As I reflect on why Black History month was and is necessary, I decided to check the statistics regarding the health of Black aging adults in America. And unsurprisingly, we continue to be at greater risk for many preventive chronic health conditions like hypertension, diabetes and obesity. The last few years have led to increased awareness and attention to health disparities and an acknowledgement by some education and professional organizations that factors such as social determinants and racism play a significant role in these disparities.

Thus, many have incorporated educational modules on racism, stereotyping, and microaggressions to name a few, into ongoing trainings for their nurses and faculty. Some academic settings have also integrated social determinants of health models into their curriculum. But, how do we, as nurses, faculty, and/or researchers, ensure the inclusion of these topics into trainings and the curriculum are more than just performative acts? How do we evaluate whether they will result in concrete changes regarding how nurses at all levels interact with Black older adults and collaborate with them to manage their health and support their goals?

How do we build trust with Black older adults so they can openly speak to us about their health and lives and/or participate in our research studies?

First, I believe we should no longer ask Black aging adults to be resilient so that they thrive in spite of the roadblocks, but scaffold them with individualized resources to improve or maintain their health. We must be responsible for examining, identifying, and managing our biases and deeply held beliefs that guide our behaviors and when we sit at tables of influence, advocate for equitable and just decisions. We must not hide from our past or pretend it didn’t happen, but acknowledge it then ask how the unjust policies can be corrected and work to correct and not repeat them. I realize this takes both internal and community work but as Martin Luther King Jr. said “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice..."
requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

Glenna Brewster, PhD, RN, FNP-BC
2023-2025 NHCGNE President

NHCGNE’s Nook

Save the Date!
2023 NHCGNE Leadership Conference

When: October 24-26, 2023
Theme: Innovations for Healthy Aging

Regional Nursing Research Societies

Midwest Nursing Research Society: Gerontological Nursing Science RIIG  https://mnrs.org/
Southwest Nursing Research Society: Aging/Gerontology RIIG  https://snrs.org/
Eastern Nursing Research Society: Aging RIG  https://www.enrs-go.org/
Western Institute of Nursing: Gero SIG  https://www.winursing.org/

NHCGNE Member News

Collaboration: A Framework for Geriatric Care Improvement Through Education
Lydia T. Manahan, PhD, RN

The Philippines is slowly having a gray population and there is a need to prepare our nurses for the care of older persons. The mission of the Gerontology Nurses Association of the Philippines (GNAP) is to contribute towards the safe and better health of Filipino older persons by creating an environment of well-informed and educated healthcare professionals in geriatric and gerontology nursing in the country. Despite the limited resources of the organization, it was able to collaborate with different agencies/institutions in the Philippines like the Department of Health (DOH), University of the Philippines College of Nursing, and other health agencies/institutions involved in the care of the older persons to fulfill its mission.

In 2016, a three-month mentorship and training program was created for selected nurses from DOH-accredited hospitals in the country to develop their capacity to provide quality care for older persons. The training program addresses the development of competencies in a) caring for the older person in varied nursing situations during health and wellness, chronic illness, and long-term care, b) managing a geriatric unit of an institution and community setting, and c) providing Filipino older persons better access to health care.

The program includes lectures and practicum, which is composed of core knowledge and skills specific to the maintenance of the health and well-being of older persons. This consists of 148 virtual lectures (didactics) and 400 clinical practicum hours in selected government health
The mentors are known experts in gerontology and geriatrics from the Gerontology Nurses Association of the Philippines (GNAP), Inc., who developed the course modules from an existing set of DOH modules and will also serve as course lecturers and clinical preceptors. The organization was able to train 100 nurses from different regions in the Philippines and add 32 nurses from the 4th batch this February. From the previous trainees, a new breed of clinical preceptors completed training on “Preceptorial Leadership in Clinical Teaching” in 2019. These trained preceptors assisted in training the 4th batch during their practicum.

