

# Elder Abuse Curricula and Research Translations in Family Medicine Residency

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## BACKGROUND

- Elder mistreatment impacts the health of millions of older adults each year, yet is often undetected and unreported.
- Physicians are well positioned to detect and respond to cases of elder mistreatment, and indeed are mandated reporters.
- Physicians are rarely trained to screen for, recognize, or respond to elder mistreatment.
- Residency is an ideal time for such training.

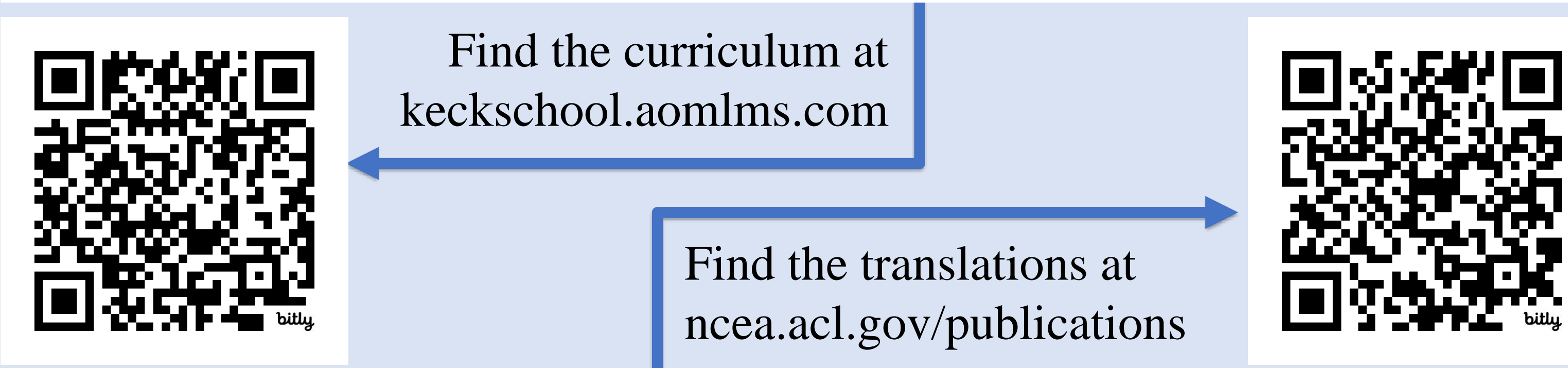
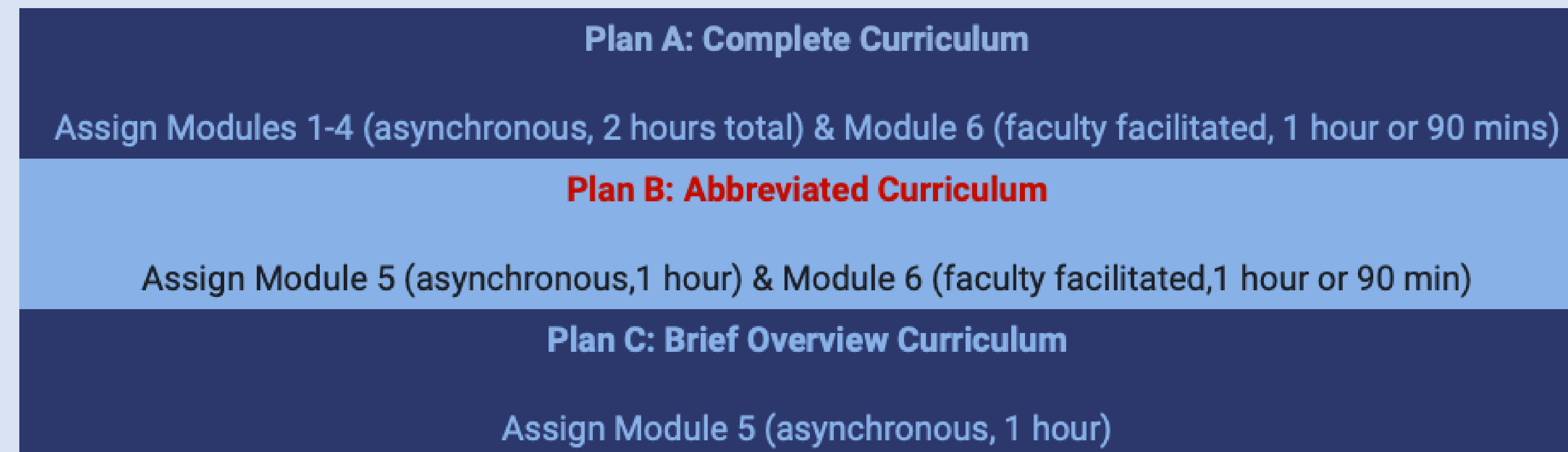
## PURPOSE

To describe an educational initiative for introducing medical residents to the field of elder mistreatment in its many dimensions, including research, professional practice, and interactions between the two.



USC Judith D. Tamkin  
Symposium on Elder Abuse

This project integrates an elder abuse curriculum into medical residency, promotes scholarly writing among residents, and draws residents into an ecosystem of care for older adults – especially those at risk of or experiencing elder mistreatment.



## RESEARCH TRANSLATIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS

- Primary Care-Based Interventions Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older People
- Risk and Protective Factors of Elder Abuse for Community-Dwelling Racial Minorities
- Adverse Health Correlates of Intimate Partner Violence Against Older Women
- Addressing the Psychological Impact of Elder Mistreatment Through a Community-Based Training and Treatment Intervention
- Are Adverse Childhood Experiences Associated With Greater Risk of Elder Abuse Victimization?
- Comparing CMS Standard Surveys and Complaint Investigations
- Cumulative Contexts of Vulnerability to Intimate Partner Violence Among Women With Disabilities, Elderly Women, and Immigrant Women
- Identifying Patterns of Health Care Utilization Among Physical Elder Abuse Victims Using Medicare Data
- Is There a Relationship Between Elder Abuse and the Opioid Epidemic?
- Medical & Social Factors Associated with Referral for Elder Abuse Services in a National Health Care System
- Perceived Social Support & Help-Seeking Among U.S. Chinese Older Adults Who Reported Elder Mistreatment
- Which Chronic Diseases in Older Adults Increase the Risk of Elder Mistreatment and Why?
- What Characteristics in Older Adults Increase the Likelihood that Their Fractures are Related to Abuse?

## CURRICULUM

1. Residents complete the “Elder Abuse Curriculum for Medical Residents and Geriatric Fellows”, developed to teach about signs of abuse, risk factors, screening, detection, barriers to disclosure, and reporting protocols, with the goal to optimize opportunities for elder abuse prevention, identification, and intervention.
2. Residents choose a study from the field of elder mistreatment research that connects to their own interests as primary care physicians, and summarize that study's pertinent findings and applications to professional practice.
3. This summary is professionally formatted into a "Research Translation" brief and made available on the website of the National Center on Elder Abuse.

## IMPACT

- The “Elder Abuse Curriculum for Medical Residents and Geriatric Fellows” increased understanding and confidence among emerging physicians in identifying and responding to elder mistreatment, which may advance abuse prevention and harm reduction, improving outcomes for victims.
- As of February 2024, there are 13 resident-created Research Translation briefs online, available to professionals, policymakers, the media, and the public.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

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