



University of Rochester Aging Institute  
Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center  
Division of Geriatrics and Aging, Department of Medicine  
University of Rochester Medical Center

## Geriatric Faculty Scholars

This prestigious grant is awarded to current junior URM faculty with a specific interest in inter-professional geriatric education and practice. Throughout the fiscal calendar year, these faculty members will work with a mentor in the Division of Geriatrics & Aging and a mentor in their own Department to create and implement a geriatric education program within their own program. Each project is designed to promote and integrate geriatric principles into other specialties.

### July 2025 – June 2026

#### [Ann M. Leonhardt-Caprio, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, SCRNP, ASC-BC, FAHA](#)

*UR Medicine Stroke Program Coordinator; Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, University of Rochester Medical Center*

With a passion for addressing the unique needs of older adults with stroke, Dr. Leonhardt-Caprio's project will apply the 4Ms framework to stroke care focusing on the individual goals and priorities of older adults. The application of age-friendly care at a health-system level can ensure a "no-wrong door" approach to stroke care of older adults. Stroke is a leading cause of disability and death in older adults, and incidence is projected to increase with the aging population. While significant advancements have been made in acute stroke care, addressing the complex needs of older adults across the continuum remains a challenge in part due to knowledge gaps in the care of older adults amongst the interprofessional team. The application of the 4Ms framework to older adults with stroke is highly relevant, addressing a critical need.

### July 2023 – June 2024

#### [April A. Haberyan, PhD, MS, RN, CNE](#)

*Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing, Co-Director APNN Program, University of Rochester School of Nursing*

As Co-Director of the Accelerated Bachelor's in Nursing Program (ABSN), Dr. Haberyan will conduct a needs assessment of the current ABSN curriculum to identify gaps related to the care of older adults. She will infuse the 4Ms Framework of an Age-Friendly Healthcare System (AFHS) into one course each semester, including a proposed project in which students would apply aspects from the 4Ms Framework to older adults from diverse backgrounds and clinical settings. Faculty development opportunities will also be included to assist with integration of the 4Ms Framework and AFHS into the curriculum. Her goal is to learn more about gerontology and develop geriatric educational content for students enrolled in the accelerated program leading to national dissemination.

**Michael T. Rosario-McCabe, EdD, RN, CCM**

*Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, RN to BS Program Director, University of Rochester School of Nursing*

As Director of the University of Rochester School of Nursing (SON) RN-BS Completion Program, Dr. Rosario-McCabe plans to assess the current curriculum to identify gaps related to psychosocial and health care needs of older adults using the 4Ms Framework of an Age-Friendly Health System (AFHS). He plans to implement faculty development and integrate the 4Ms Framework and AFHS into at least 3 of the core nursing courses. Evaluation data will also be collected. This award will allow Dr. Rosario-McCabe to become a geriatric education leader as well as improve the education of faculty, staff, and students in SON to meet the needs of older adults.

**Matthew H. Taylor, MD**

*Assistant Professor, Division of Nephrology Department of Medicine, University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry*

With a passion for clinical education Dr. Taylor seeks opportunities to learn and share that knowledge with others. As a nephrologist, he has a specific interest in the care of the older adult with advanced kidney disease and the challenges of medical decision making. Combining the two interests under this award will allow Dr. Taylor fill a gap in the current curriculum for Renal Fellows. His goal is to create a curriculum in geriatric nephrology rooted in the 4Ms and Age Friendly Healthcare System (AFHS) with a self-evaluation component. This award will facilitate the establishment of geriatric nephrology care at URM. C.

**July 2022 – June 2023**

**Conrad Gleber, MD, MBA**

*Assistant Professor, Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry, (SMD)*

As a hospitalist with a special interest in quality improvement, health systems management, and healthcare delivery, Dr. Gleber will leverage this Geriatric Faculty Scholar award to investigate the cost/quality ratio in the orthopedic/geriatric service line at the Geriatric Fracture Service. Defining “quality,” “value,” and “costs” of this service will form the basis of an educational intervention for Hospital Medicine Division faculty development series. The economics and business of medicine is a complex system. Generally, traditional medical education has lacked specific curriculum regarding these subjects. This project will provide much needed education about the economic structure of healthcare for the community of providers caring for older adults.

