

National Center on Elder Abuse
NCEA E-NEWS

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**NCEA Elder Justice Community Collaborations:
Request for Proposals**

On behalf of the NCEA, the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) will be accepting through September 22, 2008 requests for funding to assist organizations in developing new, local multidisciplinary elder justice networks. The NCEA will award ten, \$10,000 mini-grants. This project is administered by NCPEA, the NCEA grantee charged with fostering multidisciplinary efforts to prevent and address elder abuse. This is the second year of the NCEA project.

In addition to providing funding, the NCPEA – for the NCEA – will support collaborative coalitions at the local level by providing on-site training and technical assistance to Area Agencies on Aging, Title VI Grantees, and/or community organizations interested in developing new elder justice coalitions.

As quoted from the Request for Proposal:

“Because individual agencies alone cannot fully address the problem, communities nationwide have increasingly focused their efforts on elder abuse detection, intervention, and prevention strategies through formal or informal collaborations or partnerships. Such partnerships have evolved into elder justice community collaborations and elder abuse prevention coalitions, networks, and alliances. These collaborations have heightened public awareness through community outreach and education, and some have been able to affect strident laws for reporting and prosecuting elder abuse. Other benefits of collaborating include improved communication and cooperation among coalition member agencies and increased responsiveness to elder abuse cases, improved access to a wider range of services, and improved quality of care for clients....”

Application deadline: Monday, September 22, 2008, 5:00 PM EST.

The RFP and application instructions can be found on the [NCEA web site](#).

*For information on first year awardees, see the March 2008 NCEA E-NEWS,
accessible from the [online archives](#).*

Research, Education, and Practice: University of Iowa Department of Family Medicine Elder Abuse/Elder Mistreatment Team

Through research and educational activities, academic institutes across disciplines have an increasingly prominent role in the prevention of and response to elder abuse. This article is the first in an ongoing series that will highlight their efforts to cultivate promising practices, policy development, and advocacy. We recently interviewed Dr. Gerald Jogerst and Dr. Jeanette Daly of the University of Iowa Department of Family Medicine Elder Abuse/Elder Mistreatment Team about their ongoing research initiatives and program.

As noted in this issue's lead article, multidisciplinary responses are the hallmark of promising practice in the field of elder abuse prevention and intervention. Such collaborative responses are not new, however. Dr. Gerald Jogerst, who heads the University of Iowa Elder Abuse/Elder Mistreatment team, has practiced a multidisciplinary approach since the 1980's.

"I became a geriatrician when in private practice I realized that we had doctors who were taking care of old hearts and old lungs, but no one was concentrating on taking care of old people."

As a geriatrician in training, Dr. Jogerst was strongly influenced by the research of the late advocate and educator, Dr. Rosalie Wolf. As a practitioner working closely with older patients, he saw first-hand the impact of elder abuse. In 1985, he established a working liaison with adult protective services in Arizona to provide home visits to at-risk and abused elders, and to teach residents how to assess for abuse among patients. With funding from the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, he managed the program until 1992, when he joined the faculty at the University of Iowa. This valuable experience laid the foundation for his current work, which has resulted in a prolific research and education program on elder abuse.

Early Research Initiative: The Impact of Legislation on Elder Abuse Reporting, Investigation, and Substantiation

Dr. Jeanette Daly and clinical social worker Gretchen Schmuck collaborate with Dr. Jogerst on the team. They first received funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control in 2000 to study the impact of state laws on state reported elder abuse. The initial request for proposals did not specify elder abuse as an area of study, but solicited projects to consider the impact of legislation on public health problems. Like most experts in the field, Dr. Jogerst was particularly concerned about the lack of standardization in elder abuse assessment and legislation, and believed that analysis of state legislation and corresponding rates of elder abuse reports, investigations, and substantiation could prove valuable to affecting needed policy change. He also suspected that elders weren't receiving equal attention in the Iowa protective service system, as investigators were charged with investigating claims of both child and elder abuse.

