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Program offers continuing education on diabetes and health literacy

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MISSOULA – The Montana Geriatric Education Center at The University of Montana will host a daylong continuing education program for health professionals, students and educators who want to further their knowledge of diabetes and health literacy in older populations.

“Improving Health Literacy and Diabetes Outcomes in Older Persons” will cover recent developments in the treatment and self-management of diabetes in the elderly; the prevalence and impact of health literacy, particularly in older persons; and successful models of diabetes care for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

A group of experts will present the program from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13, in UM’s Todd Building Room 203. It is free for students, $65 for professionals and educators who wish to receive continuing education or continuing medical education credits, and $25 for all others. Advance registration is required for all attendees and is available online at http://www.nwrei.org/index.php?page=116. The program also will be broadcast to more than 20 videoconference sites across Montana.

Topics and their presenters are:

- “Understanding Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome: Improving Treatment Strategies,” Christopher Sorli, medical director of diabetes services, Billings Clinic.
• “Diabetes Self-Care in Older Adults: Knowledge is Not Enough,” Betty Brackenridge, director of professional training, Diabetes Management and Training Center, Phoenix.

• “Literacy, Health Communication and Diabetes,” Dean Schillinger, director of the Center for Vulnerable Populations at the University of California, San Francisco, and primary care physician, San Francisco General Hospital.

• “Diabetes Care for American Indians and Alaska Natives: Successful Outcomes and Evolving Best Practices,” Kelly Acton, director, Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention at the Indian Health Service in Albuquerque, N.M.

The event is sponsored by the Montana Geriatric Education Center in cooperation with the Northwest Research and Education Institute, the Montana Gerontology Society and the Skaggs School of Pharmacy at UM.

MTGEC operates on a three-year grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. The center is part of a consortium that includes the Northwest Research and Education Institute in Billings and Montana Tech in Butte. The center provides interdisciplinary geriatric education and training for Montana health professionals, higher education faculty and health profession students.

More information about the center is online at http://mtgec.umontana.edu.

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