

# November 2022 Newsletter Happy Holidays



## **Technology Resources for Older Adults**

The Elder Care Medicine Network unites older adults and researchers across the country, from Hawaii, to the Midwest, to the East Coast. With such a far-flung network, people have asked for resources for getting online and for tech support. There is plenty of help for older people trying to access the internet, including financial assistance.

The federal government offers direct aid for people needing help getting online. This website: **affordableconnectivity.gov** contains an application someone could fill out to see if they qualify for low-cost internet and even a discount of up to \$100, to buy a laptop or tablet computer. The website includes written and video instructions on how to apply - in nine languages. There is a toll-free phone HELP number: (877) 384-2575.

Local governments and senior centers may also have resources for older adults who need assistance getting online. For example, in the Mid-Atlantic region, Baltimore County has a program that gives tablets to low-income residents. The county also offers free tech support for older adults through their **CyberSeniors Tech Helpline**. Help is available Thursdays from noon to 2 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. to noon. Similar programs may be available in other places. Search county government webpages or ask at your local senior center.

In the coming months, the Elder Care Medicine Network will be offering more programs, some of which will be online. We hope to see many people there whether we get to meet face-to-face or through technology.

### **REGIONAL UPDATES**



**University** worked with Patricia Merryweather-Arges during an advocacy event and had the opportunity to network with Congress woman, Lauren Underwood.

#### Mid-Atlantic Region **BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION**

The Elder Care Medicine Network led by the Mid-Atlantic region hosted a virtual book club/topic

discussion. On November 10, ECMN members and students met to discuss "MedStrong – Shed Your Meds for a Better, Healthier You" by Donna Bartlett, PharmD, BCGP, with the author. The book club discussion was supported by ASCP Foundation. Dr. Bartlett talked primarily about the importance of reevaluating your medicines with your healthcare team.

#### Hawai'i Region

In our outreach efforts to rural Hawaii, pharmacy student May Ann Vicente Hudgins interviewed community members on Molokai with support from Judi. Our visual communication continues to evolve to reflect our local community, with communityoriented artwork and graphic design being finalized for the Hawaii region announcements and flyers. And those flyers will be put to good use as we prepare our "What Matters to Patients about Medications" event for continuing education credit. This program will be the first offered by the University of Hawaii Hilo that includes both patients and caregivers as co-learners along with clinicians.

### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Over the next 2-3 months, we will be providing discussion sessions talking about medicines and PCORI, both in person and online. If interested, please send an email to <u>lamycenter@rx.umaryland.edu</u>.

#### **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Nicole Brandt at (410) 706-1491 or <a href="mailto:lamycenter@rx.umaryland.edu">lamycenter@rx.umaryland.edu</a> who is coordinating efforts of the Elder Care Medicine Network. More information can be found at our website.









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