

Western Maryland Area Health Education Center

Annual Report
2003

The mission of the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC), a community-based organization, is to improve access to and promote quality in health care through educational partnerships with centers for higher education, community health professionals, and other vital supporters and advocates.



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FY - 2003

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Partner: "two or more persons engaged in the same business and sharing its profits and risks"

This year's Annual Meeting theme, "Partners in Public Health," accurately describes the 27-year history of the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC).

WMAHEC creates partnerships that profit the community – expanded opportunities for distance education; resources for the establishment of a Medical Reserve Corps; trainings for disaster and bioterrorism response; continued outreach for Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHP); use of cigarette restitution funds for tobacco prevention/cessation and cancer awareness outreach to minorities; and the continued success of our student clinical education and training program.

Risks exist for WMAHEC – increased competition for existing resources, the potential decrease or total elimination of Title VII Health Professions programs that AHECs operate, and status quo participation from community preceptors and decreased educational opportunities. To minimize these risks and achieve our mission, we continue to reach out to new partners in our health care system. We continue to seek new avenues of an expanded community presence that oftentimes serves as a "behind the scenes" catalyst for the development of unique partnerships. These partnerships not only serve the educational needs of area health professionals but also those of the residents living in Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas.

WMAHEC looks to the cooperation, support, and health of its partnerships for future expansions in health career education, geriatric services, partnerships with the faith-based community, and disaster/bioterrorism response training and awareness education.

It is our pleasure to serve the partners in our Western Maryland family.

John Kenney
Chair Person, Board of Directors

Kery C. Hummel
Executive Director

Information

Bringing Effective Skills and Technology Together

Bringing Effective Skills and Technology Together (B.E.S.T.T.), a partnership between the WMAHEC Learning Resource Center (LRC) and the School of Medicine Library, University of South Carolina, came to a successful close in January 2003. Despite the geographical distance between the two sites, this unusual collaborative structure worked almost seamlessly, proving the usefulness of the technologies demonstrated. BESTT created the *Emerging Technologies* teleconference, which brought together 53 librarians, information providers, and expert presenters from six states, utilizing distance education technology. Important face-to-face opportunities

were provided in six follow-up hands-on training sessions that emphasized the use of best practices and critical thinking in selecting, evaluating, and using resources built on the concepts presented at the conference.

The project's Website at <http://www.allconet.org/ahec/bestt> provides resources for health information professionals across the nation to assist their patrons in evaluating resources, to integrate best practices in health and science applications, and to think critically for better long-term use of information. The Website has recently been enhanced with a searchable database of the resources available there and the addition of a replication model of B.E.S.T.T. Thanks to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for funding B.E.S.T.T.

Western Maryland InfoHealth II

The Consortium of Health Information Libraries Outreach (CHIL-Out), with the WMAHEC as lead agency, began *Western Maryland (WM) InfoHealth II* in FY03. *WM InfoHealth II* is an eighteen-month project that seeks to ensure that health professionals, their patients, and the general public of the Western Maryland region are connected to the health information resources they need to make informed health care decisions. *WM InfoHealth II*, <http://www.health.allconet.org>, will improve access to electronic health information for librarians, health professionals, patients, health professions students, public school students, and the community, including minority populations. To enhance the ability of individuals to access reliable health information resources and achieve its overall goal, *WM InfoHealth II* will provide training sessions to increase individual search and evaluation skills; redevelop the *WM InfoHealth* Web site into *WM InfoHealth II*, an interactive, database driven Web site; and increase awareness and knowledge of National Library of Medicine (NLM) resources and services. Funded by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Southeastern/Atlantic Region, *WM InfoHealth II* began in March 2003 and will continue through February 2004.



