



# Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report



*The Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC) is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to improve access to and promote quality in healthcare through educational partnerships.*

## Strengthening Partnerships in Uncertain Economic Times

During Fiscal Year 2009, Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (WMAHEC) continued to strengthen pipeline programs while under the cloud of potential funding cuts. WMAHEC expanded Exploring Careers in Health Occupations (ECHO) to include a fourth year of programming; continued Science Technology Education and Mathematics (STEM); increased Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) participation; hosted Clinical Education rotations from first-year medical students; and WMAHEC Caucuses increased activities, community projects, and awards. While budget cuts loomed for AHECs, they became reality for many of our partners. These partnerships are integral to our effectiveness in the community, and we share the pain of the funding cuts.

Once again, we commend the Board of Directors and the dedicated staff for a productive and successful year during hard economic times. We thank our health professional Caucuses and our community and academic partners for working with us to bring valuable education to the professionals, help grow our own professionals, and introduce quality professionals to the community.

Sincerely,

*Susan K. Stewart*

Executive Director

*Jennifer Wilson*

Chair, Board of Directors



## Board of Directors FY 2009

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Jason Edwards	PhD
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R. Anne Sheetz	MS, MA, LCPC
Earl Stoner	MPH
Mark Sullivan	
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## WMAHEC Staff

**Michele Beaulieu** *Program Coordinator*  
**Jackie Booth** *Administrative Specialist I*  
**Mary Clites** (Contract) *Custodian*  
**Roland Fisher** (Contract) *Maintenance*  
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## Maryland AHEC Program

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA  
 Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean  
 University of Maryland School of Medicine

Shiraz Mishra, MBBS, PhD  
 Associate Professor, Family and Community Medicine, Deputy Director, Outcomes and Evaluation

Claudia R. Baquet, MD, MPH

## **Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC)**

The second year of the Western Maryland Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC) continued to be very successful. Forty-one students now make up the YHSC. To date, 704 volunteer hours have been served by YHSC members in the area. In addition, the YHSC volunteers are leading a “Virtual Bowling League” using the Nintendo Wii with residents in area long-term care facilities, which they designed as their YHSC Service Learning component. This year the YHSC was incorporated into the curriculum of the Career Center for Technical Education’s Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA).

## **Exploring Careers in Health Occupations**

This year ECHO expanded into a four-year program. The realization of long-held agency goals for its pipeline of outreach and recruiting trips, 1,846 students were exposed to health care professionals in the region. Of those who completed ECHO 101, 12 students returned for ECHO 201, and 2 students completed ECHO 401.



### **ECHO 101**

This introductory year was modeled after previous years with the schedule altered to reflect student feedback from previous years. The 21 students traveled to Garrett County to try whitewater rafting at Adventure Sports Center International, visited the University of Maryland Schools of Medicine and Nursing, the Allegany County Health Department and the Allied Health programs at Allegany College of Maryland. Student participants took part in CPR and First Aid training, and the Tier 1 YHSC training. Evaluations reflected strong support for the programming and interest in continued opportunities.

### **ECHO 201**

In its second year, ECHO 201 met with great approval from both participants and community partners. Students engaged with professionals at WMHS, Dr. Diane Romaine and Associates, Around the Back Chiro, Golden Living Center and Frostburg Nursing and Rehabilitation Center to experience a variety of in-depth health care experiences, including watching a surgery live at WMHS.



### **ECHO 301-401**

ECHO 301 and 401 students participated in intensive job shadowing experiences in areas of their choosing. The students chose surgery, OB/GYN, Physical Therapy, and Emergency Department. The ECHO 301/401 students also received a very informational talk about the best way to receive financial aid for their college experience from the Director of Financial Aid at Frostburg State University.

### **National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine**

Once again, the WMAHEC was pleased to have a student to attend the prestigious National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. In the past four years, WMAHEC has won several awards from Maryland's Office of Student Research. The scholarship recipient was Ashley Weir. Ashley has an interest in medicine. Ashley is a member of the WMAHEC and contributes actively to WMAHEC's H



### **Allegany County Family Violence Council**

In this final year of the WMAHEC housing the Family Violence Council, all Council activities were coordinated by the Family Crisis Resource Center (FCRC). In FY 2009, the Council strengthened the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and continued to support the Lethality Assessment Team. The FVC receives its funding from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, S\*T\*O\*P Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program, VAWA-200-1467.



