



A Pause for Reflection and Acknowledgement

Ana Tuya Fulton, MD

The column first ran in January of 2007. From the vantage of July 2009, the editor, authors and sponsors would like to reflect on the past, acknowledge the present and speculate about the future. We envisioned the column as a vehicle to share resources and knowledge to help all practitioners care for the often complicated and challenging older adult population. The format developed as a case-based discussion on clinically relevant topic areas in geriatrics care, accompanied by a variety of scholarly resources and web-based tools. Topics varied, ranging from basic geriatric assessment and management to disease-specific discussions. (Table).

Column authorship varied as much, including pieces written by senior academic geriatricians, junior faculty, geriatrics fellows in training, residents, nurse practitioners and other health professionals. The unifying theme has always been a strong desire to improve the awareness of geriatrics issues and to provide all practitioners with knowledge and tools they need to care for older persons. The expanding senior population has become too large for the fewer than 10,000 geriatricians to provide much of the primary care for older adults. Accordingly, most providers share both in the responsibility of providing their care and acquiring basic competencies for this care of older persons. This perspective remains the underlying goal and premise for the column. We hope the column's tools and knowledge are useful, and that it piques your curiosity to learn more about the nuances of care for the older patient.

Now, after 25 monthly columns and one entire issue devoted to patients in nursing homes, the time has come to reassess your needs. Please contact the editor with your recommendations for topics, areas of interest, criticisms and format changes, or just to offer feedback. In addition, a formal needs assessment survey accompanies this column; please help us by completing this five-minute survey. We welcome your submission; contact the editor to inquire about your area of interest or the experiences you might like to share.

Most importantly, we would like to thank all of our supporters. You, for your readership and the feedback you have already given. Thanks also to all of our contributors, who have submitted articles, and those who have taken the time

to edit and review. Finally, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) whose support through Quality Partners of Rhode Island (QPRI), the Medicare quality improvement organization for Rhode Island, have provided the funding permitting monthly publication of the column. These articles have fostered better, safer and timelier care of our older adults, along the themes of the prior 8th and current 9th scope of work QPRI does under contract with CMS. We take pride in this partnership toward bringing better care to Rhode Island's elders.

Table 1. RI Medicine & Health Geriatrics for the Practicing Physician Publications

| Publication Date | Topic |
|------------------|--|
| January 2007 | Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment |
| February 2007 | Medication Management |
| March 2007 | Falls |
| April 2007 | Transitions of Care |
| May 2007 | Palliative Care & Hospice in Nursing Homes |
| June 2007 | Insomnia |
| July 2007 | Nursing home edition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culture Change - Medical Director Role - Transitions of Care - Infections - "Big hitter" issues |
| August 2007 | Elder Abuse |
| September 2007 | Chronic Dizziness |
| October 2007 | Osteoporosis and Vitamin D deficiency |
| December 2007 | Hypoactive Delirium |
| January 2008 | Use of PEG tubes in Alzheimer's |
| February 2008 | Nutrition and Failure to Thrive |
| March 2008 | Home Visits |
| April 2008 | Hospice Referral Indications |
| June 2008 | Clinical Case Series |
| August 2008 | Reynolds Grant Progress Article |
| September 2008 | Hospital Transitions of Care |
| October 2008 | Sex in the Older Adult |
| November 2008 | Determination of Prognosis |
| December 2008 | Pressure Ulcer Diagnosis, Staging, Risks |
| January 2009 | Pressure Ulcer Treatment |
| February 2009 | Cancer Screening |
| March 2009 | Caregiver Stress |
| April 2009 | Anticoagulation and Atrial Fibrillation |
| May 2009 | Dementia & Behavioral Disturbances |
| June 2009 | Depression in the Older Adult |
| July 2009 | Hip Fracture Management |

To better highlight this support, future columns will provide linkage to ongoing quality and safety projects being undertaken by QPRI, and whenever possible, resources used in these projects will be made available. Broad areas of intersection include patient safety, improving care transitions, and chronic disease management models. The goal is to highlight quality initiatives being undertaken, while providing clinically relevant topic reviews. Quality and patient safety have become a major focus for the practice of medicine and among accrediting organizations. All hospitals and practitioners are being challenged to adhere to new standards and further improve quality. We hope to add to the utility of the column by these linkages.

