FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Elizabeth Whiteman, MD

Interview by Janet C. Frank, DrPH

Elizabeth Whiteman, MD is a patient advocate, an expert clinician, an educator, and believes in a team approach to patient care. Elizabeth Whiteman is a UCLA geriatrician. As a geriatrics clinician-educator, she sees older patients 90% of her time, often accompanied by medical students, residents and fellows in training.

Q: Tell us about your early training and what factors led you to a career in clinical geriatrics?

A: I always had an interest in medicine, and while I was an undergraduate, I volunteered at the Carrillo Community Clinic in Santa Barbara. I worked there for four years and became very interested in primary care. I enjoyed the one-on-one contact with patients that I got to experience and I worked closely with Dr. Neil Sullivan, a wonderful family practice physician. He encouraged and supported me to pursue my goal to attend medical school. I admire Dr. Sullivan greatly and see him as my role model to be an excellent physician. Working with him had a large impact on my ultimate decision to pursue primary care.

By the time I completed my residency, I had heard about the specialty of geriatric medicine within primary care and found the idea intriguing. I was raised in a home with my maternal grandparents, and we remained close all their lives. I was always very comfortable with older people, and the decision to pursue a career in clinical geriatrics seemed like my natural path. I completed the UCLA-VA Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine, and was hired in 2000 by UCLA as soon as I was finished.

Q: What is your average day like?

A: I am involved in patient care all of the time. I see older patients in my clinic everyday, unless I’m on service at the hospital. When I am on service, I give all my time to the hospitalized patients and am typically training two residents and several medical students. I also perform geriatric and palliative care consults with the geriatrics fellows. When I’m not on service, I am focused on seeing my primary care patients. This helps me balance my time with the primary responsibilities on hand. Otherwise, it would be total chaos! I also rely a lot on the nurses and other team members to help me provide the best care possible in both of these settings.

The best part about being a geriatrician is the patients.

For the last five years, I have been part of the Bioethics Committee at the hospital, and served as Chair for the last two years. It is a multi-specialty and multidisciplinary group that also involves participation from community members. Our committee deals with very important and very difficult ethical issues in patient care. The members, with all their various backgrounds and perspectives, come together to help make the best decisions possible. At times, it has been an eye-opening experience, seeing the issues from the perspective of emergency medicine, for example. It is a very interesting and rewarding experience and has definitely helped me care for my own patients.

Q: What is the best part about being a geriatrician at UCLA?

A: The best part about being a geriatrician is the patients. I take care of all aspects of my patients’ needs and all their problems. I have learned a lot from them and am constantly witnessing great strengths and strong survival skills. I have older patients of all ages, some over 100 years old. They have experienced many hardships, such as war and depressions. They have great resiliency and teach me important lessons about life. The relationships we establish are definitely the most rewarding aspect of my work. I can be there for them and help them address tough issues. They are also there for me; they share books and travel advice and sometimes they worry about whether I’ve had time for lunch and actually bring me food.

The best part about being a geriatrician at UCLA is getting to focus all my clinical work just on older patients. This is rare and special and only possible in a place like UCLA. I also really enjoy working with my talented colleagues in geriatrics. I know when I have to be away from the office that my patients will get excellent care from them. It is very reassuring and only possible because of the strength of our program and the clinical excellence of our UCLA geriatricians.

Q: What are your biggest challenges?

A: Balancing the needs of my patients with the limited clinical time available. In our current health care system, time pressures are huge. I mentioned that I rely on my fellow team members, the nurses, social workers, therapists and others. I believe the “team” is essential for optimal geriatric care, and evidence shows that this comprehensive and holistic care is best for older people with complex needs. I worry that with continued financial pressures on clinical care, that access to the team will

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Autumn is in the air. The LA weather has been fickle with record-setting highs and days of dreary rain. The school year brings its usual frenzy of teaching and research proposals superimposed upon the continual work of clinical care.

