**News at the GEC**

**Innovative Opportunity to Improve Dementia Care Offered to Wyoming Providers and Facilities**

The University of Wyoming Geriatric Education Center (WyGEC) is collaborating with Wyoming leaders in the field of dementia care to offer the first **Wyoming Dementia ECHO®**. This project will offer long term care facilities and primary care providers throughout the state an opportunity to consult on challenging cases and learn how to best manage and care for individuals with dementia. Project ECHO® applies the inter-disciplinary expertise of specialty clinicians to the growing public health problems of chronic, complex diseases. Through co-management of patients, rural health care providers learn about best practices and treatment for complex diseases through case-based discussions that rely on computer-based distance education technology to facilitate participation. Optimal management of complex dementia cases often requires consultation with specialists from multiple areas including geriatric medicine, neurology, social work, geriatric pharmacy, geropsychology, and occupational or physical therapy. While such consultation is either cost-prohibitive or simply impossible to deliver in many rural areas using traditional means, the innovative ECHO model™ provides this relationship in an easily accessible way.

The Wyoming Dementia ECHO® will offer ten bi-weekly teleECHO™ clinics which will bring together interdisciplinary specialists and multiple community-based primary care clinicians and nursing home care teams in co-management of individuals with dementia as a guided practice model where the primary care clinician or nursing home facility retains responsibility for managing the patient or resident. In addition to learning through case presentations, the Dementia ECHO will address a weekly topic through a didactic portion of the teleECHO™ session. Topics will include reduction of antipsychotic medication, managing difficult behavior, caregiver resources, and more.

The Wyoming Dementia ECHO® will begin January 22, 2015 and will meet every other Thursday from 11:30AM to 1:00PM through May 28th. Primary care providers, community clinics, and nursing homes are encouraged to consider participation in this project. Participation will entail a commitment to participate in all ten weeks of the Dementia ECHO and also willingness to present at least one de-identified case presentation. WyGEC staff will work with participating sites to connect to bi-weekly sessions via the internet and will also provide technical assistance. There is no fee to participate in this project, thanks to support from the Health Resources and Services Administration. Free continuing education credits and continuing medical education credits will be awarded.

If you or your facility is interested in participating in the Wyoming Dementia ECHO® please contact WyGEC at (307) 766-2829 or email wygec@uwyo.edu.

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*A WyGEC Partnership with* **Wyoming Center on Aging (WyCOA):**

The Wyoming Center on Aging is dedicated to providing trustworthy and credible information about aging-related topics. Whether you are looking for information about managing diabetes, safe driving, or healthy aging we hope this site is useful to you. Please visit: [http://www.uwyo.edu/wycoa/public_resources/](http://www.uwyo.edu/wycoa/public_resources/) for information on: Age-related Disease, Caregiving, Community Living, Disease Prevention, Elder Abuse, Emergency Preparedness, Helpers and First Responders, Healthy Aging, Legal/Financial, Long Term Care, Medication, Safe Driving, Sensory Changes, Wyoming Senior Services.

*For more information of the University of Wyoming Center on Aging visit: [www.uwyo.edu/wycoa](http://www.uwyo.edu/wycoa)*

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*Go to the UW Online Giving Page and find WyGEC*

For questions about other giving options including planned gifts or the state matching gift program, please contact the College of Health Sciences’ Major Gift Officer, Angela Ver Ploeg to discuss your gift and options for donating.

Angela.verploeg@uwyo.edu
(307) 766-1939

Thanks for your support!
**News and Events**

**THE 2015 GERIATRIC HEALTH INTERNET SERIES FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

This 10-week series will be every Tuesday from 5-6:30pm (MST) beginning January 6th thru March 10th, 2015.

Presenters are nationally and regionally recognized Northwest Geriatric Education Center faculty based at the University of Washington. This Series will be focused on providing health care to individuals with Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and/or their caregivers.

Topics include: Dementia, Pharmacotherapy for Dementia, Frontline Tools for the Differential Diagnosis of Depression, Delirium, and Dementia; After the Diagnosis: Maintaining Quality of Life and Coping with Early Stage Issues; Middle and Later Stages: Supporting Caregivers and Coping with Challenging Behaviors; Dementia: End of Life Symptom Management, Sleep and Dementia, Building on Family Dynamics in Coping with Dementia; Caring for the Alzheimer’s Caregiver; and Ethical Dilemmas in the Care of Older Patients with Cognitive Impairment

Please contact WyGEC if you would like to host the series: wygec@uwyo.edu or call (307) 766-2829

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**Dementia Care Certificate** For Healthcare Professionals

The Dementia Care Certificate is offered through the University of Wyoming Geriatric Education Center. The certificate is designed for professional direct care providers of older adults across care settings. The goal of the certificate is to increase providers knowledge of dementia and to enhance confidence in caring for people with dementia. This is a self-paced program and all content, quizzes and evaluations are provided online.