It is the hope of the Division of Geriatrics at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine of Brown University, QPRI, and the editor to continue for at least another year or two, and to continue bringing useful, practical information to busy clinicians. Thank you for your readership and please continue to share your feedback with the editor and authors.

To learn more about the work being done at QPRI please visit <http://www.riqualitypartners.org/>.

Please take a minute to participate in our needs assessment survey to evaluate the column's utility and future topics of interest. This survey should take no more than five minutes. Your participation is appreciated.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=C3dkxk739KPF_2fqgWek2eg_3d_3d

Ana Tuya Fulton, MD, is Chief of Internal Medicine, Butler Hospital, and Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ana Tuya Fulton, MD
345 Blackstone Blvd, Center House #241
Providence RI 02906
Phone: (401) 455-6314
e-mail: afulton@butler.org

9SOW-RI-GERIATRICS-102009

THE ANALYSES UPON WHICH THIS PUBLICATION IS BASED were performed under Contract Number 500-02-RI02, funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. The author assumes full responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the ideas presented.

| UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications) | | Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1. Publication Title MEDICINE & HEALTH / RHODE ISLAND | | 2. Issue Date AUGUST 2009 | |
| 3. Issue Frequency MONTHLY | | 4. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below SEPT 5, 2009 | |
| 5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12 | | 6. Annual Subscription Price \$100 - INDIVIDUAL \$100 - ORGANIZATION | |
| 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state and ZIP+4) RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |
| 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Business Manager PUBLISHER RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 10. Complete Mailing Address of the Principal Office of Circulation Distribution 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |
| 11. Publication Title MEDICINE & HEALTH / RHODE ISLAND | | 12. Issue Date AUGUST 2009 | |
| 13. Issue Frequency MONTHLY | | 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below SEPT 5, 2009 | |
| 15. Number of Issues Published Annually 12 | | 16. Annual Subscription Price \$100 - INDIVIDUAL \$100 - ORGANIZATION | |
| 17. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state and ZIP+4) RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 18. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |
| 19. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Business Manager PUBLISHER RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 20. Complete Mailing Address of the Principal Office of Circulation Distribution 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |
| 21. Publication Title MEDICINE & HEALTH / RHODE ISLAND | | 22. Issue Date AUGUST 2009 | |
| 23. Issue Frequency MONTHLY | | 24. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below SEPT 5, 2009 | |
| 25. Number of Issues Published Annually 12 | | 26. Annual Subscription Price \$100 - INDIVIDUAL \$100 - ORGANIZATION | |
| 27. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state and ZIP+4) RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 28. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |
| 29. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Business Manager PUBLISHER RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 30. Complete Mailing Address of the Principal Office of Circulation Distribution 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |
| 31. Publication Title MEDICINE & HEALTH / RHODE ISLAND | | 32. Issue Date AUGUST 2009 | |
| 33. Issue Frequency MONTHLY | | 34. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below SEPT 5, 2009 | |
| 35. Number of Issues Published Annually 12 | | 36. Annual Subscription Price \$100 - INDIVIDUAL \$100 - ORGANIZATION | |
| 37. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state and ZIP+4) RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 38. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |
| 39. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Business Manager PUBLISHER RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 40. Complete Mailing Address of the Principal Office of Circulation Distribution 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |
| 41. Publication Title MEDICINE & HEALTH / RHODE ISLAND | | 42. Issue Date AUGUST 2009 | |
| 43. Issue Frequency MONTHLY | | 44. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below SEPT 5, 2009 | |
| 45. Number of Issues Published Annually 12 | | 46. Annual Subscription Price \$100 - INDIVIDUAL \$100 - ORGANIZATION | |
| 47. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state and ZIP+4) RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 48. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |
| 49. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Business Manager PUBLISHER RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | | 50. Complete Mailing Address of the Principal Office of Circulation Distribution 250 PINEWOOD AVE PROVIDENCE RI 02908 | |