**Jessica Goodman, PhD**

*Senior Instructor, Department of Psychiatry, Family/Marriage (SMD)*

Dr. Goodman’s work has focused on facilitating interdisciplinary care and integrated behavioral healthcare (IBHC) through program development (PD) and quality improvement (QI) initiatives. She employs a biopsychosocial (BPS), systems approach, with a commitment to addressing social determinants and increasing health equity. The results of a needs assessment at Highland Hospital indicated the need for an IBHC service line at the hospital. Dr. Goodman’s Geriatric Faculty Scholar project will add an age-friendly health system lens to IBHC, build a network of interdisciplinary professionals devoted to improving care for older adults at URM. C, and focus on prevention and interventions for patient agitation.

**Sara Z. Salim, MD**

*Associate Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (SMD)*

Dr. Salim was drawn to the field of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) for the shared goal of aligning patients' functional goals with their current condition and medical status. She noted that there are unique challenges to meeting goals when caring for older adults and, although older adults are encountered frequently in PM&R, there are gaps in the education and preparation of Residents. Through the Geriatric Faculty Scholars award, Dr. Salim will develop a formal, interactive geriatric education course for the PM&R Residents that will include hands-on learning. She will also build the 4M principles into outpatient clinic materials and procedures. Surveys of patients, residents and faculty will determine utility, satisfaction, and next steps.

## **July 2021 – June 2022**

### **Joseph Tasker Gundy, MD**

*Assistant Professor, Departments of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine (SMD)*

As a URMCAcute Pain Service (APS) faculty member with a commitment to geriatrics, Dr. Gundy is keenly interested in optimizing postoperative outcomes for older adults. As APS currently implements collaborative, interdisciplinary enhanced recovery protocols with diverse surgical subspecialties, it is in a unique position to accelerate existing URMCA efforts to create an Age-Friendly Health System (AFHS). As a Geriatric Faculty Scholar (GFS), Dr. Gundy will integrate the 4M's paradigm into the workflow of APS floor rounds and incorporate the 4M's into our documentation (embedded checklist in consult/progress note template) for encounters with older adult patients.

### **Gabriela Poles, MD, MPH**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Colorectal Surgery (SMD)*

Dr. Poles' goals for the Geriatric Faculty Scholars Program is to improve the quality of geriatric surgical care at URMCA, improve her knowledge of issues specific to the care of geriatric patients, and network with individuals who are interested in improving care for older adults. With her involvement in the Geriatric Surgery Verification Program (GSV) at the University of Rochester (URMCA), a program built on the Age Friendly Health Systems (AFHS) principles of the 4Ms, this program has helped her understand the issues around providing high quality geriatric surgical care. Serving this vulnerable population well is becoming increasingly important as older adults disproportionately utilize health care including surgical procedures and it is expected to double between 2010 and 2050. As a result, improving surgical care for older adults has a large potential impact, which has motivated Dr. Poles to want to align the URMCA Surgery Departments' care with AFHS best practices. This GFS project will allow me to develop a component of the GSV within the division of Colorectal Surgery with plans for dissemination throughout the Department of Surgery in order to promote AFHS practices within surgery.

### **Blanca Y. Valdovinos, MD**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Movement Disorders (SMD)*

In Rochester, NY, even though 15% of the population identifies as Latino, less than five percent of medical providers identify with this community. To help meet this need, Dr. Valdovinos proposed, designed and implemented a Spanish Language Neurology Clinic to help improve access to neurologic care for the Latino community and this clinic opened its doors, under her leadership in July 2020. As a Geriatric Faculty Scholar, Dr. Valdovinos will help equip her team with the essential tools and knowledge to optimize care for geriatric Latino patients. Her goal is to create educational programs that increase geriatric knowledge as it pertains to the Latino community focusing on neurology resident education by serving as a mentor to residents and students, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds.

## July 2020 – June 2021

### [Szilvia Arany, DMD, PhD, MS](#)

*Assistant Professor, Department of Dentistry, Eastman Institute of Oral Health (EIOH)*

Having received training in general dentistry and in dento-alveolar surgery in Hungary, then completing her PhD in forensic dentistry in Japan, Dr. Arany was a welcome addition to the clinical and research teams at the University of Rochester. Dr. Arany's project will address the complexity of oral care in older adults and seek to change the belief that aging results in deteriorating oral health. She will incorporate the concepts of an Age-Friendly Health System (AFHS) and the 4Ms (Mobility, Mentation, Medication and What Matters) into a team-based approach at the new Specialty Care Clinic at Highland Hospital. This approach will include all staff (i.e. front desk, scheduling, management), residents and faculty in the preparation and deployment of an age-friendly dental curriculum via monthly learning sessions.

