Lessons Learned: Development of a Memory Education and Assessment Clinic in a Non-Clinical Academic Public Health Setting

Donald Scott, MD

Stephen Correia, PhD

Institute of Gerontology
College of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Cognitive Aging Research and Education Center

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

•Identify needs and challenges in promoting healthy brain aging and dementia awareness in rural Georgia.

•Discuss how a clinical care mission can interface with rural communities through community-based engaged scholarship.

•Discuss key infrastructure and administrative challenges inherent in developing a rural-focused dementia clinic in a non-clinical academic setting.

Per Chloe Hale

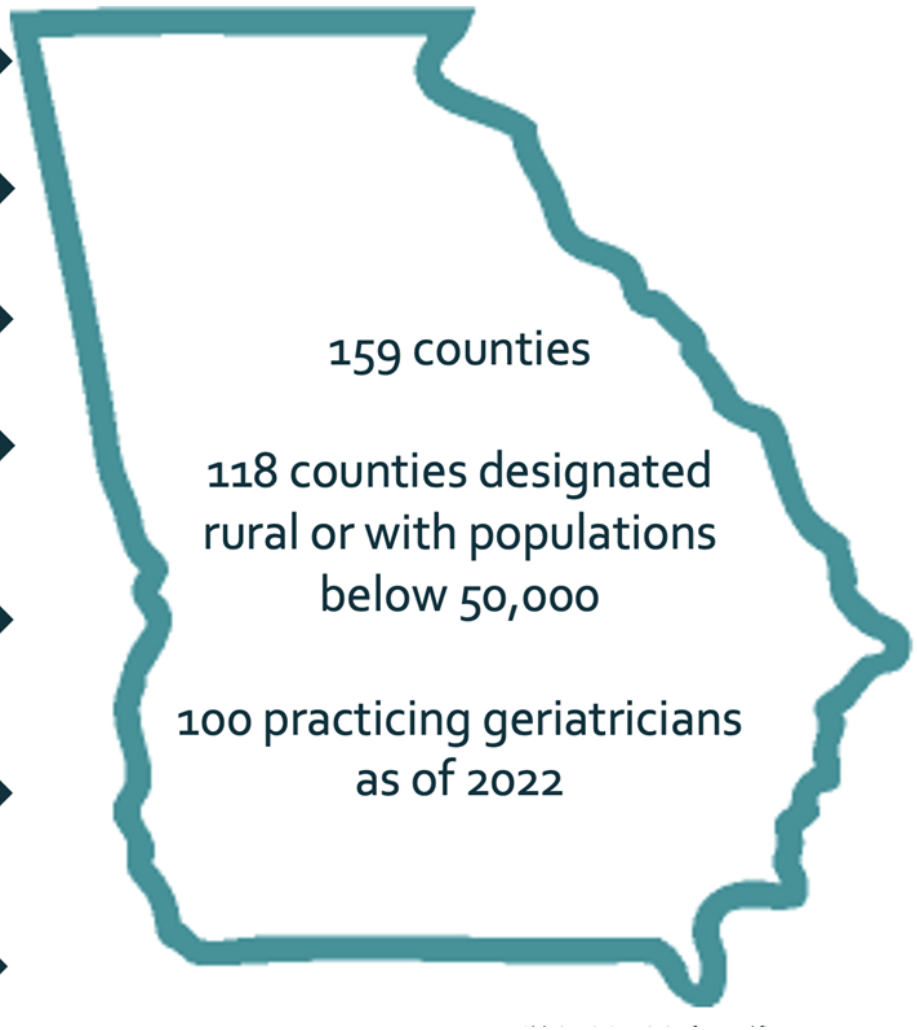
- Participants will understand the importance of screening for dementia for specific patients.
- Participants will understand the benefits of early screening and diagnosis of dementia.
- Participants will learn about the dementia screening referral option through local DPH/GMN locations across the state.
- Participants will learn about emerging trends in dementia treatments.
- Participants will learn how to include risk reduction into patient education for those with or without a dementia diagnosis.
- Participants will understand how to work with other providers to determine feasibility of incorporating risk reduction and caregiver resources into their daily practice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify needs and challenges in promoting healthy brain aging and dementia awareness in rural Georgia.
- Discuss how a clinical care mission can interface with rural communities through community-based engaged scholarship
- Discuss key infrastructure and administrative challenges inherent in developing a rural-focused dementia clinic in a non-clinical academic setting.

