

Carolina Geriatric Education Center

With the average lifespan increasing and the population staying healthier thanks to innovations in prevention and treatment of disease, dentistry has seen a great rise in the percentage of geriatric patients in our practices. Both in the private practice setting and in education, dentistry faces great challenges when dealing with this population. A website that is directed toward dealing with the geriatric population in North Carolina, USA provides information and education for practitioners everywhere. Most of the information can be applied to any educational or private practice setting and therefore can be a valuable resource for all of dentistry. This website is called the Carolina Geriatric Education Center and is located at <http://www.med.unc.edu/aging/cgec/>. The mission of this centre is stated on the website as follows:

In North Carolina, we face tremendous challenges as a result of dramatic increases in our older adult population. To ensure the health and well-being of older adults today and in the foreseeable future, we are working to:

- Augment the knowledge and skills of practicing professionals
- Recruit greater numbers of students into careers in geriatrics
- Rapidly disseminate new knowledge and best practices
- Engage greater numbers of faculty in effective teaching of topics in geriatrics
- Design creative and efficacious approaches to problems, such as health disparities and premature disablement (http://www.med.unc.edu/aging/cgec/overview_mission.htm)

This website is sponsored by the UNC School of Medicine and includes the following sections: (i) *Professional Education*, (ii) *Curriculum Development*, (iii) *Faculty Development*, (iv) *Student Training* and (v) *Demo Sites*. The *Professional Education* section lists and describes conferences and workshops on aging that are available. It also provides online education about HIV/AIDS and Older Adults as well as two online interactive cases. A list of online resources is also available.

The section on *Curriculum Development* provides links to many other websites, particularly within the UNC School of Medicine and the UNC Center for Aging and Health. These links are a wealth of information on topics such as elder mistreatment, advanced care planning, therapies, and medication management, just to name a few. The *Student Training* section provides a basic overview and this along with the *Faculty Development* section and *Demo Sites* are still under development.

Although, this website is still under construction, it provides many valuable resources for working with our aging population. It is easy to navigate and can be useful to the practitioner as well as the educator.

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