information on clinical care, research on aging, and innovative models of care delivery. The 2023 Annual Meeting will address the educational needs of geriatrics professionals from all disciplines. Physicians, nurses,

pharmacists, physician assistants, social workers, long term care and managed care providers, health care administrators, and others can update their knowledge and skills through state-of-the-art educational sessions and research presentations.

The Annual Meeting offers many continuing education sessions, including invited symposia, workshops, and meet-the-expert sessions. Sessions include information about emerging clinical issues, current research in geriatrics, education, health policy, and delivery of geriatric health care. Meeting attendees will have many wonderful opportunities to network and exchange ideas and information with colleagues. The Presidential Poster Reception, Special Interest Group Meetings, Section Meetings for Fellows-in-Training, Nurses, Pharmacists, Social Workers, and Teachers are all great opportunities to interact with colleagues.

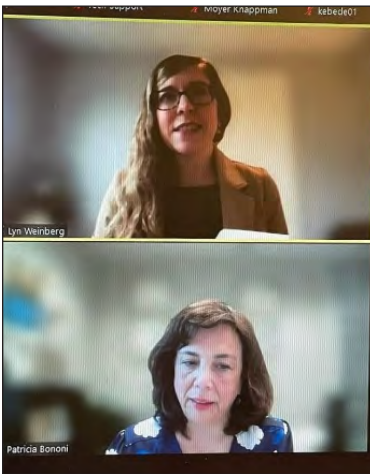
31<sup>st</sup> Annual *Virtual*

Clinical Update in  
**GERIATRIC  
MEDICINE**

**March 23 - 24,  
2023**

## Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division hosts Virtual Conference for third year in a row

Over 330 healthcare professionals gathered virtually to attend the 31st Annual Virtual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine held March 23 – 24, 2023.



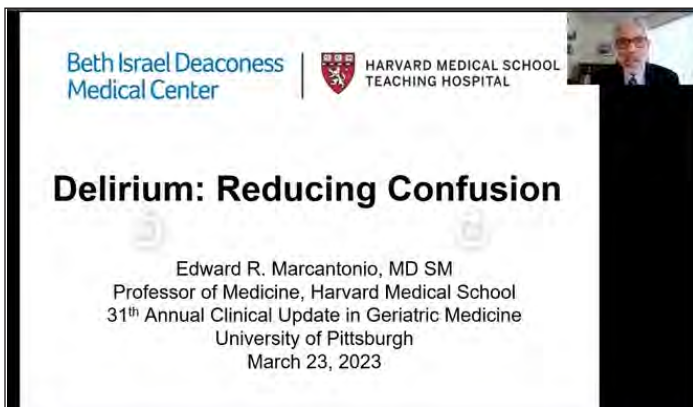
**Lyn Weinberg, MD,  
Course Director and  
Patricia Bononi, MD**

This year's virtual conference attracted attendees from 21 states and representation from Canada, England, and Germany.

Attendees recognized and appreciated the convenience of attending the conference from their home or office, while participating in dynamic educational sessions. An added benefit for all registrants: the ability to view recorded lectures and download the handout materials, up to 30 days after the conference.

With the fastest growing segment of the population comprised of individuals more than 85 years of age, this conference is a premier educational resource for healthcare professionals involved in the direct care of older people. Presented by the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society – Western Division, UPMC/University of Pittsburgh Division of Geriatric Medicine and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Center for Continuing Education in Health Sciences, the program offered an evidence-based approach to help clinicians take exceptional care of these often-frail individuals.

Highlights of the meeting included Live Q&A Sessions with presenters. By using the chat feature, attendees had the opportunity to engage with speakers in these informative sessions. New this year: the course provided 10.0 hours of Physical Therapy credit!

