

Geriatric Emergency Medicine

University Health Network/North York General Hospital

Leads: Drs. Alice Gray and Priyank Bhatnagar

Preamble:

The geriatric EM elective offers residents the opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding of the special needs of older patients in the ER, as well as their comfort in managing common geriatric syndromes and transitions of care.

Supervisor: Dr Alice Gray and/or Dr Priyank Bhatnagar

Target: Emergency medicine residents in PGY 2-5 (both CCFP and FRCPC programs)

Duration: 4-week elective

Background:

- Older patients now comprise 25-30% of all visits to the ER in Canada. Despite this, there is a significant lack of specific training in the care of the elderly in FRCPC residency programs across Canada. As well, emergency departments were not created with the geriatric patients best needs in mind.
- Older patients are much more likely to have complex medical and social needs compared to younger patients, including multiple comorbidities, polypharmacy, frailty, and social issues. As such, there is a different skill set that is needed to meet their unique needs. They are more prone to develop delirium and suffer from cognitive impairments. They also have physiologic changes that affect their presentation of common diseases.

Geriatric Emergency Medicine Elective:

- This elective offers learners the unique opportunity to selectively see older patients in the ER during shifts and spend time appropriately dispositioning them. Additionally this elective offers the opportunity to work alongside a multidisciplinary seniors team as they perform their consults in order to in order to gain a deeper understanding of geriatric syndromes relevant to the ED, how community care functions and unique care needs of frail older adults
- The hope is that this unique elective develops residents who will become strong clinicians when caring for older adults, expose them to leadership and innovation opportunities in geriatric EM and inspire them to further their knowledge and disseminate their gained skills to their colleagues in the ER This elective offers the unique ability to work alongside a multidisciplinary team.
- Residents will complete readings and asynchronous internationally accredited and expertly developed online modules through GEDC to optimize their core learning on geriatric topics.
- This elective will serve as a foundational experience to further develop geriatric interest and potentially engage in further geriatric training such as Geri-EM or care of the elderly fellowships.

Objectives:

- Gain greater understanding to core geriatric syndromes (delirium, falls, frailty, polypharmacy etc) and how to perform a geriatric assessment
- Work alongside a multidisciplinary team to understand their role and appreciate community supports when dispositioning patients
- Identify and understand how to optimize the care of older adults in the ER, when thinking about the space, staff and processes relevant to the older patients.
- Familiarize residents with hospital and community resources to facilitate and improve patient care for older patients

Block overview:

- **4 week Geriatric Emergency Medicine elective block through UHN and/or NYGH**
 - Learners will have the option of doing their entire 4 weeks at one site or split across the two sites depending on the learner's clinical interests in academic and community hospital environments.
- **Approximately 10 clinical emergency medicine shifts**
 - Focus on seeing older adults (age >65) with complex presentations and obtaining and understanding geriatric syndromes (delirium, dementia, frailty, falls, mobility, polypharmacy).
 - When possible, schedule shifts with other preceptors with clinical or research interests in geriatric medicine (list to be provided to residents who are self-scheduling)

- **UHN Seniors Emergency Medicine Centre (SEMC) team**
 - Work as part of the SEMC team on consulted patients in the ED 1-2 days / week
 - Includes opportunities to perform social worker, occupational health, physiotherapy, and geriatric emergency medicine nursing assessments
- **NYGH Geriatric Emergency Management (GEM) Nurse Team**
 - Work as part of the GEM team on consulted patients in the ED 1-2 days / week
 - Includes opportunities to perform social worker, home/community care, and geriatric emergency medicine nursing assessments in collaboration with allied health professionals
- **Core materials:**
 - Online modules: GEDC Geriatric EM modules (<https://gedcollaborative.com/resource/geri-em/>). Modules available for free after creating a free online GEDC account
- **Self-reflection:**
 - Weekly self reflection piece on a patient encounter (~500 words) submitted to block supervisor for discussion

Sample Block Schedule:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SEMC/GEM team	Academic day		SEMC/GEM team	ED shift	ED shift	
ED shift	Academic day	SEMC/GEM team	ED shift	Check-in with primary supervisor		
SEMC/GEM team	Academic day GeriEM PGY3 teaching PM	ED shift	SEMC/GEM team	ED shift	ED shift	
Independent study (ex. op-ed writing)	Academic day	SEMC/GEM team	ED shift	Final debrief with primary supervisor		

Evaluation:

- End of shift evaluation
- EPAs
- Allied health contribution

Collaborators:

- Dr. Alice Gray, Geriatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship Director, Education Director Seniors Centre UHN, Lecturer DOM, University of Toronto
- Dr. Priyank Bhatnager, Geriatric Emergency Department Lead, NYGH
- Dr. Tessa Ringer
- Dr. Marc Lipkus, PGME Education Lead, Emergency Department, NYGH
- Dr. Don Melady