

DIVISION OF

GERIATRICS + PALLIATIVE CARE

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The Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Care at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center (UH CMC) provides clinical services, educational programs, and research activities aimed at improving care and outcomes for older adults and those living with serious illness across the care continuum through compassionate, person-centered, collaborative, and innovative practice.

On the geriatrics side, we offer diverse clinical services across the care continuum including acute inpatient geriatric co-management and consultation at UH CMC; outpatient geriatric assessment and longitudinal care at UH Foley ElderHealth Center; outpatient geriatric assessment clinic at UH Portage Health Center; home visits to homebound patients in the community, including independent and assisted living facilities, through the UH House Calls program; post-acute, memory care, and long-term care at Judson; medical directorship of Judson senior living communities and Judson hospice; and an interdisciplinary falls clinic at UH Parma and UH Foley ElderHealth Center.

Geriatrics highlights in 2023 include:

- Partnership with UH Family Medicine residency program to provide supervision and education of 2nd and 3rd year residents weekly at Judson Park skilled nursing unit
- Continued regular education and supervision of internal medicine interns and of medical students on the inpatient geriatrics consultation service at UH CMC
- Continuation of the geriatric medicine fellowship program

- Collaboration with nursing leadership at UH CMC to increase awareness on the Age Friendly Health System initiative
- Receipt of a micro grant at UH CMC to provide devices to use with older adults with hearing loss in order to improve patient care, experience, and outcomes

The Palliative Care Section continues to exemplify the UH “Art of Compassion” focus through its inter-professional patient- and family-centered approach to care. We are engaged in UH system-wide initiatives to offer services to all UH patients with palliative care needs, and solicit and honor patient values and preferences in the face of life-threatening illness. We encourage early, proactive palliative care consultation among high-risk patients admitted to the ICU. The hospice and palliative care fellowship program was initiated in 2021 and received accreditation in 2022.

Palliative care highlights in 2023 include:

- Expansion of the inpatient palliative care teams at UH CMC, Ahuja Medical Center, and Geauga Medical Center through the hiring of additional nurse practitioners
- Communication training for fellows from multiple specialties at UH CMC
- Weekly virtual palliative care grand rounds, featuring talks from palliative care interdisciplinary practitioners from across the country
- Continuation of well-being mortality rounds at the medical intensive care unit at UH CMC
- Continuation of regular palliative care rounds with ICU teams for patients on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO)