Research shows that geriatricians are among the most satisfied in the work they do, compared to other physicians and health care providers. This is certainly true for Mira Cantrell, MD. Dr. Cantrell directs the Veteran’s Administration, Greater Los Angeles Health System’s nursing home program. This complex position provides her with many benefits – almost as many as she provides to others as she excels in each and every one of her roles.

**Question: What is the best part of being a geriatrician?**

Dr. Cantrell: There are many “best parts” to the work I do. I truly love the challenge of taking care of frail patients with complicated medical problems. Developing relationships with patients and their families and learning from patient experiences – hearing their life stories – is so enriching. Teaching geriatric fellows and medical residents is also extremely rewarding. I strive to instill a love for geriatrics in them and help them understand the “art” of caring. There just isn’t a better way to spend my day!

**Question: Tell us a little about your professional roles and responsibilities?**

Dr. Cantrell: As director of the nursing home program here at the VA, I have three main roles: that of clinician, manager and educator. Our nursing home program is operated at two campuses (West Los Angeles and Sepulveda), and includes sub-acute care, long-term care, palliative and hospice care. It is my job as the manager to assure that our care team performs well and has what they need to provide excellent care.

I have also been asked to participate on several VA Central Office and regional network projects. I was part of the working group that developed recommendations for a 10-year plan for long term care within the VA – what will be needed and how we should get it done. In addition, I’m part of the Veteran’s Integrated Service Network committee on Nursing Home Transitions and Levels of Care. It’s often during transitions that bad things happen to frail elders – so this is a very important project to improve the care we provide.

I am the primary care provider for one ward at the nursing home and we always have geriatric fellows, medical residents and medical students training with us. I teach by example: trainees need to see how to earn the trust and respect of their patients. Most of the physicians we train have excellent clinical skills, but the challenge is to get them to learn how to provide holistic care. It’s also the psycho-social aspects, in addition to the medical aspect, that makes the person “whole.” I ask doctors-in-training to sit with patients and ask them questions until they have a sense of their life story. This not only makes providing the clinical care easier, but changes their outlook.

**Question: When did you become interested in geriatrics?**

Dr. Cantrell: As a medical student in Yugoslavia, I was concerned about social injustice and questioned why the care provided to older people was different than the care available to younger people. My questioning back then was not very well received! This was the beginning of my interest in caring for frail elderly, and it was fueled by my experiences in summer medical student exchange programs in Sweden, Germany and Spain. I then received a fellowship in Austria and spent ten months working in a geriatrics hospital. From there I went to Germany for two more years of geriatrics clinical training. It was there that I met the man who would become my husband, an American who wanted to practice his German, while I was interested in practicing my English. Imagine wanting to learn German from a Yugoslav.

In 1982, my husband applied to the PhD program at UCLA and I applied to the VA-UCLA Fellowship program in geriatrics. We were both accepted and have lived in Los Angeles ever since. We have two sons: Alex is in medical school and when he finds time, runs marathons. Michael is a senior in international relations at UC Irvine – he’s planning to change the world! My husband is a “rocket scientist” really, he works in the aerospace industry.

When I began the geriatrics fellowship, it was brand new. Dr. Thomas Yoshikawa was the program director, and continues to be my mentor, both inspiring and supporting me to this day. The year I graduated, the VA nursing home opened, so I began work as the staff physician. The timing was perfect. I moved up through the ranks and became the director in 1991.

**Question: Tell us a little more about your personal life, what do you do for ‘fun’?**

Dr. Cantrell: We love to travel and like biking along the beach for exercise. I have an unusual hobby, too: I’ve been collecting sugar packets for over 20 years. I have them...
Strong support from our parent institutions (the David Geffen School of Medicine and the Greater Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center). In large part, this support stems from the value we bring to both institutions by contributing to their larger missions and becoming integral to their success. In turn, even in these uncertain times, they are supporting new recruitments of junior clinician-educator and clinician-scientist faculty. They recognize that this storm will pass and that the core elements of robust research, educational and clinical programs need to be poised for the recovery.

We are also very excited about some local news. In late June, UCLA opened the Ronald Reagan Medical Center in Westwood, a 520-bed state of the art hospital for the 21st century. The facility is visually stunning and supremely patient friendly with natural light everywhere, all private rooms with in-room sleeping capability for family members, and remarkable views of the Santa Monica Mountains, West Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean. Progress continues on the rebuilding of its sister hospital, Santa Monica Hospital, where the thriving geriatrics special care unit is located.

