



SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine

Maureen Dale, Program Director
maureen_dale@med.unc.edu

[www.med.unc.edu/medicine/geriatrics/education/
@UNCGeriatrics](http://www.med.unc.edu/medicine/geriatrics/education/@UNCGeriatrics)

TRAINING IN GERIATRICS SINCE 1998

Missions

The mission of the UNC Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine is to build the clinical knowledge, skills, and acumen needed to care for older adults and to produce future leaders in geriatric clinical care and medical education.

Flexibility

of curriculum that is tailored to support your interests, with a wide range of training sites

Faculty

who are skilled, approachable, and down to earth – and invest in you as a learner



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GERIATRICS FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW

Clinical Excellence. Inspired Educators

UNC's Geriatric Medicine Fellowship trains you to succeed in the clinic and classroom, while providing rich experiences with geriatrics research and quality improvement projects to create better outcomes for older adults. Our clinician-educators bring a depth of experience and enthusiasm to their role in our program. Strong connections to UNC's many sub-specialty clinics provide diverse options for supplemental, selective training.

The UNC Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine is tailored to the goals of each Fellow and can be structured to last from one to three years, depending on your career interests. Whether you're planning a career in primary care or pursuing a different sub-specialty, knowledge of the issues affecting older adults along with best practices for treatment and care, is invaluable.

A Variety of Clinical Experiences

Fellows train in inpatient and outpatient geriatrics, area CCRCs, a long-term care and rehabilitation center, the Program for Acute Care of the Elderly (PACE), hospice and palliative medicine, and numerous UNC Medical Center sub-specialty clinics.

Our Inpatient Geriatrics service is at UNC Hospitals Hillsborough Campus – the state's first hospital with a geriatrics-accredited ED, dementia-friendly training for all hospital staff, and age-friendly health system certification.

Our award-winning UNC Geriatrics primary care clinic is the largest outpatient clinic in the region focused exclusively on the care of older adults.

Our program is highly integrated with Hospice and Palliative Care at UNC, including its Fellowship Program. Our 2020 Fellowship year also included two Geriatric Emergency Medicine Fellows who split their time between Geriatric Medicine and Emergency Medicine. We have affiliations with UNC's many exceptional professional schools, including Public Health, Nursing, PA, Pharmacy, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Social Work.

FELLOWSHIP LEADERSHIP



Maureen Dale, MD, Program Director
Assistant Professor, Division of Geriatric
Medicine



Margaret Drickamer, MD
Associate Program Director for Education
and Clinical Care



Laura Hanson, MD, MPH
Associate Program Director for Research
and Quality Improvement
Professor, Division of Geriatric Medicine



Angela Williamson
Program Coordinator



PRIMARY CLINICAL SITES

UNC Geriatrics: Outpatient Clinic

Fellows spend two half- days per week in UNC Geriatrics outpatient clinic, which is both a consultative and primary care clinic. The clinic serves a very diverse patient population, from retired CEOs to refugees, from residents of the assisted living facility across the street to people traveling three hours to come to the clinic. The clinic has been rated consistently among the top clinics at UNC for patient satisfaction.

The Fellows' clinic is supported by an interprofessional team including pharmacy and social work. They can consult Dr. Ana Felix, a neurologist, and Dr. Julia Lunsford, a geriatric psychiatrist, who both see consult visits in UNC Geriatrics. New patients are assessed by the full team of professionals in a 90-minute initial appointment, and Fellows see follow-up visits for 45 minutes, with the ability to consult the interprofessional team as needed. Fellows inherit a panel of patients from an outgoing fellow and see one new patient per clinic session.





UNC Hospitals Hillsborough Campus: Inpatient Geriatrics Service

Fellows rotate on Med A, the Inpatient Geriatrics Service at UNC Hospitals Hillsborough Campus. Hillsborough Campus is a 86-bed facility that opened in 2015 and combines the culture of a community hospital with the innovation and resources of UNC Medical Center. The campus has all private rooms, easy parking for patients, and a walking path for families and staff.

UNC Hospitals Hillsborough Campus is the first hospital in North Carolina to receive ACEP Geriatrics Emergency Department accreditation at the “silver” level. The hospital served as the pilot site for the Center for Aging and Health’s award- winning dementia-friendly training program that has been implemented in 5 UNC Health hospitals. Hillsborough Campus has also recently been certified as an age- friendly health care system.



