UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

Age-friendly University Global Network

"Dementia Care in Practice: Differential Diagnosis, Treatment Strategies, and Clinical Pearls"



DATE: Thursday, December 10, 2026
TIME: 12:45 – 4:30 pm (includes check-in and evaluation)
LOCATION: Zoom (link provided week of December 7th)

DESCRIPTION: This FREE virtual webinar will provide healthcare professionals with advanced knowledge and practical strategies for diagnosing and managing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). Through expert presentations and case-based discussions, participants will explore the underlying mechanisms and differential diagnoses of dementia, emerging diagnostic tools including biomarkers and specialized neuroimaging, and advances in treatment, including infusion therapies. Emphasis will be placed on pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches to managing cognitive and behavioral symptoms, addressing clinical challenges, and developing individualized, evidence-based treatment plans. Each session will offer clinical pearls and practical strategies to support accurate diagnosis, prevent complications, and optimize person-centered care.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Differentiate among causes of dementia and explain the role of disease mechanisms, biomarkers, and neuroimaging in diagnosis and treatment planning.
2. Apply pharmacological and non-pharmacological strategies to manage cognitive and behavioral symptoms of dementia.
3. Integrate evidence-based approaches into individualized dementia care plans through case-based clinical examples.

Program presented by the Geriatrics & Gerontology Education & Research (GGEAR) Program, University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Continuing Education Credits: 3.25

The Geriatrics & Gerontology Education & Research (GGEAR) Program is authorized by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland to sponsor social work continuing education learning activities and maintains full responsibility for this program. This training qualifies for Category I continuing education units (CEUs).

GGEAR is an authorized sponsor for Category A CEUs for Maryland Psychologists, Counselors and Therapists and an authorized sponsor for CEUs for ALL Certified Dementia Practitioners and Certified Senior Advisors.

Information: ggear@umaryland.edu or 410-706-4327

*A **Certificate of Attendance** will be provided to all participants.*

Registration deadline: December 7, 2026

Click the link below or scan the QR code to register:

https://umaryland.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8ypyy9eNYKgyNw

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AFU Age-friendly University Global Network

SCHEDULE

12:45 – 1:00pm: Check-in, Welcome, and Housekeeping

1:00 – 1:50pm: Understanding Dementia Mechanisms, Differential Diagnosis, and Emerging Treatments

- Understanding the underlying mechanisms and different causes of dementia
- Differential diagnosis and clinical challenges in distinguishing dementia types
- Role of biomarkers and specialized neuroimaging in diagnosis
- Factors influencing treatment selection and individualized care planning

1:55pm – 2:55pm: Managing Cognitive and Behavioral Symptoms: Pharmacological and Non-Pharmacological Approaches

Evidence-based pharmacological treatments for cognitive symptoms

- Emerging therapies, including infusion treatments
- Medication management of behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia
- Non-pharmacological interventions to address behavioral symptoms
- Balancing treatment benefits, risks, and potential complications
- Integrating person-centered approaches into symptom management

2:55pm – 3:10pm: *Break*

3:10pm – 4:10pm: From Evidence to Practice: Case-Based Approaches to Dementia Care

- Application of diagnostic and treatment principles through clinical case examples
- Selecting appropriate interventions based on dementia type, symptoms, and individual needs
- Addressing complex clinical presentations and treatment challenges
- Developing individualized, evidence-based care plans
- Clinical pearls, key takeaways, and discussion

4:10 – 4:30pm: Q/A, Concluding Remarks, Evaluation

SPEAKER BIOS

David Loreck, MD is a geriatric psychiatrist and neuropsychiatrist with the VA Maryland Health Care System and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He directs the Baltimore VA Medical Center's Hospital Mental Health Consultation Service and Neuropsychiatry Clinic. Board certified in adult psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry, and neuropsychiatry and behavioral neurology, Dr. Loreck has extensive clinical and research experience in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, delirium, and the mental health needs of older adults. He also chairs the VISN 5 VA Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia Clinical Care Committee.

Nancy Rodriguez-Weller, RPH, FASCP is President and Consultant Pharmacist of Geriatric Pharmacy Consulting Services and a retired Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She has extensive experience in geriatric pharmacotherapy, medication management, and long-term care pharmacy. She currently chairs Maryland's Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council and provides medication management education to caregivers and falls prevention education to older adults. Her honors include Consultant Pharmacist of the Year from the Maryland Chapter of ASCP and recognition as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women for her volunteer service.

Moira C. Dux, PhD is the Psychology Training Program Director and Staff Neuropsychologist at the VA Maryland Health Care System, where she oversees psychology internships, fellowships, and externships. She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from Rosalind Franklin University and completed specialized neuropsychology training at the Baltimore VA. Her clinical and research interests focus on cognitive difficulties associated with dementia and neurological conditions, as well as non-pharmacological interventions, including exercise and cognitive rehabilitation, to promote brain health and cognitive wellness.