

# Gerigram

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Associate Director John Maese, MD, FACP, FACEP, CHCQM



## Directors Message

The year 2008 promises to be a stellar year for the Division of Geriatrics at Staten Island University Hospital. We are enjoying a significant expansion of our Key Clinical Faculty. The Division currently has seventeen ongoing research and publication projects. Our leadership is heavily involved in teaching responsibilities while our clinics provide care to hundreds of seniors in the community. We continue to enjoy strong relationships with the Island's skilled nursing facilities, especially through our specialized program caring for nursing home patients hospitalized at Staten Island University Hospital South. Our Home Visit Program enrolls new patients weekly as we continue to care for some seniors who have been with us since the program's inception five years ago. Our geriatric fellows are highly professional, and all are board certified by the American Board of

Internal Medicine. They are a cohesive team, well liked by their patients, and are actively involved in geriatric training across the broad spectrum of geriatric point of care services.

While providing these services during the past year we have been relocated twice: once from the North Site to temporary offices at the South, then to our permanent new suites off the lobby of the South Site. Our doors are always open to anyone who wishes to confer on any geriatric related issue, as we are here to assist any developing needs of the geriatric population of Staten Island.

This year is also especially busy as we are preparing for a review of our fellowship training program by the American Council on Graduate Medical Education.

Although the paperwork preparation is extensive, it is also a pleasure to step back and reflect on the depth and breadth of our training program and facilities. I am confident that the survey will reflect well on our training efforts.

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**Congratulations  
to last years  
Geriatric Fellows  
100% passed the  
Boards!**

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Geriatric Grand Rounds May 2, 2008 at 8:00 AM
- ◆ RRC Site Visit March 24-26

## Social Work Update

Our Licensed Clinical Social Worker provides assessment and assistance with referrals and linkages of services in the community, and at Staten Island University Hospital, to help the older adult and family caregiver. Services include counseling; information and assistance on concrete services, short-term and long-term care planning, community education and caregiver support.

For more information call Adele McMahon, LCSW at 718 226 1440.

## Home Visits Update



*Keeping families together*

The Staten Island Medical Home Visit Program at Staten Island University Hospital provides hands-on high quality primary medical care to the frail elderly and homebound. This program provides diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions, medication prescriptions, assistance with obtaining durable medical equipment, ancillary testing such as EKG's and routine blood tests, podiatry care, social service assessments, caregiver support and preventive health care screening referrals.

In addition to the above, we coordinate care with a range of health care professionals as well as

Visiting Nurse Services, Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice. We can also arrange for skilled nursing or custodial care needs. Our multidisciplinary staff includes physicians, a nurse practitioner, a certified social worker, a medical coordinator and office staff. All medical members have experience in internal medicine, geriatrics and palliative care. We are here to help you care for your homebound family members, parents and families.

Insurances we accept are: Medicare, Medicaid, Touchstone  
Phone number is: 718-226-6186  
Fax number is: 718-226-3995.

*“Geriatrics is the study of Young minds trapped in old bodies.”*

## Research News Featured

In face of the increased rates of tuberculosis in residents of long term care facilities, annual screening for latent tuberculosis is recommended. Tuberculin skin testing using purified protein derivative (PPD) is used for this purpose. Sensitivity of the PPD testing is, however, dependent on a normal T cell function. It is now evident that the immune system undergoes age-associated alteration known as immune senescence. The depressed T-cell responses may clinically manifest as attenuated

delayed-type hypersensitivity. This attenuated reaction may affect the sensitivity of the PPD in detection of latent TB in the elderly.

This prospective study will examine the utility of interferon-gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) based assay, T-SPOT.TB, for detection of latent tuberculosis in nursing home patients who are 65 years of age or older. For more information contact [aszerszen@aol.com](mailto:aszerszen@aol.com) or the Geriatric Department

## Faculty News

Dr Seminara was appointed to the Steering Committee Meeting for the Age-Friendly New York City initiative.

Dr Maese was appointed to the Informatics and Volunteer Committees of the American College of Physicians He was named Vice-chairman of the New York Quality Associations Physician Alliance Committee. He was also named to be a member of the Heal 5 Advisory Board for the NYCDOH Primary Care Health Informatics Project.

## Introduction of Our Fellows

Dr. Anita Szerszen grew up in Poland and came to this country to study medicine. In 2004 she graduated from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. Three years later she completed her residency training in internal medicine at SIUH and became board certified internist. Currently, she is enrolled in the geriatrics fellowship program. She is interested in the physiology of aging and age-related diseases, as well as

rheumatologic problems of the elderly. She is an Associate member of the American College of Physicians and an active member in the governing counsel of the New York State ACP. In the Staten Island District she is involved in membership recruitment. She loves her family and is devoted to her friends. She loves jazz, Bergman movies, and detective stories. She is extremely high energy and is very kind and compassionate to her patients.



Anita Szerszen

## Introduction of Our Faculty

Theodore Strange, MD is Associate Chairman of Medicine and vice-president of operations at the South site. . He is a key member of the Geriatric teaching faculty. He is a fellow the American College of Physicians and the district counselor for Staten Island. Dr Strange is past President of the Richmond County Medical Society and the medical staff at Staten Island

University Hospital. He is medical director of the Center for Geriatric Psychiatry. Dr. Strange's colleagues ranked him one of the city's top doctors in geriatric medicine in 2001, 2002 and 2007. He co-established the University Physicians Group in 1991. He and his wife are extraordinary volunteers for charitable causes. He is an active member of his church and the community. In his spare time you can find Dr. Strange running on Hylan Boulevard.

## Meetings

### Specific Meetings

**March 4, 2008** MSSNY Legislative Day in Albany call 718-442-RCMS

**March 8, 2008** American College of Physicians Downstate Meeting in Rye New York (800)-446-9746

**APRIL 30 - MAY 4, 2008**  
American Geriatrics Society  
Annual Scientific (212)-308-1414

**May 15-17.**American College of Physicians Annual Scientific Program Sessions, (800) 523.1546

### Recurring Meetings

**First Friday of the month Monthly** Department of Medicine PI Meeting 9:00 AM

**First Friday of the month Monthly** Geriatric Department Meeting 10:00 AM

**First Monday of the month Monthly** 9:00 AM  
Research Meeting

**Every Monday** 8:00 AM; Tuesday- Friday Noon  
Didactic Lecture

**Every Friday** 8:00 AM Grand Rounds Department of Medicine

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**Home Visits**

Phone:  
718-226-6186  
Fax:  
718-226-3995

**Social Worker**

Phone:  
718-226-1440

## Students

There are electives available to 3<sup>rd</sup> and fourth year medical students in Geriatrics. The experience includes inpatient, ambulatory and nursing home experience.

## New Staff Section

We did not add any new staff this month

[www.SIUH.edu](http://www.SIUH.edu)

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