

Preface

The New Geriatric Giants



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Editor

In 1965, Bernard Isaacs coined the term “geriatric giants.” At that time, he named the geriatric giants as immobility, instability, incontinence, and impaired intellect/memory.¹ Over the subsequent fifty years, geriatrics has evolved, and today, the understanding of the modern “geriatric giants” has evolved to encompass the four new syndromes of frailty,² sarcopenia,³ the anorexia of aging,⁴ and cognitive impairment.⁵ These conditions are the harbingers of falls,⁶ hip fractures,⁷ depression,⁸ and delirium.⁹ In this issue of the *Clinics in Geriatric Medicine*, we discuss in detail these “modern giants of geriatrics” and how early detection of these syndromes and intervention to correct these early signs of accelerated aging can reduce disability, hospitalization, institutionalization, and mortality.¹⁰

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