

Dr. Maria Chung

Dr. Maria Chung has worked as a Geriatric Medicine consultant for almost 35 years, caring for frail elderly patients in hospitals, clinics, and the community. As well as being a faculty member of the Division of Geriatric Medicine, she is also an Associate member of the Division of Palliative Care. Dr. Chung has a special interest in the provision of culturally safe care for the elderly, as well as in the prevention of abuse and in the assessment of capacity to make personal, medical, and financial decisions.

Cognitive and mental health issues are common in this patient population and are often underrecognized and undertreated, as a patient's family members and caregivers may misunderstand their symptoms as a normal part of aging. This may especially be true in patients from minority backgrounds, especially if there are language barriers. Because the elderly can often be physically and mentally frail, they may be more at risk for abuse. She has had the privilege of teaching medical students, residents, Fellows and practicing physicians about the importance of recognizing these issues.

