

Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program at Temple University Hospital and Crozer Chester Medical Center

Program Description

The Temple University Hospital/Crozer-Chester Medical Center Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program is a 12-month clinical experience leading to eligibility for the ABIM/ABFP examination for the Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine. The Program is ACGME accredited through the Department of Medicine at Temple University Hospital. The Program is designed to train internal medicine and family medicine physicians to become clinician-educators in the field of Geriatric Medicine. The Temple Fellowship program has been in existence since at least 1996 and has graduated over 20 fellows.

Eligibility and Application: Physicians committed to a career in geriatrics, who complete residency training in internal medicine or family medicine are invited to apply via ERAS.

Resources

Teaching Staff: William Zirker, M.D. M.P.H., Program Director, Deborah Kahn, M.D., key faculty, Michael Srulevich, D.O., faculty at Crozer Chester Medical Center and outpatient and nursing home preceptor, Susan Ball, M.D., director of the geriatric psychiatry curriculum, Peter Warrington, D.O. family medicine geriatric preceptor and Duane Kirksey, M.D., Temple University Hospital site coordinator. Surbhi Gupta, CRNP, nursing home coordinator, Jennifer Marshall, MSW. GEM coordinator and practice social worker.

Facilities: Temple University Hospital, Chester Chester Medical Center, Belvedere Nursing Center, Wallingford Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Lima Estates a CCRC, Crozer Keystone Center for Geriatric Medicine, Southeastern Pennsylvania Movement Disorder Center, and Chestnut Ridge Assisted Living. The libraries and educational resources of Temple University School of Medicine and Crozer-Chester Medical Center are available to the fellows and the fellows have access to the EMR and to on-line references sources such as Up-TO-Date, Lexicomp, Pub-Med, Google, POGOe, and multiple other sites.

Educational Program- Basic Curriculum

The curriculum consists of block rotations and supervised clinical experiences at Temple University Hospital and Crozer-Chester Medical Center, and their affiliated nursing homes. Block rotations include 4 months of acute inpatient/ consult geriatric medicine, 1 month of nursing home, 1 month of geropsychiatry, 1 month of physical and rehabilitation medicine, 1 month of home care and hospice, 1 month of Palliative care medicine, 1 month of ambulatory care Rheumatology, Neurology and Wound Care, 1 month of Geriatric Evaluation and Management and 1 month of elective. The fellows also spend one half day per week following a panel of patients in the geriatric continuity clinic and one half day per week following their panel of patients in the nursing home. Fellows have direct patient care responsibilities throughout the year and follow their own panel of outpatients and nursing home patients. Fellows are also responsible for teaching residents and medical students during their geriatric rotations.

In addition to the supervised clinical experience the fellows attend 10 hours per month in didactic teaching which includes weekly core lecture series covering geriatric syndromes and competencies, journal club and research meetings. Fellows are expected to be actively involved in the programs research work and conduct and present their work at local and national meetings.

Learning objectives include development of skills and knowledge in the following:

- Theories and mechanisms of aging; biological changes of aging; pathophysiology of common aging illnesses; clinical pharmacology; psychosocial aspects of aging; geriatric rehabilitation; preoperative assessment and postoperative management; and preventive medicine
- Complete and accurate medical and psychosocial histories and physical examinations in a diverse population of elderly patients
- Diagnoses and treatments of common symptom complexes in the elderly
- End of life care

- Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary team approaches to practice with other health care professionals
- Geriatric acute hospital care
- Transitional/Sub-acute/Post-acute care
- Nursing home care
- Home care
- Ambulatory outpatient care
- Teaching
- Research
- Administration

Evaluations are based on the 6 core competencies (Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Practice-Based Learning/Improvement, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Professionalism, and System-Based Learning). A 360 degree evaluation system is implemented whereby the supervising faculty, nursing staff and patients assess the fellow's performance on a monthly basis. The evaluation is reviewed with the fellow at the conclusion of the rotation. These evaluations are used as a tool that provides a means of identifying both strengths and weaknesses. It allows correction of individual deficiencies to ensure continued high standard performance. At the end of each rotation, the fellow completes a confidential evaluation on his attending physician and the rotation. Semi-annual evaluations are conducted to facilitate growth and learning. At completion, their overall clinical competence is assessed and reviewed with the fellow by the Program Director.