

## From the Director's Desk

By Robin McAtee, PhD, RN, FACHE, Director,  
Arkansas Geriatric Education Collaborative (AGEC),  
a Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program  
(GWEP) at the University of Arkansas for Medical  
Sciences (UAMS) Donald W. Reynolds Institute on  
Aging (DWR IOA)

### Is this a new AGECEC era?

What a difference a few weeks make. Last time I wrote  
this newsletter, we at the AGECEC were preparing for a very  
busy end of winter and early spring with several exciting  
programs and activities scheduled! We were all really  
looking forward to better weather and traveling the state to  
conduct programs and see our community-based and  
academic partners in action. And now.... we are still very  
busy, but differently...

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## Age-Friendly Healthcare in Rural Arkansas

By Leah Tobey, MBA, PT, DPT  
Clinical Coordinator  
Arkansas Geriatric Education Collaborative,  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

My name is Dr. Leah Tobey and I am the clinical  
coordinator for the AGECEC team. As part of our HRSA  
Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program, we have  
goals to improve clinical health outcomes of older adults  
in the primary care setting. Our partnered clinics are with  
ARcare, a federally qualified healthcare clinic network.  
Specifically, the two clinics where we partner with to  
improve outcomes for older adults are ARcare England  
and ARcare Augusta. I help provide up-to-date and  
evidenced-based trainings to clinicians, particularly  
focused on age-friendly work practices, tests and  
measures to enhance patient experiences and improve  
outcomes of older adults in these rural areas.

As a member of the 2020 Institute for Healthcare  
Improvement (IHI) Age-Friendly cohort...

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## Does Age-Related Hearing Loss Worsen Cognitive Decline?

By Natalie Benafield, Au.D., CCC-A  
Communication Sciences and Disorders  
University of Central Arkansas

Most of us associate aging with a decline in hearing  
acuity, with good reason. Two-thirds of individuals over 70  
years of age have a loss in hearing that would be  
considered clinically significant. Communication obviously  
suffers, causing frustration for both the person with the  
hearing loss and their family members. However, it is  
estimated that less than one-quarter of individuals with  
age-related hearing loss seek treatment. Evidence is  
mounting that...

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## Polypharmacy: Definition, Causes, and Solutions

By Lisa C. Hutchison, PharmD, MPH, BCPS, BCGP  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)  
College of Pharmacy

Polypharmacy may be defined as a number of  
medications, ranging from as few as two to as many as  
21. The most common numerical threshold for  
polypharmacy is 5-6 or more medications. However, a  
patient with diabetes, chronic kidney disease,  
hypertension and heart failure is easily prescribed more  
than 6 medications if treated according to accepted  
guidelines making them all potentially appropriate for the  
individual. Polypharmacy may be defined as...

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## Hospice: A Transition of Care to End of Life

By Dr. Angela Schmidt, Professor Emeritus  
College of Nursing and Health Professions  
Arkansas State University

Transitioning from one care setting to another in the  
United States Healthcare system, has become complex  
and problematic, especially for older adults and other  
vulnerable populations.

Included in these transitions is hospice care, provided at  
home, in a hospital, a nursing home, or in a facility  
specifically designated for hospice care delivery. This  
care delivery is holistic and is delivered by an  
interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, social  
workers, therapists, clergy, and often volunteers. It is  
available to...

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Arkansas Geriatric Education Collaborative (AGEC)/Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP)  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
4301 West Markham, #798  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
[agec@uams.edu](mailto:agec@uams.edu)  
[agec@uams.edu](mailto:agec@uams.edu)

## UPCOMING 2 HOUR FREE CE EVENT May 13, 2020

Wed: 11AM - 1PM

"The Aging Eye"

Presented by: Sami

Uwaydat, MD and

Katie Brown, OD.

Please [visit our main](#)

[CE webpage](#) for

more info, including

livestreaming and

CE processes.



## Free 2 HR Webinar - The Aging Eye

May 13th 11:00 AM

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The Arkansas  
Geriatric Education  
Collaborative's  
mission (AGEC) is to  
provide high quality  
programs that support  
healthy aging in  
Arkansas for older  
adults.

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