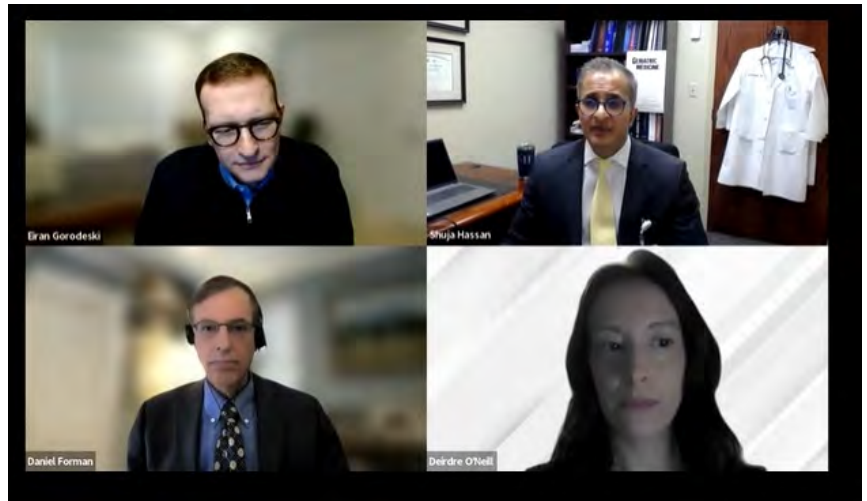




# PENNSYLVANIA GERIATRICS SOCIETY - WESTERN DIVISION

Distinguished guest faculty **Edward R. Marcantonio, MD, SM**, Section Chief for Research in the Division of General Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School gave an Update on Delirium. **Paula Leslie, FRCSLT, Reg HCPC, CCC-SLP** joined this year from the UK and presented Modern Approaches to Supporting People with Eating, Drinking, & Swallowing Impairments.

Back by popular demand, the Geriatric Cardiology Expert Panel featuring **Deirdre O'Neill, MD**, presented Beware of the Elevated Office Blood Pressure Assessment; **Eiran Gorodeski, MD, MPH**, presented Ideal Heart Failure Care: Pearls for Geriatrics, and **Daniel Forman, MD**, presented Optimizing Functional Status in Older Adults with Cardiovascular Disease.



**Eiran Gorodeski, MD, Shuja Hassan, MD, Course Director, Daniel Forman, MD, and Deirdre O'Neill, MD**

Immediately following, the cardiology panel participated in a live, rapid-fire Q&A session. Moderated by **Shuja Hassan, MD**, and Course Director, the lively session included a framework for each presenter to comment and host a dialogue with their colleagues on a variety of cardiology questions.

Thank you to our Premier Sponsor: UPMC Health Plan, and to our exhibitors who sponsored the program: AHN Healthcare@Home, Community LIFE, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and Allegheny Health Network, XerisPharmaceuticals.

The Virtual Exhibit Hall featured 4 exhibitors and offered attendees the opportunity to engage with representatives to learn more about their products and resources.

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle (sponsored by the Society): **Carina Antypas, Rebecca Davis, Michelle Govan, Jessica Hutchison, and Mary Whitman**. Winners received a \$50 Visa Gift Card. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please reach out to Eileen Taylor, Administrator at 412-321-5030 x105 or [etaylor@acms.org](mailto:etaylor@acms.org).

## Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division

Serving as a resource in providing information and educational programming among a society of professionals who are dedicated to advancing clinical care and quality of life for the elderly.

**2023 David C. Martin Award  
Recipients**

Scan to learn  
more.



**Lily G. Bessette**  
University of  
Pittsburgh School of  
Medicine



**Jenny Knecht-Fredo**  
Penn State Neese College  
of Nursing



**Stephanie Ko**  
Penn State College  
of Medicine

The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division is proud to announce the 2023 recipients of the David C. Martin Award: **Lily G. Bessette**, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, **Jenny Knecht-Fredo**, Penn State Neese College of Nursing, and **Stephanie Ko**, Penn State College of Medicine. Lily, Jenny, and Stephanie's abstracts were accepted by the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) for presentation at the AGS 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, May 4-6, in Long Beach, CA. They each received a \$2,500 honorarium to attend the AGS meeting in Long Beach, CA to present their work. This prestigious award supports student interest in the field of geriatric medicine. The award was named after David C. Martin, MD, who established the first geriatrics fellowship in Pittsburgh. The ultimate goal is to encourage and prepare future physicians and healthcare providers in the field of geriatric medicine.

