



# CASE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

## Care for Caregivers *Prentiss Care Networks Project*

Volume 2 Issue 2

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Summer 2006

### Reflecting on 100 Years of Alzheimer's: the Global Impact on Quality of Life

Save these Dates:  
November 6-7, 2006: Conference at Crowne Plaza Hotel  
November 5, 2006: Family Caregiver Events at Fairhill Center



REFLECTING ON 100 YEARS OF  
**ALZHEIMER'S**

The Global Impact on Quality of Lives

This year will mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the first case of what we now call Alzheimer's disease. Currently there are 4.5 million Americans (18 million worldwide) with the disease, and these figures are estimated to double by the year 2025. The cost to societies is overwhelming. Dementia is currently one of the most costly and devastating diseases, both to persons with dementia as well as to their families and caregivers.

This international Alzheimer's conference is being co-sponsored by the University Center on Aging and Health (UCAH) is . the UCAH and the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University (Case), University Hospitals Health System, Heather Hill, and the Cleveland chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The main conference, being held on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, will bring together over 350 participants. The conference speakers represent the best that the world has to offer in understanding the global challenges created by Alzheimer's disease and related conditions in the areas of psychiatry, neurology, geriatrics, psychology, nursing, and social work. This conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Cleveland. November 5<sup>th</sup> will be a day of special events including the Foley lectureship and special sessions for family caregivers. These events will be held at Fairhill Center in Cleveland. For more information about the Fairhill events, please see page 3 of this newsletter. Family caregivers, agency caregivers, and consumers will benefit from this world-wide examination of the state of the science in Alzheimer's care and challenges for the future. For more information, including the full schedule and registration information, visit the following web link:

<http://fpb.cwru.edu/CFA/announce.shtm>

You may also call the conference coordinator in the University Center on Aging and Health at (216) 368-4945.



### *Introducing additions to the Prentiss Care Networks project faculty and staff:*

#### **Camille Warner, PhD:**

Because the Prentiss project strives to serve caregivers across the lifespan, we are pleased to announce the addition of a valued colleague to the caregiving project. Dr. Camille Warner is a lecturer at Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case. Dr. Warner received a PhD in sociology from Case, and has been the project coordinator for the federally-funded study of intergenerational caregiving (Dr. Carol Musil, P.I.) for the last five years. Dr. Warner is collaborating with other project staff on community-responsive programs and research studies.

#### **Laura Bishop:**

Ms. Laura Bishop has been on the staff of the School of Nursing at Case, and recently transferred to work in the University Center on Aging and Health as a department assistant. Ms. Bishop has previously worked with event planning and the alumni / development office. A major responsibility for her in the UCAH will be to support the work of the Prentiss Project.

## Long Term Care Workforce

The current national nursing shortage is significant in both acute and long-term care facilities. Long-term care workers provide services to over 12 million Americans in skilled care, residential care, and assisted living facilities, as well as in community-based programs and individuals' homes. In 2002, 15 % of registered nurses (RNs) positions, 13 % of licensed practical nurses (LPNs) positions, and 8.5 % of certified nurse aides (CNA) positions were vacant. Thus, understanding the reasons for staff turnover and shortages and possible strategies for recruitment and retention of direct care staff is vital.

In the long-term care facilities, absenteeism is similar to turnover in decreasing the quality of care. However, mental illness as a possible cause for absenteeism is overlooked in most of the published literature. Depression, a prevalent mental health problem, was found to be accountable for \$11.7 billion in absenteeism costs; \$12.1 billion in lost productivity and \$1.18 billion in medication costs in the general U. S. workforce. Hence, addressing the issue of mental health among long-term care workers, and particularly nursing staff (RNs, LPNs, CNAs), is extremely important. Professional and non-professional nursing staff in the long term care facilities are often overwhelmed; they are not only formal caregivers in their work place, but also they might be informal caregivers for their own relatives. Addressing the quality of their mental health and risks for potential mental health problems is crucial in reducing absenteeism rates and retaining a productive workforce.

## Community Calendar for Caregivers

Date(s)	Event
August 9, 2006	Cleveland Senior Summer College. Cuyahoga Community College.
August 18, September 15, October 20, December 15, 2006	Fairhill Breakfast Club (gerontology education series for community and professionals). Fairhill Center.
September 15, 2006	Hospice Institute Fall Conference: Psychosocial Issues at the End of Life. Hospice of the Western Reserve
September 26, 2006	National Caregiving Conference, Washington, DC
October 7, 2006	Voices for Hospice: Access to Care for All. Hospice of the Western Reserve.
October 13, 2006	Cuyahoga County Conference on Aging, "Exploring Resources for Older Adults: What's New?" Tri-C Corporate College East.
November 5, 2006	Foley Lectureship and Caregiving Workshops, Fairhill Center.
November 6-7, 2006	University Center on Aging and Health, Case. Cellar Gerontological Conference, "Reflecting on 100 Years of Alzheimer's: Global Impact on Quality of Life". Crowne Center Hotel
November 11, 2006	Comité Hispano de la Salud de Cleveland "Viviendo con Azúcar" [Living with Diabetes]. Metro Health.

**Please inform us of your community events for caregivers and / or older adults, so that we may announce them through this electronic and print newsletter.**



Prentiss Care Networks Project

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Find more information at: <http://caregiving.case.edu>

## Announcing a Special Day for Caregivers:

### The Foley Lectureship:

“Alzheimer’s from an International  
Patient and Caregiver Perspective”

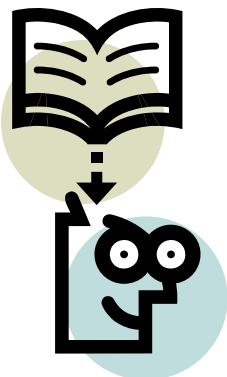
Henry Brodaty, MD, FRACP, FRANZCP

and

### Caregiving: the Whole Package

Many workshops will be offered for family caregivers. Many agencies will present information about their services.

Please call for more information. See below.



#### Location:

Fairhill Center (12200 Fairhill Road,  
Cleveland, OH 44120)

#### For more information:

(216) 421-1350 ext. 140

#### Sponsors:

Fairhill Center; the Alzheimer’s Association,  
Cleveland Area Chapter; the University  
Memory and Aging Center; Integrative  
Studies, the Intergenerational School; and  
the Hospice of the Western Reserve.

**In the next issue: A discussion of  
the challenges and rewards of  
Intergenerational Caregiving**

September 26, 2006:  
The National Alliance for  
Caregiving is sponsoring  
what they call the very  
first  
national caregiver con-  
ference, titled

### **“Caregiver Health As a Public Health Issue”**

Speakers will cover  
topics regarding  
overcoming barriers to  
health care for  
caregivers and  
improving the health  
care of caregivers.

More information is  
available from  
Aileen Worrell at  
[aileen@caregiving.org](mailto:aileen@caregiving.org)