# Establishing an Academic Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology William Wadland, MD, MS; Mary Noel, MPH, PhD, RD; David Solomon, PhD

# NTRODUCTION

### Objective

Establish an administrative division on Geriatrics and Gerontology in the Department of Family Medicine within the College of Human Medicine (CHM) at Michigan State University (MSU). Form a network of geriatric fellowships with a common core curriculum, coordinated performance assessment program and evaluation system.

### Rationale

The increasing number of older adults in the population poses a significant challenge to our health care system and its economic viability. The demographics of Michigan make the state particularly vulnerable to this trend. With its statewide community campus system and over 20 years of experience as a leader in geriatrics education, MSU is well suited to help address the healthcare needs of Michigan's growing elderly population.

# ADMINISTRATION

Objective Develop and implement an administrative division for geriatric medicine training among participating MSU affiliated family medicine and internal medicine residencies located throughout the State of Michigan.

### **Fellowship Network Structure**

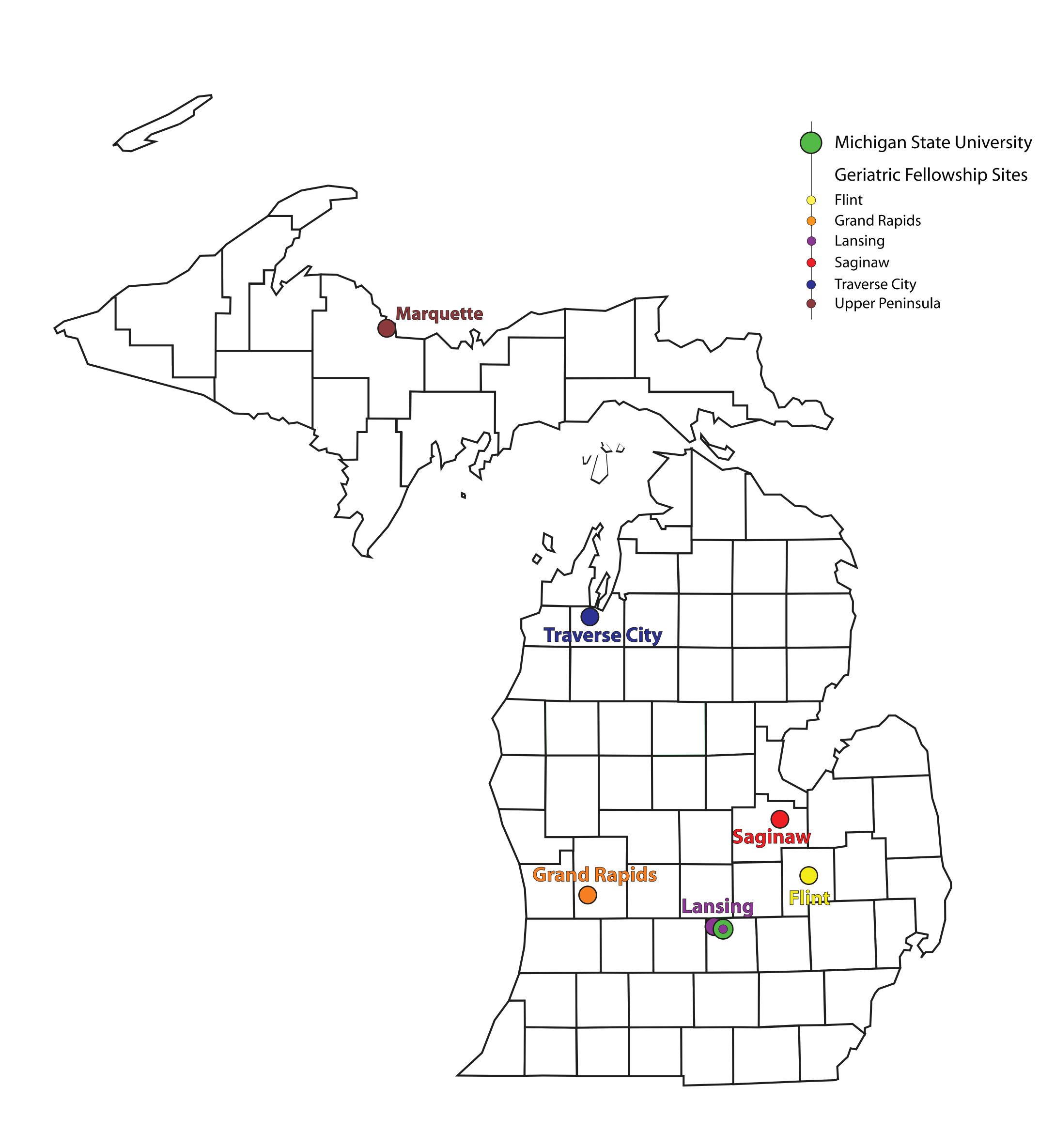
Five affiliated family medicine residency programs located throughout the State have requested help in establishing geriatric fellowships. Coupled with two existing geriatric fellowships within CHM's statewide network of affiliated family medicine residency programs, we are forming a statewide coordinated geriatric fellowship consortium. By sharing resources with a coordinated curriculum and evaluation program, the consortium can provide an efficient high quality educational for Michigan's next generation of leaders in geriatric medicine.

