



TAKING THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

2004 Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging and The National Council on the Aging

April 14-17, 2004
Hilton San Francisco

Diversity and Dementia: What Do We Know? What Do We Need to Know?

A Joint Conference Special Program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, the American Society on Aging and ASA's Mental Health and Aging Network, Healthcare and Aging Network, Network of Multicultural Aging and Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2004, 10:00 AM–5:15 PM

This special program will focus on diversity and dementia. Diversity includes ethnicity, rural and urban geographic areas, generational life experience, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status, but this day's focus is on ethnicity and sexual orientation. These differences affect how people conceptualize the disease itself, how they approach care, and the types of care and services they need. The program will explore how differences can connect people and bring them closer together, rather than create gaps or divide them. This connection and individualized approach is the foundation of high-quality and culturally competent dementia care.

10:00 AM–12:00 NOON—SYMPOSIUM

Diversity and Dementia: What We Know, What We Need to Know

This panel of experts will address what is known about the prevalence of different dementias among diverse ethnic groups and the clinical implications of these findings. Key gleanings from the national Alzheimer's Demonstration Grants to States program and from the REACH projects will be reviewed. These emphasize viable strategies for reaching underserved populations and strategies for reducing caregiver distress among Caucasian, African American and Latino/Hispanic caregivers. The session will wrap up with discussion among the panelists of what we know and what we still need to learn to better serve diverse populations with dementia in the United States.

Moderator: **Laura Trejo**, MSG, MPA, General Manager, Department of Aging, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

Presenters: **Dolores Gallagher-Thompson**, PhD, ABPP, Director, Older Adult and Family Research and Resource Center, Palo Alto VA Medical Center/Stanford University, Menlo Park, CA; **Rhonda Montgomery**, PhD, Helen Bader Endowed Professor of Applied Gerontology, School of Social Welfare, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI; **Gwen Yeo**, PhD, Co-Director, Stanford Geriatric Education Center, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA.

12:15–1:45 PM—ROUNDTABLE

Diversity and Dementia: Serving the Asian and Pacific Islander Community

Facilitators: **Canossa S. Chan**, MEd, Manager, Asian Pacific Islander (API) Dementia Care Network, Alzheimer's Association of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, Los Angeles, CA; **Edie Yau**, MA, Multicultural Program Manager, Alzheimer's Association-Northern California and Northern Nevada, Mountain View, CA.

Diversity and Dementia: Serving the Latino/Hispanic Community

Facilitator: **Gloria Rodriguez Adams**, Clinic Coordinator, Charles Drew University Memory Disorders Clinic, Los Angeles, CA.

Reaching Out to Diverse Populations: Partnering in the Community

Facilitators: **Kun Chang**, MSW, Regional Coordinator, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging and Assistant Executive Director, Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center, Boston, MA; **Nancy B. Emerson Lombardo**, PhD, Co-Director, Institute for Geriatric Social Work, School of Social Work, Boston University, Boston, MA.

Diversity and Dementia: African American Outreach and Services

Facilitators: **Miriam L. Brewer**, Associate Director, Diversity/Inclusion Outreach, Alzheimer's Association, Washington, DC; **Kathleen Taylor**, Manager, Education and Outreach, Alzheimer's Association of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, Los Angeles, CA.

The LGBT Community and Dementia

Facilitator: **Yolanda Sanchez-Lovato**, PhD, Consultant, Tacoma, WA.

2:00–3:30 PM—WORKSHOPS

Developing and Enhancing Cultural Competencies

Recognizing and understanding how differences in ethnicity, religion, and culture have an impact on the diversity of community is essential to understanding the implications and their influence on the social, economic, and political dimensions. This session will highlight key differences and discuss concrete examples of their impact on the social, economic and political arenas of community and will engage participants in identifying tools to initiate work on diversity in their communities.

Presenters: **Yolanda Sanchez-Lovato**, PhD, Consultant, Tacoma, WA; **Donna L. Yee**, PhD, Executive Director, Asian Community Center, Sacramento, CA.

Ending LGBT Elder, Caregiver and Community Invisibility and Exclusion: Developing Expertise for Straight and LGBT Providers

This workshop focuses on increasing provider awareness of issues impacting LGBT elders and their informal caregivers. Drawing on both clinical and service practice as well as the results of recent LGBT needs assessments, the session reviews key strategies for increasing provider competence through education, training and experientially based approaches. Particular emphasis will be placed upon issues facing LGBT persons with dementia and their informal caregivers.

Presenters: **David W. Coon**, PhD, Project Director/Research Scientist, Institute on Aging, San Francisco, CA; **Amber Hollibaugh**, Director of Education, Advocacy and Communications, SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment), New York, NY.

3:45–5:15 PM—WORKSHOPS

Diversity in the Caregiver Workplace

The ethnic diversity among the staff working in long-term care settings is increasing dramatically. Many older residents now in long-term care facilities grew up in this society when racial separatism was an accepted way of life. The number of older individuals who speak English as a second language, especially those who have recently immigrated to the United States as "followers of their children" has also increased as a result of changes in the immigration laws. What do we know and what do we need to know to provide quality dementia care and to be culturally sensitive?

Presenter: **Irene Daniels-Lewis**, PhD, RN, Professor, School of Nursing, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA.

Diversity and Dementia: The Role of Health Literacy and Clear Health Communication

Traditional health education materials are heavily text-based and full of technical information often not appropriate for populations with different literacy needs, language preferences, and adult learning styles. This session will offer clear communication strategies to make complex information about dementia more straightforward and accessible to diverse populations.

Presenters: **Michelle Barclay**, MA, Regional Director, Alzheimer's Association of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, Northridge, CA; **Jeannette R. Hilgert**, MSG, MSW, Project Administrator, Health Empowerment Initiative, Venice Family Clinic, Venice, CA.