

List of Ongoing Gerontology Projects in the College of Health

1) Project: An Inter-professional Collaboration between CHS and Area Senior Center Educators to Implement a Fall Prevention Program with Community Dwelling Older Adults

Investigators: Mary Beth Gilboy, Barbara Harrison, Scott Heinerichs, Melissa Reed

Funding: Dean's Award for New Initiatives, Promoting Experiential Learning to Enhance Faculty Scholarship In Support of Community Outreach

Dates: Spring & Fall 2014

About: This inter-professional fall prevention program focuses on a teacher-scholar model of providing fitness, nutrition, and fall prevention assessment and education in the Chester County community.

2) Project: The Relationship between Wandering and Functional Status

Investigators: Mary Elizabeth Bowen

Funding: Department of Veterans Affairs

Dates: 7/2011-9/2016

About: This project examines how wandering, as a dementia-related physical activity, may be associated with the prevention of functional decline among institutionalized older adults. Participating study sites include: VA Community Living Center in Tampa, FL, a private Assisted Living Facility in Tampa, FL, the VA Community Living Center in Coatesville, PA, and the VA Community Living Center in Philadelphia, PA.

3) Project: Preferences for Artificial Nutrition: An Examination of Older Veteran Nursing Home Residents

Investigators: C. Monturo (and another nurse from the Coatesville VAMC, TBD)

Funding: Frank Morgan Jones Fund, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

About: The overall objective of this project is to determine whether or not a relationship exists between preferences for nutrition at end of life and use of artificial nutrition in the last month of life.

4) Project: book series "Healthy Aging and Fitness"

Investigators: Karin Volkwein-Caplan and Jasmine McConatha

About: Research issues related to healthy aging and fitness

5) Project: Melodic Intonation Therapy (MIT): Exploring the sum of its parts

Investigators: Sojung Kim, Taiwo Whetstone, Emily Deeves, Colleen Reynolds

Funding: WCU College of Health Sciences (Faculty-Student Research Award), WCU Office of Sponsored Research(Summer Undergraduate Research Institute), WCU CSD (Graduate Student Research Award)

About: To determine if rhythmic therapy or melodic therapy based on MIT enhances verbal output from an individual with expressive aphasia secondary to cerebrovascular disease

6) Project: A Needs Assessment of Elder Resources Across Three Communities

Investigators: Mary Elizabeth Bowen, Neil Beresin (Kendal Communities), Brittany Paris (student)

Dates: Spring and Summer 2015

About: The purpose of this project is to examine the unmet needs of older adults in Kennett Square, West Chester, and Coatesville and develop programs and services to meet these needs in conjunction with Kendal Communities.