Development & Advocacy

Community Development Partnership

WMAHEC coordinated its third and final year of the Community Development Partnership (CDP) initiative. Six community outreach workers continued to educate consumers in the business, faith-based and health professions communities, as well as the Frostburg State University campus. They conducted 347 MOTA surveys and distributed the following: Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and MCHP Premium brochures, applications, pencils, magnets, and toothbrushes; Allegany Community Access Program (CAP) brochures and referrals; smoking cessation and colorectal cancer screening brochures; and MOTA mini grant applications. CDP funding was made possible by a grant from the Allegany County Health Department and the Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene.

Four of the CDP outreach workers also volunteered for the Allegany CAP. WMAHEC assisted CAP by recruiting and training 8 volunteer outreach workers to monitor Community Health Access Program (CHAP) clients. CAP's two main goals are to increase access to quality health care for *uninsured* and *underinsured* Allegany County residents, ages 19-64, and to improve the health of those participating in the program. CHAP Care Coordinators provided program oversight for WMAHEC's CAP volunteers who also assisted in monitoring clients, helped conduct mailings, and supported other vital program activities.

To highlight a very positive program impact, WMAHEC bids Bobbie Carpenter, CDP outreach worker and CAP volunteer, a fond "good luck" in her educational endeavor to become a physical therapy assistant. She attributes her change in career education choice to her two-year experience with WMAHEC and CDP.

Medical Reserve Corps

WMAHEC was one of 42 agencies nationwide awarded a three-year grant in FY03 to establish and coordinate a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The Allegany County MRC demonstration project is funded by Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office of Public Health and Science. A local advisory committee of key emergency response stakeholders from public health,

government emergency services, hospitals, volunteer centers, and community and faith-based organizations has been meeting to integrate the MRC into existing response infrastructure. The Allegany County MRC public health workforce training partner is the Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center, under the auspices of the Johns Hopkins Center for Public Health Preparedness and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The Allegany County Medical Reserve Corps is now recruiting and training a locally organized and accessible cadre of volunteers to respond to natural disasters or public health emergencies. The MRC supports the existing community health care infrastructure, enhances the capability of the county's emergency response structure, and provides public education.

Maryland Special Populations Cancer Network

Through grant funding from the University of Maryland Office of Research and Development, WMAHEC joined the Maryland Special Populations Cancer Network. WMAHEC's role within the Network is to boost participation in cancer clinical trials through increasing public awareness and understanding; and enhancing health professionals' knowledge, including the recognition of barriers to their patients' participation. In partnership with hospitals in Allegany, Garrett, Washington, and Frederick counties; the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Services; and the Appalachia Cancer Network, WMAHEC provides educational outreach to health professionals and community members on cancer clinical trials. The special populations primarily targeted are the medically underserved, elderly, and racial/ethnic minorities. Program plans include offering cancer clinical trials continuing education courses to health professionals and conducting a mass community awareness campaign which utilizes parish nurses, health departments, hospitals, media, trainings, and fair and festival activities.

Allegany County Family Violence Council

The Allegany County Family Violence Council (FVC) completed a very successful FY03 grant year. FVC members worked together effectively and consistently to meet the following project goals: 1. Creating a Response Team to address the needs of victims as they move through the county's victim services. 2. Securing funding for the Western Maryland Health System for SAFE Nurse training and forensic equipment. 3. Providing on-going

training for all Council members. 4. Conducting the Clothesline Project to raise awareness about rape and sexual assault. 5. Advocating for statewide legislation that improves services for victims and advocating against legislation that endangers women. 6. Obtaining mini-grant funding for Council projects. 7. Participating in the Western Maryland Health Fair to distribute information on general safety and victims' help resources. 8. Establishing and publicizing a mutually beneficial protocol to allow victims to address the council regarding service delivery. 9. Inviting a victim to serve on the council. 10. Moving toward the establishment of a comprehensive data collection system to increase understanding of regional family violence incidents. 11. Establishing a "Safe Place for Pets" program that provides shelter to pets when a victim is fleeing a dangerous home situation.



Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance

Fiscal Year 2003 marked the conclusion of WMAHEC's three-year tenure as Western Maryland's Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance (MOTA) subcontractor. MOTA is a component of the state's Cigarette Restitution Funds Program (CRFP) aimed at increasing minority participation in local health planning and community activities that ensure the reduction of tobacco use and the control of cancer.

FY03 was a year of increased activity and expansion, as WMAHEC added three new minority community-based organizations to the Mini-grantee ranks, conducted three resource development workshops, and provided program technical assistance for the expenditure of \$17,648 in mini-grantee awards. WMAHEC also funded outreach activities in Garrett County and conducted 2 minority surveys, reaching 347 participants in Allegany County and 455 participants in Washington County.

Changes in state level MOTA program guidelines led to both Allegany and Garrett Counties' becoming ineligible for MOTA Mini-grant funds. These changes also required that MOTA Vendors be located in each county they serve. WMAHEC values the relationships established through the MOTA program and wishes all of its Mini-grantees continued success in their endeavors to provide services in their respective communities.



Covering Kids & Families

In FYO3, WMAHEC continued to coordinate the Western Maryland local program for Maryland *Covering Kids & Families (CKF)*. Conducting outreach and education about the benefits of the Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) and MCHP Premium for uninsured and underinsured working families is the main objective for *CKF*. Major program media outreach efforts focused on the *CKF* "Back-to-School" campaign in fall 2002, and "Cover the Uninsured Week" in spring 2003. Upon WMAHEC's request, County Commissioners in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties all issued proclamations in support of covering the under- and uninsured in their communities for "Cover the Uninsured Week." Other highlights included partnering with the Governor's Wellmobile to conduct MCHP outreach at public libraries in Allegany and Garrett counties and working with local health departments to provide current MCHP application packets to the faith and business communities, health professionals, child care centers, secondary school students, and college students. Programming for *CKF* is made possible by a grant to the University of Maryland from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



Recruitment and Retention

Clinical Education

Clinical Education, a cornerstone recruitment program at WMAHEC for 27 years, provides a rural training rotation for health professions students. In FY03 one internal medicine resident and 89 health professions students representing eight disciplines from 15 universities, colleges, and programs completed 569 weeks of clinical experience with 59 preceptors in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties as well as nearby areas of West Virginia. UMB School of Medicine students also participated in a community health project on obesity. Three pre-med student Americorps volunteers provided 112 weeks of service to medically underserved individuals through Allegany Health Right.

The Clinical Education program added seven preceptors: Allison Evans-Wood, DO, Sandra Fowler, MD, Celestino Menchavez, MD, Anita Meyers-Vagnoni, MD, Sanjay Saxena, MD, Albert Strauss, MD, and Leon Weaver, MD. Area practitioners continued to share their knowledge and skills with students during site visits or "sub-rotations."

John Reed, MD, participated on a physician panel that discussed socio-economics and access-to-care for UMB first year medical students. Margaret Kaiser, MD was the invited speaker at the UMB School of Medicine White Coat Ceremony.

Student Health Action Recruitment Education

S.H.A.R.E. is one of many AHEC programs aimed at recruiting tomorrow's health professionals today. Through conducting educational programs in the public schools, S.H.A.R.E. recruits middle school students to attend its one-week, summer health professions camp. The program's purpose is to raise middle school students' awareness of community health needs, available health care resources, and associated health career opportunities.

Designed to peak students' interests in health and science careers, S.H.A.R.E.'s Health Careers Camp hosted nine students during the week of June 23-27, 2003. Participants got a head start on their careers by going behind the scenes of various health care settings and participating in hands-on, job-related experiences. Health professionals interacted with students to teach them about health careers and the educational requirements that lead to professional certifications or college degrees. Students also received information on what they could do to prepare for these careers. FY03 camp activities included a first aid certification course; a hospital tour; a nursing home visit that included a service project; a day spent in the allied health building at Allegany College of Maryland; a class on Internet searching techniques; a murder mystery that required students to solve the mystery; and a wide variety of health and wellness activities.