"Looking at data across states and state laws shows variability of definitions and in what is labeled as a report, investigation, and substantiation of abuse. Standardization across states is extremely important," said Dr. Jogerst.

"We really don't have a gold standard to use in assessing elder abuse. Some of the research relied on secondary data in the form of reports to protective service agencies. There are (Continued on page 3)

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different standards not only from state to state but also even among caseworkers within states. The training of the person who takes the call when people phone protective services is also variable and influences what is accepted as a report of abuse that requires investigation.”

The CDC research considered the relationship between state legislation, protective services program characteristics, and rates of investigations and substantiation. Trends were observed. Higher investigation rates were found among states with mandatory reporting legislation that outlined penalties for failure to report; those that charged investigators with only evaluating elder abuse cases; and those where most investigators had social work education backgrounds. Substantiation ratios were higher among states with more legislatively detailed abuse definitions and with systems requiring more extensive training for investigators. Substantiation rates were also higher among states that tracked reports of abuse.

One of the more interesting findings involved Iowa’s own unique legal requirement for mandatory reporter training. These results suggested that such training did not coincide with increased reporting or substantiation of abuse cases throughout the state. Data comparison revealed that at the same time, investigation rates increased in Texas and Wisconsin. For the researchers, this prompted interesting questions such as whether state funds designated for training mandatory reporters could be better allocated.

According to Dr. Jogerst, “In Iowa, the number of substantiated cases of abuse has remained relatively constant over time. I think that as the need to protect our growing vulnerable elderly population increases and the resources do not, that the threshold for what constitutes abuse also increases. This will lead to having only the most severe cases of abuse being investigated.”

Subsequent research projects have been funded by the Retirement Research Foundation and the Iowa Prevention Research Center, and have involved similar analyses of elder abuse reporting and investigation in nursing home settings. In addition, the team received an internal grant to study physicians’ knowledge and reporting of elder abuse.

“Based on our research, and my personal experience, physicians indicate they are reluctant to report because they do not believe that there are adequate resources available to meet their patient’s needs, and it won’t benefit the elder to report suspected abuse,” said Dr. Jogerst. He urges them to report suspected abuse in order to make the strongest case for increasing resources.

Current Research: Historical Elder Abuse Data

The team is currently funded through the National Library of Medicine to create and maintain an electronic data base of domestic elder abuse data collected from the beginning of record keeping by agencies throughout the country responsible for investigation and service delivery. They will also compile and publish an annotated bibliography of elder abuse research, including international studies. The research will be conceptually indexed and critically reviewed and rated. In addition, they will index and critically evaluate elder abuse screening instruments.

Dr. Daly, who heads the data collection effort, has identified 450 studies thus far, including studies conducted as early as 1979. She finds it tremendously valuable to talk to state and agency representatives who have monitored data tracking and record keeping over time. The collection process has reinforced Dr. Jogerst’s concerns over the need for consistency and standardization in the response to elder abuse.

(Continued on page 5)

NCEA Webcast on Evidence-Based Promising Practices: September 19, 2008

As a component of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) grant with the NCEA to promote evidence-based practice in elder abuse prevention and intervention, NCPEA recently sought programmatic information on projects listed in the NCEA Promising Practices Clearinghouse. They solicited information on additional programs by polling the members of the multidisciplinary Elderabuse Listserve as well.

To highlight promising practices of evidence-based models, the NCEA will feature two outstanding programs in a September Webcast: the Mobile Gerontological Psychiatric Crisis Intervention Services of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the Elder Financial Protection Network, based in San Francisco, California. These programs were selected to represent different geographic regions and populations served, theoretical foundations, and the incorporation of diverse cultures. The webcast will be hosted by the NCEA grantee the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA).

Pamela B. Teaster, President of NCPEA, who will introduce the programs, will be joined by Richard McKagan, geriatric specialist of the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division. Ms. Jenefer Duane, CEO of the Elder Financial Protection Network, is also an invited participant.

This free webcast will take place on September 19th, 2008 from 1:00-2:00 pm EST. Registration information will be forthcoming via the listserv and on the NCEA web site.