The MPGMG has also seen maturation of those who have recently become senior faculty. They are mentoring fellows and junior faculty, participating in leadership development programs, and assuming progressively more important administrative and educational roles. Such depth of leadership will be critical to maintaining the success of the program when transitions occur.

Finally, I am honored to receive the Joseph T. Freeman Award from the Gerontological Society of America this year. This award recognizes a prominent physician in the field of aging, both in research and practice. My clinical role has always been very important to me and was the reason I became a physician. Making a difference in a patient’s life is still the profession’s highest calling.
The UCLA Intensive Course in its 25th Year

The 2008 Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review and its concurrent program, Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review, were held September 17-20 to a packed house. Over 325 physicians, pharmacists, nurse practitioners and other care providers attended the 4-day program. This course is a national powerhouse of geriatrics expertise with sixty-three faculty presenters and comprehensive coverage of all aspects of geriatric care.

Charles Boulé, MD, MPH, MBA, Professor of Public Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, was the 2008 David H. Solomon Award Lecturer. His lecture “The Future of Health Care for Older Americans,” was both stimulating and thought-provoking. Samuel Gandy, MD, PhD, Professor of Alzheimer’s Disease Research, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, was this year’s Arthur Cherkin Memorial Award Lecturer. Dr. Gandy closed the conference with his lecture “Regulation of Brain Amyloid Metabolism in Alzheimer’s Disease.”

Special thanks to the Course Director Cathy A. Alessi, MD, UCLA Professor of Medicine, Deputy Director of GRECC, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System GRECC, for her time and leadership on behalf of the MPMGG Intensive Course. We would also like to recognize course co-directors, Drs. Susan Charette, Shawkat Dhanani, Randall Espinoza, L. Jaime Fitten, and Dan Osterwell. The Pharmacy program was organized by Peter J. Ambrose, PharmD, and R. Ron Finley, BSPharm, RPh. Finally, the success of the course was assured by the coordination and management of Pamela Jackson, Minh Q. Ly and the UCLA Geriatrics Education and Coordination Center (GEC²) staff.

The next Intensive Course is scheduled for September 23-26, 2009. For more information, please contact Ms. Pamela Jackson at prjackso@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 312-0531.

UCLA AGRC: Build a Great Website and They Will Come

For twenty-fours years, the UCLA Academic Geriatric Resource Center (AGRC) has been dedicated to the improvement of the quality of health care provided to older Californians through the integration of geriatrics and gerontology into the health science schools at UCLA. We have successfully met this mission with excellent training programs in geriatrics and gerontology. Now we are faced with the challenge of filling the seats in the training programs and classrooms. How do we attract high caliber applicants to the field? How do we make aging appealing to our students so they will decide to pursue geriatrics and gerontology career options?

A great website is a valuable tool for recruitment. The UCLA AGRC is spearheading the process to redesign and enhance the existing GeroNet website to make aging resources easily accessible. The new version of www.geronet.ucla.edu will bring together the more than twenty-five programs at UCLA devoted to research, education and clinical care. We plan to launch the new version of the website in early 2009.

For the 2008-2011 grant period, the UCLA AGRC will collaborate with the Reynolds Mini-Fellowship to add an AGRC track for graduate and undergraduate faculty with little background in aging. This AGRC Gero Mini-Fellowship (GMF) was created to enhance their teaching skills and provide them with aging content for integration into classes and programs.

For more information about the UCLA AGRC, please contact Ms. Diane C. Katz at dkatz@mednet.ucla.edu or (310)312-0531.

The California Aging Initiative in Social Work

In 2004, the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), which has served since 1990 as a catalyst to increase the number and quality of social workers in California, created an Aging Initiative (AI). The AI was formed with the overarching mission to develop a competent social work workforce to meet the needs of aging Californians and their families.