In October, the UCLA MPGMG submitted the proposal renewal of its Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center. We were able to build upon the successes of the Center and broaden the theme to include research that brings new knowledge into clinical practice and decision-making, the second stage of translational (T2) research. In addition to revising the theme, we made several changes in Core leadership, reflecting the maturation of several core co-leaders from the previous cycle. This new generation of leaders brings fresh ideas into the Center and will facilitate the eventual transition of UCLA OAIC leadership. Numerous other grants have been submitted and we are optimistic despite the extremely difficult funding situation at the National Institute on Aging.

The clinical environment at UCLA is also changing. The Medical Center and Department are preparing for an integrated delivery system, including the Patient-Centered Medical Home. The Division of Geriatrics has been a leader in these improvements, including obtaining philanthropic support for an electronic communication system for our patients that allows electronic prescribing. As we implement electronic record-keeping, physicians need to change how we do our work. Otherwise, we run the risk of turning physicians into scribes. Nevertheless, the potential of this system to improve the quality and service of health care is enormous. There has been some turnover of faculty and we are recruiting to replace those who have departed. In addition, Harbor-UCLA Hospital is recruiting a geriatrician to lead its program. We look forward to adding this important teaching hospital to our Multicampus program.

The GeroNet website continues to add features and has become valuable to faculty nationally as well as locally. GeroNet includes educational and research opportunities, practice improvement tools, patient educational materials, and links to websites. Please visit www.geronet.ucla.edu and provide any feedback on ways to improve the site.

Finally, I have begun my year as Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). Above all, the Board aims to continuously improve the profession for the public good. ABIM believes that the practice of medicine requires a lifelong commitment to keeping current with the evolving knowledge base and skills of medical practice and that the best approach is through Maintenance of Certification (MOC). The Board also recognizes the time and financial pressures that internists face. Accordingly, ABIM has embraced the concept of making MOC relevant to practice and as efficient as possible. ABIM’s goal is that certification in internal medicine and its subspecialties will be the recognized standard of competence by the profession, state licensing boards, hospitals, other credentialing bodies (e.g., payers), and the public.

As we enter the second decade of the 21st century and the first of 75 million baby boomers turn 65 years of age, geriatrics at UCLA, healthcare delivery in the United States, and the roles of physicians and other health professionals are changing rapidly. As leaders, our job is to look forward and take advantage of this unique opportunity by mobilizing resources and empowering healthcare professionals to create a better future.

2010-2011 FELLOWSHIP CLASS: FULL HOUSE

The Geriatric Medicine Fellowship has another wonderful group of eleven fellows this year, one of whom is combined Geriatrics-Oncology. Three fellows come from Family Medicine programs, and the rest come from Internal Medicine.

We added a new rotation this year, Community Outpatient, which incorporates the experience of Geriatric Assessment at the SAGE Clinic with Dan Osterweil, MD and David Stern, MD, and adds new experiences which highlight the areas in which UCLA excels. During this rotation, fellows have the opportunity to rotate in the outpatient offices of Chris Tarnay, MD and Jennifer Anger, MD, Geriatric Gynecology and Female Geriatric Urology, respectively. They also spend time with the UCLA Movement Disorders group, with Indu Subramanian, MD and Jeff Bronstein, MD, where they develop greater expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson’s Disease and related disorders.

The Fellowship Alumni Association had another reception, timed to coincide with the UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatrics. Our current fellows had the opportunity to mingle with many of our UCLA and VA faculty and with fellowship alumni.

For more information about the Fellowship, please contact Ms. Robin Catino at rcatino@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 825-8253.
NEW GERONET FEATURES

Six months ago, we re-launched our GeroNet website. Supported by funds from the Division of Geriatrics programs, GeroNet provides extensive educational, research and clinical resources on aging and the health care of older persons.

The new GeroNet was highlighted at the UCLA MPGMG Annual Business Meeting, where staff from the Geriatric Education and Coordination Center (GEC²) acted as weblinks featured on GeroNet to demonstrate the educational resources available on the website.

We are continuing to build and expand our resources. In addition to being more current, faster and hugely more user-friendly, we created a GeroNet management team to efficiently manage the site, add articles, update information and tweak and polish the design as the website evolves.

