Award for Excellence in Program Innovation

PRESENTED BY
Archstone Foundation and The Aging & Public Health Section of The American Public Health Association

2014
CONTENTS:

2  Forward
4  2014 Award Winner
10  Call for Nominations
12  Selection Committee
    Section Leadership
14  Past Award Winners (1998-2013)
20  Aging & Public Health Section Mission
21  Archstone Foundation Mission
Award Presentation

Archstone Foundation and The Aging & Public Health Section of The American Public Health Association

PRESENT

The 2014 Award for Excellence in Program Innovation

APHA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana
Aging & Public Health Section Awards Program
Monday, November 17, 2014
2:30 PM
Morial Convention Center
Room R09
The Award for Excellence in Program Innovation was established by an endowment from Archstone Foundation to the Gerontological Health Section, now known as the Aging & Public Health Section, of the American Public Health Association to recognize best practice models in gerontology and geriatrics. Programs that innovatively link academic theory with applied practice in the field of public health and aging are considered annually for this award. It is our hope that these model programs will be replicated and will continue to be evaluated in an effort to enhance services to the aging population throughout the United States.

To Irena Pesis-Katz, Ph.D., Chair of the Archstone Foundation Award Committee, and the other members of the selection advisory committee, we extend our deep appreciation for their efforts in reviewing the nominations and selecting the outstanding program to receive this year’s award.

To the winner of the 2014 Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation, all the nominees, and to all who participated in the award process as applicants or reviewers, we offer our best wishes for continued success in their commitment to develop service models in the field of aging and public health.

Joseph F. Prevratil, J.D.
President & Chief Executive Officer
Archstone Foundation

Daniela Friedman, Ph.D.
Chair, Aging & Public Health Section
American Public Health Association
The 2014 Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation

→ WINNER:

MOBILE MEDICARE HEALTH CLINICS
University of the Pacific
Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Stockton, California

“We offer our best wishes for continued success in your commitment to develop service models in the field of aging and public health.”
Mobile Medicare Health Clinics

Stockton, California

University of the Pacific
Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
As of 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reported that over 293,000 Medicare beneficiaries, nearly 90%, of who are over 65 years of age, resided in the San Joaquin and Santa Clara counties of California. The socioeconomic characteristics of both counties underscore the importance of targeted community outreach. San Joaquin County reports that over 20% of county residents live at, or below, the federal poverty level; one of the highest levels in the State. In contrast, 37% of Santa Clara County residents are immigrants, many of whom are non-English speaking.
Medicare Part D is the voluntary outpatient prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries. However, despite the presence of Medicare Part D, CMS states that approximately 10% of the 54 million Medicare beneficiaries continue to lack prescription drug coverage. In addition, those with Medicare Part D coverage may be saddled with higher than necessary out-of-pocket (OOP) costs. Research by the University of the Pacific’s Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences has found that up to 90% of Medicare Part D beneficiaries may on average pay $759 more than necessary for prescription drug costs on an annual basis. 

Aside from cost, Medicare beneficiaries also face other daunting challenges related to their medications. Individuals age 65 and older comprise over 14% of the US population, yet account for 33% of prescription drug consumption. And while prescription medications remain critically important in preventing or reducing the burden of illness, disability and death, they can also cause serious harm when inappropriately prescribed, incorrectly taken and/or inadequately monitored. Studies have reported that 1-in-5 older adults are prescribed what is considered to be a “harmful” medication.

The Mobile Medicare Health Clinics at the University of the Pacific, Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, were created shortly after Medicare Part D came into effect. In 2006, a significant community need was identified to minimize Medicare beneficiary OOP costs, optimize medication regimens, and to provide access to preventative health care screenings and services.
As part of the work of the Mobile Medicare Health Clinics, doctoral pharmacy students receive coursework and training to:

1. Understand and educate older adults and other Medicare beneficiaries on the nuances of Medicare Part D, and help them identify the most cost-effective Part D plan;

2. Help lower beneficiaries OOP costs. Tools and resources include the Medicare Plan Finder Tool, Low-Income Subsidy (LIS), AKA “Extra Help”, pharmaceutical assistance programs (PAPs), and “therapeutic interchange”. Therapeutic interchange substitutes a drug that is therapeutically equivalent to, but chemically different from, another drug having similar effectiveness and safety profiles; the result of which can be significant to OOP costs savings for the beneficiary;

3. Provide Medication Therapy Management (MTM) to optimize drug therapy and improve therapeutic outcomes for patients; and

4. Conduct health care screenings and services, including: immunizations; blood pressure, cholesterol, and bone mineral testing; body fat analysis; asthma and anemia screening; falls risk assessment; memory and depression screening; and Medication Use Safety Training (MUST™).