To support this vision, JoAnn Damron-Rodriguez, LCSW, PhD and co-principal investigator Catherine Goodman, were awarded a three-year Archstone Foundation grant with additional match funding from California State University, Long Beach Department of Social Work and the California Welfare Directors Association. This project yielded a number of important accomplishments:

- Developed a set of geriatric social work competencies adopted by all Schools of Social Work in the state
- Secured 100% participation in a university survey of the Schools of Social Work about the current status of aging curricula and readiness for the competency-based approach
- Created a statewide dissemination site at CalSWEC with resources supporting aging curricula
- Formed a collaboration of universities and aging services in southern, central, and northern California
- Distributed twenty-eight Archstone stipends and generated forty-six stipends for students (including nine paid through MediCAL)
- Funded sixty county staff for gerontology training certificates through the Institute for Geriatric Social Work
- Provided training events for 359 staff
- Conducted the first comprehensive labor force study of social work staff in the county and select health agencies serving older adults

For more information or to request a copy of the Archstone Project report, please contact AI Coordinator, Ms. Kathy Sniffen at kasniffer@sbcglobal.net or (209) 605-3875.
VA/UCLA Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program

The VA/UCLA Geriatric Medicine Fellowship trained twelve first year fellows in the 2007-2008 academic year. Sunil Amalraj, MD, is in the combined geriatrics-oncology fellowship program, which he will complete in June 2010 with eligibility to sit for boards in both geriatrics and oncology. Five other graduates are also pursuing advanced training. Shinya Ishii, MD and James Lin, MD are both recipients of the VA Special Fellowship in Advanced Geriatrics at the Greater Los Angeles VA.

Michelle Lee, MD also stayed on at UCLA as an advanced fellow with funding from both the Bureau of Health Professions Advanced Geriatric Medicine Training Program and the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. Paul Liu, MD is currently a rheumatology fellow at UC Irvine, and Zahra Esmail, MD is a palliative care fellow at San Diego Hospice. Grace Chen, MD has remained at UCLA as the newest member of the UCLA geriatric medicine faculty. She is a clinician-educator based at the UCLA Santa Monica Specialties office and provides outpatient, inpatient and nursing home care while teaching UCLA students, residents and geriatrics fellows.

The remaining five graduates entered practices in geriatric medicine all around the country. Daina Danovitch, MD is in Santa Monica; Sonja Monga, MD is in Ohio; Sandy Htein, MD is in Pasadena; Kiho Woo, MD is in Orange County; and Angelica Hernandez, MD has returned to Miami, Florida, to the hospital where she did her residency.

For more information about the VA/UCLA Geriatric Fellowship Program, please contact Ms. Robin Catino at rcatino@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 825-8253.

Borun Center for Gerontological Research

The Borun Center’s research to increase nursing home recognition of residents’ needs was highlighted at the 2008 National Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society. Research on mood disorders received the Most Outstanding Overall Meeting Paper Award and the award for Best Research in Geriatric Syndromes was given for research to improve comprehensive nursing home assessments. Both papers were presented by Debra Saliba, MD, Anna & Harry Borun Chair in Geriatrics and Gerontology and Director of the Borun Center. Joshua Chodos, MD, Associate Professor in Geriatric Medicine at UCLA and VA Geriatrician presented research on cognitive impairment, which received the Award for Best Research in Health Services Research.

Gretchen Alkema, PhD, LCSW, a second year Associated Health Post-Doctoral Fellow was awarded a joint 2008-2009 John Heinz/Health and Aging Policy Fellowship. This fellowship combines two prestigious policy fellowships in Washington DC: the John Heinz Senate Fellowship in Issues of the Aging supported by the US Senate and the Heinz Family Foundation, and the Health and Aging Policy Fellows program administered by Columbia University and funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies. Dr. Alkema will work in the offices of Senator Blanche Lincoln.

Lené Levy-Storms, PhD, MPH, Associate Director of the Borun Center, initiated the project “How to Communicate and ‘Connect’ with Alzheimer’s: A Practical Strategy for Family Visitors of Relatives with Dementia.” Funded by the American Medical Director’s Association, this project focuses on improving communication between family caregivers and their loved ones with dementia during visits at the Jewish Home for the Aging skilled nursing facility. The project tests the “Are We Connected?” intervention, developed with support from the UCLA Pepper Center, National Institute on Aging and National Alzheimer’s Association.

The Borun Center continues its mission to create and disseminate knowledge that can improve the quality of life of long-term care populations. Dr. Levy-Storms’ literature review “Therapeutic Communication Training in Long-term Care Institutions” was published in Patient Education and Counseling.

In The Gerontologist, a research team that included Drs. Patricia Housen, George Shannon, Mary Cadogan and Debra Saliba explained strategies for creating questions that effectively communicate with residents about their preferences for daily care.