We created and implemented a few new features and encourage you to take a look. UCLA researchers are now able to update their profile, highlight existing research projects and grants, and recruit patients for clinical trials. In the future, we hope to offer linkages for researchers with similar interest areas to share ideas. Additionally, the public can now sign up to receive information about our upcoming events and bi-annual newsletter. We have also expanded our resource page for patients, educators, students and healthcare professionals.

We have had a great response to the new design and welcome any feedback. Visit us at WWW.GERONET.UCLA.EDU. Please contact Mr. Minh Ly, at mly@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 312-0531 for any questions.

MINORITY AGING RESEARCH CENTER ACTIVITIES AT GSA

The National Coordinating Center for the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) sponsored an important all-day training program at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) annual scientific meeting on November 19, 2010.

Over 65 participants attended “Making Your Research Count: Strategies for Informing Minority Aging Policy”, which was chaired by Carmen Green, MD, from the Michigan Urban Center for African American Research. The GSA pre-conference was funded by an R13 grant from the National Institute on Aging. Participants gained a better understanding about the types of information policy makers want, became aware of different ways that information gets used in policy, learned about strategies for disseminating research to policy-makers and how to work with the press to disseminate minority aging research. According to Dr. Green, “the program’s focus on incorporating important questions into minority aging research and learning how to translate research findings to broader populations is a necessary step to improving the health and well-being of racial and ethnic minority older adults.”

For more information about RCMAR, please contact Ms. Victoria Kemp at vkemp@mednet.ucla.edu or visit www.rcmar.ucla.edu.

LMG UPDATES FOR 2011

The 9th Annual Leadership and Management in Geriatrics Conference (LMG), under the direction of Dan Osterweil, MD, CMD, will be offered April 15-16, 2011 in Manhattan Beach, CA. This conference, created in 2002 by the UCLA Academic Geriatric Resource Center (AGRC), works to address health professionals’ lack of background in finance, business and leadership upon entering further training or practice. Thus, it targets academic and clinical health professionals throughout the country at different points in their career trajectories.

The 2011 conference has been updated to cover topics such as: Interdisciplinary Geriatric Practice, Leadership and Management: Knowing the Difference, What Geriatrics Can Learn from Business, Trends in Geriatrics, and Understanding Geriatric Practice Economics.

A unique feature of the conference is the opportunity for participants to work in small collaborative groups with a faculty mentor to develop and implement an action plan for a quality improvement management/leadership challenge. Participants can also work with a faculty mentor post-conference to implement plans.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Education (CE) units are available to conference participants. Participants are eligible for additional units upon completion of their action plan.

For more information about LMG, please contact Ms. Christy Ann Lau, christylau@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 312-0531.
SHARP PROGRAM GOES LIVE

The U.S. Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE) awarded Janet C. Frank, DrPH a three year grant to develop and test a one semester certificate program on evidence-based health promotion in two community colleges in Southern California. The program hopes to orient students toward careers in aging and/or supplement other health professions majors. The certificate program, Skills for Healthy Aging Resources and Programs (SHARP), held a faculty orientation and recruitment event on November 3rd at the campus of College of the Canyons (CoC). CoC is one of the pilot schools of the grant, in addition to Santa Barbara City College.

The event, organized by Patricia Robinson PhD, Dean of the Social Science and Business Division, was a great success and yielded commitments from CoC faculty to teach proposed certificate courses. Potential faculty members were energized about the new programming and the discussion session offered new ideas and approaches.

With the certificate curriculum under final review at CoC, the SHARP administrative team is gearing up for a faculty training March 10-11, 2011 in preparation for the Fall 2011 roll out! For more information on SHARP, please contact Ms. Rachel Price at rprice@mednet.ucla.edu.

AGRC FOCUSES ON FACULTY AND STUDENTS IN 2011

The UCLA Academic Geriatric Resource Center (AGRC), now in its 26th year, is dedicated to promoting intra- and inter-disciplinary training in geriatrics and gerontology throughout the campus and community.