Following the requisite coursework and training, each student repositions their knowledge from the classroom to the community. The Mobile Medicare Health Clinics are deployed in cities throughout San Joaquin and Santa Clara Counties, and in recent years have expanded to other neighboring counties. Host sites of the Mobile Medicare Health Clinics include senior centers, retirement communities, low-income – HUD housing, and places of worship. A special effort is made to host clinics in areas serving underrepresented
populations, including low-income and ethnically diverse groups. Many of the patients served are non-English speaking; therefore, interventions and services are frequently provided in Vietnamese, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian, and Tagalog. This is made possible through bi- and multi-lingual pharmacy students and volunteers.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

Mobile Medicare Health Clinic’s supporting partners include:
1) public health departments, which provide free flu vaccines for clinic attendees; 2) CMS, who is present at each clinic, and provides onsite governmental support, including answering questions about Medicare benefits and coverage; 3) Social Security Administration to assist with low-income subsidy applications; 4) Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) to assist beneficiaries with evaluating Medicare Advantage and Medigap supplemental plans; and 5) County governmental offices, and others, to assist in locating ideal clinic sites and raising awareness.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Mobile Medicare Health Clinics, to date, have assisted nearly 3,000 Medicare beneficiaries with their Medicare Part D plan, of which 937 (32%) were low-income, and 750 (26%) were assisted in languages other than English. The estimated beneficiary OOP savings on prescription drug costs since the Mobile Medicare Health Clinics began totals over $2.2 million.

In addition, the Mobile Medicare Health Clinics have performed comprehensive medication reviews for over 2,000 individuals; during which, a severe medication-related issue was identified in 375 (18%) of those assisted, and the prescriber and/or pharmacist was contacted in all cases. Additionally, nearly 11,000 free health care screenings/services
have been provided through the Mobile Medicare Health Clinics. Pharmacy students working in the Mobile Medicare Health Clinics have completed more than 20,000 hours of community outreach at 76 clinic host sites in 17 different cities across Central and Northern California over the last seven years.

Program dissemination efforts include, poster presentations at national and international meetings, platform presentations, and published original research articles in peer-reviewed journals. Research themes have included student education and assessment, beneficiary outcomes, patient behavior, policy implications, program creation and implementation, medication optimization, and public health collaborations. The Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences has also been working with two other pharmacy schools, Western University of Health Sciences (Pomona, California), and Roseman University (Henderson, Nevada) in hopes of replicating the Mobile Medicare Health Clinics model.

The Mobile Medicare Health Clinics were created to assist older adults and other Medicare beneficiaries to improve their clinical, economic, and humanistic outcomes. Simultaneously, the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences continues in its efforts to minimize OOP prescription drug costs, optimize drug therapy outcomes, improve disease management, and reduce health disparities in seniors, and other Medicare beneficiaries.

To learn more about the Mobile Medicare Health Clinics and its resources, please contact Rajul A. Patel, PharmD, PhD.
The Aging & Public Health Section of the American Public Health Association is now accepting nominations for the 2015 Archstone Award for Excellence in Program Innovation. The award was established in 1997 to identify best practice models in the field of health and aging, and to provide recognition and an opportunity to highlight the work at the annual meetings of the American Public Health Association.

Programs that effectively link academic theory to applied practice in the field of public health and aging are eligible for nomination. Nominees should also have documented results, but have been in operation less than 10 years. Preference will be given to nominees who have not received prior awards or special recognition.

In two single-space typed pages please describe the program to be nominated. The narrative should include information about the problem being addressed, the population served, the project’s design, partnerships or collaborations, funding, and measurable benefits and outcomes. Only one program may be nominated per agency or organization.

An independent panel will review all nominations. The criteria for award selection will include:

- Creativity in project design;
- Documented outcomes and benefits of the program;
- Replication potential;
- Evidence of collaboration and partnerships; and
- Dissemination strategy.
The winner is expected to attend the 143rd Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in Chicago, Illinois, October 31-November 4, 2015 at a special Aging & Public Health Section Award Session and attend the awards ceremony. In recognition of this achievement, and to assist with the travel expenses, the winning organization will receive a $500 cash award. Honorable mention(s) may also be awarded to one or more nominees submitting distinguished programs as determined by the review panel.