The Anna & Harry Borun Center for Gerontological Research is a collaboration between the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the Jewish Home for the Aging.
A Mile in Her (Popcorn-Filled) Shoes

The Donald W. Reynolds Mini-Fellowship Program offered non-geriatrician clinician-educators a series of hands-on exercises intended to demonstrate the physical challenges facing seniors. Foot ailments are simulated with popcorn kernels placed in their shoes, hearing loss through earplugs, vision changes through glasses with matte-taped lenses and over-sized gloves and knee bandages to limit mobility in their arms and legs. Many participants found it difficult to perform daily tasks such as filling out a form, buttoning their jacket or walking down the hall. One participant said she could not stand up with the kernels in her shoes, let alone walk. Another participant commented, as he removed his earplugs, “This has been a real eye-opener. I’ve lost my hearing for five minutes and I’m already frustrated that I can’t understand the conversations around me.” This workshop looks at the physical and emotional realities of aging and gives participants a deeper understanding of the aging process and the losses some seniors experience.

After the workshop, participants critically reflected upon their views on aging attitudes and beliefs. They realized that elderly patients need a different level of attention and that it is the clinicians’ duty to adapt their practice to the patients’ needs and physical impairments. They became aware of the need for adequate geriatric education and expressed desire to motivate change in themselves and their students.

The aging sensitivity workshop was just one of twenty-six modules offered at the Mini-Fellowship, a three day course for clinician-educators seeking to improve their geriatric teaching skills. Developed by senior geriatric faculty and education staff at UCLA, the Mini-Fellowship enters its fifth year, having trained over 150 clinician-educators nationwide. For more information, please contact the Reynolds Program Coordinator, Ms. Anne Hu at annehu@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 312-0531.

Leadership and Management in Geriatrics

The 7th Annual Leadership and Management in Geriatrics Conference (LMG), under the direction of Dan Osterweil, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, will be offered April 3-4, 2009 in Long Beach, CA. In advance of the conference, participants prepare a brief narrative on a worksite leadership challenge that they wish to address. They then focus on constructing and implementing an action plan during and after this small, highly interactive conference. Participants receive input from both faculty experts and peer experts.

Mayo Clinic Proceedings devoted a recent issue to leadership, mentoring and career choices. “Physician leaders have an important role in shaping the health care system . . . in physician recruitment and career development.”

A conference like LMG is essential for developing the leadership necessary to meet our country’s geriatric health needs.

For more information, please visit us at www.geronet.ucla.edu/centers/LMG or contact Ms. Diane C. Katz at dkatz@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 312-0531.

UCLA RCMAR Coordinating Center

The Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) National Coordinating Center at UCLA Receives Continued Funding to Offer Disparities Conferences

Despite improvements in the overall health of older people and increases in the life expectancy, significant health disparities remain between minority and non-minority older adults.

Funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) under the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the RCMAR Coordinating Center will offer a five-year conference series titled “Strategies to Advance the National Research Council’s Agenda on Minority Aging.” The National Research Council (NRC) has identified eighteen research area priorities within three major themes. Each conference in this series will address multiple NRC recommendations and provide a translational opportunity to move the NRC recommendations into the next steps of research development.

For more information about these conferences, contact the Coordinating Center at rcmarc@ucla.edu or (310) 312-0536.
Renowned Heart Transplant Surgeon Dr. Hillel Laks and Actress Connie Stevens Honored as ICONS of Healthy Aging

The UCLA Center on Aging raised more than $325,000 during its annual ICON Awards gala held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on May 30, where more than 400 people gathered to honor this year’s ICON Award recipients, actress and humanitarian Connie Stevens and Hillel Laks, MD, a renowned heart transplant surgeon and professor of cardiac surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. In addition, special recognition was given to philanthropist and community leader Mimi Perloff, who was presented with the Center’s first Lifetime Achievement Award.

“Each year, the ICON award is presented to honorees who exemplify the Center’s motto of ‘Living Better Longer,’ and provide outstanding role models for all of us,” said Dr. Gary Small, director of the UCLA Center on Aging. “What better models of successful aging can we emulate than tonight’s honorees who continue to make exceptional contributions to society— Dr. Laks with his lifelong achievements in treating heart disease and Connie Stevens, who entertained us for more than 30 years and inspired us through her charitable works.”