With this program you can earn up to 35 hours of Continuing Education Credits. The certificate program is approved for Continuing Education by the Wyoming Medical Center for CMEs (MD, PA, DO, NP); Wyoming Pharmacy Association, Wyoming Psychological Association and all other disciplines through WyGEC.

For more information please visit:

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**End-of-Life Care Webinar Series**

For all healthcare disciplines

*Featuring the Education in Palliative and End-of-life Care (EPEC) Curriculum*

Coming Spring 2015

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**5th Annual Wyoming Infection Prevention Conference**

**THE FIVE GOLDEN RINGS OF INFECTION PREVENTION**

April 21st & 22nd, 2015 7:30AM-5:00PM Based in Casper

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**Coming Spring of 2015 to Cheyenne, Casper and Gillette.**

Caring with Confidence: FREE dementia care classes for CNAs and direct care workers

**Geriatric Mental Health Workshops:**

For Mental health and Health Care Professionals
WyGEC Online Resource Center
Access to useful databases, links to related organizations, and information on geriatric topics that can be used for classroom or conference settings
http://www.uwyo.edu/geriatrics/edu_training/online_training_modules.html

- Geriatric research databases; Reviews of Geriatric mobile apps for iPhone and droid; Alzheimer’s and dementia resources; Publications on aging topics; Links to related organizations; Consensus statements and guidelines

- **Lending Library List (DVDs, Videos and Publications)** - Topics include general aging, Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, family and caregiving, women and aging, long-term care, healthcare management, stroke, end-of-life care, elder abuse, education/students and bereavement.

*To receive a complete list of available library resources, please contact WyGEC at wygec@uwyo.edu

### Online Training Modules:

Over 50 Recorded training modules on relevant geriatric topics by experts in their field, including:

- Alzheimer’s Disease-What you need to Know
- Dementia, HIPAA and Decision-Making Capacity
- Management of Problematic Behaviors of Elderly patients
- Dementia in the Patient with Intellectual Disability
- An update of the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s, from preclinical to Dementia: NIA-AA, DSM5 and IWG Criteria Considered
- Caregiver Resources and Support
- Readmission: a Closer Look at the High-Risk Patient
- Caring for our Older LGBT Adults
- Native Americans (American Indians) and Dementia
- Advances in Pharmacologic and Non-Pharmacologic Management of Alzheimer’s

And many more!

*Certificates of Completion can be provided for CE reporting!

### Infusion Units:

Infusion Units are packaged lecture materials featuring a film or power-point with teaching notes, discussion questions, and resources for additional reading assignments.

Our collection includes:

- **Hold Your Breath** - for ethnogeriatrics: Illuminates the pivotal role of cross-cultural communication in healthcare decision-making, and the urgent need for cultural competence and diversity training in the healthcare professions.

- **Age of Champions**: An uplifting story of five competitors who sprint, leap, and swim for gold at the National Senior Olympics.

- **Health Literacy and Older Adults Module**: The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.

- **Aging Etiquette**: Understanding and implementing respectful communication and interaction with people who are older/aging.

- **Oral Health**: Understand the importance of oral health and how it relates to total physical health; understand the oral bacteria infection process; show and teach caregivers how to provide oral care for residents with compromised physical or mental abilities; explain how nutrition/eating habits can impact the success of oral health.
GRAND OPENING!
Visit WATR during our new Open Lab hours
Thursdays from 1-4:30 p.m.

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) kicks off our new open lab hours to the public! We are located at the intersection of 9th and Clark streets, in the University of Wyoming Health Sciences Building, RM 151. Check out our renovated lab facility and see what equipment WATR has to offer in our short term (6 week) loan program, such as communication devices and assistive technology to aid in daily living, vision, hearing and learning. Subsequently, WATR will have open lab hours every Thursday between 1-4:30 p.m. (Closed during holidays).

For questions, contact WATR at watr@uwyo.edu | (307) 766-6187
Great for assistive technology users, students, instructors, community members, or anyone who wants to learn more about assistive technology and WATR resources!

College of Health Sciences: Minor in Aging
Aging Baby Boomers are Redefining Geriatric Care!

The field of geriatric health offers opportunities in traditional health care settings and in new settings as the aging baby boomers redefine “geriatric care.” Consider the variety of professionals needed to design and create alternative community living environments. Imagine the excitement of being involved in wellness and preventative geriatric programs such as healthy nutrition for older adults or exercise for improved quality of life. Whether your interest is in hospital care, residential care, or another allied health care, a minor in aging studies will compliment your major.

Please visit: http://www.uwyo.edu/hs/divisions-and-programs/minor-in-aging-studies.html for more information and minor requirements!

Find us at Facebook for more information and updates on your local GEC: https://www.facebook.com/wyjec

THANK YOU to all of those folks who helped with Santa for a Senior Program in partnership with Home Instead Senior Care and the Center on Aging. We had over 50 gifts donated and over $250.00 donated to help our local seniors!

WyGEC and the Wyoming Center on Aging would like to wish you and yours a Happy Holiday and best wishes for the New Year!

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