The Geriatric Fellowship Steering Committee oversees fellowship consortium and is comprised of the Division Director, the Director of the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan, the fellowship directors of each affiliate program and the geriatrics division administrator. The Chair of Family Medicine is an ex-officio member of the steering committee.

Geriatrics and Gerontology Program Health Research Council is a multidisciplinary group of researchers from family medicine, internal medicine, osteopathic medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, sociology and nutrition that meets monthly to share ideas and develop new research projects. The council members serve as mentoring resource for geriatric fellows across the fellowship network.

Geriatric Clinical Council is made up of lead clinical representatives from the affiliated fellowship programs in the network and will discuss issues related to the quality of a successful practice in geriatric medicine such as extended care policies and protocols, consultative services, medical director leadership and problem solving.





# CURRICULUM

### Objective

Create a jointly developed modular distance learning curriculum designed to prepare geriatric fellows for successfully completing the Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) examination. The curriculum will consist of:

Self-Instructional Modules each containing a digital presentation, series of related articles and a feedback quiz.

Interactive Virtual Conferences that consist of monthly sessions including journal club and case-based conferences using conferencing software to connect faculty and fellows at the different fellowship locations.

Yearly Geriatrics Education Day Conference held at one of the fellowship sites in which all of the consortium fellowships would participate. The agenda would involve an invited keynote speaker, presentations of the fellows' research projects and other interactive training sessions.

## ASSESSMENT OF FELLOW COMPETENCY

## Objective

Develop a set of fellow evaluations that would be available to network programs for evaluation and providing feedback to their residents and fellows.