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) in GA, 2022

- Ranked 50th in health care for older persons.
- 37.5 % increase in ADRD incidence since 2018
- $26,475 per capita Medicare spend for ADRD in 2021
- ADRD-related Medicaid costs expected to increase by 40.4 % by 2025
- In 2021, Georgians provided 647,000 hours of care for ADRD, valued at $9.3 Billion
- 54 % of Georgia's caregivers have chronic health conditions; 21.6 % depression
- 392 % workforce increase needed for ADRD care by 2050



Brain volume changes by age 45

More than 2.8 MM people over age 45 years

13%

of Georgians over age 45 report symptoms of cognitive impairment.

80%

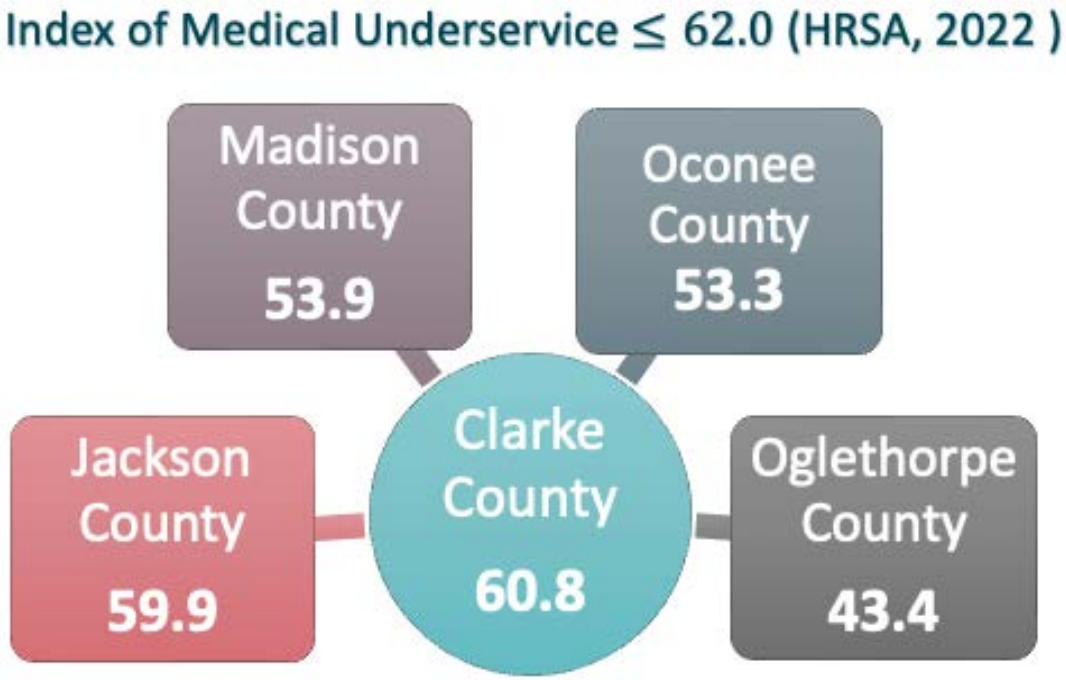
of Georgians who self-report have ***not*** talked to a doctor about it.

Incidence is higher in Georgians with lower levels of education, and lower access to healthcare.

- GARD report, 2016

Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) of Clarke County & Surrounding areas

- 141 of GA's 159 (89%) counties were designated medically underserved in 2022 per HRSA
- An Index of Medical Service score of ≤62 is considered underserved
- Clarke County (the hub) & surrounding areas all rated underserved.