Health Careers Opportunity Program

West Virginia University (WVU) and WMAHEC collaborate to conduct the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), an academic summer course which prepares students for health professions schools. The primary goal of this project is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, support and abilities to enter and graduate from post-secondary schools offering careers in allied health, medicine, dentistry or pharmacy, and then return to practice in the central Appalachian region. The preliminary education portion of the project is conducted simultaneously on the WVU and Frostburg State University campuses. In FY03, 25 students spent 6 weeks in a residential academic program where basic foundations in biology, writing, chemistry and math were enhanced. Students gained in knowledge and skills needed to transition from high school to college. Throughout the program students visited regional hospital and medical institutions, spoke with practicing health professionals, and participated in community events. HCOP funding is provided through a grant received from the Bureau of Health Professions.

2002 Preceptors

Jacquelyn P. Bauer, CRNP
Matthew Beckwith, MD
Jessica Blough, MPT
Anthony Bollino, MD
Thomas Bolt, PD
Brian Bonham, MD
Rosario Gonzaga Borromeo, MD
J. Nelson Brouillette, MD
Vincent Cantone, MD
Thomas Chappell, MD
K. Jill Ciccarella, MD
Robert Coughlin, MD
James Crable, RPh
Robert J. Dawson, MD
Charles Downs, PharmD

Karin Forman, MD
Sandra Fowler, MD
Rev. Gene Gall, DDiv.,
Jon Wes Hann, RPh
B. Allen Haworth, DO
Gerard Herpel, PD
Maria Hopkins, PT
Debra B. Hurtt, MD
Jesse Jalazo, MD
Kirk Jones, RPh, PharmD
Joseph Jurand, MD
Margaret Kaiser, MD
Shiv Khanna, MD
Kristin L. Koontz, PA-C
William Lamm, MD
Michael Levitas, MD

Anita Meyers-Vagnoni, MD
Rohollah Moainie, MD
Mary E. Money, MD
Doug Moore, PT
Susan M. Nuber, MD
Donald Patthoff, DDS
John Reed, MD
Jeffery Rhodes, DDS
Diane Romaine, DMD
Sanjay Saxena, MD
Husam Semaan, MD
Huma Shakil, MD
John W. Staggers, PT
Jerry C. Stewart, PD
Albert J. Strauss, MD
Randall A. Stroup, PA-C

Rural Interdisciplinary Health Promotion

In its final year, Rural Interdisciplinary Health





Rural Interdisciplinary Health Promotion

In its final year, Rural Interdisciplinary Health Promotion (RIHP) provided educational training or health promotion services to some 400 individuals. Students and faculty from medical technology, occupational therapy, social work, physical therapy, public health, respiratory therapy, and nursing at five academic campuses enhanced their health care promotion teamwork skills. Student teams provided health screenings and wellness activities to 37 senior center participants in Friendsville and Oakland. Additionally, 32 youth and five counselors participated in wellness activities and received health career information from RIHP health promotion team visits to summer camps.

The last of three interdisciplinary online modules, *Obesity Prevention: Interdisciplinary Health Promotion*, was posted at www.allconet.org/ahec/rihp for use by health professions' faculty in existing courses. Project partners incorporated the modules into 10 existing courses and reached 171 students this year. The RIHP project impact goes beyond the participating schools. The easy accessibility of online modules is attractive for faculty across the country and around the globe. Faculty in Oklahoma and California reported using RIHP module components with 143 occupational therapy, physical therapy and social work students this year. Inquiries came from universities in Australia as well.

