Comprehensive Programs to Strengthen Physician’s Training in Geriatrics

Type of Project: Educational Grant  
Methods: Education and Clinical Training  
Status: Funding secured from the Reynolds Foundation, $2,000,000 total ($55,642 to the Center)  
Study Period: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2010  
University of Utah Collaborative Units: Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine; Department of Family and Preventative Medicine; Department of Pathology; Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Department of Biomedical Informatics; College of Pharmacy  
Investigators: Norman L. Foster, M.D., Mark A. Supiano, M.D. (Principal Investigator)

Project Summary:
There currently is a shortage of physicians who are trained and experienced in the care of older patients. As the number of elderly increases dramatically over the next decades, this shortage will become more acute and the need for physicians knowledgeable about disease common in the elderly will increase significantly. This collaborative project is designed to more fully incorporate and enhance the attention provided to geriatric topics in the courses and clinical rotations of medical students at the University of Utah. This project provides the infrastructure and support for the coordinated efforts needed to accomplish this mission. It will provide training in geriatrics to medical faculty who provide training to medical students and residents in primary care. It will provide opportunities for lectures, telemedicine, and new curriculum development.

Potential Benefits:
This project will improve the knowledge and practical experience of medical students and residents in caring for older patients. There will be specific new training in the recognition, diagnosis and treatment of dementing disorders.