New CANE Bibliographies Online

The NCEA has recently posted two new annotated bibliographies of elder abuse research and literature.

[Adult Protective Services and Elder Abuse: 2003-2007](#)

[Criminology, Law Enforcement, Elder Abuse, and Senior Victimization: 2003 to 2007](#)

A bibliography on the role of legal professionals will soon be available.

To review additional research compilations, visit the [CANE Bibliography Series](#) on the NCEA web site.

To search for literature on elder abuse and related issues, visit the [CANE web site](#).

Funding Opportunities

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand Grants

Application deadline: Open, dependent upon available funding.

HOPE awards grants to improve outreach to, and services for, crime victims. Grassroots, nonprofit, community-based, and faith-based victim services organizations are among those eligible to apply.

For more information, [click here](#).

The Borchard Fellowship in Law & Aging Research Grants

Application deadline: All materials must be postmarked by September 30, 2008.

The Center awards up to four grants of \$20,000 each year to “all interested and qualified legal, health sciences, social sciences, and gerontology scholars and professionals... to further research and scholarship about new or improved public policies, laws, and/or programs that will enhance the quality of life for the elderly....” For more information, [click here](#).

(Continued from page 3)

“So far, in collecting data we have identified over 230 categories of reporters of abuse, and we need to be able to standardize these terms.”

The centralized repository of research, reporting data, and screening instruments will provide a vital tool to support future efforts of researchers, practitioners, policy analysts, program developers, and educators. The data base will be accessible from [University of Iowa Department of Family Medicine Elder Abuse/Elder Mistreatment Team home page](#).

Dr. Daly believes that academic institutes can play leading roles in addressing elder abuse. “Faculty and others from institutions of higher education, through their clinical settings, can provide guidance and care for individuals and families. But as experts steeped in research, for example the CDC research, we can also inform policy development.”

Both she and Dr. Jogerst are proud of the success of their medical and graduate students, and the contributions they have made to the field. In 2005, second year medical student Hilary Buri won the inaugural Rosalie S. Wolf Memorial Student Award sponsored by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse for her research, “Factors Associated with Self-Reported Elder Mistreatment in Iowa’s Frailtest.”

“We’ve been fairly successful in having medical students work on elder abuse research projects,” said Dr. Jogerst. “This summer we have three students. This really gives us great hope that the issues of elder mistreatment will be more visible in the future, and that young professionals will address the concerns of vulnerable elders as they move forward in their careers.”

Dr. Daly has a background in nursing administration and has served as a director of nursing in long-term care facilities. She has worked with Dr. Jogerst since 1999, initially as a research assistant and is currently an Assistant Research Scientist. Ms. Schmuck is a geriatric social worker in the University’s Geriatric Assessment clinic. In addition to her clinical work and research, she is also a member of the Johnson County Senior Coalition and the Johnson County Multidisciplinary Task Force on Dependent Adult abuse, and Johnson County Case Management for the Frail Elderly.

For more information on the University of Iowa Department of Family Medicine Elder Abuse/Elder Mistreatment Team, including a list of published research and other resources, [click here](#).

Is your academic institution involved in elder abuse research, prevention, or service delivery? We would like to highlight your program in a future issue of the NCEA E-News.

To submit information, [click here](#).

Academy on Violence and Abuse: Call for Presentations

The Academy on Violence and Abuse will host its Scientific Conference “Sowing Seeds of Academic Change, Nurturing New Paradigms” April 24-25, 2009, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Academy has announced a call for presentations, providing an opportunity to increase awareness of elder abuse in the health care arena. **The submission deadline is October 1, 2008.**

In particular, the Academy is interested in presentations that highlight “evidence-based research, ideas and concepts for promoting education for health care professionals and improving the lives of patients who have been exposed to violence or abuse....” Suggested topics include (but are not limited to):

- Health consequences of abuse (long-term, short-term, mental health, physical health, risk behaviors)
- New findings in neuroscience of abuse
- Cost of health care related to abuse (demand for services, hospitalization rates, surgical rates, medication usage)
- Curriculum issues (integration in core curricula, cross-curricula, engagement of faculty leaders)
- Faculty and core competency development
- Clinical approaches to dealing with all abuse issues and health care response (holistic model)
- Evidence-based education

For more information on the conference, and on submitting a presentation abstract, visit the Academy’s [home page](#). Those interested can also download the following publication: “Building Academic Capacity and Expertise in the Health Effects of Violence and Abuse, a Blueprint for Advancing Professional Health Education” from the web site.

ElderPEACE Kicks Off Public Awareness Event – Dine Out Against Elder Abuse!

ElderPEACE is sponsoring a creative fundraising event on Monday, September 15th, 2008, to focus attention on elder abuse. The grassroots organization, affiliated with the University of California – Irvine Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect, is hosting the event at all Coco’s and Carrows Restaurants throughout California. On this date, the restaurants will donate ten percent of the receipts generated by all patrons who present the Dine Out Against Elder Abuse flyer to ElderPEACE.

Restaurants throughout the U.S. are collaborating in community awareness and fundraising opportunities. For example, a similar event was held at a Newark pizzeria, Grotto’s, in commemoration of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Many communities hold Dining Out Against AIDS events. Friendly’s Restaurants have a long history of supporting Easter Seals through their “Cones for Kids” campaign. These events hold tremendous potential for focusing attention on elder abuse as even patrons not participating in the sponsored occasion will be exposed to the cause.

To download the Dine Out flyer, [click here](#).

Elder PEACE is a citizens’ action group dedicated to serving victims of elder abuse.

For more information, [click here](#).

INPEA to Present Results of Global Research, Commemorate International Day of Older Persons

On October 2, 2008, representatives of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) will present the findings of its global research initiative, "World View on Elder Abuse: Environmental Scan." The presentation and reception will be sponsored by INPEA in conjunction with the National Council of Jewish Women, and will coincide with the 18th International Day of Older Persons. The presentation will be held at 5:00 PM at the National Council of Jewish Women Headquarters, 280 Second Avenue, in New York City.

The Environmental Scan was led by a team of collaborators from Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada, the University of Kentucky, and Cleveland State University. The ambitious project involved a global survey to gain an understanding of the phenomenon of and response to elder abuse throughout the world. All six World Health Organization regions are represented, encompassing over 50 developing and developed countries. Six universities from around the world participated in the data collection.

Presenters include Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks, who will discuss the significance and implications of the Scan; Dr. Georgia Anetzberger, who will speak on the methodology and challenges of the research; and Dr. Pamela Teaster and Tensin Wangmo, who will present the findings. Dr. Wook Kim, INPEA representative to the United Nations, will respond to the panel. The presentation will conclude with a discussion on the global and local policy and practice implications of the study.

The Committee on Ageing at the United Nations Headquarters in New York is affiliated with the Conference of Non-governmental Organizations and works to raise world awareness of the opportunities and challenges of global ageing. The Committee annually sponsors the International Day of Older Persons. The event will take place at United Nations Headquarters on October 2, 2008. For more information on the event or to register, [click here](#).

Special thanks to Dr. Podnieks for submitting this information. For questions about the INPEA presentation, [click here](#).

**Is your community sponsoring a
"Dine Out"
or Other Public Awareness Event?**

**Share your experiences.
[Click here.](#)**

**What is new and exciting in your
state?**

**Submit state news about legislation,
training, conferences, research, and
new programs to prevent and
address elder abuse.
[Click here.](#)**

Elder Abuse Research

Laumann, E., Leitsch, S., and Wite, L.

Elder Mistreatment in the United States: Prevalence Estimates from a Nationally Representative Study

Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences

Volume 63B (4); S248-S254; 2008

This article presents the results of a population-based, nationally representative study that included specific questions on the prevalence of domestic elder abuse. The study was part of the National Social Life, Health and Aging Project, conducted by the University of Chicago and the National Opinion Research Center. Over 3,000 individuals aged 57 to 85 responded to survey questions regarding the occurrence of verbal, financial, and physical abuse. Results indicate that verbal abuse was the most common type of mistreatment, affecting 9 percent of the sample; 3.5 percent had been financially abused, and 0.2 percent experienced physical abuse during the previous year. Women and elders with physical vulnerabilities were more likely to be verbally abused, and African Americans were more likely to be financially exploited. Of note, most participants reported that the mistreatment was not perpetrated by close family members.

Bachman, R. & Meloy, M.

The Epidemiology of Violence Against the Elderly: Implications for Primary and Secondary Prevention

Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice

Volume 24 (2), 186-197; May 2008

Although the elderly are less likely to be victims of violent crimes, compared to their younger counterparts, they often suffer more serious outcomes. This article reviews existing literature on elderly crime victimization and compares homicide, robbery and assault data for the elderly and younger cohorts. Differences between violence perpetrated against elderly individuals living in the community and those living in nursing homes are also discussed. Recommendations for preventing and reducing elderly crime victimization, including neighborhood crime watches; home security systems; and the Triad program, an innovative crime prevention initiative that pairs elderly citizens with law enforcement, are provided

Blundo, R. & Bullington, J.

Abuse of Elderly Male Clients: Efforts and Experiences in Rural and Urban Adult Protective Services

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect

Volume 19 (1/2), p173-p191; November 2007

This study examined the experiences of Adult Protective Services (APS) workers in dealing with male victims of elder abuse in both rural and urban settings. APS workers from rural Appalachia and an urban community were interviewed over a period of four months on their experiences dealing with male elder abuse victims. Although women are much more commonly victims of elder abuse, APS workers from both the rural and urban communities reported that they had encountered a significant number of male clients. In both settings, the social construction of masculinity reportedly plays a significant role in victims' willingness to accept APS services. It was reported that very few men report abuse themselves and that it is generally an outsider, such a family member or neighbor, who reports abusive situations. In many instances, male victims deny the occurrence of abuse and reject APS interventions. Self-neglect was the most commonly reported form of abuse experienced by elderly male victims, representing about 70 percent of all cases reported.

Editorial note: The Federal Legislative Update, Elder Abuse Research and Literature, and State News are now quarterly postings. State News will be included in the October issue; and the Federal Legislative Update will be included in the November issue.

Calendar of Events

September 16 -19, 2008
Elder Abuse Instructor Training Program (EAITP)

Dallas, TX
Email: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 800-743-5382
Website: [Click Here](#)

September 10-11, 2008
5th Annual Making the Case for Justice Conference: Investigation and Prevention of Crimes Against Elder and Vulnerable Adults

Meydenbauer Center
Bellevue, WA
Telephone: 206 - 296-8797
Email: [Click Here](#)

September 16 – 17, 2008
Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence - Domestic Violence in Later Life Training

Marriot Miami Dadeland
Miami, FL
Telephone: 850-528-1703
Website: [Click Here](#)

September 23-25, 2008
Prosecuting Elder Abuse Cases National College of District Attorneys – America’s School for Prosecutors

National Advocacy Center
Columbia, SC
Website: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: (803) 705-5093
Email: [Click Here](#)

November 4 - 7, 2008
25th Annual Adult Protective Services Conference

Holiday Inn Select
San Antonio, Texas
Email: [Click Here](#)
Website: [Click Here](#)

December 3-6, 2008
8th Annual National Aging and Law Conference

Double Tree Hotel
Arlington, VA
Website: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 202-434-2197
Email: [Click Here](#)

December 2 – 5, 2008
California District Attorney Association Elder Abuse Symposium

Hyatt Regency,
Fisherman’s Wharf
San Francisco, California
Telephone: 916-443-2017
Website: [Click Here](#)

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NCEA Grantees:

Clearinghouse on Abuse and
Neglect of the Elderly,
University of Delaware (CANE-UD)
On the Web at: www.cane.udel.edu

National Adult Protective Services
Association (NAPSA)
On the Web at: www.apsnetwork.org

National Committee for the
Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)
One the Web at:
www.preventelderabuse.org

National Center on Elder Abuse

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