Introducing the GOT Care! Faculty

Petra Clark-Dufner, MA serves as the Associate Director of the CT Area Health Education Center Program (CTAHEC) and director of the Urban Service Track which is an interprofessional training program for health professions students from six disciplines, four campuses and two Universities. She has more than 29 years of experience in secondary and post-secondary education, specifically working with students from low-income, underrepresented, and first generation college backgrounds. In addition to her work with the Urban Service Track, Ms. Clark-Dufner taught 2nd year medical students as part of the UConn School of Medicine’s Principals of Clinical Skills. In 2014 she received the University of Connecticut School of Medicine CMC Teaching Award and 2013 the Association of Medical Student Association’s Women Leaders in Medicine award.

Karina M. Berg, MD, MS, is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Medicine. Dr. Berg has a background in clinical research and is board certified in both Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. She is a member of the core clinical faculty in the Center on Aging. Dr. Berg is a primary care provider for older adults at the UConn Center for Healthy Aging and Geriatrics and performs memory disorder consultations in the James E. C. Walker Memory Assessment Program. She regularly has 1st and 3rd year medical students with her as she sees patients. Dr. Berg is particularly interested in working with patients and their families to addresses the challenges of dementia.

Kevin Chamberlin, PharmD is a 2003 graduate of the UConn School of Pharmacy and of an ASHP- Accredited Specialty Residency in Geriatric Pharmacy Practice at VA Connecticut. Dr. Chamberlin runs a clinical practice in Adult Internal Medicine at UConn Health, where he also serves on the Pain and Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Team. Dr. Chamberlin’s scholarly interests are in pain management and geriatric pharmacotherapy. He has received a number of awards, including the Roche Preceptor of the Year Award for the UConn School of Pharmacy and the David S. Frederick, MD Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UConn Health Internal Medicine Residency Program.
Rachel Eyler, Pharm.D., graduated from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy in 2008. She completed a Pharmacy Practice residency at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI, in 2009, and a nephrology fellowship at University of Michigan College of Pharmacy. She is currently an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, and works on the Acute Care for the Elderly Unit at Yale-New Haven Hospital. In 2013 she was awarded an American Foundation of Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) geriatrics fellowship.

Richard H. Fortinsky, PhD, is a professor at the University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Medicine, where he holds the Health Net, Inc. Endowed Chair in Geriatrics and Gerontology. He also holds a secondary academic appointment at the UConn School of Nursing. Over the past 30 years, Dr. Fortinsky has worked with researchers from a wide range of clinical, social, and behavioral science disciplines to design and carry out studies with the goals of improving care and maximizing health and independent living for older adults and their families. With funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and other peer-reviewed sources, Dr. Fortinsky has directed observational and intervention studies designed to improve links with community resources for people from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds living at home with dementia and their families. Dr. Fortinsky received his doctoral degree in Sociology in 1984 from Brown University, specializing in medical sociology and gerontology.

Dr. Ruth Goldblatt, DMD, School of Dental Medicine. I am responsible for the pre-doctoral course work for geriatrics and special needs dentistry at the University of CT School of Dental Medicine. I also contribute to the curriculum in oral medicine, am involved in clinical research with older populations and am core faculty in the UConn Urban Service Track where I help develop and implement interprofessional curriculum for health professions students across 6 disciplines 4 campuses and two universities.
Dr. Susan Glenney received a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from Northeastern University, a Master of Science in Allied Health from the University of Connecticut and a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the MGH Institute of Health Professions. Dr. Glenney is a Certified Specialist in Geriatric Physical Therapy through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties (ABPTS). With over 15 years of experience in higher education including program/curriculum development and assessment, Dr. Glenney’s teaching specialties are in the areas of geriatrics, adult rehabilitation, musculoskeletal pathology and health promotion/wellness. She has extensive experience and certifications in the areas of adult fitness and health promotion.

George A Kuchel, MD CM, FRCP, AGSF
Professor and Citicorp Chair in Geriatrics and Gerontology
Director, UConn Center on Aging

Millicent M. Malcolm, DNP, GNP-BC, APRN, is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the UConn School of Nursing. She is the Primary Investigator for the GOT Care! Project, and has been a specialist in the nursing care of older persons for nearly 30 years. Dr. Malcolm has been a board certified Gerontological Nurse Practitioner for the last 15 years at Middlesex Hospital Primary Care, with her clinical practice focused on home visits and wellness clinic care at numerous assisted living facilities. Her research interests include interprofessional training and practice, promoting successful aging, reducing risks and preventing iatrogenic suffering for older persons.
Paula McCauley DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, CNE, A triple Husky, (1996, 98 and 2010) McCauley has over 30 years nursing experience, the majority with adults geriatric patients in critical care and trauma. Currently she is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at University of Connecticut School of Nursing in Storrs, a position she has held since 2013. Her relationship with UCONN began in 1999 at the Health Center as an Adult acute care nurse practitioner (ACNP) in the critical care service. Her academic appointments at the School of Nursing have included a joint clinical/faculty position as a clinical professor for the accelerated registered nurse and graduate programs and track coordinator for the ACNP program. She is a member of the board of directors for the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and active in the American Nurses Association, American Association of Colleges of Nurses, and Connecticut League for Nursing.