### [Ciandra D'souza, MD, MPH](#)

*Senior Instructor, Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics & Aging (SMD)*

After completing her Fellowship in Geriatrics, Dr. D'souza has been an integral part of the geriatric trauma co-management service at Highland Hospital and serves as its inaugural director. Her project will focus on developing an Age-Friendly Health System (AFHS) by incorporating the 4Ms (Mobility, Mentation, Medication and What Matters) into an interdisciplinary education program and quality improvement process for the geriatric trauma co-management service.

### [Heather L. Lander, MD](#)

*Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine (SMD)*

Dr. Lander has had a particular interest in the intersection of geriatrics, frailty and education since early in her residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Now, as a faculty member who cares for older adults in the Center for Perioperative Medicine (CPM), Dr. Lander will develop an educational platform focused on an Age-Friendly Health System (AFHS) and the 4Ms (Mobility, Mentation, Medication and What Matters) and how these concepts are integral in providing superior care to the older adult population. The educational intervention will include a lecture series and small break out sessions that will review AFHS, the 4MS and specific perioperative tools that can be incorporated into practice at CPM.

## July 2018 – June 2019

### [Nicholas L. Aloisio, MD](#)

*Senior Instructor of Clinical Emergency Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine, Highland (SMD)*

Dr. Aloisio is currently a Board-Certified Attending Physician and Senior Clinical Instructor of Emergency Medicine with the University of Rochester. He primarily attends and teaches at Highland Hospital, but also serves at other regional facilities within the University of Rochester healthcare system.

As an Emergency Medicine Physician, Dr. Aloisio is already attuned to the specific personal and medical needs of older adults. Highland Hospital is seeking accreditation as a Geriatric Emergency Department through the American College of Geriatric Physicians. In parallel with the accreditation process, Dr. Aloisio will work with the Clinical Pharmacy Team to (i) design a process to minimize the use of

potentially harmful medications in older adults, and (ii) construct a strong guideline for managing pain in older adults.

#### **Emily S. DiCesare, DO**

*Assistant Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine (SMD) - Primary*

Dr. DiCesare received her medical degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2009. Dr. DiCesare completed her residency at the University of Rochester in 2012, and served as Chief Resident from 2011-2012. Since working as an Emergency Medicine Physician Dr. DiCesare is acutely aware of the different knowledge and skills required for caring for older adults. She is part of the team working towards the accreditation as Geriatric Emergency Department at Highland Hospital. Her project is to take the “geriatric friendly” changes to other UR Medicine Emergency Departments.

#### **Jenny Y. Shen, MD**

*Assistant Professor (Part-Time), Department of Medicine, Hospital Medicine (SMD)*

After completing her internal Medicine residency at UPMC in 2013, Dr. Shen joined the team as a Hospitalist. Her interest in perioperative medicine led to her current involvement with the Geriatric Fracture Center (GFC). Combined with her experience as a researcher and interest in the geriatric population, Dr. Shen will focus her Geriatric Faculty Scholar project on the issue of post-operative mobility in older adults. In particular, she hopes to improve the weight-bearing post op quality measure linked to early mobility for GFC patients.

#### **Sarmad M. Siddiqui, MD, FHM**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Hospital Medicine (SMD) - Primary*

As a Hospitalist for almost 7 years, during which he completed a Geriatric Fellowship, Dr. Siddiqui has developed a genuine interest in improving the care of the elderly. In particular, Dr. Siddiqui will focus his Geriatric Faculty Scholar project on limiting or early removal of indwelling urinary catheters in older patients with hip fractures. This educational intervention for hospitalists could lead to reduced incidence of CAUTI, decrease LOS, and improve the patient experience.

### **July 2017 – June 2018**

#### **Courtney Jones, PhD, MPH**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine (SMD)*

Dr. Courtney Jones received her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Rochester in 2014. Since then she has played an integral role in the conceptualization and development of a successfully funded NIA R01 randomized clinical trial to evaluate to a paramedic-coached care transitions program for older adults treated in the ED and discharged home. She is also part of a similar ongoing collaboration with Livingston County EMS, funded by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, is implementing an ED-to-home care transitions program for older adults residing in rural settings.

As a Geriatric Faculty Scholar, she will bring content expertise in both the field of geriatric emergency medicine and in the common concerns and issues specific to the older adult ED patient. Currently, Emergency Medicine residents do not currently receive structured didactic education on common geriatric syndromes (e.g., prevention of delirium) or evidenced-based guidelines for evaluating common geriatric chief complaints (e.g., fall risk assessment). Dr. Jones will incorporate Geri-EM, a freely available validated online learning tool designed specifically to teach emergency medicine physicians

about provision of optimal care for geriatric ED patients (<http://geri-em.com/>) into the academic learning environment for Emergency Medicine residents.