Our mission

To forge a new pathway to *living with* dementias

Education

Diagnosis

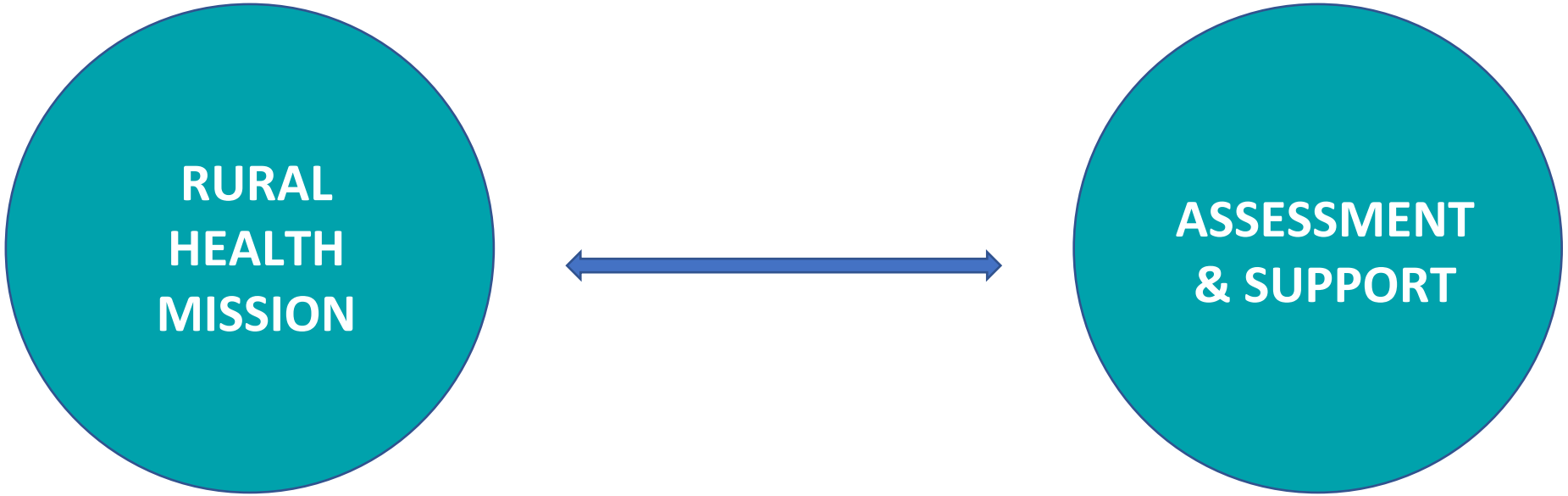
Support

Medically Underserved Rural Communities

So …. How do we go about this?

- Rural outreach
  - What do community aging/dementia stakeholders in rural counties want?
  - What do they already have?
  - What do the need and can reasonably obtain?
  - Community-Tailored CARE Plan
    - Education, Diagnosis, Support
- Build a dementia assessment clinic in a non-medical, non-HIPAA, academic campus-based setting

NO PROBLEM!!



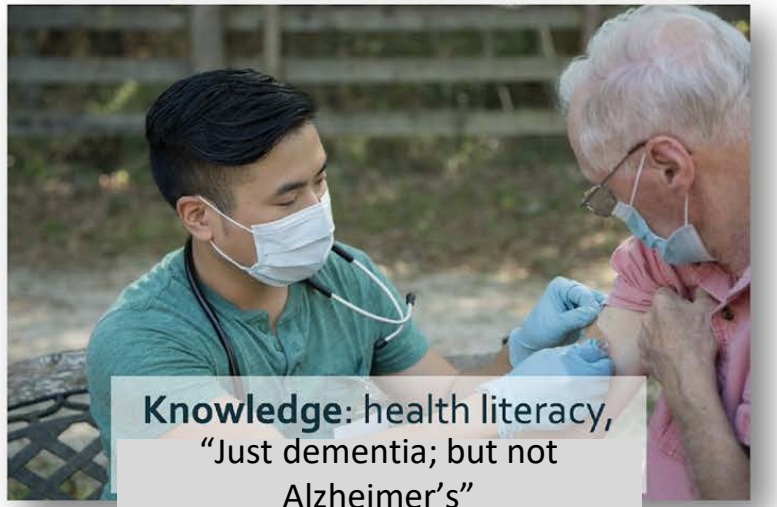
PUBLIC HEALTH
FOCUS

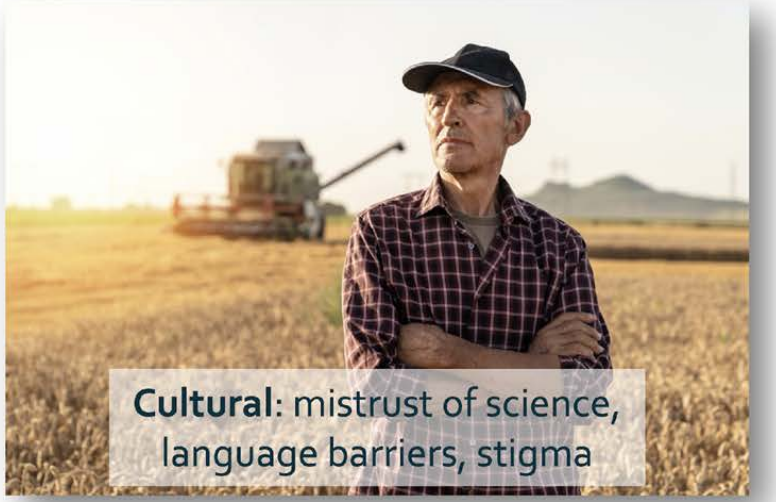
PATIENT HEALTH
FOCUS

Built on University of Georgia's Land Grant Mission

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION

Archway Partnership
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA





Institute of Gerontology
College of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Cognitive Aging Research and Education Center

