

CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM

Scientific Basis of Service Delivery for Older Adults

Prepared by Section M, The Ohio Academy of Science, for the Centennial Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, 26 April 1991.

SYMPOSIUM ABSTRACT. These papers illustrate the opportunities for scholars and scientists of the various disciplines to examine the personal and societal problems confronting this ever increasing aging population segment. Gandee et al. examine the relationships among the older adults' motor skill performance, quality of life, and self-selected recreation activities. Caramela-Miller and Darr highlight the complexities of the barriers of bureaucracy in the aging service networks and in Medicare which prevent aging individuals from acquiring needed services. Newman and Newman present an outcome evaluation model to promote and enhance the delivery of services for older adults. In the concluding paper of the series, Deitchman highlights the complexity of the information seeking skills required for older adults to solve and resolve problems within the delivery system. The series presents a glimpse of the many research questions that will confront scholars and scientists of the 21st century.

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SYMPOSIUM INTRODUCTION

The following papers were presented at the Centennial Annual Meeting of the Ohio Academy of Science on the campus of The Ohio State University, 26 April 1991. The emphasis of these papers is to illustrate the various opportunities available for scholars and scientists of all disciplines during the next decade in the field of aging. There are several common themes that coalesce the articles. Primary of these is that as the baby boomers of the 1950s and 1960s grow older, there will be a proportional increase in the number of older adults requiring assistance in accomplishing the activities of daily living. Secondary to this are the specific issues of the individual papers that confront and are common to the aging experience of all older people. The Gandee et al. paper illustrates the variability and measurement of functional motor skills and

their impact upon the level of independence of aging individuals. The Caramela-Miller and Darr paper presents the complexity of choice confronting older adults in their search for needed services and insurance coverage, and offers a model for training older adults to function as peer counselors in the decision making process. The Newman and Newman paper provides a model for the evaluation of older adult outcomes as the recipients of the delivery system, relative to their ability to access the system and subsequent satisfaction with the received services. The series is concluded by Deitchman's discussion of the close relationship among scholars, scientists, and service providers in the enhancement service to our aging citizens. The major strength of the relationship among the various papers lies in the questions kindled. The link is the basic commitment to the betterment of services to our elderly.