DAVID C. MARTIN  
**AWARD**

This prestigious award, established in 1999, provides an honorarium that is commensurate with the cost of traveling to the American Geriatrics Conference.

Medical students and students studying other healthcare disciplines, whose abstracts have been accepted for presentation at the AGS Conference, will be contacted by the Society once verification of accepted abstract/poster is confirmed by the American Geriatrics Society.

**AGS abstract deadline is 12/1/23**

**DCM Award Application Process starts in March 2024.**



Click or scan QR code  
for more details.

Questions?

Contact Eileen Taylor, Chapter Administrator | [etaylor@acms.org](mailto:etaylor@acms.org)

# 2024 Election Ballot

Please note that this years Election Ballot will be done online. You will receive your ballot electronically to your email in early November!

\*Ballots must be completed no later than Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

## Officer - Secretary/Treasurer

(two-year term beginning January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025)

*Namita Yende, MD, MMM*

## Board of Director (Vote for up to 5)

(three-year term beginning January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026)

*Judy Black, MD*

*Michelle Criss, PT, PhD*

*LezleyAn DeLucia, LPN*

*Elizabeth Mohan, MD*

*David Yuan, MD*

Write in Vote \_\_\_\_\_

## Healthcare Professional Advisor

(two-year term beginning January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025)

*Lauren Dornin, DNP, AGNP*

*Libby Moore, LSW, DHCE*

Write in Vote \_\_\_\_\_

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**Ballots must be completed no later than Tuesday, December 12, 2023.**

**Questions? Contact:**

Eileen Taylor, Chapter Administrator, [etaylor@acms.org](mailto:etaylor@acms.org)

## FITZGERALD LAUDS \$1.85M BOLD GRANT AWARDED BY THE CDC

### *Funding to Build Capacity to Help Those with Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia*

County Executive Rich Fitzgerald announced recently that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded \$1.85 million in funding to the county. The funding, provided over the course of the next five years, will help the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) and its partners create regional capacity to aid those impacted by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

"We are extremely fortunate in this community to have so many older Americans who remain engaged and involved in our community. Providing resources so that they can continue to be active is an important part of our work at the county," said Fitzgerald. "We also recognize that challenges remain, with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias impacting a growing number of people, particularly Black and low-income communities. We know that partnerships work and allow us to come together to address challenges, and the BOLD coalition and its work is no exception. Thank you to all of our partners for being part of this work. We can't wait to see the strides you'll make."

Funding for this effort is being supported by the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act and has been awarded to ACHD as the grantee. Partners in this effort include the county's Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging, Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh-Dementia Friendly Greater Pittsburgh, Alzheimer's Association Greater Pennsylvania Chapter, and Jewish Healthcare Foundation-Dementia Friends Pennsylvania. ACHD and its partners will create a BOLD Coalition, funded through this grant, to enhance health equity and help address risk factors associated with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The effort will focus on Black and low-income communities using a public health approach and adopted the CDC's Health Brain Initiative Road Map.

Over five years, the coalition will collaborate to improve health disparities, educate communities, health care providers, and other professionals and increase community-clinical access. Developing and implementing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias strategic plan includes various activities ranging from community outreach events, professional educational events, and dissemination of information and resources. The plan will include input from grassroots and faith-based organizations working on community health and education in Allegheny County.

"The majority of Baby Boomers are now older adults and one of the chronic health concerns they may have to deal with is Alzheimer's or dementia," explained ACHD Community and Family Health Deputy Director Dannai Wilson. "We need to address the possible expansion of Alzheimer's and dementia cases now, otherwise, we may not have the ability to do so in the future."

Recognizing the role that older Americans play in our community, Allegheny County has long encouraged the contributions of older adults to the vitality of our neighborhoods, networks, and lives. While the percentage of our population over the age of 65 (19.7 percent) is large, the county has focused on efforts to allow seniors to age in place. Ensuring that the county meets the needs of our seniors, and also addressing those issues that impact healthy outcomes such as poverty, disability, and racial and gender disparities, is integral to the work done here. Data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health from 2020 identified Alzheimer's disease as the seventh leading cause of death in Allegheny County. Additionally, in 2021, 10 percent of adults years and older experienced "more frequent or worsening confusion or memory loss in the past year."

