



# M A G E C

## M E S S E N G E R

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A University of Miami MAGEC / GRECC Publication ❖ 3rd Quarter ❖ 2006

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### *A Detour in our Training Mission...*

by **Martha H. Corvea, Ph.D.**

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**S**ince February 2006, the national network of 50 geriatric education centers received word that federal funding for geriatric education and training programs had been eliminated for this coming fiscal year. The termination of Title VII of the Public Health Service Act funds became effective July 1, 2006; however, we were allowed to spend unused funds to wrap-up programs by December 2006. Elimination of federal funding for geriatric training means that beginning on January 1, 2007, Miami Area Geriatric Education Center (MAGEC) will cease operations as we know it today.

The impact of this decision has resounded throughout academia and health care delivery systems nationwide; in Florida, these cuts will severely affect the academic excellence of geriatric training programs offered by four separate university-affiliated centers located in Tallahassee, Gainesville, Tampa, and Miami. Each of these regions is densely populated by individuals seeking specialty services from professionals trained in geriatrics. Sadly, the number of these specialized professionals, from physicians to care managers, might diminish in Miami-Dade, Monroe, Broward, and Palm Beach counties in years to come. At the same time, as the nation's 78 million baby boomers begin turning 65, the need for specialized training is likely to increase exponentially!

Yes, it is indeed difficult to believe that while the 2005 White House Conference on Aging identified geriatric education and training among its top 10 recommendations, our federal government representatives saw fit to dismantle an infrastructure for training in geriatrics/gerontology that has been almost 20 years in the making! Still, MAGEC will not allow federal and state funding cuts to detour us from the training path for long... Along with the support offered by University of Miami Center on Aging and other consortium partners, MAGEC will continue to serve your needs by offering comprehensive and update training programs for over 15 different professional groups. Included in our immediate plans are co-sponsored conferences in August, September, October and November '06. We count on your participation at these events as a measure of your support to our efforts in keeping the quality of geriatric training strong!

MAGEC is also asking for your direct input. Now, more than ever, we need to advocate for training in geriatrics. Nationwide, leaders in the field of aging have come together in launching advocacy efforts through the National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE), the National Association for Geriatric Education Centers (NAGEC) and in partnership with other organizations, such as the American Geriatrics Society and AARP. It is critical here in Florida, as in other states, that we also take "this fight" to the local level. We must reach out to our local legislators to garner their support for geriatric education and training. Please call or fax our state senators and representatives; ask them to reinstate funding for geriatric training under Title VII at the 2005 level. Emphasize the importance of this training, given your interest and commitment to provide a much-needed specialized service approach in our community.

We are confident that working together, as a solid entity serving the elderly, we can be successful in advocating for restoration of the much-needed funding for specialized training programs. Our victory will not be a vague concept; it will have an immediate impact on the quality of care offered to current and future Florida's older residents.



# MAGEC

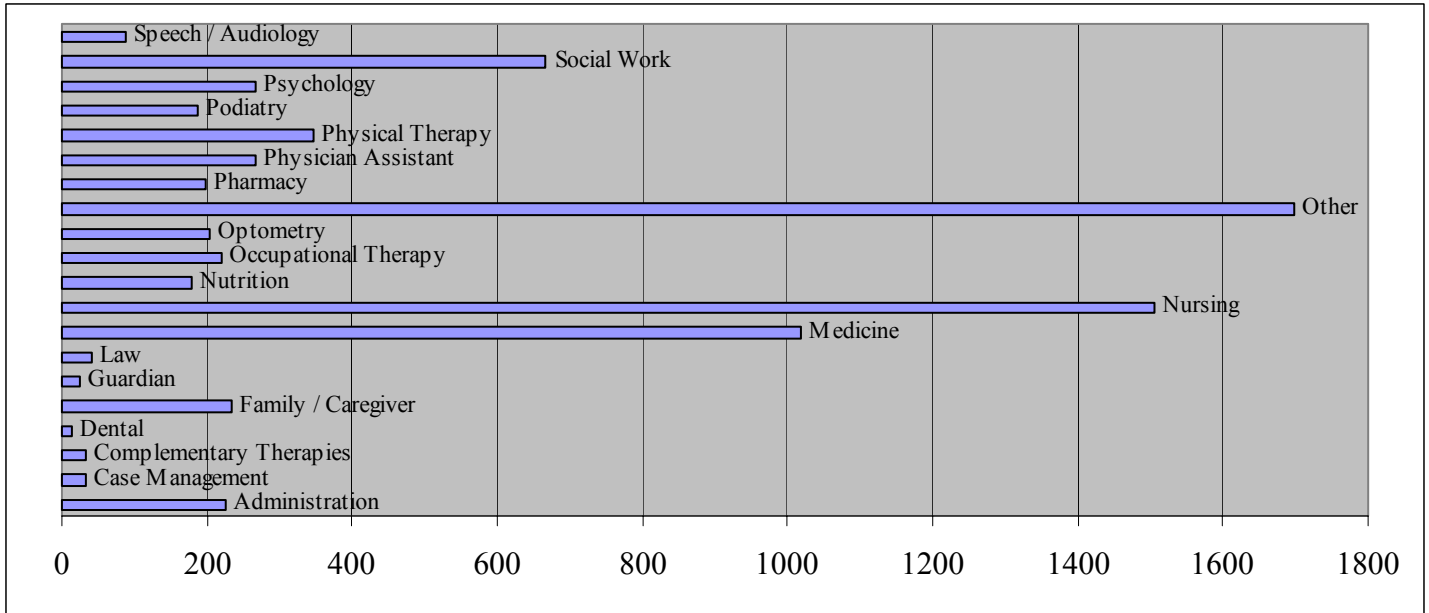
*Enhancing the geriatric knowledge and skills of health professionals by expanding and developing educational programs and activities in geriatrics.*



