

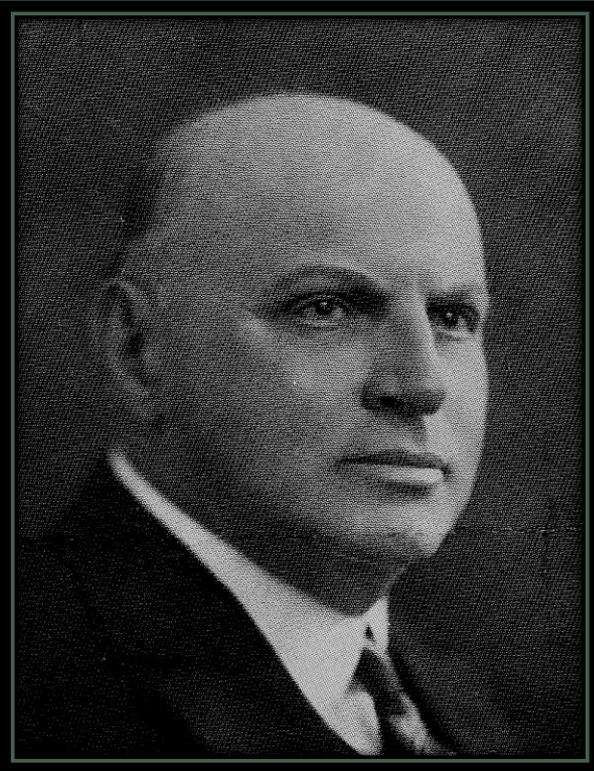
The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of stylized green leaves and branches on a light green background. A dark green rectangular box is centered on the slide, containing the text. A small, solid green rectangle is positioned at the top center of the dark green box.

# GERIATRIC MEDICINE

# What is Geriatric Medicine?

Geriatrics is the branch of medicine that focuses on health promotion, prevention, and diagnosis and treatment of disease and disability in older adults. In recent surveys, geriatricians are among the most satisfied physicians in terms of their choice of specialty. Geriatrics offers a wide diversity of career options and is a clinically and intellectually rewarding discipline given the medical complexity of older adults. Geriatricians reap the rewards of making a difference in a patient's level of independence, well-being and quality of life. With the rapid growth of the older population in the United States, there is a pressing demand for physicians with specialized training in geriatrics.

# The Birth of “Geriatric” Medicine



- In 1909, Austrian born physician, Ignatz Leo Nascher coined the term “geriatrics” for care of the elderly, explaining, “Geriatrics, from *geras*, old age, and *iatrikos*, relating to the physician, is a term I would suggest as an addition to our vocabulary, to cover the same field in old age that is covered by the term pediatrics in childhood, to emphasize the necessity of considering senility and its disease apart from maturity and to assign it a separate place in medicine.”
- Until Nascher’s time, older adults were not treated differently or in different ways than other adult patients. Social forces came into play in the period during WWI and WWII that both necessitated and facilitated long-term care for the elderly: The number of elderly people began to increase due to improvements in economic conditions and medicine.

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# What do Geriatricians do?

- Focus on maintaining patient well-being and independent functioning
- Diagnose and treat conditions that commonly occur with age
- Monitor side effects of prescribed medicine and drug interaction due to patients often requiring multiple medications.
- Balance pros and cons of certain treatments within the context of the age of the patient

# Common Practice Settings

- Academic Medical Centers
- Community Hospitals
- Private Practice Clinics
- Group Practices
- Rural Health Centers
- Long-Term Care Facilities
- Post-Acute Care Facilities
- Education
- Research

**Average Salary**  
\$160k – 200k

**Years Higher Education**  
11 - 18

**Job Outlook**  
Excellent

# Why Geriatrics?

- As we live longer and healthier lives, we need to think about how we are growing older, how we are innovating to support more years of well-being, and how we are working toward the kind of healthcare system we'll need in the future. That's why geriatrics as a profession is so important to us all as we age.
- Geriatrics healthcare professionals understand the unique health circumstances and preferences that come with aging. They also have expert training in collaborating with one another—a critical asset, since more than half of older Americans are managing two or more chronic conditions, and many older adults are making decisions with partners, family members, or other significant people involved in their care.

# We Need Geriatric Experts!

- The opportunities available to future geriatrics experts have never been greater. We need about 20,000 geriatricians to staff up for the needs we have right now, for example, yet there are fewer than 7,300 certified geriatricians practicing nationwide. Knowing that we'll need even more geriatricians—as many as 30,000 by 2030—we need creative and forward-thinking colleagues and approaches to expand the workforce. And we're making progress—not just for physicians but for nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, social workers, and many others, too.
- Some offer loan forgiveness incentives for future geriatrics healthcare professionals, while other authorities are adopting core concepts in geriatrics—such as reducing hospital readmission rates and managing multiple conditions—as key measures of quality in health care.

# Profiles in Geriatrics

*Read about well-known physicians and why they chose Geriatrics.*



Lisa M. Walke, MD, MSHA, AGSF



Mary H. Palmer, PhD, RNC, FAAN, AGSF



Tochukwu C. Iloabuchi, MD, MS, CMD



Priya Mendiratta, MD, MPH, AGSF



Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, AGSF



George W. Drach, MD, AGSF



Mandi Sehgal, MD



Peggy A. Szwabo, PhD, MSW, AGSF



Judith L. Beizer, PharmD, CGP, FASCP, AGSF



Veronica Adoun, MD, AGSF

# Academic Path to Geriatrics

- Geriatricians first complete an undergraduate degree with any major and premedical prerequisites
- Geriatricians complete medical school training (called undergraduate medical education) in an accredited MD or DO program.
- During third and fourth year, medical students work with faculty advisers to help them select clerkships that will help them narrow down their career choice.
- After graduation, students enter residency (called graduate medical education) in either family or internal medicine. Both are three-year training programs.
- After residency, physicians may either practice first or apply directly for a one to two year geriatric medicine fellowship program

# Geriatrics Fellowship Training

- Fellows may choose a geriatrics program with a particular area of focus, such as:
  - *Clinical Leadership*
  - *Education / Healthcare Administration*
  - *Neurology*
  - *Oncology*
  - *Palliative Care*
  - *Research*

# Popular Internal Medicine Residency Programs & Geriatric Fellowships

- [Johns Hopkins University: Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology](#)
- [Harvard University: Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine at Mass Gen](#)
- [University of California – San Francisco: Geriatric Medicine Fellowship](#)
- [Duke University: Geriatrics Fellowship Program](#)
- [University of Pennsylvania: Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine](#)
- [University of Michigan – Ann Arbor: Geriatric Medicine Fellowship](#)
- [Cornell University: Geriatric Medicine Fellowship](#)
- [Washington University in St. Louis: Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program](#)
- [Yale University: Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine](#)
- [Vanderbilt University: Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program](#)

# For More Information

- [American Federation for Aging Research \(AFAR\): afar.org/](http://afar.org/)
- [American Geriatrics Society: americangeriatrics.org/](http://americangeriatrics.org/)
- [Eldercare Workforce Alliance: eldercareworkforce.org/](http://eldercareworkforce.org/)
- [The Gerontological Society of America: geron.org/](http://geron.org/)
- [The Journal of the American Geriatrics Society:  
onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15325415](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15325415)