**Caroline Thirukumaran, MBBS, MHA, PhD**

*Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics (SMD) (primary)*

After earning her Bachelor and Master Degrees in Mumbai, India, Dr. Caroline Thirukumaran earned her PhD in Health Services Research at the University of Rochester in 2016. Her current research focuses on investigating the impact of Medicare policies, and generating knowledge that will inform the design of these policies such they account for (i) the differing needs of the elderly and minority beneficiaries, and (ii) the unique characteristics of the facilities and providers that serve these patients.

Dr. Thirukumaran's goal as a Geriatric Faculty Scholar is to generate knowledge that will favorably influence the care of Geriatric-Orthopaedic patients at UR. Her project will focus on the prospective identification of High-Need, High-Cost patients in Orthopaedics using risk scores, so that policy and practice interventions can then be preventively targeted towards them. Moreover, with the current UR emphasis on co-management of geriatric surgical patients, she anticipates that this new knowledge will help in understanding several of the complex issues related to this population, and it can be directly translated into training materials for current and future clinicians.

**January 2017 – December 2017**

**Carolanne Bianchi, DNP, RN, MBA, ANP-BC, CRRN**

*Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, URM School of Nursing*

Acute care experience, as well as a clinical and education background, has prepared Dr. Bianchi as a Geriatric Faculty Scholar. Recognizing that lack of mobility leads to functional decline in hospitalized older adults, Dr. Bianchi's Geriatric Faculty Scholars project will work to develop and implement a protocol that encourages walking to prevent unnecessary functional decline.

**Ronald J. Maggiore, MD**

*Assistant Professor, Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine*

As a recent addition to the URM faculty, Dr. Maggiore brings expertise in geriatric oncology. He will focus his Geriatric Faculty Scholars efforts on expansion of geriatric assessment into cancer care delivery, and the development of a geriatric oncology curriculum for trainees and providers.

**Fahad Saeed, MBBS, FASN**

*Assistant Professor, Nephrology, Department of Medicine*

As a nephrologist and palliative care specialist, Dr. Saeed will focus his Geriatric Faculty Scholars project on chronic kidney disease in the geriatric population and development of educational interventions to bridge knowledge gaps and improve the care of the older renal patient.

**January 2016 – December 2016**

**Tamala David, PhD, MPA, MS, FNP**

*Adjunct Faculty, SON*

Dr. David is a native resident of Rochester, New York; an area with a large deaf population. She grew up in a household with a deaf grandmother (a sign language user) and is passionate about issues related to

the health and well-being of deaf older adult sign language users. Dr. David's Geriatric Faculty Scholar project involved the creation of an education program to address the needs and improve the care of Deaf older adults by increasing the knowledge and skill of nurses and physicians. Dr. David was awarded additional funding to continue this project for a second year.

**Adina Jucan, DDS**

*Assistant Professor of Clinical Dentistry, Eastman Institute for Oral Health*

Dr. Adina Jucan moved to Rochester, NY in 2007 after many years of operating a private practice in her native Romania. She completed a General Practice Residency and Geriatric Fellowship at Strong Memorial Hospital and Eastman Institute for Oral Health. Dr. Jucan's Geriatric Faculty Scholars project included creating and implementing a team-based oral health education program in nursing homes. Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) would be the primary learner and receive support and direction from the other medical staff. Dr. Jucan's project was awarded a second year of continued funding.

**Kyle Judd, MS, MD, FACS**

*Assistant Professor, Orthopaedics, Department of Medicine*

Part of the Division of Orthopaedic Trauma, Dr. Judd has special interests in the treatment of patients with multiple injuries and complex fractures, the management of fracture mal-union and non-union, osteomyelitis, geriatric trauma, and peri-prosthetic/fragility fractures. Dr. Judd will develop academic programs to standardize expedited geriatric fracture care particularly for the subset of patients at risk for surgical delays as his Geriatric Faculty Scholar project.

**Elizabeth Palermo, DNP, RN, ACNP-BC, ANP-BC**

*Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, SON*

As an acute care nurse practitioner, Dr. Palermo completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree in 2014. Her clinical scholarship project during that program was an educational intervention to improve the care of older adults in the acute care setting. This project was ideal for aligning her professional interests in geriatrics and acute care nursing.

Dr. Palermo's Geriatric Faculty Scholar project aims to create a program of geriatrics consultation available to clinicians with questions or problems regarding geriatrics. An inter-professional consultation service could provide expert and best-practice advice for many geriatric issues, including medication, delirium, and perioperative management, as well as for nursing needs of the vulnerable older adult.