Dr. Jon Kobashigawa, Medical Director of the Heart Transplant Program, presented the evening’s first ICON award to Dr. Hillel Laks. Dr. Laks pioneered innovative surgical techniques and groundbreaking methods to extend the lifespan of a donor heart. Connie Stevens was presented the second ICON award by her two daughters, Joely and Tricia Leigh Fischer. Her charitable works include Project Windfeather, a 12-year program that has awarded 83 college scholarships to Native American youths and brought Native American children to summer camp.

A special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Mimi Perloff, whose involvement with UCLA has been incomparable. Recognized as the “godmother” of the UCLA Department of Urban Planning and Architecture, she has been lauded as co-founder of the UCLA Design for Sharing and honored for her generous contributions.

Left to right: Mimi Perloff, Hillel Laks, Connie Stevens. Photo by Maxine Picard

Carl Gottlieb served as master of ceremonies for the evening, which included dinner, dancing and entertainment. Bruce Corbin, Nancy Levitt, Art Linkletter and Timothy J. Noonan served as event chairs with Patricia Dunn Grey and Meyer “Mike” Hersch as honorary chairs.

Founded in 1991, the UCLA Center on Aging is a non-profit organization that aims to enhance and extend productive and healthy life through research and education on aging. For more information or to learn about additional ways to support the Center, please contact Ms. Helen Berman, Executive Administrator at (310) 794-0676.

UCLA Center on Aging Research Conference an Annual Success

The Center on Aging held its annual research conference on June 18 at the UCLA Faculty Center on campus. The conference attracted more than 200 faculty, fellows, students and community members interested to learn the latest findings on age-related research. The event was co-sponsored by the UCLA MPMGMG.

Dr. Fernando Torres-Gil presented the keynote address “The Politics of Aging: Clinton, McCain, Obama, and Baby Boomer Retirement.”

Mira Cantrell, MD
(Continued from page 1)

plastic pages by state, by country and by themes, such as flowers, animals, museums, and airlines.

Question: How have geriatrics and long-term care changed?

Dr. Cantrell: It has definitely changed for the better. In its infancy, geriatrics was trying to assert itself as a clinical specialty. Over time, geriatrics has shown it has a much broader impact. Due to the breadth of our training, geriatricians are the best positioned to promote quality of life improvements. Focusing on quality of life issues is geriatrics’ mantra. No one is more skilled than we are to do this.

Long-term care medicine can now stand on its own. Physicians and health care providers involved in delivering long term care deserve respect: we are providing more care, and more complicated care, due to the higher acuity levels of patients. It takes a very skilled person to provide appropriate care to the aged, sick and frail.

People sometimes complain about the regulatory aspects of long term care. We are fighting a history of inadequate care in long-term care settings, and the regulations were born out of this history. They help provide quality standards. The Minimum Data Set (MDS), for example, provides quality indicators and helps make it easier to sort out problems and develop treatment plans. The presence of physicians in nursing homes creates a huge opportunity for improving the quality of care. Physicians specializing in nursing home care, “SNFists” as they are called, have such important roles in improving the future of how long-term care is delivered. As I am reaching the peak of my career, and being a baby boomer, I tell others: we need to produce an excellent crop of geriatricians for us – we’re coming!
Faculty News

Cathy Alessi, MD and Josea Kramer, PhD were awarded an educational grant, “Geriatric Scholars Program for Rurally-Based VA Primary Care Providers” by the VA Office of Rural Health. As part of this grant, 20 primary care clinicians from VA rural or highly rural community outpatient clinics attended the 25th Annual UCLA Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine.

Cathy Alessi, MD and Alon Avidan, MD, published Geriatric Sleep Medicine, a book focusing on diagnosis and management of sleep disorders in the elderly. Highlights include the most up-to-date classification information of sleep disorders from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

The UCLA Office of the Dean awarded the Outstanding Tutor Award to Clinical Professor of Medicine Basil Clyman, MD, for his work in problem-based learning.

Janet C. Frank, DrPH received a five-year grant from the National Institute on Aging to offer a conference series titled “Strategies to Advance the National Research Council’s Agenda on Minority Aging.”

Brandon Koretz, MD was accepted to the California Health Care Foundation Leadership Training program. This two-year program identifies and develops future leaders who will work to improve the health care systems in the state of California.

Alison Moore, MD received the 2008 Arthur Cherkin Award, which is given to faculty in recognition of their energy, wisdom and commitment to improving the medical care of older persons, conducting research on aging and training geriatric medicine fellows in the Multicampus Program.

