

Enhanced Skills: Care of the Elderly

OVERVIEW

The Care of the Elderly Program was established at the University of Alberta in 1993 under the leadership of Dr. Jean Triscott and was formally established in the Department of Family Medicine as the Division of Care of the Elderly in 2003. The programs represent elective, supplementary training in care of the elderly for a six- or 12-month duration, available after the two-year core Family Medicine residency.

Mission

To promote excellence in care of the elderly through:

- teaching at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate level;
- research and innovation;
- practice and promotion of best-practice clinical care;
- serving as a resource to the community;
- advocacy for the needs of seniors; and
- raising awareness of the public on age-related issues including the care of frail seniors.

DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Objective

To enhance the skills of family physicians in caring for older, often frail, patients. The program is directed by the CanMEDS Family Medicine roles which are health advocate, scholar, professional, Family Medicine expert, manager, communicator, and collaborator.

PROGRAM OF RESEARCH

The research agenda for the Division consists of a primary theme and a number of secondary themes. Cognitive impairment is the primary theme. Within this theme, we have identified two core areas of research: CIND (Cognitive Impairment No Dementia) and dementia. Within each of these two core areas, we have targeted research concentration such as screening, barriers to care, evaluation of new models of service delivery, dementia care in an acute care setting, culture and dementia, capacity assessment, and driving. Secondary themes reflect additional research interests of Division members including falls, geriatric assessment, and health literacy.

Program Overview

The program runs for one year and is an Enhanced Skills Program that is accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada. A six-month program is offered to rural physicians and physicians currently in practice and who are returning to their area of practice. Entry into the COE program is contingent on successful completion of the Certification in the College of Family Physicians (CCFP). The Core Program includes experience in:

- Inpatient Assessment (on an Inpatient Assessment Unit)
- Rehabilitation (on a Rehabilitation Unit)
- Consultative Geriatrics
- Outpatient Clinics
- Geriatric Psychiatry
- Ambulatory Care
- Continuing Care including Supportive Living
- Home living and community care
- Palliative Care
- Research (through completion of a formalized research project)

The program is flexible and offers both urban and rural experiences. Opportunities for teaching and administration/program development are available and encouraged. Entry into the COE program is contingent on successful completion of the Certification in the College of Family Physicians (CCFP).

APPLICATION

Applications should be made using the Enhanced Skills Application form [here](#) and sent to Dr. Lesley Charles, Program Director.

For more information, please contact:

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