Geriatric Medication Game® to be Distributed

The ORA is now distributing the long-awaited, up-dated Geriatric Medication Game®. The process took approximately one year to complete. This is the third overall up-dating of the game, and the most thorough. The Game is the property of St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Copies of the game are sold to support faculty and student research in gerontology at the College.

The Geriatric Medication Game® is a role-playing experience whereby participants find themselves in situations common to older persons in our society. Players acquire and loose game points as they move among six settings (Hospital, Physician’s Office, Pharmacy, Social Services, Out Patient Care, and Home), completing challenges and health-care-related situations.

At the end of classes in May 2016, Amy Tiemeier, Pharm.D., Patrick Finnegan, Pharm.D., Scott Vouri, Pharm.D., and Stephanie Crist, Pharm.D. of the Pharmacy Practice Department joined Tim Moylan, Ph.D., Elizabeth Rattine-Flaherty, Ph.D., and Patrick Fontane, Ph.D. of the Liberal Arts Department to form a GMG Up-dating Group. The task began with a review all six stations of the game. We considered the recommendation from a past work-group to establish a Hospital station and did so. The new Hospital station replaces the Tests and Benefits station. The five remaining stations have been retained. The station challenge (pink) cards were reviewed and each station acquired an additional card. Station cards (green) were revised as appropriate as were the (gold) Medication Cards. The Manual received intense attention and has been much-improved by way of clarifications and suggestions for play. Many people critically read specific sections while others read the whole Manual.

The College Marketing Department very generously reviewed the Game package for overall clarity and presentation. The result is a much more attractive set of materials. Their help to prepare the Game to be reproduced is very much appreciated, as were their suggestions regarding arrangements for copying the game since the College no longer supports its own print shop.

The FedEx copy service, located in the WU Medical Center bookstore was selected to produce copies of the game. Their pre-copy services, especially with formatting consistencies, were thorough and in-place to produce a product we are proud to offer. In all, 75 packages of the game were delivered to the ORA during June. The first copies of the up-dated game were mailed-out before the end of the month.

We intend to create a video of people playing the game and use clips from this video on the ORA webpage to promote interest in the game. The up-dated Geriatric Medication Game® may be ordered from: Office for Research on Aging – St. Louis College of Pharmacy – 4588 Parkview Place – St. Louis, MO 63110. The price has been increased to $75 which now includes shipping costs. All requests for the game must include contact information and be prepaid. The College does not process credit card payments for the game. Inquiries may be made to patrick.fontane@stlcop.edu.
Interesting Facts Associated with the *Geriatric Medication Game*©

**Distribution:** The previous issue (up-date number 2) of the *Geriatric Medication Game*© was distributed between September 2009 and November 2016. During this time, the game was distributed to 18 different states, Canada, and Ireland. Programs in Texas (4), California (3), Michigan (3), and Ohio (3) most frequently requested copies of the game. The majority of requests came from schools of pharmacy, followed by nursing education programs, and then general education programs.

**Creativity in Canada:** In 2012 we sent a copy of the *Geriatric Medication Game*© (GMG) to a pharmacy program at the University of Alberta. Soon thereafter we received a request to allow the program to make changes in the game to more accurately reflect the Canadian health care system ---such as changing the name of Social Security, and the specific ways patients are processed. Of course this was agreeable to us. This past spring we received another communication from the program informing us of their use of the game as part of a new emphasis on a broader, interdisciplinary health team approach. The program increased the number of stations, challenges, and processes to reflect the new approach. Since the GMG was used as the foundation for the new experience, they wanted to know, if they acknowledged STLCOP as the originator of the game, would we be agreeable to their changes to be applied in their learning experiences. They would derive no monetary benefit but would be willing to share their application with others within educational environments. Members of our Advisory Board weighed-in on this request and strongly encouraged our colleagues in Canada to utilize our game/work to further their mission (with proper reference to the STLCOP GMG).

**People**

**John Beale, Ph.D.** has been partnering with Washington University and University of Wisconsin researchers on several drug development projects focusing on Alzheimer’s Disease.

**Stephanie Crist, Pharm.D.** recorded a *Stay Tuned* episode last fall: Conversations About Aging, Episode 423. Stay Tuned STL Nine Network. September 1, 2016. This video is currently available at: [http://staytuned.ninenet.org/episodes/conversation-about-aging/](http://staytuned.ninenet.org/episodes/conversation-about-aging/)

**Patrick Fontane, Ph.D., TM McPherson, Ph.D., Rhonda Bilger, Pharm.D.** are expanding their survey of patients using prescribed, compounded medications. Fontane will be concentrating on use patterns among users who are 50 years and older.

**Elizabeth Rattine-Flaherty, Ph.D.** has completed data gathering for her project studying how Hospice volunteers accommodate to role strains they encounter while fulfilling program responsibilities.

**Scott Vouri, JM Chung, EF Binder** (2017). Successful intervention to mitigate an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor-induced rhinorrhea prescribing cascade: a case report. *J Clin Pharm Ther.* 2017 Jun;42(3):370-371. doi: 0.1111/jcpt.12511. Epub 2017 Mar 1. This was the first published prescribing cascade intervention that did not require discontinuation of other medications, which may be emulated in future prescribing cascade cases. Dr. Vouri has also been named an Assistant Director to the Center for Health Outcomes Research and Education at the College.

**Fangzheng Yuan** is now on her 6th year rotations. During her 4 years with the ORA, Farrah examined health practices of older Chinese residents of St. Louis. She produced 4 podium presentations, 2 posters, and a program assessment report. While we have learned much about how elderly Chinese people approach aspects of American health care systems, Farrah’s work suggests a way to understand how other ethnic groups utilize American health care.

Tom Meuser, Ph.D., a long-time friend of the ORA, now Coordinator of the Gerontology Program, and Director of the Life Review Project at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, has been promoted to Full Professor.