

Background on ACE Units

Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Units emerged in the early 1990s as a novel model of care aimed at addressing the problem of hospital-acquired disability (HAD) amongst acutely ill older adults. Initial studies demonstrated that the ACE intervention could reduce HAD and improve physical function for older hospitalized adults without increasing costs compared to patients receiving usual care. Several subsequent studies have shown that the ACE model of care has other important benefits when it comes to caring for hospitalized elders, such as decreasing rates of delirium, falls, and pressure ulcers; improving patient, family, provider and nurse satisfaction; and even lowering per capita cost of care.

The ACE Unit on 12 South at Clements University Hospital began when the hospital opened in December 2014. The mission of this unit is threefold: first, to help define and provide the highest level of acute care to older adults admitted to our hospital through thoughtful interprofessional collaboration and harnessing the principles of continuous quality improvement; second, to disseminate best practices related to the care of acutely ill older adults throughout the UT Southwestern health system and beyond; and third, to educate and train healthcare professionals how best to care for acutely ill older adults.

Faculty Contacts

Thomas Dalton, MD (Medical Director)
Assistant Professor, Geriatric Medicine
Thomas.Dalton@UTSouthwestern.edu
Cell: 214-886-8229
Pager: 214-786-7858

Craig Rubin, MD
Professor, Geriatric Medicine
Craig.Rubin@UTSouthwestern.edu
Pager: 214-786-1448

Lynne Kirk, MD
Professor, Geriatric Medicine
Lynne.Kirk@UTSouthwestern.edu
Office: 214-648-3433
Pager: 214-786-0674

Belinda Vicioso, MD
Professor, Geriatric Medicine
Belinda.Vicioso@UTSouthwestern.edu
Pager: 214-786-2024

Ramona Rhodes, MD
Assistant Professor, Geriatric Medicine
Ramona.Rhodes@UTSouthwestern.edu
Pager: 214-786-1401

Namirah Jamshed, MD
Associate Professor, Geriatric Medicine
Namirah.Jamshed@UTSouthwestern.edu
Pager: 214-786-9900

Sarah Wingfield, MD
Associate Professor, Geriatric Medicine
Sarah.Wingfield@UTSouthwestern.edu
Pager: 214-786-5140