Project results over three years: 75 students provided health prevention services to 238 Western Maryland residents via Interdisciplinary Service Learning Trainings; 355 students used interdisciplinary modules in existing courses; 41 different faculty attended faculty development workshops; 13 conference presentations were made; 2 continuing education seminars related to weight management were co-sponsored

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Jessica Blough, MPT
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J. Nelson Brouillette, MD
Vincent Cantone, MD
Thomas Chappell, MD
K. Jill Ciccarella, MD
Robert Coughlin, MD
James Crable, RPh
Robert J. Dawson, MD
Charles Downs, PharmD
Ruth Dwyer, MD
Allison Evans-Wood, DO
V. Raul Felipa, MD
Kandy Fink, CRNP

Karin Forman, MD
Sandra Fowler, MD
Rev. Gene Gall, DDiv.,
Jon Wes Hann, RPh
B. Allen Haworth, DO
Gerard Herpel, PD
Maria Hopkins, PT
Debra B. Hurtt, MD
Jesse Jalazo, MD
Kirk Jones, RPh, PharmD
Joseph Jurand, MD
Margaret Kaiser, MD
Shiv Khanna, MD
Kristin L. Koontz, PA-C
William Lamm, MD
Michael Levitas, MD
Jose Loveria, MD
Virginia Magbojos, MD
Celestino Menchavez, MD
Elmaslias Menchavez, MD

Anita Meyers-Vagnoni, MD
Rohollah Moainie, MD
Mary E. Money, MD
Doug Moore, PT
Susan M. Nuber, MD
Donald Pathhoff, DDS
John Reed, MD
Jeffery Rhodes, DDS
Diane Romaine, DMD
Sanjay Saxena, MD
Husam Semaan, MD
Huma Shakil, MD
John W. Stagers, PT
Jerry C. Stewart, PD
Albert J. Strauss, MD
Randall A. Stroup, PA-C
John Stuckey, MS,OTR/L
Leon D. Weaver, MD
Rodney A. Williams, MD
Penny Ziegler, PT

with 121 attendees; project materials were used or serve as a foundation for curricula at seven non-partnering educational institutions. The RIHP project was funded by the federal Quentin N. Burdick Program for Rural Interdisciplinary Training, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration.

Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) program at the UMB provides funding for WMAHEC's regional geriatrics educational activities and resources.

GGEAR FY03 mini-grants supported seven programs providing health professional continuing education in Western Maryland. Topics included "Caregiver Skills," "Preventing Elder Abuse," "End of Life Issues," "Later Life Domestic Violence," "Spirituality and Dementia Care," "Long-Term-Care Issues," and "Managing Difficult Behavior." This year's total of 455 program attendees, a 46% increase over the previous year, indicates that GGEAR programs continue to meet the needs of health professionals in Western Maryland.

Utilizing the resources of the WMAHEC Computer Learning Lab, instructors provided hands-on training on web-based resources for health professionals working with elderly caregivers and elderly diabetics. WMAHEC

staff also provided ongoing computer and equipment technical assistance and access to on-line resources and other media.

For middle school students and post-high school students interested in health careers, GGEAR developed resources and activities for geriatric career experiences.

Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team

Fiscal Year 2003 concluded WMAHEC's eighth year of funding for the Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team (GAIT), a University System of Maryland Redeployment Grant directed by the Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB).

GAIT projects provided interdisciplinary geriatric training for 46 health professions students representing dentistry, gerontology, physician, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and social work. Students from Frostburg State University, Towson University, and the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy at UMB participated in projects at geriatric care sites in Allegany, Frederick, and Washington counties. Topics included: "Dementia Care in Adult Medical Day Care," "Quality Activity Programs: Maximizing Physical and Cognitive Functioning," "Assisted Living in the Continuum of Long-Term-Care," and "Leaving the Nursing Home: Rehabilitation and Discharge Planning."