Community education topics

An ounce (or perhaps a pound) of prevention
General education for all communities

Knowing the signs
General education for all communities

What does diagnosis look like?
Tailored education, based on local resources

Living with dementia and caring for loved ones
Tailored education, based on local resources

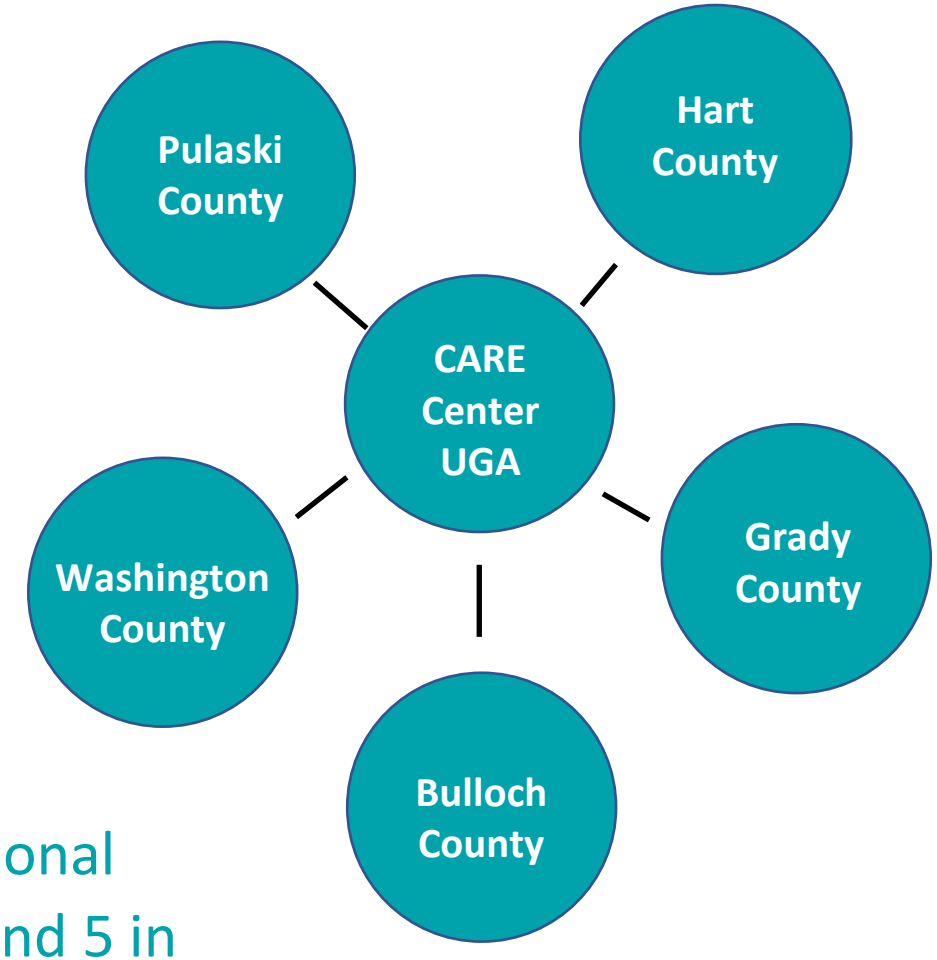
Connecting Community Stakeholders
Facilitating connection, based on local resources

Addressing the needs of the community

- In these rural communities, we just like everyone else who is presenting here today, we're disseminating info at the appropriate level of the audience which may include attorneys, physicians, professors, and individuals with ~10 years+ education
- Key (we are here to listen to the hurdles and challenges of those affected, the difficulties they face like transportation, food deserts, isolation, lack of support services leading to urgent situations and high utilization of first responders; faith based)
- Try to connect with them (we're all in this together, we're all human, no one is safe)

So… *How do we go about this?*

- Intramural and extra-mural funding with a public health focus
- Hub and Spoke
- RECRUIT PLAYERS!
  - STUDENTS!!
  - PROVIDERS!!