For 2010-2011, the AGRC is focused on faculty development, recruitment into careers in aging, and continuing the growth of the UCLA GeroNet website. The UCLA AGRC includes program directors from geriatrics, geriatric psychiatry, neurology, nursing, dentistry, social welfare, public health, and the gerontology minor.

For the faculty development focus, the AGRC is offering the Gero Mini-Fellowship on February 9-11, 2011 to faculty in the above disciplines. This activity provides new geriatric/gerontology content and teaching skills to faculty who want to enhance their training in these content areas. Promoting interest in careers in aging is a new area for the AGRC in recognition of the importance of recruiting students into aging-related fields. Student Interest Groups in nursing, social welfare, and geriatric medicine have received financial support from the AGRC. Information about careers in aging will be disseminated through the GeroNet website as well as through the UCLA Career Center’s Jump Start Program, where AGRC faculty and staff will sit on a panel of experts to advise students on their career goals. AGRC Campus Planner, Ms. Anne Hu, will be a guest panelist for the Public Health workshop on April 20, 2011 at the Career Center. For more information, please visit www.geronet.ucla.edu, and click on the Careers in Aging tab.

For more information about the AGRC program, please contact Ms. Anne Hu at annehu@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 312-0531.

UCLA REYNOLDS PROGRAM FINISHES STRONG

The Faculty Development to Advance Geriatric Education (FD-AGE) Program at UCLA aims to strengthen geriatric medicine training at medical schools and residency programs that have not received support from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. Many of these are institutions that currently have few resources and little geriatrics education. Over the course of the last six years, we have reached out to 115 institutions in 39 states.

The FD-AGE program focuses on training clinician-educators how to effectively teach geriatrics and change their institutions to increase geriatrics training. The centerpiece of the program is a 3-day Mini-Fellowship in geriatric education that aims to change the way faculty think about teaching geriatric medicine by using interactive hands-on learning techniques such as the standardized medical student model and problem-based learning curriculum.

Each Mini-Fellowship participant develops an action plan, a personalized step-by-step guide to improving geriatric education at their institution. Between 2004-2010, we have trained over 220 faculty-educators, who have, in turn, taught almost 8,000 trainees, and provided a total of 883 lectures, 66 course modules, 470 clinical experiences and 18 other instructional mechanisms (e.g., workshops, screening tools).

We have also provided 19 on-site consultations to help institutions strengthen their network of geriatric resources and improve their existing geriatric education programs. Additionally, we have sponsored four advanced geriatric fellows and awarded eight $10,000 junior faculty quality improvement stipends for projects such as the early identification, evaluation, and intervention of nursing home residents demonstrating a change in condition and developing an appropriate screening aid for breast cancer using mammography.

The final Mini-Fellowship program will be held February 9-11, 2011 and there are a few slots left. To enroll, please contact Ms. Anne Hu at annehu@mednet.ucla.edu.
THE UCLA INTENSIVE COURSE CELEBRATES 27TH YEAR WITH A SOLD OUT CROWD

The 27th Annual UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review and its concurrent program, Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review, was held September 29 – October 2, 2010 at the Marina Marriott Hotel in Marina Del Rey, CA. This four-day program provided geriatric training to over 335 physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, social workers and other health care providers. During the course, participants attended lectures and small group sessions from nationally renowned speakers, and participated in interactive board review sessions.

The course presented the prestigious 2010 David H. Solomon Award to Richard D. Della Penna, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Independa, Inc., who lectured on “Improving Care for Older Adults: Does Delivery System Matter?”

The Annual Arthur Cherkin Memorial Award was presented to Richard Mayeux, MD, MSc, Director and Gertrude H. Sergievsky Professor of Neurology, Psychiatry and Epidemiology, Gertrude H. Sergievsky Center. Dr. Mayeux gave an enlightening talk on “GWAS and Beyond: Risk Loci, Biological Candidates and Biomarkers.”

We are already starting to prepare for the 2011 Intensive Course. For more information, please contact Ms. Victoria Kemp at vkemp@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 312-0531.