SKILLED NURSING

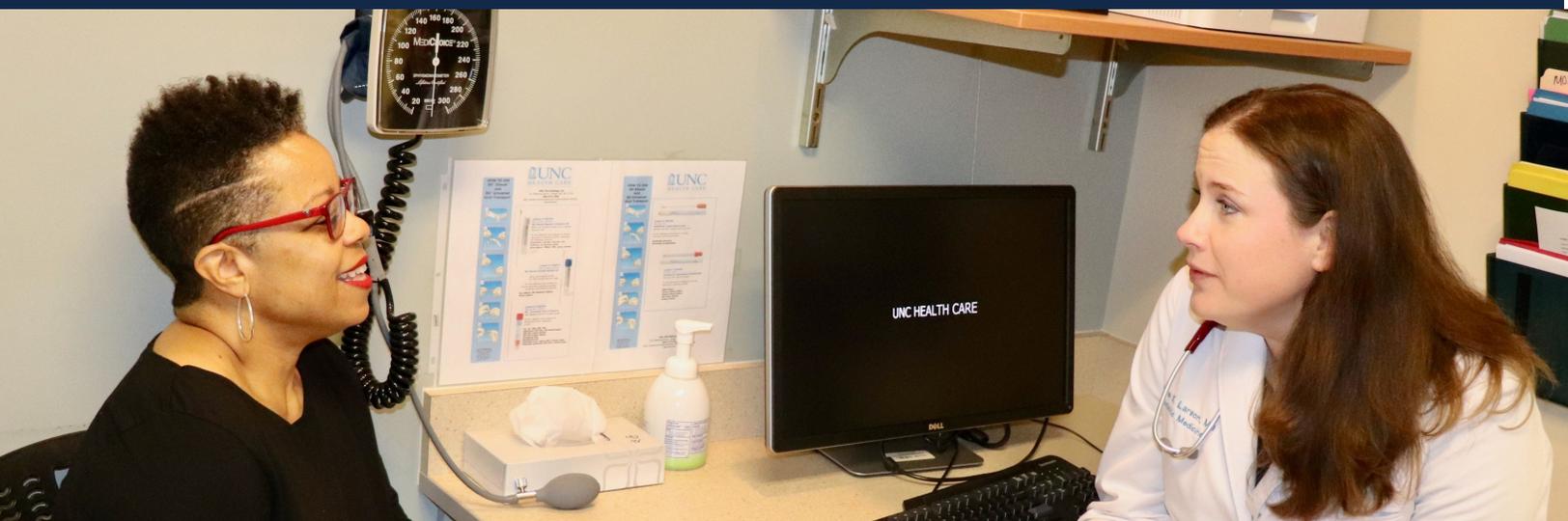
Skilled Nursing: Carol Woods & The Cedars of Chapel Hill

Fellows spend one half-day per week at the skilled nursing facility at one of two local Continuing Care Retirement Communities: Carol Woods or the Cedars of Chapel Hill. Fellows perform subacute care admissions, see regulatory visits, and make acute care visits.

Parkview Health and Rehabilitation Center

Throughout the year Fellows spend a total of two months at a long-term care facility, Parkview Health and Rehabilitation Center, for which UNC provides the medical directorship. The skilled nursing facility has long-term care patients as well as sub-acute rehabilitation patients.

Fellows receive mentorship in the management of patients in long-term care, including advanced care planning, avoiding hospitalizations, staff education, and billing and documentation in skilled nursing facilities. Fellows work closely with social workers, physical therapists, and nursing staff to provide individualized, goal-oriented, appropriate care for residents.



Palliative Care

UNC Palliative Care works as hospital-based consultants for adults and children with serious illness, delivering palliative care services in oncology and general medicine clinics, and providing expert hospice and home-based palliative care. Drs. Hanson and Tilly lead the Palliative Care Program and Fellowship, which is closely integrated with the UNC Geriatrics Fellowship. Fellows spend 2 weeks on the inpatient PC consult service.



“I’ve loved getting to spend time with the community in this Fellowship program. I think it draws a lot of awesome people and to be able to experience all the great things in the Triangle with my co- Fellows has just made the year fantastic.”

– Lauren Hartman, MD
Geriatric Medicine Fellow, 2019-2020



UNC Hospice

UNC Hospice has been serving patients and families in Orange, Chatham, Lee, and Durham Counties with home care services since 1999. Jim & Betsy Bryan SECU Hospice Home opened in 2017 to provide inpatient services. Dr. Jared Lowe serves as Medical Director and Dr. Margret Drickamer serves as Associate Medical Director. Fellows spend 2 weeks with UNC Hospice during the fellowship year.



Clinical Training

Fellows spend their clinical months rotating through inpatient and outpatient experiences in a variety of settings and take six weeks of home call for UNC Geriatrics outpatient clinic and the two Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) covered by the Division of Geriatric Medicine.

