

Presenting the first volume of the AGEM Member Newsletter!

We hope that this newsletter brings important information and learning for AGEM Members into one place and helps keep our members connected throughout the year

AGEM @ SAEM24

A huge thank you to everyone who joined AGEM at SAEM24! We were blown away by your didactics and abstracts. The Tuesday night special dinner event, DEI Principles in Studies of Geriatric Patients, was a huge success. And of course, we loved seeing everyone for the annual AGEM Networking Dinner on Wednesday night. We are already looking forward to SAEM25!

Please congratulate all the 2024 AGEM Annual Award Winners!

- **Gerson-Sanders Award:** Charlotte S. Yeh, MD
- **Early Career Achievement:** Ari B. Freidman, MD, PhD
- **Academic Career Achievement:** Christina Shenvi, MD, PhD, MBA
- **Education Career Achievement:** Shan Liu, MD, MPH
- **Mentorship Award:** Maura Kennedy, MD, MPH

Please also congratulate the 2024 AGEM Abstract Award Winners!

- **Best Faculty:** David W. Hancock, PhD
- **Best Fellow:** Pete Serina, MD, MPH
- **Best Resident:** James O. Jordano, MD
- **Best Medical Student:** David Chesko
- **Best Researcher:** Inessa Cohen, MPH



Members at the Annual AGEM Networking Dinner



Dr. Charlotte Yeh accepts the Gerson-Sanders award from Dr. Sanders

Member Congratulations!

- Dr. Manish Shah was one of the recipients of SAEM's Organizational Advancement Award
- Drs. Cameron Gettel and Katie Buck received the SAEM Young Investigator Award at SAEM24
- Carolina Diniz Hooper, the recipient of the 2023 AGEM Geriatric EM Away Rotation Scholarship, wrote about her experience that was featured in [SAEM Pulse](#) (pg 98)
- Dr. Manish Shah is on the advisory committee for the newly awarded K12 Neuro-EM Scholars
- Dr. Lucas Oliveira J. e Silva was the recipient of the AGEM SAEM24 Travel Scholarship

Please send us AGEM member accomplishments so we can feature YOU and your colleagues [here](#).

AGEM Resource Spotlight

- **Grant Letter of Support** – Do you have an upcoming grant submission and want a letter of support from AGEM? Find out how to submit a request [here](#). Please note that we need at least a month to provide time for review.
- **RAMS RoadMap** – Are you a student, resident or fellow interested in geriatric emergency medicine and need to know where to start? The [RAMS Road Map](#) might be helpful!

Member Spotlight: Dr. Lily Berrin

What does your career in GEM look like?

I am a third year Emergency Medicine resident at Highland Hospital, in Oakland, California, so while I don't have a robust career in GEM yet, I have been incorporating geriatric EM into my residency training in several ways. As one of the only residents in my program interested in GEM, I've been increasing awareness of GEM and the benefits of geriatric-specific ED policies for patients and the hospital system throughout my residency program and the emergency department. I've become known as the "resident geriatrician" even though I still have a lot of learning to do. Some of the projects and opportunities I'm working on include giving a lecture at the EM resident weekly didactics and co-creating a geriatric cart with supplies we can use to better support older patients in our ED. I am also working on getting our emergency department Level 3 Geriatric ED accreditation.



What is your favorite part about being on the Executive Committee?

My favorite part of being on the AGEM Executive Committee is getting to know and learn from the other committee members who are all incredibly accomplished researchers, clinicians, and leaders in GEM. I've been on the Executive Committee for three years, first as the Medical Student Representative and now as the Resident Representative, and throughout that time, I've been able to work with GEM leaders on a variety of research projects as well as educational projects and events for AGEM and SAEM. Working with the members of the executive committee over the years has been an incredible opportunity for my own career growth and exploration, as well as helping me create a network of mentors and friends.

What is your proudest GEM accomplishment or contribution?

Creating a geriatric cart in my ED! We took a more bottom-up approach and commandeered an unused behavioral health cart and obtained some funding from our patient care fund to purchase an initial batch of supplies like ear plugs, eye masks, hearing amplifiers, fidget toys, reading glasses, and even robotic cats. We spread the word via email and word of mouth to the entire department and people slowly started to use the cart. I then worked with our ED Medical Director to get the cart included as part of our regular ED stocking list, and now we have an official geriatric ED cart! Co-residents now come up to me and tell me when they use items from the cart, and it has overall increased awareness of the specific needs of older patients in our department. My next goal is to achieve Level 3 Geriatric ED accreditation, which will be the biggest achievement yet.

What is the most unusual piece of advice or wisdom an older patient has shared with you during their emergency department visit?

I was taking care of an older female patient who had dementia—her husband brought her into the ED due to some terrifying delusions and hallucinations related to her dementia. After getting the HPI from the patient, I asked her husband why he brought her in and he told me that he did it to maintain the trust between them. He said that her delusions were real to her and that for her to continue trusting him as her caregiver and maintain their relationship, he felt the best thing to do was seriously consider her complaints and bring her to the Emergency Department so a provider could give additional reassurance and follow up. This reminded me that trust and emotional support can be just as crucial as addressing medical symptoms in patients with dementia, and sometimes the most healing thing we can do is simply validate a patient's experiences and concerns, even if we can't fully resolve them.

If you could give geriatric patients a superpower to help them avoid emergency visits, what would it be?

A personal bubble shield that would encase them in a comfy and protective bubble anytime they fell. There would be fewer traumatic hip and femur fractures, head bleeds, and rib fractures. The hospital I work at is a Level 1 trauma center, so we see a lot of geriatric falls that cause a lot of morbidity and mortality for our patients. Not only do the patients often experience a prolonged ED stay while we evaluate and treat them, but they often have to get admitted to the hospital since we are also a safety net hospital and our patients frequently lack accessible housing or reliable caregivers. Often, the fall is a life-changing event that causes our patients to lose a significant amount of independence, and I wish I could prevent both the injuries caused as well as the sequelae of hospitalization and functional loss.

Recent Author Spotlights

- [May 2024](#): Drs. Lin and Skains – “Geriatric Emergency Medication Safety Recommendations (GEMS-Rx): Modified Delphi Development of a High-Risk Prescription List for Older Emergency Department Patients”
- [June 2024](#): Dr. Serina – “Could Digital Pills Improve Medication Adherence in Persons Living with Dementia?: A Qualitative Study”

*Know of an outstanding publication by an AGEM member?
We'd love to feature it. Please email your nomination to agem@saem.org.*

Upcoming AGEM Events

- We have two upcoming webinars, please mark your calendars and watch your email and AGEM social media for registration links!
 - AMS/Delirium and Agitation in the ED – August 20th at 2pm EST / 1pm CST
 - Leaders in Geri EM – October 24th at 7pm EST / 6pm CST

Upcoming Opportunities for AGEM Members

- SAEM25 Didactics will be due this fall. Have a didactic idea? AGEM would love to sponsor your didactic. Please contact our didactics committee chair (kouchi@bwh.harvard.edu) if you'd like the committee's help. Information on how to apply for sponsorship to come later this summer.
- AGEM Grant applications and Award nominations will open again this winter. Please watch our community website and social media for details. Want to start thinking about your application or nominations now? Our [website](#) has the details!
- SAEM Elections – Call for nominations for next year's Executive Committee will open in the fall. If you are interested and want to learn more about joining, please reach out to any executive committee member for more information!

Please follow us on Twitter ([@AGEM_SAEM](#)) and Instagram ([saem_agem](#)) for more frequent updates!

Have something you want us to include in the newsletter or have someone/something we should highlight?
Please email us! agem@saem.org