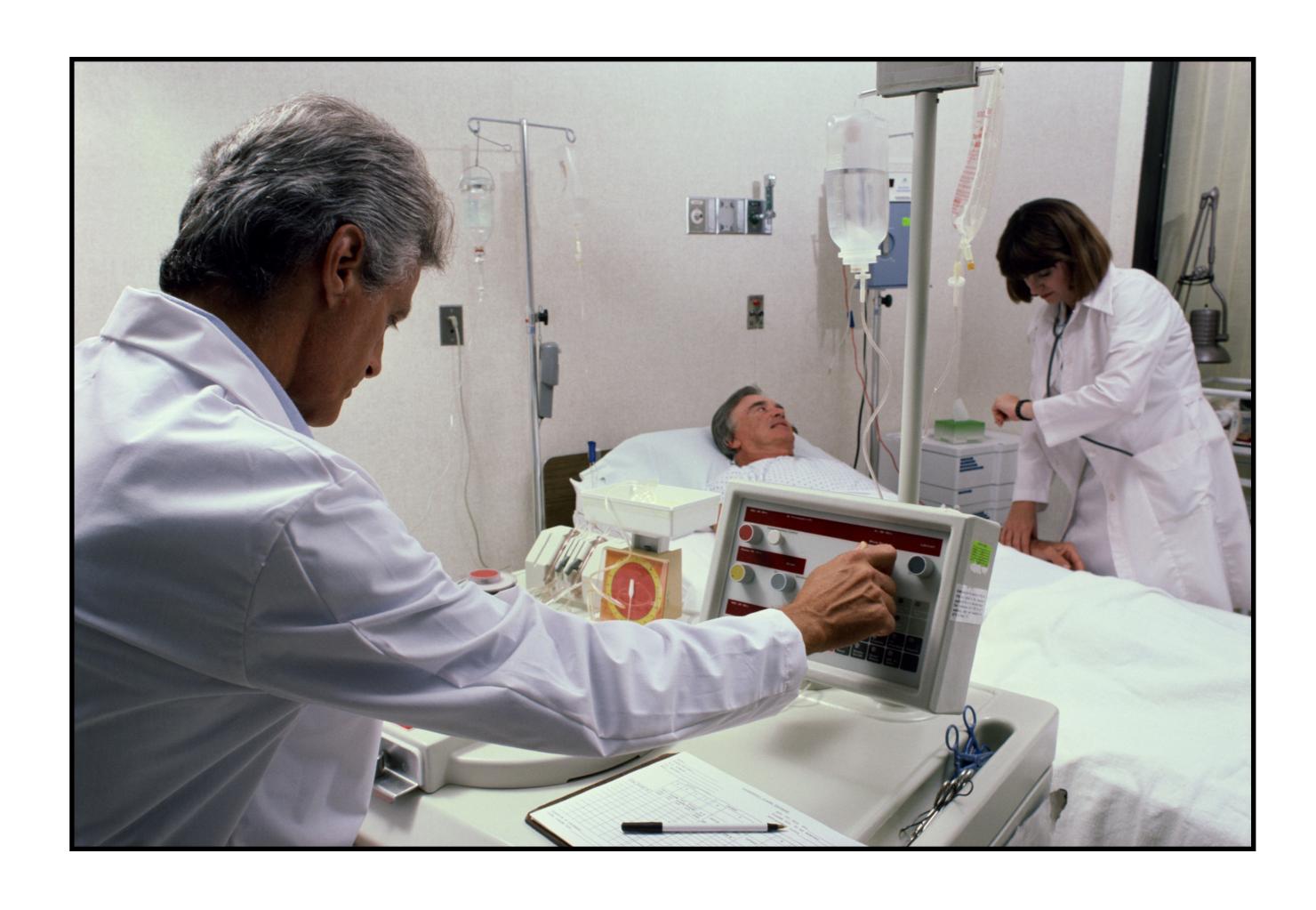
- Research Project (for each Fellow)
- A. Team-building B. End of Life C. Polypharmacy D. Dementia / Delerium

### Objective

Document the impact of the patient care provided to the elderly by the newly developed geriatric fellowship positions within the network of affiliated programs.

- Demographic data
  - Number of fellows

  - LOS of hospitalizations



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Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) Examination

**Four Case Performance Based Assessment (PBA)** 

## EVALUATION

- Number students and residents in geriatric programs - Descriptors and demographics of geriatric clinical services - Assessments of clinical teams on CQI, both inpatient and outpatient

Database Tracking with local and comprehensive databases - Rate of hospitalizations of elders

- Rate of hospital re-admissions

- Assessment for pharmacotherapy use and cost in extended care facilities - Incidence of falls and hip fractures

- Adverse drug reactions and interactions

- Incidence of pseudo-dementia and delirium

- Hospital discharge prescriptions of elders