---

**Penn State's Living with Dementia**

Janice Whitaker, MEd, BSN, RN, CDP

*Living with Dementia* (LWD) is a comprehensive and innovative community education program presented by the Penn State Ross and Carol Nese College of Nursing’s Tressa Nese and Helen Diskevich Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence and Age-Friendly Care PA in partnership between three Penn State entities: CGNE, AFCPA, and the Penn State College of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics at the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

As CGNE Administrator and Lead for the AFCPA Community Action Workgroup, Janice Whitaker, 2022 NHCGNE DEGN Recipient provided leadership to design and implement LWD to enhance knowledge, develop skills, and provide resources for care partners of persons living with dementia (PLWD). LWD involves four educational sessions presented by a geriatric nurse, geriatrician, and a dementia educator. Titles include *Understanding Dementia-Related Brain Changes; Understanding Behaviors as a Form of Communication; Resources for Dementia Caregivers; and Planning for the Future with Dementia*. Participants gained competencies with best-practice, positive approaches to care that focus on the PLWD’s retained abilities as well as confidence and self-efficacy as caregivers.

This LWD program includes a concurrent Memory Café at the same locations which not only provides a respite opportunity for care partners attending LWD, but a supportive and safe environment for their loved ones living with dementia. Memory Cafes were implemented by three Opening Minds through Art (OMA) facilitators with an interprofessional approach – a holistic nurse, occupational therapist, and former LTC activities director. Sessions integrated evidence-based engagement activities including: Timeslips reminiscence activities; OMA no-fail, creative art-making; music/singing and movement activities. Undergraduate nursing students were paired with the “artists” (PLWD), providing an intergenerational learning opportunity as well as positive relationship-building experience for the dyad.

---

**NHCGNE Mentor Corner**

**Mentor/Mentee Relationships Should be Fun!**

Remember to get to know your Mentee and/or Mentor on a personal level as well as a professional level. Creating a relationship with your Mentor/Mentee is one way to build trust and help to create a more meaningful relationship. One simple suggestion would be to set aside the first few minutes of each mentoring meeting for a ‘get to know you’ or ice-breaker type question. It could be as simple as spring break plans or the last thing that they cooked or baked.

[Learn More Tips & Tricks!]

---

**Coronavirus and Older Adults**
President Biden’s announcement that the Covid-19 public health emergency (PHE) will end on May 11 will have a significant impact on older adults. Some changes will be immediate, others won’t occur for nearly two years. Some may improve care for older adults, others could cost seniors more money and end some important benefits they received during the pandemic.

FDA Vaccine Advisers Back Safety of RSV Vaccines for Older Adults

The Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisory committee has recommended GlaxoSmithKline’s and Pfizer’s respiratory syncytial virus vaccine candidates for older adults, paving the way for approval of the country's first RSV vaccine.

The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, the same group that reviews COVID-19 vaccines, voted unanimously on Wednesday that vaccine efficiency data for GSK’s RSV vaccine for adults 60 years and older were sufficient. The advisory committee voted 7-4 on Tuesday to recommend Pfizer’s vaccine candidate for older adults based on its efficacy, with one abstention.
Critical Condition: Is Anyone Listening?

Working conditions have worsened for many nurses and health care professionals across the globe during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the Omicron wave, the US Department of Health and Human Services has reported critical staffing shortages in 24% of US hospitals, and military medical personnel have been deployed to assist hospitals in at least 8 states. As I write this editorial in January 2022, health care workers have also been asked to return to the work setting five days after testing positive for COVID-19. Consequently, many nurses are working 12-hour shifts with an increased patient load, increased patient acuity, and, for some, added mandatory overtime while recovering from illness. These expectations are not reasonable.
Reynolds 2023 Doctoral Scholarship Award

The Reynolds Center of Geriatric Excellence, Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center announces $150,000 PhD Scholarships for full-time PhD study in Nursing, with a focus in adult and older adult healthcare. The Scholarship offers up to three years of support with a value of $50,000 per year for tuition and fees, conference travel and a monthly living stipend. The PhD Program is online providing strong individual mentorship with visits to campus for intensives. For more information about the scholarship, contact PhD Program Director, Dr. Emily Jones at Emily-J-Jones@ouhsc.edu or at 405-271-1491 Ext. 49135.

