



ELDER CARE MEDICINE NETWORK

The [Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging](#) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore is part of a national group working to build [The Elder Care Medicine Network](#), a project funded by a grant from the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards program, an initiative of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The Elder Care Medicine Network brings together patients, caregivers, researchers, and pharmacists to discuss "Patient Centered Outcomes Research" (PCOR) on the best use of medicines for seniors (also known as kūpuna in Hawaii). We offer many ways to work with us across the United States, including but not limited to:

- Surveys
- Focus groups
- Continuing education
- Conversations about health
- Co-designing educational materials and research questions

Our team knows it is critical to have our stories shared to raise awareness to medicine related topics and issues that are important to you. The goal is for our work to improve the lives of older adults by addressing medicine related concerns through research, education, and advocacy.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Patricia Merryweather-Arges, Executive Director for Project Patient Care and project lead for the MidWest Region of the Elder Care Medicine Network had the opportunity to meet with Seniors at the Kroc Center in the Pullman community in Chicago. It was their first in-person meeting since February 2020 and all were happy to be back together again.

Pat presented on the Elder Care Medicine Network and had some interactive discussions with the seniors. Key for them was lack of pharmacies; cost



of medicines and all were concerned about rising costs and co-pays; as well as lack of trust in what they are being prescribed by physicians.

This feedback is very helpful, and more advocacy is needed not only on these topics but general safety concerns for our communities. There have been 41 shootings in Pullman, which is much lower than Englewood, IL that was highlighted in recent [NY Times article](#). Our voices need to be heard and much more work is needed.

Brian J. Isetts, Nursing Home Practitioner and Professor at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy has developed an interprofessional toolkit in collaboration with colleagues on the Minnesota Northstar – Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program on Effective Medication Self-Management. The purpose of this [toolkit](#) is to apply a systematic process so that older adults and family caregivers can confidently manage their medications.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

The Elder Care Medicine Network is doing a questionnaire about what people in the community need in order for older adults to take their medications in the best ways possible. If you complete the questionnaire, we will give you a gift card for \$25 out of respect for your time. Here is the [Needs Assessment link](#) and will take about 15 minutes of your time.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Nicole Brandt at (410) 706-1491 or lamycenter@rx.umaryland.edu who is coordinating efforts of the Elder Care Medicine Network. More information can be found at our [website](#).

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