CGEC KICK OFF 2010-2015

In its continued mission to offer education and training opportunities to health professionals and faculty members in the field of geriatrics and gerontology, the California Geriatric Education Center (CGEC) contended in a highly competitive grant cycle in April 2010 to renew funding with the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professionals. Of the forty-five GECs across the nation, three are funded here in California: the Northern California GEC (UCSF), the Stanford GEC and the CGEC managed in the MPGMG, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Under the successful directorship of Janet C. Frank, DrPH, the grant was awarded for five years (2010-2015) with new partners including Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, CSU Bakersfield and Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield. In addition to the new academic collaborators, the CGEC is continuing its long standing partnership with the professional association, the California Council on Gerontology and Geriatrics (CCGG).

To kick off new activities, the CGEC held their annual Advisory Meeting in Marina del Rey on September 28th. Each partner presented their initiatives, upcoming activities and approaches to evaluation requirements. Major CGEC themes include the improvement of geriatric practice on depression care in skilled nursing facilities and developing various interprofessional geriatric education training programs. Together with a great collaborative team, the CGEC moves forward with excitement and eagerness toward the important work ahead.

For more information, please contact Ms. Rachel Price at rprice@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 312-0531.

UCLA CONFERENCE ADDRESSES TECHNOLOGY’S IMPACT ON SUCCESSFUL AGING

While aging impacts everyday living in many ways, the latest technologies in the medical, consumer and lifestyle fields have the potential to help older adults live better for longer. The UCLA Center on Aging’s third annual “UCLA Technology and Aging Conference: Science Changing Lives,” was held on October 29, 2010 and featured national academic and industry leaders who explored cutting-edge innovations affecting every aspects of life, from video games for seniors to medical robotics and the latest imaging tools for diagnosis and disease management.

Designed for older adults, their families and caregivers, the conference provided information about the latest developments to help enhance the quality of life of seniors. “Every year, we explore how the latest technological innovations and medical advances can help us age more successfully,” said Gary Small, MD, director of the UCLA Center on Aging.

Award-winning producer, director and actor Tony Bill, who received an Oscar for producing the 1973 film “The Sting,” was the featured luncheon speaker. He discussed the lessons he has learned over his lengthy and rewarding career and spoke about how technology has changed the nature of Hollywood.

An afternoon keynote by Gerald Kominski, director of the Health Economics and Evaluation Research Program at UCLA, addressed how health care reform will impact the lives of seniors.

Conference breakout sessions focused on developments in disease management and treatment, adaptive and assistive devices, and the impact of information technology on well-being.

For more information about the Center on Aging, please email uclacoa@mednet.ucla.edu or call (310) 267-1AGE.
THE FIRST AGED TO PERFECTION SOCIAL GATHERING

Judy Tamkin saw her vision become reality when the first event of the UCLA Geriatrics-affiliated Aged to Perfection social group was held one August afternoon on the patio of Belmont Village in Westwood. Judy put her plan into action to encourage more social interaction between people who are indeed “aged to perfection” through organizing both fun and informative events.

The inaugural event was centered around a theme of Laughter & Lemonade and featured a comedian who was a recent finalist in the “Last Comic Standing.” Guests were invited to come and reconnect, meet new friends and share memories, concerns and joys with each other. Judy and Laurie Nussbaum of Belmont Village hosted a wonderful afternoon of refreshing conversation in a relaxed setting.

If you are interested in participating in future Aged to Perfection events, please contact Rosie Chiaverini at (310) 206-0500 to be added to group’s invitation and communication list.

UCLA PEPPER CENTER NEWS

The UCLA Pepper Center recently submitted a 5-year renewal proposal to the National Institute on Aging (NIA). In the current grant cycle, the Center emphasizes research that builds bridges between basic biomedical science and clinical sciences, the first stage of translational (T1) research.

In light of its success during this cycle, the UCLA Pepper Center plans to maintain its current emphasis on T1 research and also plans to expand its strategy and reach to include translational research that brings new knowledge into clinical practice and decision-making, the second stage of translational (T2) research. The Center theme going forward into the next 5-year cycle will be: Translational Research to Maintain Independence.