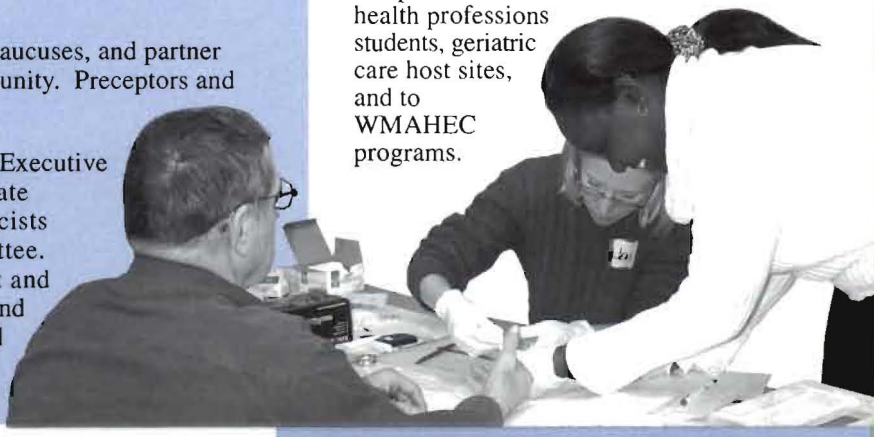
The GAIT projects facilitate academic outreach to rural communities of Maryland and provide benefits to the academic institutions, health professions students, geriatric care host sites, and to WMAHEC programs.

FYI

During Fiscal Year 2003, WMAHEC sponsored or co-sponsored 45 continuing education courses for 1,314 area health professionals.

Many thanks go to WMAHEC's preceptors, ten health professions caucuses, and partner organizations for a great year of dedication and service to the community. Preceptors and caucuses contributed more than 26,000 volunteer hours.

Working toward addressing the health workforce needs of the state, Executive Director, Kery Hummel, represented Western Maryland on the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Shortage of Pharmacists Taskforce and the Governor's Healthcare Workforce Sub Committee. Both groups project future health workforce needs, develop short and long-term responses that address these needs, review legislation, and work toward comprehensive utilization of resources on local, state, and federal levels.



Nursing Outreach

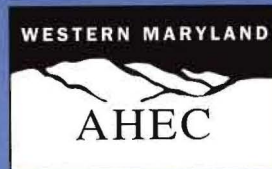
The University of Maryland School of Nursing continues to operate two off-campus sites in Western Maryland. Outreach efforts are based at WMAHEC, and classes are offered at both WMAHEC and the Hagerstown Center of Frostburg State University. WMAHEC has continued to contribute significantly to nursing education in Western Maryland by providing a physical "home" that includes classroom and office space; telephone, video, and copying services; and access to interactive video, computer, and library services.

In the 2002 – 2003 program year, four students completed their baccalaureate degrees at the two off-campus locations. The undergraduate students continued as enthusiastic participants in WMAHEC's Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team projects and Rural Interdisciplinary Health Promotion Service Learning projects. There are currently nine Family Nurse Practitioner students who are slated to graduate at the end of 2003.

Major changes occurred in FY03, as 25-year program coordinator, Dr. Gail Mazzocco, accepted the position of AHEC Liaison for the University of North Carolina. Dr. Mazzocco has been the local "heart and soul" of the School of Nursing and has mentored hundreds of registered nurses during her years in Cumberland. WMAHEC wishes her well in her new adventure as the AHEC liaison at the University of North Carolina.



Dr. Mazzocco leaves the Outreach program in excellent hands. New coordinator, Ms. Susan Coyle, MS, RN, is a former clinical instructor in the RN to BSN Outreach program and approaches her work in the dedicated style of Dr. Mazzocco. Ms. Coyle looks forward to continuing excellence in education and expanding the Outreach programs in Western Maryland.



WMAHEC thanks its many partner organizations for a great year of service to the community. United in working toward quality healthcare in the rural region, WMAHEC looks forward to continued collaborations with these partners in future endeavors.

Core Funding

Maryland Statewide Medical Education & Training System

University of Maryland

Donald E Wilson, MD – Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Claudia Baquet, MD, MPH – Associate Dean for Policy and Planning, University of Maryland School of Medicine; Project Director, Maryland AHEC Program

Malinda B. Orlin, Ph. D. – Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Maryland; Dean, Graduate School

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Nelson J. Sabatini – Secretary, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene