

# CENTER ON AGING

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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



The Center on Aging unites aging-related research, education, and clinical programs at the University of Utah to help people lead longer and more fulfilling lives. By linking its faculty and programs, the Center synergizes the growth and progress of interdisciplinary research, clinical, and training programs.

## OVERVIEW

### History

Beginning with its origination in 1972, the Center on Aging has provided educational and research programs in gerontology at the University of Utah. Its interdisciplinary gerontology education programs lead to undergraduate and graduate certificates in gerontology as well as a Masters Degree in Gerontology. In June 2004 its name was changed from the Gerontology Center to reflect a desire to become more comprehensive and expand the scope of its services and research activities. In 2005 its organizational structure changed to become a free standing center to better position the Center to have a comprehensive and interdisciplinary institutional impact. The Center on Aging Director reports to both Senior Vice Presidents of the University of Utah and the Center on Aging Board of Directors comprised of seven Deans.

### Members

More than 200 University of Utah faculty members representing twelve of its schools and colleges are Center members. Student and affiliated faculty memberships are also available. Please visit the Center's web site for information on how to become a member.

### Pilot Grant Program

The Center sponsors an annual pilot grant program to promote the development of aging research at the University of Utah. The goal of this program is to encourage the development of new investigators, attract established investigators to aging research, and stimulate interdisciplinary research collaborations ultimately leading to new externally funded research.

### Annual Research Retreat

The Center inaugurated its now annual research retreat in 2007. Retreat activities include a welcome reception and poster session for CoA faculty and trainees, presentations from the currently funded pilot grant recipients, and a keynote address.

### Support for Aging Clinical Research

In partnership with the Utah Population Data Base (UPDB), the Center on Aging Research Participant Registry provides a mechanism to link people in the community who are interested in participating in research studies to aging-related studies being conducted by the Center's faculty.

## COMMUNITY & CLINICAL PROGRAMS

### Utah Commission on Aging

Established in 2005, the Utah Commission on Aging

- Increases understanding of Utah's older adults and their need for services and support.
- Studies and reports on how changing demographics may impact Utah's private sector, individuals and families, and state and local government
- Identifies and recommends specific policies, procedures, and programs to address the state's changing demographics.
- Coordinates the functions of public and private entities serving Utah's older adults.

### University of Utah Patient-Centered Medical Home

Provides comprehensive geriatric assessment and consults within the University of Utah Health Care System. Provides training for medical students, Internal Medicine housestaff, and fellows in Geriatric Medicine.

### Caring Connections – A Hope and Comfort in Grief Program

Offers a variety of community programs to meet the grief and bereavement needs of people experiencing loss and death, each tailored for a specific kind of grief.

### Cognitive Disorders Clinic

A multidisciplinary clinic in the Department of Neurology providing definitive diagnosis and comprehensive management of dementing



diseases. Offers a mini-fellowship for community physicians and training for housestaff and health professions trainees.

### **Hospital Elder Life Program**

Designed to decrease the development of delirium (acute confusion), the program provides volunteers who offer assistance in orienting, therapeutic activities, exercising, meal assistance, and empathetic support and companionship for older hospitalized patients coping with acute illness.



### **AFFILIATED RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

#### **Veterans Administration Salt Lake City Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC)**

- Basic Biomedical – Investigates the fundamental changes that lead to vascular aging, impaired immunity, depressions in the physiologic status of important organ systems and decline in brain function.

- Applied Clinical – Evaluates exercise interventions' effect on vascular blood flow and hypertension.
- Health Services – Uses information technology to improve the delivery of veteran health care.

### **Utah Vascular Research Laboratory**

Studies the link between vascular blood flow and skeletal muscle function. Recent studies have focused on the role of oxidative stress in the regulation of skeletal muscle metabolism and vascular control with healthy aging, as well as in disease states such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart failure.

### **Translational Vascular Physiology Laboratory**

Studies the cellular and molecular etiology of changes in vascular function in both aging and age-related vascular diseases in human and animal arteries and associated cell types.



*depicted in our logo embodies the Center's*

*investigative spirit and mission.*

**VA Center of Innovation  
Informatics, Decision-Enhancement and Analytic Sciences  
Center (IDEAS 2.0)**

The IDEAS 2.0 mission is to advance scientific discovery, implement novel interventions, promote cross-center collaboration, increase research capacity and engage operational partners in order to improve the health of Veterans.

**Center for Alzheimer's Care, Imaging, and Research**

Research focuses on PET imaging, advanced image analysis, neuropsychology, and clinical drug trials and translating research advances into routine clinical care. The Center is involved in the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study, and is an analysis site for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative.

**Emma Eccles Jones Nursing Research Center**

Supports the research of gerontology and nursing faculty and student investigators. The center supports aging research in the areas of end of life care, spousal bereavement, cancer symptom management, health communication, imbalance and falls.



**College of Health Skeletal Muscle  
Exercise Research Facility**

Focuses on muscle, movement and human performance; specifically how muscles adapt and how these changes help or hinder human function in daily life and across the lifespan, following injury or disease.

**College of Social Work W.D. Goodwill Initiatives on Aging**

Supports research and educational opportunities covering a broad spectrum of social issues including mental health and aging, health care access and home and community based services for older adults.

**EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAMS**

**Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program**

Administers educational offerings leading to the university-conferred undergraduate and graduate certificates or Master's degree in Gerontology. Certificate programs are fully available online. Programs are open to students from all disciplines, professions, and specialties.

**Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Training Program**

Twelve-month ACGME accredited clinical fellowship in Geriatric Medicine.

**VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Geriatrics**

Research training support for physician and non-physician trainees who have completed clinical geriatrics training in their specialty.

**Utah Geriatric Education Consortium**

This Consortium was established to improve post-acute healthcare and health-related long term services and support (LTSS) through education of the workforce that provides these services.

**John A. Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence**

Provides innovative programs to increase the number of nursing faculty prepared to teach geriatric nursing in basic, advanced practice, and nursing research educational programs.

**College of Nursing Geriatric Nurse Leader Program**

Recruits, nurtures, and encourages nurses to choose to work or stay in geriatric health care settings and assume leadership roles, as well as enhance nursing knowledge and skills for the care of older adults. It offers a specialty track within the RN-BS program and a certificate option at the baccalaureate and associate degree levels.

**College of Social Work Emphasis in Aging**

Masters students use elective course choices and practica to deepen their knowledge and skills in preparation for a career focused on work with older persons and their families.

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Designed to link older people in need with formal aging services and informal resources within the community by creating partnerships with community members. The program is a practicum site for social work students completing community nursing rotations.



**Support the Center:** Gifts to help sustain Center on Aging programs may be made to: [https://umarket2.utah.edu/ugive/index.php?gift\\_id=172&parent\\_id=35](https://umarket2.utah.edu/ugive/index.php?gift_id=172&parent_id=35)

### **For more information:**

**Utah Commission of Aging:** [www.ucoa.utah.edu](http://www.ucoa.utah.edu)

**U of U Health Patient-Centered Medical Home:** <http://healthcare.utah.edu/geriatrics/patient-centered-home.php>

**Caring Connections – A hope and comfort in grief program:** <http://healthcare.utah.edu/caring-connections/>

**Cognitive Disorders Clinic:** [http://healthcare.utah.edu/neurosciences/neurology/cognitive\\_disorders.php](http://healthcare.utah.edu/neurosciences/neurology/cognitive_disorders.php)

**Hospital Elder Life Program:** <http://www.hospitalelderslifeprogram.org/>

**VA – GRECC:** [http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov/slc\\_grecc/](http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov/slc_grecc/)

**Utah Vascular Research Library:** <http://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/geriatrics/research/vrl/>

**Translational Vascular Physiology Laboratory:** <http://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/geriatrics/research/>

**Center for Alzheimer's:** [http://healthcare.utah.edu/neurosciences/neurology/cognitive\\_disorders.php](http://healthcare.utah.edu/neurosciences/neurology/cognitive_disorders.php)

**Emma Eccles Jones Nursing Research Center:** <https://nursing.utah.edu/research/emma-eccles-jones-research/>

**College of Health Skeletal Muscle Exercise Research Facility:** <http://health.utah.edu/physical-therapy-athletic-training/research/smerf/>

**College of Social Work WD Goodwill Initiatives on Aging:** <https://socialwork.utah.edu/research/w-d-goodwill-initiatives-on-aging/>

**Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program:** <http://nursing.utah.edu/gerontology/>

**Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Training Program:** <http://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/geriatrics/fellowship/apply.php>

**VA Advanced Fellowship Program in Geriatrics:** <http://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/geriatrics/fellowship/>

**Utah Geriatric Education Consortium:** <http://nursing.utah.edu/geriatric-education/>

**John A Hartford Center of Geriatrics:** <http://nursing.utah.edu/hartford/>

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors** <https://socialwork.utah.edu/research/w-d-goodwill-initiatives-on-aging/neighbors-helping-neighbors/>

### **Contact the Center:**

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