



*Carmel Bitondo Dyer, MD, AGSF,  
FACP*  
Gerontological Professional of the Year  
2007

Dr. Carmel Bitondo Dyer is a geriatrician and director of the Geriatric Medicine Division at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston. She holds the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Chair in Gerontology. She graduated from medical school at Baylor in 1988 and in 1993 after completing Internal Medicine Residency and Geriatrics Fellowship, she was recruited by Baylor to establish and direct the Geriatrics Program at the Harris County Hospital District. She developed a comprehensive geriatric program that includes an inpatient unit, a skilled nursing unit, an outpatient clinic program, and geriatric consultation service. The program also includes a house call team which serves Harris County; in 2004 the team made over 620 house calls to frail, invalid elders. She formed an interdisciplinary training program in each of these clinical sites and since 1993 she and her faculty have trained over 1000 physicians, nurses and social workers in the application of state of the art geriatric medical care.

In 1995 her program came to the attention of Adult Protective Services (APS) and the two organizations began to work together to provide medical care for abused elderly. In 1997, the relationship was formalized and the Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment (TEAM) Institute, the first medical school, state APS alliance in the country was begun. Under Dr. Dyer's leadership the TEAM Institute has provided care to over 1000 abused or neglected seniors. A 2002 White Paper from the Senate Special Committee on Aging named the TEAM Institute one of the two best clinical programs in the US serving mistreated elders. The TEAM Institute is being replicated in two other states, OH and LA through Department of Justice (DOJ) grant funding. TEAM Members have educated thousands on the prevention and intervention of elder mistreatment. Most recently they completed the development of a comprehensive curriculum to educate health care providers about elder mistreatment through a grant from the DOJ, Office of Victims of Crime. TEAM has conducted multiple research projects and is presently working on a study of elder deaths due to mistreatment, which is funded through the DOJ and the National Institute of Justice. In 2004, the National Institutes of Health awarded Dr. Dyer and the TEAM Institute a grant to develop an interdisciplinary consortium to study elder self-neglect, the most common form of elder mistreatment. This Consortium for Research in Elder Self-neglect of Texas or CREST involves faculty from Baylor, University of Texas in Houston and Galveston, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, and NASA. CREST is conducting cutting edge research to improve the lives of mistreated elders and is one of only 15 grants ever awarded

in this field.

Dr. Carmel Bitondo Dyer is the author of over 40 manuscripts and chapters, principle investigator in five active grants and has made over 150 presentations in the area of geriatric medicine and elder mistreatment. She is the recipient of multiple teaching awards, was the 2003 Physician of the Year for the Harris County Hospital District, and in 2002 addressed the US Senate Finance Committee on behalf of mistreated elders. She is a member of multiple societies, is past-president of the Texas Geriatrics Society and as a member of the American Geriatric Society. In January of 2007 she was recruited to The University of Texas Medical School at Houston to start a division of geriatric medicine in the department of internal medicine where she will continue to work hard to improve health care for older Texans at as a UT physician.