Catherine Medina, Ph.D, MA. PHIL, LCSW is an Associate Professor at the University Of Connecticut School Of Social Work, Puerto Rican and Latin@ Studies Project. She is the Chair of the substantive area in Aging and teaches in the Policy/Practice sequence. Dr. Medina teaches courses in macro practice, finance and policy analysis, and contemporary practice with diverse populations: multidimensional lens to health disparities. She is the author of several articles on health, health disparities and HIV focusing on African American and Latin@ communities and Aging. Her global scholarship has been to develop social work practice in Vietnam working as a consultant and trainer in Hanoi and Da Nang. Dr. Medina has worked in several health related facilities, such as hospitals, mental health and substance abuse community based agencies, homeless day treatment programs, and school based clinics providing direct services and leadership through diverse clinical and administrative roles. Dr. Medina received her PhD and a Master of Philosophy from Columbia University and her MSW from Fordham University. Her current focus of research interests are on health disparities, aging and Policy Advocacy.

Juliette Shellman, PhD, APHN-BC. Program Evaluator, Evaluation Design, Data Collection and Analysis, Project Outcomes Reporting. Faculty, Cultural Competence
Matthew Raider, MD
Middlesex Hospital Family Medicine Residency
Dr. Raider has 34 years experience as a physician and is board certified in Family Practice and Geriatrics. He has been the Medical Director and Attending Physician at 8 SNFs throughout his career, including multiple yrs experience precepting physicians in the Middlesex Family Practice Residency in the area of Geriatrics. Additionally, he has 6 years experience precepting advance practice nursing residents from the Community Health Center in Middletown, CT.

Catherine Rees, MPH is the Director of Community Benefit at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, CT. She joined Middlesex Hospital as an Administrative Fellow in 2006, jointly completing her fellowship along with a position in Community Benefit and Service Excellence. As Director of Community Benefit, her responsibilities include oversight of the Hospital’s community benefit program, community health needs assessment and implementation plan, and liaison for community collaboration. Since 2009, a focus on geriatrics has been a Middlesex Hospital Community Benefit organizational goal. Ms. Rees is the Co-Chair of the Hospital’s Geriatrics Steering Rees holds a bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College and received a master’s in Public Health from Yale University, with a concentration in Health Management. Prior to entering the field of healthcare, she was Director of Operations in a CT based retirement planning firm.

Alexandra Venezia-Schain, MS, AGNP-BC, APRN
Curriculum Development Team, Faculty for Training and Outreach Geriatric Advanced Practice Nursing Outreach Team Supervisor
Jennifer Casavant Telford, PhD, is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Telford (Jen) enjoys teaching Advanced Pathophysiology and an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner seminar for graduate students, and is able to share her love of the history of nursing with senior undergraduate nursing students just before they graduate in the spring semester. Jen practices as a nurse practitioner on a per diem basis as part The Center for Hospice Care Southeast Connecticut in Norwich. An integral part of both her scholarship and her nursing practice is her focus on meeting the unique needs of military veterans, something she has embraced as a part of the GOTCare Team!

Affiliated Faculty:

Nurse Navigators for GOT Care:

Debra Healey, RN, BSN, Executive Director Middlesex Hospital Home Care

Trish Coe, RN, BSN, GOT Care! Nurse Navigator

Sarah Wilcox RN-BC. Supervisor of Clinical Services, Middlesex Hospital Homecare. ANCC Certified in Gerontology and Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. Employed by Middlesex Hospital Homecare for 17 years, Currently enrolled at the University of Hartford in the MSN-MPH program

St Luke’s Community Services:

Eric Rodko, LMSW, is the Executive Director of St. Luke’s Community Services, a small non-profit social services agency in Middletown, CT. Eric has graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, R.I. (BSW) and the UConn School of Social Work (MSW). Eric has worked in the fields of elderly services, Medicare education and advocacy, volunteerism and clinical care management for the past 20 years. Previous to his current job, Eric’s employment at the Western CT and North Central CT Area Agencies on Aging involved working in conjunction with the State of CT - Department of Social Services (DSS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) on the mass education and implementation of the Medicare Advantage
(managed care) and Part D benefit programs. Eric’s employment as a Regional Supervisor at Connecticut Community Care, Inc. (CCCI) involved working with both the CT Home Care Program for Elder (CHCPE) and Money Follows the Person (MFP) programs. Eric is a member of the NASW-CT Aging Committee, a board member of the Middlesex Area Interagency Council and member of the Middletown Rotary Club.

**Kizzy Hernandez-Bigos** is a graduate of Eastern CT State University with a double major in Psychology and Sociology. Kizzy has an extensive background in working with at-risk older adults having worked for 11 years at Connecticut Community Care, Inc. as a Care Manager under the CT Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) and Money Follows the Person (MFP) programs. Kizzy’s broad experience in assessments, person-centered care planning, outreach and nursing home to community transition planning is invaluable as the Gatekeeper Program Director at St. Luke’s Community Services, providing case management for Gatekeeper clients referred to St. Luke’s from Middlesex and New Haven counties as well as provide operational and outreach guidance to all of Connecticut’s regional Gatekeeper Programs. Kizzy will also steer St. Luke’s latest efforts in Middlesex County to improve outreach to at-risk older Latino adults (60+) as well as networking with providers and agencies that serve older Latino adults.