Expansion to include T2 research builds upon existing strengths at UCLA in medicine (geriatrics, general medicine, oncology, emergency medicine, and urology), public health, nursing, psychology, and economics as well as at the VA, Charles R. Drew University, RAND Corporation, and community-based organizations. By doing so, the UCLA Pepper Center hopes to answer questions that will not only advance the science of maintaining independence but also guide clinical practice and policy by providing an evidence base for decisions about what services should be covered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) or supported through federal or state-supported services (e.g., through the Older Americans Act).

An important focus of the UCLA Pepper Center will be on developing and understanding interventions that reduce inflammation. At the end of the 5-year cycle, the UCLA Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) will be a model program for translational research extending from basic science to clinical practice and policy and will have created a generation of new researchers who can begin to assume leadership in this theme.

For more information about the UCLA Pepper Center, please contact, Mr. Lucio Arruda at larruda@mednet.ucla.edu.

GRECC CONTINUES TO THRIVE

The Veterans Administration (VA) Greater Los Angeles Geriatrics Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) continues to be a leader in aging research, exemplary educational programs in geriatrics and gerontology, and innovative clinical care programs for older veterans. One key milestone in 2010 was the successful site visit from the national Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee, which evaluates the status of the GRECC in meeting its goals and core mission.

In addition, the most recent GRECC Annual Report is outstanding, with the GRECC meeting or exceeding performance measures established by VA Central Office as targets for productivity in key areas of research, education and clinical care. For example, for every full-time GRECC researcher, there were seven ongoing funded aging-related research projects. GRECC staff published nearly 80 journal papers in peer-reviewed journals. Looking towards the future, GRECC core staff will mentor three junior faculty investigators who are recipients of competitive research career development awards, in addition to numerous other trainees and investigators who receive mentoring from the GRECC. The educational program of the GRECC is also quite vibrant, providing four training programs during the year to a broad range of healthcare disciplines. Our core staff provide an average of ten scholarly presentations during the year. Finally, the GRECC reports four clinical demonstration projects for improving care of older veterans.

For more information about GRECC activities, please contact Dr. Cathy Alessi at cathy.alessi@va.gov.
FACULTY NEWS

BARBARA BATES JENSEN, PhD, RN, was inducted as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in November. Fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing is the highest honor for nurses.

SUSAN CHARETTE, MD was named Best Clinical Mentor for the National Institute of Aging funded Medical Student Training in Aging Research Summer Program in Geriatrics, UCLA. Dr. Charette also received the Arthur Cherkin Award from the MPGMG and the VA-UCLA Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program.

CAROLYN CRANDALL, MD received the 2010 North American Menopause Society/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Menopause Journal Best Paper Award.

LUCIA DATTOMA, MD and MARISTA GARCIA, MD were both awarded a Donald W. Reynolds Faculty Development (FD–AGE) stipend to develop a quality improvement project in the nursing home.

BRUCE FERRELL, MD received the Special Recognition Award, Southern California Cancer Pain Initiative, Pain Management in Palliative Care at Santa Monica Hospital.

JANET C. FRANK, DRPH, is the principal investigator for a new 3-year project, “Model Development and Testing of the Evidence-based Health Promotion (EBHP) Educator Certificate Program” funded by the US Department of Education.

BRANDON KORETZ, MD received the 2010 Full-Time Faculty Teaching Award from the UCLA Internal Medicine Training Program.

DAVID REUBEN, MD was named Chair of American Board of Internal Medicine.

NANCY WEINTRAUB, MD received the VA/UCLA Geriatric Medicine Program Faculty Recognition Award, for contributions in teaching.

LENÉ LEVY-STORMS, PhD was selected to receive a 2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellowship, focusing on increasing the influence of science and scholarship in health and aging policy.

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

JUAN BARRON has been at UCLA since July 2005 as a Staff Research Associate. Mr. Barron will go into a variety of communities within Los Angeles County to recruit seniors to participate in different studies. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Child Development Option II from California State University of Los Angeles in 2001.