David B. Reuben, MD, received the Joseph T. Freeman award from the Gerontological Society of America at its November 2008 meeting. This award recognizes prominence by a physician both in research and in practice. He was also part of the RAND-UCLA team that received the John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety Award for Research by the Joint Commission and National Quality Forum for his work on the Assessing Care of the Vulnerable Elderly (ACOVE).

New MPGMG Staff and Faculty

Grace Chen, MD is excited to join the UCLA Geriatrics Faculty practice as a clinician-educator. She recently completed her geriatric medicine fellowship at VA-UCLA after discovering how challenging and rewarding practicing geriatrics can be as an internal medicine resident rotating through the inpatient service at Santa Monica UCLA.

Michelle Lee, MD joined the UCLA Division of Geriatrics as a Clinical Instructor. She attended UCLA for medical school, and she recently completed her fellowship in Geriatric Medicine at UCLA.

Suzette Alcantar joined the MPGMG in August 2008 as an Administrative Assistant. Ms. Alcantar has been with UCLA for 8 years and transferred here from Medical Specialty Suites.

Elaine Chow joined the MPGMG in August 2008 as an Administrative Assistant. She received her bachelor’s degree in International Development Studies at UCLA in 2007.

Cynthia Hutchison joined the MPGMG Geriatric Education and Coordination Center in September 2008 as an Office Management Assistant.

Christy Lau, MSW joined the MPGMG in September 2008 as a Program Representative. She received her master’s degree in Social Work with an emphasis on Aging from Columbia University in 2008. Prior to joining the MPGMG, she interned at AARP in New York, focusing largely on advocacy, policy, and community outreach and programming.

UCLA Pepper Center: Inflammatory Biology Core

The UCLA Pepper Center emphasizes research that builds bridges between basic biomedical science and clinical science in order to maintain and restore the independence of older persons. The Center stimulates scientific discovery in a variety of ways, including providing support through the Research Cores. In 2006, the UCLA Pepper Center expanded the scope of its support with the creation of the Inflammatory Biology Core (IBC).

Inflammation has been explored at the cellular and molecular level, revealing a complex interaction of white blood cells of the immune system with the affected tissues. Inflammatory responses are necessary for the clearance and healing of tissues. It is now clear, however, that inappropriate and/or chronic inflammation is a major contributor to illness and disability among older people. In recognition of the important role of inflammation in maintaining health and function, the Pepper Center established the Inflammatory Biology Core to provide a resource for investigators wishing to explore the role of inflammation as a barrier to successful aging.

The Inflammatory Biology Core (IBC) is under the direction of Dr. Michael Irwin and is located within the Norman Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at UCLA. Dr. Irwin co-directs the IBC Laboratory with Dr. Elizabeth Crabb Breen, an immunologist with expertise in cytokine biology. Drs. Otoniel Martinez-Maza and Steve Cole also serve as core co-leaders. The IBC provides intellectual support to Pepper Center investigators during all phases of research projects, including study design, selection of immune and/or inflammatory markers to be measured, and interpretation of study results. The IBC Laboratory provides technical support, performing blood-based measures of inflammatory markers, as well as cellular measures of cytokine production and intracellular signaling. They have proven to be a valuable resource to existing research efforts, and are looking to partner on new projects.

For more information about the UCLA Pepper Center or the Inflammatory Biology Core, please contact Mr. Lucio Arruda, larruda@mednet.ucla.edu or (310) 825-8253.
2009 Calendar of Events

February 11-13th
Donald W. Reynolds FD-AGE Mini-Fellowship Program
UCLA

April 3-4th
7th Annual Leadership and Management in Geriatrics Conference
Long Beach Marriott
Long Beach, CA

April 3rd
CCGG 2009 Annual Meeting - It Takes A Village: Toolkits for Care Management
California State University, Northridge
Northridge, CA

May 27-29th
Donald W. Reynolds FD-AGE Mini-Fellowship Program
UCLA

July 10-12th
CALTCM 2009 Annual Meeting - Bringing Quality Home
Omni Los Angeles Hotel
Los Angeles, CA

September 23-26th
26th Annual Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine and Board Review
Marina Del Rey Marriott
Marina Del Rey, CA

For more information about our upcoming events, please call 310-312-0531 or visit our website at www.geronet.ucla.edu

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