Nominations should be submitted electronically by email no later than April 1, 2015 to:

Irena Pesis-Katz, Ph.D.
Chair, Archstone Foundation Awards Committee
Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing and Public Health Sciences
Director, Center for Population Health Outcomes and Informatics (C-PHOi)
University of Rochester School of Nursing

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Selection Committee

**Sato Ashida, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Community and Behavioral Health  
University of Iowa College of Public Health

**Mary P. Gallant, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
School of Public Health  
University of Albany, SUNY

**Allan Goldman, M.P.H.**  
Adjunct Professor  
Rollins School of Public Health  
Emory University

**Denys Lau, Ph.D.**  
Deputy Director  
Division of Health Care Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Irena Pesis-Katz, Ph.D.**  
(Chair)  
Associate Professor  
Director, Center for Population Health Outcomes and Informatics (C-PHOi)  
School of Nursing  
University of Rochester

**Karon L. Phillips, Ph.D., M.P.H.**  
Research Associate  
IMPAQ International, LLC
Section Leadership

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Caryn Etkin, Ph.D., M.P.H.

PAST CHAIR
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Karen Peters, Dr.P.H.
Helena Temkin-Greener, Ph.D.
Qinghua Li, Ph.D.
Nathan Boucher, PA-C, MS, MPA, CPHQ
Caroline Bergeron, M.Sc.
Micah Segelman, M.A.
Past Award Winners
2013

Age-Friendly New York City
A Partnership between the Office of the Mayor, the New York City Council and the New York Academy of Medicine
New York, New York

The Virtual Supermarket Program
A program of the Baltimore City Health Department
Baltimore, Maryland

2012

Livable Community Collaborative
City of Kingsport
Kingsport, Tennessee

Healthy Steps in Silicon Valley
The Health Trust
San Jose, California
2011

Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives for Seniors (PEARLS)
University of Washington Health Promotion Research Center (HPRC)
Seattle, Washington

2010

Area Geriatric Education Scholars Program for Upper Peninsula Youth (AGES)
Upper Peninsula Health Education Corporation
Marquette, Michigan

2009

PREPARE: Disaster and Emergency Preparedness for Long-Term Facilities
Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging
Evanston, Illinois
2008

**Guided Care: Improving Chronic Care for High Risk Seniors**
The Roger C. Lipitz Center for Integrated Health Care
Department of Health Policy & Management
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
*Baltimore, Maryland*

2007

**The Dancing Heart: Vital Elders Moving in Community**
Memory Loss Program
Kairos Dance Theatre
*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

2006

**Brain Get Your Mind Moving**
New England Cognitive Center
*Hartford, Connecticut*

2005

**Legacy Corps for Health and Independent Living**
University of Maryland, Center on Aging
*College Park, Maryland*
PAST AWARD WINNERS →

2004
Dignified Transportation for Seniors
Independent Transportation Network
Westbrook, Maine

2003
Alzheimer’s Health Education Initiative
Alzheimer’s Association
Los Angeles, California

2002
Kinship Support Network
Edgewood Center for Children and Families
San Francisco, California

2001
Groceries to Go
Elder Services Network
Mountain Iron, Minnesota
2000

Experience Corps
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Center on Aging and Health
Baltimore, Maryland

Assistive Equipment Demonstration Project
University of Massachusetts, Gerontology Institute
Boston, Massachusetts

1999

Senior Wellness Project
Northshore Senior Center
Seattle, Washington

1998

A Matter of Balance: An Intervention to Reduce Fear of Falling
Boston University, Royal Center for Enhancement of Late-Life Function
Boston, Massachusetts
AGING & PUBLIC HEALTH SECTION

The American Public Health Association (APHA) champions the health of all people and communities. Members represent 50 states, 40 countries, and all public health disciplines. The Aging & Public Health Section, formally known as the Gerontological Health Section, was established in 1978. The mission of the Aging and Public Health Section is to promote the health and well-being of individuals as they age by improving health, function, quality of life, and financial security. Section members fulfill this mission through research, practice, education, and advocacy that impact aging services, communities, health systems, policies, and public health programs.
ARCHSTONE FOUNDATION

Archstone Foundation is a private grantmaking organization whose mission is to contribute toward the preparation of society in meeting the needs of an aging population. Under the leadership of Joseph F. Prevratil, J.D., President and CEO, Archstone Foundation has awarded more than $93 million in grants since it was established in 1985.