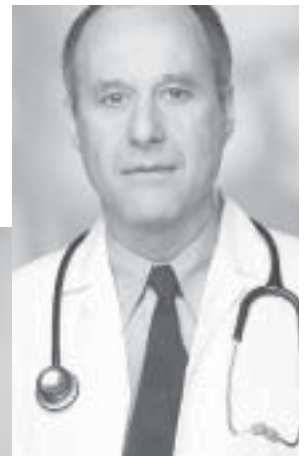
## Grant Accomplishments: January 1997 - June 2006

Educational programs: 213

Participants trained: 7,454



As a licensed professional, you have attended continuing education programs in gerontology and geriatrics conducted by Miami Area Geriatric Education Center (MAGEC). You have benefited from our goal to provide innovative training programs for the professional community and to increase access to specialized services for our most vulnerable, marginalized residents. We count on your willingness to share this information with colleagues at other academic institutions, community-based groups, and professional organizations. Thank you for being part of our MAGEC-trained family!





## By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

by Patricia A. Williams

**S**outh Florida is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes and older adults are especially susceptible to their effects. Those who live alone, or are without the support of family or friends, must take special precautions in the event of an emergency situation. People who are frail or disabled (either mentally or physically) may need special assistance from family members, friends or social service agencies. Older adults who are also caregivers may require outside assistance. Excessive stress and anxiety can contribute to increased episodes of illness, particularly for persons with heart disease and other illnesses. If an older adult lives in a nursing home, assisted living facility (ALF) or boarding home, the administrator should be contacted to learn about the disaster plan for that facility.

As Hurricane Katrina made painfully clear, older adults are among the most vulnerable when disaster strikes. That's why it's critical that older people, and those who care for them, prepare for emergencies. Help may not be immediately available in the wake of a disaster. And pharmacies, medical supply stores, physicians' offices, and hospitals may be closed or inaccessible.

If you're an older adult, or have an older loved one, here's how to prepare for and respond in an emergency:

### STEP 1. Come up with an emergency plan

- Agree on a communications strategy
- Keep contact information complete and up-to-date
- Get local emergency and evacuation information in advance
- Make travel arrangements in case of evacuation
- Consider ordering a medical ID bracelet



### STEP 2. Stock an Emergency Medical Kit

- At least a two-week supply of medications in original packaging
- Medical equipment
- An extra pair of eyeglasses or hearing aides
- First Aid kit and manual: See the Red Cross's comprehensive list of what to pack in your first aid kit, at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). The Red Cross also sells prepackaged first aid kits.

### STEP 3. Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit

- Water: Pack at least 1 gallon per person per day. You should have at least a 5-day supply.
- Food: Stock at least a 5-day supply of canned and dried foods and other nonperishables. Juices, soups, and high-protein shakes may be particularly helpful for older adults.
- Basic supplies: Include a manual can opener, flashlight, portable radio, extra batteries, waterproof matches, knife, re-sealable plastic bags, aluminum foil, plates and utensils, disposable cups, and basic cooking utensils.
- Basic hygiene products: Include soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sunscreen, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, baby wipes, and a few trash bags for garbage.
- Changes of clothing
- Blankets
- Phone numbers and contact information and key papers: Include numbers and addresses of friends and relatives you might need to contact, physicians and any specialists you see. Also include copies of your credit and identification cards



## CALENDAR OF CME/CEU EVENTS

**Mark Your 2006 Calendar! Contact MAGEC for more information at (305) 243-6270**

**September 28, 2006**

**7:30 am - 12:00 pm**

*The Mayor's Initiative on Aging*

*Geriatric Symposium for Physicians*

CME/CEU hours: 4 for physicians only

Location: Cedars Medical Center,  
1400 NW 12th Avenue, Miami, FL

For more information, contact Ms. Lauren  
Zeeffe (305) 592-2638 or  
lzeeffe@mdahec.org

**October 20, 2006**

**8:30 am - 3:15 pm**

*A Professional Symposium on Abuse, Neglect,  
& Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults*

Target Audience: attorneys, guardians,  
mental health counselors, social workers  
and nursing home & ALF administrators

Location: Miami Jewish Home & Hospital  
for the Aged, 5200 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL  
For more information, please contact  
MAGEC at (305) 243-6270 or via email  
magec@miami.edu

**December 1-2, 2006**

*Advances in Geriatrics XV (The Inter-  
Relationship of Law, Health & Medicine)*

Target Audience: physicians, attorneys,  
psychologists, guardians, social workers,  
mental health counselors and nursing  
home & ALF administrators

Location: Doubletree Guest Suites  
2670 East Sunrise Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
For more information, please contact  
MAGEC at (305) 243-6270 or via email  
magec@miami.edu



*Visit our website:*

[www.miami.edu/magec](http://www.miami.edu/magec)

## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER



*“Some men never seem to grow old. Always active in thought,  
always ready to adopt new ideas, they are never chargeable with  
fogyism. Satisfied, yet ever dissatisfied, settled, yet ever unsettled,  
they always enjoy the best of what is, and are the first to find the  
best of what will be.”*

~Shakespeare