*Continued on following page*

# 2024 Member Dues and Membership Fee Structures

## Individual

1-year and 2-year memberships are offered for physicians and healthcare professionals:

Physician: 1-year membership	\$75
Physician: 2-year membership	\$140
Healthcare Professional 1-year	\$50
Healthcare Professional 2-year	\$90

## Organizational

Various levels to fit a company's needs.

## Recruit a member!

The Fall Program is the perfect opportunity to strengthen our membership. Consider inviting a colleague to participate in the program. The nominal guest fee of \$50 includes the entire program. Forward the Society website, [www.pagswd.org](http://www.pagswd.org), for program registration or to become a member.

*Continued from previous page*

“Alzheimer’s and dementia related diseases take a heavy toll not only on the individual with the illness, but also families, friends and caregivers,” remarked Wilson. “Through the BOLD grant we will be able to create a community that encompasses a multi-generational approach that supports older adults and those who care for them.”

The selection of Allegheny County for the CDC’s BOLD Public Health Program Grant will allow the Health Department and its community partners to further the goals it laid out in the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, 2023-2027. Specifically, the grant will help the county decrease disparities in life expectancy and chronic disease.

**-Allegheny County News,  
Department of Health**

### 7 REASONS TO BE A MEMBER

- #1**  
Clinical Update  
in Geriatric  
Medicine
- #2**  
Fall Business  
Program
- #3**  
David C.  
Martin Award
- #4**  
Resident  
Engagement
- #5**  
Newsletter &  
Website
- #6**  
Support of  
Local  
Geriatrics  
Programs
- #7**  
Advocacy &  
Public Policy  
Forum

**WWW.PAGSWD.ORG**



# Why Join ACMS?

Join ACMS Today!



The Allegheny County Medical Society (ACMS) membership provides advocacy and local support for physicians. Become a Member today - <https://www.acms.org/>

Over 30 years ago, when Geriatric Medicine was still a young field, the handful of us in western PA who identified as full-time geriatricians felt the need for an organizational structure that could promote educational activities, advocacy for the elderly, and growth of our specialty. The American Geriatrics Society was encouraging the establishment of state-level affiliates.



**Dr. Fred Rubin**

We met with colleagues from the eastern part of the state and decided that Pennsylvania was large enough to support separate societies at each end. We were fortunate to be able to partner with the Allegheny County Medical Society to assist us in getting started and to provide the necessary infrastructure to create the Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society–Western Division. For all these years, we have continued this wonderful partnership, which has benefitted both organizations. We have developed the annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine CME course, which has become one of the largest events in the region. We have sponsored other programs throughout the year and have provided scholarships for students interested in Geriatrics to attend national meetings and present their research. We have been the recipients of multiple national awards for our programs here.

A strength of our society is that it is not dependent upon any of the regional health systems but remains an independent organization that seeks to include everybody. This closely aligns with the mission of the ACMS. We hope to continue our collaboration with the ACMS for many years to come.

**-Fred H. Rubin, MD**

## 2023 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

Heather Sakely, Pharm.D, BCPS, BCGP  
**President**

Judith Black, MD, MHA  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christine Herb, MD  
(Immediate Past President)

Michelle Criss, PT. PhD (Bylaws Chair)

LezleyAn DeLucia, LPN

Lauren Dornin DNP, AGNP  
(Social Media Chair)

Anthony Giampolo, MD, MBA, DAAPM,  
ABPN, NBPAS

Shuja Hassan, MD  
(Course Director, Clinical Update)

Elizabeth Mohan, MD

Neil Resnick, MD (COSAR Rep / AGS Cosar  
Co-Chair; Course Director, Clinical Update)

Fred Rubin, MD

James Tew, MD

Kawita Vichare, MD (Nominating Chair)

Lianne Glaus Vighetti, DHCE, HEC-C, LSW

Lyn Weinberg, MD  
(Course Director, Clinical Update)

Rollin Wright, MD (Awards Chair)

Namita Yende, MD, MMM

David Yuan, MD (Membership Chair)