Didactics

Friday mornings is an academic half-day for the Geriatric Fellows. After the Geriatric Division Meeting at 8:00 am, Fellows hear lectures from Faculty members in the Division of Geriatrics and other Departments in the School of Medicine. At the beginning of the year, these lectures introduce fellows to the comprehensive geriatric assessment, the science of aging, and geriatric syndromes. In the second half of the year, fellows use the second hour of didactics to discuss clinical cases, journal articles, and to prepare for boards.

Journal Club

Fellows lead Journal Club at the Geriatric Division Meeting quarterly, presenting and evaluating a recent relevant journal article.

Education Training

Our program prepares Fellows to be clinical educators through a month-long program of didactics in topics such as educational theory, curriculum design, building an educational portfolio and academic curriculum vitae, and learner assessment methods. In addition, Fellows have numerous teaching opportunities throughout the year, including:

- didactic sessions for residents and students on Inpatient Geriatrics
- teaching the falls curriculum to medical students in small group sessions
- demonstrating gait assessment for students on the outpatient medicine clerkship
- giving Grand Rounds at local AHEC sites

Research Training

Fellows receive training in quality improvement methods and research through sessions with our research faculty and design a quality improvement project to implement as a group. Throughout the year, they have regular meetings with mentors about their project. Recent projects include improving MOST form completion among long-term residents in a CCRC Health Center and improving the quality of discharge summaries from the Inpatient Geriatrics Service.

Longitudinal Experiences

During the year, Fellows spend:

- two half days in the UNC Geriatrics outpatient clinic
- one half day at a skilled nursing facility at one of our Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC)

Block Experiences: Inpatient

In addition, Fellows spend:

- Two 4-week blocks on the Inpatient Geriatrics Service at UNC Hospitals Hillsborough Campus
- One 2-week blocks with UNC's Palliative Care consult service
- One 2-week block with UNC Hospice
- Two 4-week blacks at Parkview Health and Rehabilitation Center

Block Experiences: Outpatient

Fellows spend four 4-week blocks rotating through a variety of outpatient clinics, including:

- One 4-week block at a PACE site
- One 4-week block with the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- UNC Geriatrics outpatient clinic
- Area Agency on Aging services
- Local Senior Centers Adult Day Care Centers
- Adult Daycare Centers

Fellows also meet with Orange County EMS, who provide interesting and innovative services to area seniors.



“The Faculty members are simply outstanding: skilled, approachable, and down to earth. You get the sense that everybody wants to invest in you as a learner.

“My co-Fellows and I were each able to explore our individual interests, and that, to me, was very important, because it allowed me to blossom and become really good at what I wanted to do.”

– Junève Toche, MD, Assistant Professor, UNC Division of Geriatric Medicine and Geriatric Medicine Fellow, 2018-2019



“Everyone really gets individualized training. I started out planning to do another sub- specialty training and I was able to easily tailor both my clinical Fellowship and my Advanced Fellowship to match those needs. The exposure in our Clinical Fellowship to many different types of clinical settings is beneficial whether you plan to be a primary care provider or whatever you choose to do with your training.”

– Adam Moskowitz, MD, UNC Geriatrics Fellow 2017-2019; UNC Cardiology Fellow 2019-2021



“I was kind of shocked at how much I didn’t know about geriatrics, and so it was a good experience to learn more about medications, for instance which ones older adults should take and which ones to avoid, how to care for patients in nursing homes, and what PACE programs were like.

“Also, in the program there’ s a lot of time for self- learning, for reading and research. I was able to get two papers published in my Fellowship year.”

– Rebekah Mulligan, MD, Geriatric Medicine Fellow 2016-2017



How to Apply

Thank you for your interest in UNC Geriatrics! We look forward to connecting with you to answer any questions about our Fellowship of Geriatric Medicine.

Program Director Maureen Dale will be glad to hear from you. Email Dr. Dale at: maureen.dale@med.unc.edu.

Interested candidates can apply through ERAS.

Our fellowship program participates in the NRMP Medicine Subspecialty Match.

Fellowship interviews occur on Fridays from late August through October.

<https://www.aamc.org/services/eras>

Additional Information

For detailed information on program curriculum and schedules, please see our website at:

med.unc.edu/education/geriatrics/education

Our website also has links to recent Geriatrics news, articles and publications featuring Faculty, stories on Chapel Hill and the surrounding area, and videos about our program.

We look forward to hearing from you, answering any questions, and getting to speak with you by Zoom sometime soon!