***Anthony Bollino, MD, an Allegany County Family Practice physician, was selected Preceptor of the Year by the Duquesne University Physician Assistant students. Dr. Bollino was honored for his teaching excellence and commitment to educating future Physician Assistants. Pictured with Dr. Bollino, from left, Dana Motika, MPA, PA-C, Clinical Coordinator, Duquesne University Physician Assistant Program, and Anna Nicka, Duquesne PA student.***

## **CLINICAL EDUCATION**

One hundred and three (103) health professions students representing 9 disciplines from 20 universities, colleges, and programs completed 707 weeks of clinical rotations with preceptors in Allegany, Garrett, Frederick and Washington counties and nearby areas of Pennsylvania. For a third consecutive year student participation sustained a 20% increase over FY2006 levels.

The students were mentored by 59 preceptors—area health professionals who shared their time, knowledge and skills with the students. Five new preceptors shared their expertise with students, Brian Hose, PharmD, Mitchell Johnston, PharmD, Stephan Love, MD, Richard Porter, DO, and Christine Sturtz, CRNA.

WMAHEC recognizes the importance of exposing students to rural practice earlier in their training. A first-year student in the Family Care Track at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine shadowed primary care physicians in Washington and Garrett counties. Three students from Dartmouth College (Medicine and MPH) shadowed physicians in Allegany and Garrett counties.

Jason O’Grady, MD, who completed his AHEC rotation with K. Jill Ciccarelli, MD, in Williamsport, Maryland, won First Place at the UMB School of Medicine for his senior Capstone Project, “Punishment Before Judgment: A Glimpse into the Healthcare Disparities in Maryland’s Detention Centers.” The project topic was inspired by his AHEC rotation experience.

## **Clinical Education Preceptors**

*Theresa Barkdoll CN MT, RT(N)*

*Jacquelyn Bauer CRNP*

*Gerald Beachy RPh*

*Robin Bittinger RDMS*

*Jessica Blough PT*

*Anthony Bollino MD*

*Keith Broome RPh*

*Daniel Buckingham MD*

*Ken R. Buczynski MD*

*Peter Bui MD*

*Julie Caler PharmD*

*Thomas Chappell MD*

*K. Jill Cicarelli MD*

*Maureen Conroy DO*

*James Crable RPh*

*Wayne Crowder MD*

*Robert Dawson MD*

*Allen Ditto MD*

*Charles Downs PharmD*

**Volunteer hours: 28,640 hours**





## **GGEAR Partnership**

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore directs a University System of Maryland Redeployment Grant that, in partnership with the WMAHEC, supports:

- Interdisciplinary geriatrics continuing education for health professionals and care providers working with older adults in Western Maryland.
- Educational outreach and resources for health care professionals and older adults and their caregivers in Maryland.
- Career information in geriatrics and gerontology and Aging Awareness activities for middle and high school students in Western Maryland.
- Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team trainings at geriatric care host sites in rural/underserved areas for health professions students in University Maryland System (UMS) programs.

Volunteer hours: 915 hours



*Reba Cornman, MSW, LCSW-C, Director of GGEAR, presents the first annual Award for Excellence in Geriatrics and Gerontology to Adina Brode, representing the Garrett County Interagency Committee on Aging.*

**Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team (GAIT)** projects are free standing trainings that bring small interdisciplinary teams of health professions students to rural/underserved geriatric care sites. Students enhance their Interdisciplinary Health Care Team skills, and student teams assess a client selected by the host site and discuss their team assessment to host site staff.

In FY2009, thirty-two health professions students representing Gerontology, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Physician Assistant, and Social Work programs, from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Social Work at the University of Maryland Baltimore and programs in Gerontology, Occupational Therapy, and Physician Assistant at Towson University participated in one of five GAIT projects in Allegany, Garrett or Washington County. The project topics included: *Supporting Living at Home: Adult Medical Day Services, Geriatric Rehabilitation: the patient, the family and the health care team, Maintaining Health and Wellness in Independent Living, Community-Based Hospice Care in a Rural Area, and Transitions in Assisted Living: Promoting Health and Wellness.*

The **GGEAR Mini-Grants** program supported four continuing education programs and two programs providing education to older adults and their caregivers. The programs reached a total of six hundred and thirty-two (632) participants in the three Western Maryland counties. The projects were the result of a collaboration of eighteen (18) Western Maryland organizations and partners working to identify educational needs and to design and implement an accessible and affordable program to meet those local needs.

Aging Awareness, Team Building, and Geriatrics and Gerontology Health Careers are promoted in activities for high school students in Western Maryland as part of the WMAHEC health career pipeline programs.

WMAHEC staff continues to maintaining gerontology and geriatrics resources for health professionals, community caregivers, and students exploring careers in aging on the WMAHEC website. WMAHEC staff support the efforts of the E-preparedness caucus to disseminate information to safety during personal and community emergencies. Information and resources are shared electronically and through outreach at community events.

Funding for the GAIT projects and for Geriatrics Education Outreach has been continued for FY2010.

