



# The Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society – Western Division

*Promoting geriatric education to all healthcare professionals*

## 2019 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.

### CHRISTINE M. HERB, MD

**Christine M. Herb, MD** is the recipient of the 2019 Physician Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Herb served as director of Geriatrics Education and Core Faculty at Allegheny Health Network from 2012 to 2017. She is currently the chair of AHN's Academic Improvement Committee and contributor to the Clinical Competency Committee.

As a highly respected teacher, mentor, and innovator, Dr. Herb developed a comprehensive geriatric curriculum that is mandatory for all third-year residents at AHN. The multifaceted curriculum incorporates didactic lectures, simulation, home visits, nursing home rotations, outpatient and inpatient geriatric elective rotations, and more. More than 150 residents have participated in the geriatric curriculum thus far and 13 residents have pursued a Geriatric Fellowship since 2013 at several prestigious institutions across the country.

Dr. Herb has also conceptualized and implemented a unique team-based multidisciplinary model of care for long term care facilities and a highly successful Geriatric Trauma Service to support elderly patients with complex co-morbid conditions admitted for trauma, which has been acknowledged for improved outcomes, patient satisfaction, and reduction in hospital length of stay.



### VICTORIA A. HORNYAK, PT, DPT, GCS

**Victoria A. Hornyak, PT, DPT, GCS** is the recipient of the 2019 Healthcare Professional Geriatrics Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Hornyak practiced physical therapy at several regional nursing facilities and UPMC Presbyterian Hospital prior to becoming a full-time faculty member within the Department of Physical Therapy (DPT) at the University of Pittsburgh in 2008, where she is responsible for coordinating and serving as the primary instructor for courses related to patient management and geriatrics in the DPT program.

To further stimulate the interests of DPT students in geriatrics, Dr. Hornyak serves as the faculty mentor for the students' Geriatrics Special Interest Group. She was also appointed to the University of Pittsburgh's Working Group on Inter-professional Education as a representative of the University's school of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

In 2010, Dr. Hornyak successfully competed for and was named as the first non-physician Geriatric Scholar in the Geriatric Academic Career Award (GACA), supporting her research project that compared two continuing education methods on practice patterns of physical therapists who work in skilled nursing settings.