PAUL CAMAREN joined the MPGMG as an Administrative Assistant in January 2010. He received a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in Public Health and is in the process of applying to law school for 2011.

ADAM HERNANDEZ joined the UCLA/JH Borun Center for Gerontological Research as an Administrative Assistant. He received his bachelor's degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University.

JESSICA LIN joined the MPGMG in January 2010 as an Administrative Assistant. She received her bachelor's degree from New York University in 2007.

AGNES LUPA joined the MPGMG in January 2010 as an Administrative Assistant for the Geriatrics Education and Coordination Center.

CARMEN E. REYES joined the Division of Geriatrics, Los Angeles Community Academic Partnership for Research in Aging (L.A.CAPRA Center), as the Center Manager and Community Relations administrator in August 2010. Currently she is a Fellow at the Women's Foundation of California, Women's Policy Institute-Aging Justice Core.

ALIA TUQAN, MD joined the Division of Geriatrics at UCLA as a clinical instructor. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Claremont McKenna College and a Medical Doctorate from the UCI School of Medicine. She completed her internal medicine residency at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and her geriatrics fellowship in the VA-UCLA Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program.

WHITEMAN, MD

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be reduced. As geriatricians, we need to stand up for more access and make sure everyone knows how important it is for the older patient. I’m also hoping that the media-savvy and politically involved baby-boomers will help us by influencing health policy.

Q: Tell us about yourself. What do you enjoy doing when you’re not seeing patients?

A: I enjoy going to concerts and performances: theatre and ballet, classical and jazz music. I love to travel and have been to a number of exotic places like Africa and Vietnam. However, Italy is my favorite spot in the whole world. I’m married and my husband is also a physician. I have one sister and one brother, a niece and nephew and a geriatric Cockatiel named Ed who is about 16 years old. I got Ed when I was in medical school, so he’s definitely part of the family. Our whole family is very close and we see our mom and each other all the time.

Q: Who has been influential in your life?

A: Definitely my maternal grandparents. My brother and I lived with them until I was seven and they taught me so much. Of course I didn’t know it at the time! They showed me how to be strong and respectful. They also demonstrated the importance of a supportive family. I carry that into my patient care. Families do very difficult jobs in caring for their older members. I definitely understand how important it is for the family’s viewpoint to be heard. My grandfather became gravely ill when I was an undergraduate student. He never liked doctors and hated hospitals. After the doctor saw him, he came out to speak with the family. The doctor explained that my grandfather had a very serious heart attack and gave us the options of what could be done. He asked us what my grandfather would have wanted. He listened to us with such empathy. That was the very first time I had ever witnessed such a supportive and caring physician, and it was a very important experience that I will never forget. The #1 job of a physician should be to stand up for the patient and help them reach their goals – whatever that might be.
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<td>FEBRUARY 9-11, 2011</td>
<td>Donald W. Reynolds FD~AGE UCLA Mini-Fellowship Program</td>
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<td>APRIL 15-16, 2011</td>
<td>Leadership and Management in Geriatrics</td>
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<td>MAY 11-14, 2011</td>
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### GERÓ-GIVING

A key to the success of the UCLA Division of Geriatrics has been the generous support of donors. Gifts can be directed to support the overall mission of the Division or directed to support patient care through the clinical programs offered within the UCLA Health System.

Donations in any amount are greatly appreciated. Please consider a founding membership in the UCLA Friends of Geriatrics donating at the following special levels: Friends Circle, $1,000; Patrons Circle, $2,500; Chief’s Circle, $5,000; Dean’s Circle, $10,000.

Gifts can be made through GeroNet at www.geronet.ucla.edu. Click on Gero Giving and then on Give Now.

If you are interested in learning more about planned gifts, please contact the UCLA Office of Planned Gifts at (310)794-2334.

In memoriam, the UCLA Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine & Gerontology mourns the passing of Patricia L. Draine, who has been a long time supporter of our program.

For more information about our upcoming events, visit our website at: www.geronet.ucla.edu

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