Cover
Family Violence
GAIT
Funding



*Leslie Robinson, MD, course director for the UMB, School of Medicine, AHEC rotation, received the WMAHEC John M. Dennis Award in recognition of her dedication, leadership, and support of medical student clinical rotations and her engagement with the physician-preceptors in Western Maryland.*

## Health Professional Caucuses



The dedication and commitment provided to WMAHEC from the members of the eleven health professional Caucuses continues to be the core of the continuing education program success. The disciplines represented by these Caucuses include dentistry, dietetic, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, medicine, psychology and professional counseling, nurse practitioner and social

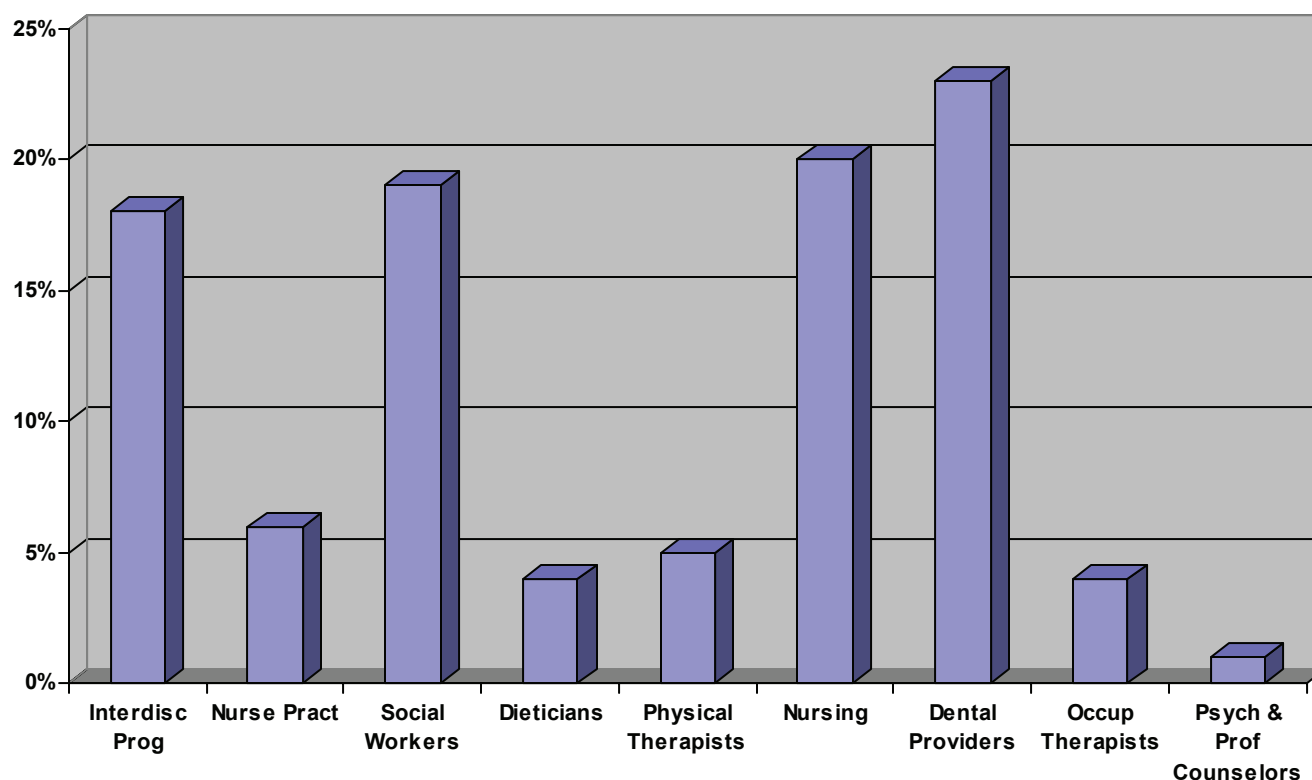
Because of the collaborative relationship established between these Caucuses, health care organizations and educational institutions, the continuing education department continues to grow. In cooperation with these partners, training needs are assessed and programs are developed and conducted using national, regional and local experts as lecturers and consultants.

