

Executive Summary

In 2024, the Florida State University College of Medicine, Department of Geriatrics was awarded an additional \$5 million to continue enhancing Florida’s geriatrics workforce, totaling \$12 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration. Led by Lisa Granville, MD and Paul Katz, MD since 2015, the North and Central Florida Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Partnership is dedicated to improving the quality of care for Florida’s older adults. This new five-year endeavor will create integrated primary care service delivery models for a variety of settings, age-friendly health systems, and support efforts towards dementia-friendly communities.

Training Programs

Our four projects focus on novel opportunities for interprofessional workforce training as well as patient and caregiver education, which will incorporate what matters to older adults and address unmet health needs at the individual, community, and population levels. Each project was developed in conjunction with our partners and was based on the needs of Florida’s older adult population, gaps in geriatric competencies within the interprofessional workforce, and social determinants of health affecting older adult health outcomes.

Current projects include:

1. 4Ms Enhanced Longitudinal Geriatrics Training for Physician Assistant (PA) Students, Family Medicine (FM) Residents, and Psychology Postdoctoral (Psych) Fellows
2. Transforming Federally Qualified Health Centers into Age-Friendly Health Systems
3. Career Advancement for Supportive Care Workers and Nurses: CNA Career Ladder for Hospice Care Employees, Geriatricized Medical Assistant Training, and College of Nursing Advanced Certificate in Geriatrics
4. Dementia Outreach Expansion and Supportive Care Worker Training through Statewide Partnerships

Our Partners

Our interdisciplinary partners bring unique skills and programming, which optimizes the educational, training, and health needs of older adults and those who serve them. They include:

- The FSU College of Medicine School of Physician Assistant Practice
- The FSU College of Medicine Postdoctoral Fellowship in Clinical Health Psychology
- FSU College of Nursing
- Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare
- Lakeland Regional Health
- Westminster Communities of Florida
- PanCare of Florida
- Big Bend Hospice
- Florida Department of Elder Affairs
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida Department of Health

Project Impact

Our four projects will positively impact the health of older adults by:

1. Providing family medicine residents with a longitudinal mentored experience in nursing homes that focuses on the care needs of frail older adults.
2. Achieving age-friendly and dementia-friendly recognition in primary care practices serving rural and underserved older adults including an integrated behavioral health psychology program across Florida.
3. Implementing a career ladder for nursing assistants practicing in hospice and providing certificates of geriatrics training for medical assistants, nursing assistants and post baccalaureate registered nurses.
4. Infusing geriatrics throughout training programs across multiple disciplines including physician assistant students, family medicine residents, psychology fellows and their preceptors.
5. Enhancing interprofessional education among healthcare teams and healthcare trainees.
6. Providing multisector dementia training to supportive care workers to enhance communities' ability to better meet the needs of residents with dementia and their care partners and families through partnerships with state-level initiatives and corresponding local agencies.

Available Resources

To provide education and resources to the healthcare workforce, including patients and families in north and central Florida, we have created FSU REACH, a collaboration of newly developed educational materials and resources as well as resources gleaned from national, regional, and state agencies. Resources and materials focus on an array of topics that impact older adult health, such as personal safety, health literacy, opioid misuse, food security, advance care planning, and dementia awareness and care. Educational materials are available for healthcare professionals, care partners, and older adults on the REACH website. All materials are available to download and be freely used and shared with credit by visiting www.reach.med.fsu.edu.

Interactive, online learning modules and PowerPoint presentations are available for professionals on topics like:

- High risk medications
- Preventing opioid misuse
- Pain assessment and management
- Geriatric assessments
- Communicating with older adults
- Flu prevention
- Advance care planning and directives
- Goal-directed care

Community resources and information are available for older adults and their care partners on topics like:

- Care partner support
- Falls prevention
- Dementia care and support
- Pain management
- Brain health
- Intellectual and social wellness
- Heart health
- Advance care planning