

# **The Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Institute (TEAM)**

Co-directors: Carmel Bitondo Dyer, MD and James Booker, MA

- The *first* medical school-public hospital-state collaboration in the US –established 1997
  - University of Texas -Baylor College of Medicine – Harris County Hospital District – Adult Protective Services of Texas (APS) are the major participants
- **Mission** – To improve the lives of mistreated elders through clinical care, education and research
- **Clinical Care**
  - TEAM has provided care for over 2000 mistreated elders giving the members the largest clinical experience in the US – since 1995
  - The novel process involves: 1.) An Adult Protective Service investigation 2.) Targeted geriatric assessment 3.) Joint APS and medical team interventions 4.) Medical and social follow-up
  - Two replication sites were funded by the Department of Justice in LA and OH
  - Piloted the first teleconsultation program for APS workers
  - Started a Financial Abuse Specialist TEAM in Harris County – since 2007
- **Forensic Medicine**
  - TEAM members collaborate with the Harris County Medical Examiner’s Office on joint research and education projects
  - Operate the Harris County Elder Abuse Fatality review team (EFFORT), a multi-agency monthly review of the systemic issues involved in suspicious elder deaths – since 2001
  - Currently working on the largest death study in the US of elder mistreatment victims
- **Education** : professionals and the public at national, local and regional venues
  - Team members have presented at over 300 occasions and published over 50 papers
  - Developed an 8 hour curriculum to train clinicians funded by the Dept. of Justice
  - HRSA funded the Houston Geriatric Center which addresses issues by vulnerable elders
  - Reynolds Foundation funds used to train elder mistreatment intervention teams
- **Research**
  - Topics include: elder deaths, health care costs of mistreated elders, forensic markers, risk factors for elder mistreatment
  - The NIH funded CREST the Consortium for Research in Elder Self-neglect of Texas to conduct multiple studies unfortunate elders who seriously neglect themselves (2004-2008)
  - Received funding from the Borchard Foundation, AHRQ and NIH in 2009
- **National Recognition**
  - Consultations provided to the Dept. of Justice, the National Research Council, the FBI, CDC
  - Testimony before the US Senate Finance Committee (2002)
  - Named one of the two best practices in the US by the Senate Special Committee on Aging (2004)
- **Collaborators**
  - University of Texas and Baylor Medical Schools: geriatricians, nurse practitioners, gerontologists, ethicists, social workers, therapists, psychiatrist, nurses
  - APS: Supervisors, regional director, program administrators, case workers
  - Harris County Hospital District – Forensic Nurse Program
  - Harris County Medical Examiner’s Office
  - Harris County District Attorney’s Office: prosecutor, victim advocate
  - Houston Police Department – Harris County Sheriff’s Office – Houston Area Women’s Center – Area Agency on Aging and many more

**UNIQUE – CUTTING EDGE – INTERDISCIPLINARY—SERVING STATE, NATIONAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**