

## 2020 Older Adults and Opioids Webinar Series

The FLGEC collaborated with the Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (WNY R-AHEC) to host a series of online education sessions in early 2020. These webinar recordings can be accessed here and/or on YouTube:

### [An Overview of Addiction from a Medical Perspective](#)

- **Presenter:** Gregory Collins, DO, MPH, Commissioner of Public Health, Wyoming County, New York
- **Date Recorded:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020
- The presentation discusses the history of addiction, the current opioid crisis, the Why? we become addicted from a biologic, psychologic and social perspective and current options for treatment.

### [Wisdom Keepers and Opioid Use – Influence of Stigma, Shame, Loneliness](#)

- **Presenter:** Ednita M. Wright, PhD, LCSW, CASAC, Associate Professor, Department of Human Services, SUNY Onondaga Community College
- **Date Recorded:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020
- Participants will receive an overview of opioid use among Wisdom Keepers (Older Adults); reasons for abuse; the power of the use stigmatizing language, the reason that language matters; how loneliness and shame increase the use of opioids among Wisdom Keepers; and effective ways to reduce the stigma that Wisdom Keepers face which keep them from the support they need and deserve.

### [Biopsychosocial Approach to Pain in Older Adults](#)

- **Presenter:** Paul Dougherty, DC, Adjunct Professor, New York Chiropractic College; Canandaigua VAMC
- **Date Recorded:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020
- This presentation will review the biopsychosocial model and how this approach is effective in addressing pain as well as the unique psychological and social comorbidities in an older population.

### [The Opioid Epidemic – How we have gotten to this point, its' effects on older adults, and where do we go from here?](#)

- **Presenters:** Thomas Caprio, MD, MPH, MS, Professor of Medicine/Geriatrics, Dentistry, Clinical Nursing, & Public Health Sciences, Director, Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center (UR-GWEP), University of Rochester Medical Center; Ann Olin, MA, CRC, CASAC, CCM, Program Manager, Geriatric Addictions Program, Lifespan of Greater Rochester
- **Date Recorded:** Thursday, May 28, 2020
- This session will review the three waves of the opioid epidemic: prescription opioids, heroin, and synthetic opioids putting into context the relative lack of knowledge concerning the needs of older adults throughout the crisis. We will examine the unique aspects of addiction and substance misuse for older adult patients/client and describe strategies to engage older adults and caregivers in reduction of harm and engagement in treatment programs.

## Alternatives to Pain Medications

- **Presenter:** Anna Ratka, PharmD, RPh, CPE, Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Wegmans School of Pharmacy, St. John Fisher College
- **Date:** Thursday June 18, 2020
- Management of pain without medication provides patients with an effective option for relief of pain. The non-pharmacological therapies aim to treat the behavioral, affective, cognitive, and other non-somatic dimensions of the pain. The rationale behind using alternatives to pain medications will be presented in context of pain complexity. Several tools and methods used as alternatives to pain medications will be reviewed. Contributions of the non-pharmacological therapies to management of pain will be discussed in terms of holistic care of pain patients.

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