Message from the Project Director

It has been an exciting Fall and Winter for our Division of Geriatrics despite the long cold winter we have endured here in Michigan. Our grant team has been hard at work during the past months on the many aspects of our grant plan. We continue to work with the State-Wide Campus System (SCS) on exposure of the Family Medicine and Internal Medicine Residencies to geriatric medicine. The Internal Medicine Professional Advisory Committee was receptive to our presentation on our grant plan in October 2013, and supported our plans for additional geriatric fellowships in Michigan. They expressed interest in, and support for, our plans for a geriatric poster competition for all SCS residents. The competition was also announced to the residents at their Family Medicine Educational Day held on November 6, 2013. The residents enjoyed multiple presentations on geriatric medicine from our grant faculty, Frank Komara, DO, Matt Weiss, DO, Annette Carron, DO, Linda Keilman, DNP and Carol Monson, DO.

Our greatest challenge continues to be our recruitment efforts for our fellowship positions. We are convinced that geriatrics is an exciting field with major job opportunities. Geriatricians are being highly recruited in Michigan and across the country for excellent wages and exciting opportunities. We have positions in multiple sites across the state of Michigan. We are looking for either graduating residents or currently practicing physicians that might be interested in a well-funded geriatric fellowship in the city of Detroit. If you are interested, please contact John Sealey, DO for more information. For our other fellowship opportunities, contact me or Dr. Komara to discuss the possibilities.

With the help of Dr. Jon Rohrer and Dr. Eric Zemper of SCS, we officially announced the geriatric poster competition to be held in conjunction with the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) 115th Annual Spring Scientific Convention in Detroit Michigan.

We have also worked with the MOA Educational Committee to present a series of geriatric lectures at the MOA Scientific Convention in Detroit. You will find your invitation to attend on the back page of this newsletter. Our presenters include both current and former Michigan physicians in a variety of specialties to help us educate our practicing physicians, residents and students in geriatric medical practice. Richard Pascucci, DO, J. Michael Wieting, DO, David Neff, DO, Edward Rosick, DO and Carol Monson, DO will be our featured speakers with emphasis on the optimal aging philosophy of our...
Welcome to our New Geriatrician!

Qingping Wang, MD, PhD, CMD, joined the faculty of Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) Department of Family and Community Medicine (FCM) in January 2014. We welcome her back to East Lansing after several years of continued medical training. Dr. Wang received her PhD. from MSU in Biochemistry in 1989. She continued on as a Post-doctoral Research Associate in the carcinogenesis Laboratory until her interest in osteopathic medicine led her to apply and matriculate at MSUCOM in 1993. She finished her first two years of medical school at MSUCOM. The responsibility of marriage and motherhood pulled her away from East Lansing when her husband accepted a new position in New Mexico. Dr. Wang transferred to The University of New Mexico, School of Medicine in 1995 and received her MD from this institution in 1997. She travelled again, this time to a residency in Internal Medicine (IM) at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After completion of her residency training she completed her Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. She established her own solo Practice in geriatric medicine in Lansdale, Pennsylvania in 2001. Her practice included seeing individual patients in her medical office, patients in assisted living situations, and providing care in skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities. She has served as the medical director of several facilities and is a Certified Medical Director of the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA).

Dr. Wang was born and educated in China. She immigrated to the US in the early 1980s to East Lansing after completing her BS in Biology from Nankai University in Tianjin, China. We are grateful that she has found her way back to East Lansing. Dr. Wang brings with her a wealth of research and academic experience from her previous career in East Lansing as a biochemist and researcher with Dr. Justin McCormick and Dr. Veronica Maher. Her list of previous publications as a biochemist and then as a clinical geriatrician are impressive. We look forward to her working with us on the research aspects of clinical geriatrics.

Dr. Wang has been anxious to get started on the work she loves, the medical care of geriatric patients. She is working closely with Dr. Frank Komara in establishing her clinical practice at the FCM clinic. She is meeting and establishing collegial relationships with other MSU and Sparrow geriatricians and has begun to explore the community resources for geriatrics. Most importantly, for us, Dr. Wang’s is becoming the associate director for the FCM and IM Division of Geriatrics as defined by our Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant. Although she is just getting started at MSUCOM her enthusiasm and interest in our grant activities is clear. We are pleased to introduce her as the newest member of our grant faculty team.
Francis (Frank) A. Komara, DO, joined the staff of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) Department of Family and Community Medicine (FCM) in 2000. As the new millennium brought innovations to the world, Dr. Komara brought added qualifications and new dimensions to our department. Geriatric medicine at MSUCOM began to grow in our minds and began to thrive with our medical students as he founded the MSUCOM Geriatrics Interest Group. Dr. Komara began his MSUCOM career as the Program Director of the Family Practice Geriatric Medicine Residency and Fellowship Program at Sparrow Hospital, a cooperative effort with MSU COM and MSU College of Human Medicine (CHM). Additionally, Dr. Komara served as the Associate Director for Continuing Education and Faculty, Geriatric Education Center of Michigan for MSUCOM.

Dr. Komara was instrumental in the establishment of an FCM clinic and rapidly began to attract a large group of patients to his practice. His dedicated interaction with the community soon led to requests for his consulting skills. Subsequently, he became the medical director for the McLaren Visiting Nurses Hospice Program and later for the Medical Care and Rehabilitation Services of Ingham County, positions that he continues to hold to the present.

Our medical students have benefitted from his expertise as a professor and mentor in many of their courses. Currently, he has taken the lead in the organization of the multiple geriatric courses in the new MSUCOM curriculum to provide continuity in the training of the physicians of the future.

Because of his continued dedication to osteopathic medicine, he founded the Osteopathic Geriatric Family Medicine Residency and Fellowship Program with Sparrow Hospital in 2010 and remains its program director. With the advent of the Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant in 2011, Dr. Komara became the director of the FCM and IM Division of Geriatrics. He remains hard at work in the continuing development of new curriculum, development of new geriatric fellowships and recruitment of geriatric residents and fellows to our programs.

Dr. Komara’s continued dedication to scholarship has resulted in multiple scientific papers, posters and presentations to the community. He has recently become the recipient of the MSUCOM Clinical Faculty Excellence Award. He remains active in the osteopathic profession as a member and past-president of the Ingham County Osteopathic Association and a current board member of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFF). MSUCOM is very fortunate to have an active and dedicated physician of excellence such as Dr. Komara as a faculty member.

HELP US RECRUIT GERIATRICIANS FOR MICHIGAN!
MOA 115th Annual Spring Scientific Convention

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 - Saturday, May 17, 2014

115 years of education, innovation and service

The MOA Annual Spring Scientific Convention attracts top osteopathic physicians, medical students and health care professionals who are engaged in a four-day educational and hands-on learning forum.

A Special Invitation from the Project Director

Michigan State University
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Department of Family & Community Medicine and
Division of Internal Medicine

Invite you to enjoy and participate in
Geriatric Medicine Presentations at
The Michigan Osteopathic Association 115th Annual Spring Scientific Convention on

Wednesday May 14, 2014 4pm to 7pm
Thursday May 15, 2014 5pm to 6pm
Friday May 16, 2014 9am to 10am

AOA Category 1-A credit