Learn More

Academic Opportunities

Multiple Tenure-Track or Tenured Positions Now Available

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis seeks multiple tenure- or tenure-track faculty at the rank of assistant, associate, or full professor. The school also invites applications from research teams of two or more faculty with productive, collaborative research programs.

The School of Nursing is seeking applications from candidates with productive programs of science and commitment to scholarship that aligns with their mission and research priorities:

- Healthy aging and family caregiving across the lifespan
- Health equity, social justice, and health promotion in diverse populations
- Healthy systems and enabling technologies
In addition to conducting research, successful candidates teach in one or more of the school’s four programs: Master’s Entry Program in Nursing, Physician Assistant Master of Health Services, Doctor of Nursing Practice—Family Nurse Practitioner, and the Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership Doctor of Philosophy programs. They are interested in candidates with experience teaching qualitative research methods or health informatics.

If you are interested, please send an email with your questions to Stephanie Lagala at sdlagala@ucdavis.edu.

Please review the full position description, which provides guidance on the application requirements and recommendations to strengthen your application at nursing.ucdavis.edu/ourteam/join.

View Full Position & Apply

ANAC's HIV and Aging Learning Modules

Check out ANAC's HIV and Aging free Learning Modules: https://www.nursesinaidscare.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4941. These modules are eligible for up to 6.5 hours of NCPD (formerly CNE) credit. ANAC developed these modules to educate RNs, APRNs, LPNs, CNAs and other healthcare providers working with aging PWH. The modules provide a standardized body of knowledge and aim to improve the quality of care for people living, aging, and thriving with HIV. The modules currently available are:

- HIV Foundations
- Creating an Inclusive Space
- Brain Health, Cognition and Mental Health
- Chronic Co-Occurring Conditions

Check out the Learning Modules

Upcoming Industry Events

On Aging 2023
March 27–30, 2023 | Atlanta, GA

Connect with experts in aging at the nation’s largest multidisciplinary conference on aging. No matter your field, a growing aging population will impact your work, presenting new obstacles, but also providing new opportunities. On Aging 2023 offers attendees the unique opportunity to build a strategy that will drive your work and your mission forward.

Register to Attend
The Southern Gerontological Society’s 44th annual conference is happening on **April 11-15, 2023** at the beautiful Norfolk The Main in downtown Norfolk, VA. Hilton at The Main sits along the waterfront and is a close walk to cultural attractions, shopping, and dining. The theme is *Advancing Effective Solutions: The Interplay of Social Determinants of Health and Health Disparities*.

**Learn More & Register to Attend**

**Get Involved With NHCGNE!**

**DONATE To NHCGNE Today!**

[www.nhcgne.org/donate](www.nhcgne.org/donate)

Your generous donation will be instrumental in the development of new programs such as our new grant program, and products and services that will enable us to continue to develop and strengthen gerontological nursing and leadership.

The importance of your contribution cannot be overstated. In addition to all the work that you already do on behalf of older adults, this gift further demonstrates your personal commitment to preparing our country with a competent gerontological nursing workforce.

NHCGNE is a 501(c)3 organization and you can claim a deduction on your federal taxes.

**Donate Today!**

**Volunteers Needed**

Member participation in NHCGNE committees is vital to the growth and development of our organization. Joining a committee is one of the easiest ways to get involved. NHCGNE is seeking volunteers to share their skills and expertise by serving on one or more of our Membership, Finance/Entrepreneurial, Education, Leadership Conference Planning, Communication, Mentoring, and Awards Committees. Learn more about each committee [here](https://www.nhcgne.org/committees). If you are interested in serving on one of the committees, please email [info@NHCGNE.org](mailto:info@NHCGNE.org).
Say it with "Got Content"!

Next New Directions Content Submission Deadline:
May 2023
Deadline: April 21, 2023

Newsletter submissions should be sent to NHCGNE Staff at info@nhcgne.org with NHCGNE New Directions Submission in the subject line.

Email Us Your Ad Today!

Share the Newsletter

Do you know any faculty or PhD student in your school or university that is not receiving New Directions? If so, please send their name and email address to info@nhcgne.org.