7 additional counties and 5 in the queue

Clinical Services

Diagnosing ADRD—The CARE Clinic

Intake
Pre-medical and social work students

Medication assessment
Pharmacy residents

Visit with geriatrician
Medical residents

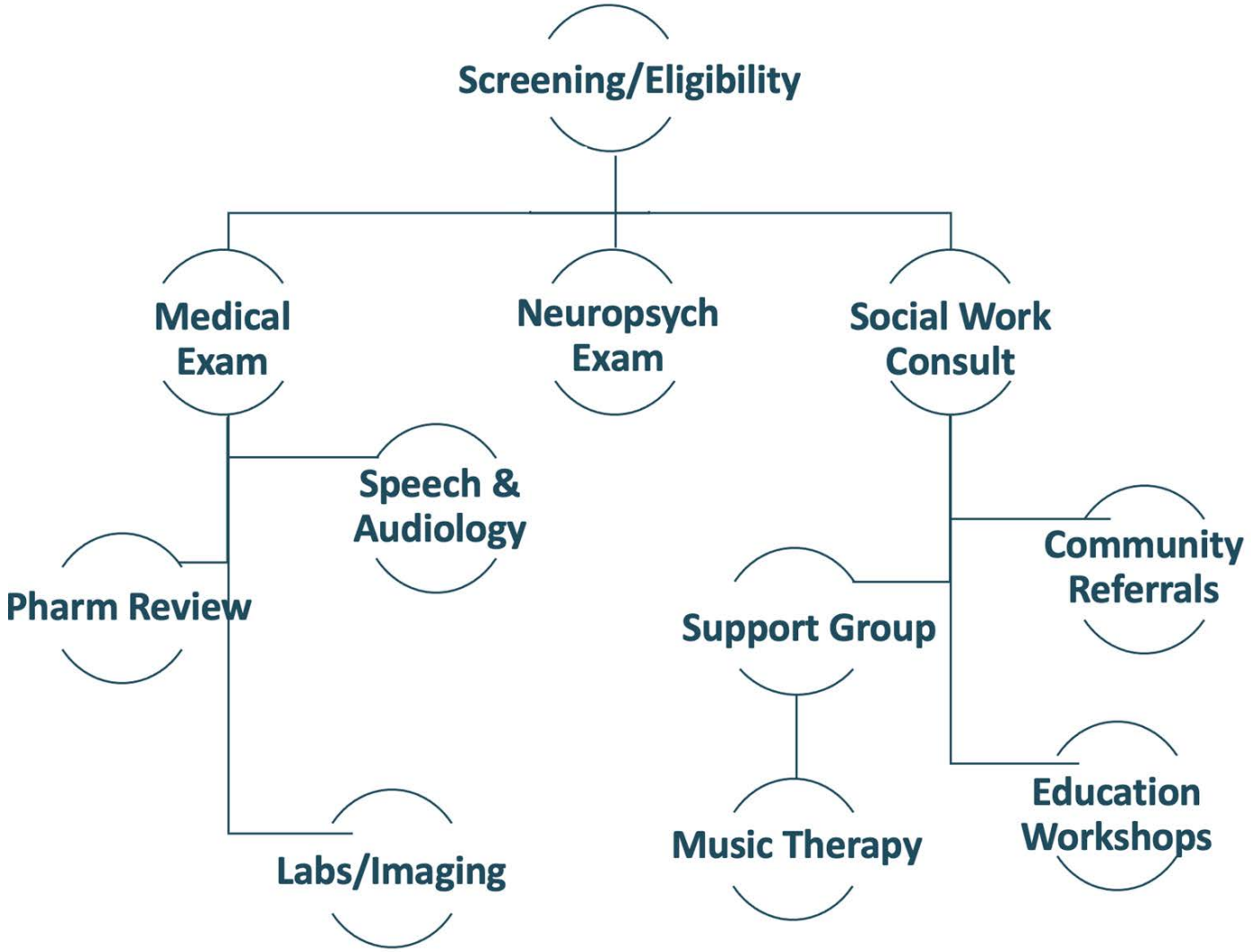
Cognitive assessment
Clinical neuropsychology externship

Labs and imaging
Pre-medical students

Reporting
Everyone who touched the case

Post-diagnosis services
Public health and social work interns

CARE Clinic Process



Challenges & Not Challenges

- Challenges
  - Secure email
  - Secure Zoom
  - Telehealth
  - EMR
  - Revenue
- Not Challenges
  - Support from UGA administration
  - Enthusiasm
  - Referrals to CARE
  - Further workup
    - Imaging
    - LP
    - Labs

Community impact through CARE

Short-term goal

To increase access to resources, so fewer families face crisis

Medium-term goal

To improve detection of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Long-term goal

To reduce the incidence of dementia diagnoses.

Institute of Gerontology
College of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Cognitive Aging Research and Education Center

Read about us in
GA magazine!

Institute of Gerontology
College of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Cognitive Aging Research
and Education Center

THANK YOU!!

GO DAWGS!

(Grey ones too!)

Institute of Gerontology
College of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Cognitive Aging Research and Education Center