During Fiscal Year 2009, 63 continuing education courses were sponsored or co-sponsored for a total of 2580 health professionals. Another 158 non-credit programs were conducted for 5457 participants. Presentation formats included seminars, workshops, lectures, video conferences and telecasts. By providing quality, diverse and affordable educational opportunities, WMAHEC is assisting with the retention of health professionals in the region as well as helping them to improve the health care provided to the citizens of Western Maryland. During any given Fiscal Year, the number of programs conducted and professionals





## Continuing Education Programming by Caucus



### Mini-Med School

WMAHEC conducted its fifth annual Western Maryland Mini-Med School for 132 participants from the community, among which 103 graduated. Throughout the four-week course, Mini-Med offered an inside view into exciting progress in medicine, ways to improve health, and important prevention and treatment information on mental health and chronic disease and conditions commonly experienced by citizens of Western Maryland. Courses were taught by medical professionals from the local community and from the faculty of the University of Maryland, School of Medicine. Mini-Med was a partnership effort of WMAHEC; the University of Maryland, School of Medicine; the University of Maryland Statewide Health Network; the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities; and the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. Community partners included Allegany College of Maryland, Western Maryland Health System, and M&T Bank. Topics included Hypertension and Stroke, Eye Health, Lung and Bronchus Cancer, Alzheimer's/ Dementia, Women's Oncology Issues, and Reconstructive Surgeries after Cancer Treatments.



## **Learning Resource Center (LRC)**

The LRC staff assists area health information providers, health professionals, and health professions students in the by maintaining a health sciences library, performing literature searches, filling interlibrary loans. Staff members also provide training on accessing reliable health information on the Internet. The Learning Resource Center is a Primary Access Library and a member of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Southeastern/Atlantic Region (NNLM/SEA). In 2009, WMAHEC's library processed or filled 473 interlibrary loan requests and document orders via DOCLINE and Loansome Doc. Funding for this service comes from the University of Maryland School of Medicine for the Maryland Statewide Medical Education and Training System.



## **Community Network Program (CNP)**

WMAHEC is the Northwest Maryland Community Maryland partner for the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Maryland Regional Community Network Program. The mission of the program is to reduce and eliminate cancer health disparities for Maryland's urban and rural underserved communities through an intensive and integrated program of community-based participatory research, evidence-based culturally appropriate community outreach and training that fosters discovery intervention, development, and delivery in community settings.

In 2009, WMAHEC's regional focus remained oral cancer education. Through educational presentations in the health classrooms of high schools, WMAHEC reached 130 public and private school students. Other oral cancer education events reached 262 community members. Funding for this project is made possible by grant number 5U01CA114650 from the National Cancer Institute.

## **STEM Project**

### **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**

The Allegany County Public Schools continued its contract with WMAHEC to coordinate the activities of their Maryland State Department of Education STEM grant. The project serves K-12 students, their parents, guidance counselors, teachers and principals and is designed to raise awareness, increase exposure to, and better prepare students for the pursuit of STEM careers. In the 2008-2009 school year, STEM projects reached more than 2000 students. 42 students participated in one-on-one job



hundreds learned from a STEM professional who visited their classroom or school, and 250 went on a field trip to a STEM site to watch professionals in action. A highlight of this programming year was the partnership that was formed with the WMAHEC Health Professions Pipeline Education program which facilitated powerful learning experiences for ACPS students.



## ***Income & Funding Sources\****

Maryland Statewide Medical Education and Training System (MSMETS)	\$324,000
Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)	\$130,556
Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Model AHEC Funding	\$ 49,300
HRSA, Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Geriatric Assessment Interdisciplinary Team Project (GAIT)	\$ 50,555
Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Allegany county Family Violence Council	\$ 6,702
Violence Against Women Grant Program, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention	
Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program (GGEAR)	\$ 26,050
Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
University of Maryland Statewide Health Network	\$ 15,000
DHMH, Subrecipient Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Youth Health Service Corp	\$ 15,000
Sub-Grantee Contract, Northwestern AHEC—Connecticut	
Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics	\$ 33,384
Contract with Allegany County Public Schools	
Western Maryland Health Information and Resource Network	\$ 21,950
Service Agreements with area hospitals	
The Maryland Regional Community Network Program to Eliminate Cancer	\$ 26,000
National Cancer Institute, Subaward Agreement with the University of Maryland, Baltimore	
Maryland Statewide Health Network	\$ 25,000
Telehealth Project	
UM Center for Health Disparities Research, Training & Community Outreach	\$ 12,255
Mini Med School	
<b>*Total</b>	<b>\$735,752</b>

### ***Line Item Expenditures\****

Personnel	\$495,431
Contractual Services	\$ 60,297
Insurance	\$ 4,691
Communications	\$ 16,934
Printing and Supplies	\$ 25,211
Equipment and Equipment Contracts	\$ 3,040
Office Space & Utilities	\$ 47,424
Travel	\$ 23,597
Direct Student Support	\$ 30,177
Learning Resources	\$ 28,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$735,752</b>

### ***Expenditures by Functional Category\****

Recruitment	\$552,240
Retention	\$101,605
Information	\$ 49,205
Advocacy	\$ 32,702

\*For the fiscal year of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009

