

Team Bios

Mindy Fain, MD | Project Director

Dr. Fain is the Anne & Alden Hart Endowed Chair of Medicine and Professor of Medicine and Nursing at the University of Arizona, where she serves as Division Chief of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Medicine, and co-Director of the University of Arizona Center on Aging. Board certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, and Hospice and Palliative Medicine, she brings over 30 years of experience in home-based primary care, interprofessional geriatric education, and community-based care. Dr. Fain leads the HRSA-funded Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (AZ-GWEP) and co-leads the UA–Banner Age-Friendly Health System initiative. Her work focuses on improving the health and well-being of diverse older adults through education, clinical care, and community partnerships.

Lisa O'Neill, DBH, MPH | Program Manager

Dr. O'Neill is the Associate Director of Education and Policy at the University of Arizona Center on Aging, a Clinical Assistant Professor for the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Medicine, and the Program Manager for the Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (AZ-GWEP). She has extensive experience managing interprofessional geriatric education and training programs. A recognized leader in aging policy, Dr. O'Neill serves on multiple state advisory groups and boards, including the Arizona Governor's Advisory Council on Aging and Senator Mark Kelly's Senior Citizen Advisory Group. She was named Gerontologist of the Year by the Arizona Geriatrics Society and is a 2019-2020 Health and Aging Policy Fellow.

Becca Tardiff, BS | Program Coordinator

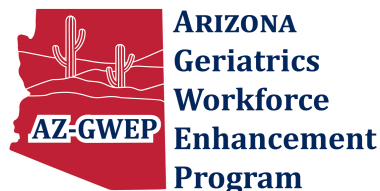
Ms. Tardiff serves as the Program Coordinator for the Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (AZ-GWEP) at the University of Arizona Center on Aging. For over 11 years, she has supported the coordination and evaluation of complex statewide grants, including federal and private initiatives. She manages the Advances in Aging Lecture Series, develops educational and outreach materials, and has led projects such as the Age-Friendly Health System and Delirium Prevention and Management initiatives. With expertise in program management, evaluation, and interprofessional collaboration, she is dedicated to advancing geriatric education and improving care for older adults across Arizona.

Margaret Proffitt, MET | Instructional Designer

Ms. Proffitt is the Instructional Designer for the Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (AZ-GWEP) at the University of Arizona Center on Aging. She specializes in adult learning theory and curriculum development for both online and in-person education. She has extensive experience designing and producing curriculum and training materials—including online courses, videos, and facilitator guides—that educate students as well as healthcare and supportive care workforces in the care of older adults. Her work focuses on developing curriculum that promotes age-friendly and dementia-friendly care for older adults.

Darlene Lopez, MA | Program Evaluator

Ms. Lopez is the Program Evaluator for the Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (AZ-GWEP) at the University of Arizona. She also serves as Program Evaluator for the University of Arizona Health Sciences Student Engagement and Career Advancement Office, where she leads evaluation for the HRSA-funded Arizona Health Opportunities Pathways to Excellence (AZ-HOPE) program. With extensive experience evaluating statewide and federally funded initiatives in health, education, and community programs, she brings strong expertise in research, public health and program evaluation to her role with AZ-GWEP.



Partners

University of Arizona Center on Aging

The University of Arizona Center on Aging promotes long, healthy and functional lives for older adults through comprehensive programs in research, education and training, clinical care and community engagement. They strive to improve quality of life and to extend the healthspan of older adults.

University of Arizona Center for Rural Health

The Center for Rural Health works to improve the health and wellness of Arizona's rural and underserved populations through providing education and technical assistance to hospitals and providers, training and retaining health professionals, and sharing data and resources to inform policies and programs that strengthen rural health.

University of Arizona Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy

The Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy at the University of Arizona advance health education and practice through collaborative training, research, and clinical care, preparing future health professionals to meet the needs of diverse communities across the state.

Arizona State University College of Nursing and Health Innovation

Arizona State University College of Nursing and Health Innovations is distinguished as a model for excellence and inspiration in nursing and interprofessional practice, education, and research to advance knowledge and innovative practice models, and new solutions to optimize the health and well-being of our diverse local, national and global communities.

Northern Arizona University Department of Social Work

Northern Arizona University's Department of Social Work is geared toward serving rural and Indigenous populations across the Southwest. This program prepares students to work with diverse individuals and communities. Through a blend of theory and hands-on experience, participants gain the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to support those in need and to advocate for policies that promote health and well-being across generations, cultures, and communities.

Arizona Health Care Association

The Arizona Health Care Association (AHCA) is the state's largest professional association and advocacy organization for long-term care, representing skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities across Arizona. AHCA supports its members in delivering the highest quality of care to residents and serves as a trusted resource for information, education, and career opportunities in the long-term care field.

Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter

The Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter provides education, support, and care resources for individuals, families, and caregivers throughout Arizona and southern Nevada. As part of the national Alzheimer's Association, the chapter advances the mission to end Alzheimer's and all other dementias through research, awareness, early detection, and quality care — working toward a world without Alzheimer's.

Banner Alzheimer's Institute

The Banner Alzheimer's Institute (BAI) is a global leader in Alzheimer's research, prevention, and care. With locations in Phoenix and Tucson, BAI conducts groundbreaking prevention studies and offers comprehensive diagnostic, clinical, and caregiver support programs. Its mission is clear and urgent — to end Alzheimer's disease as soon as possible.