IBJ Names Dr. Boustani a Health Care Hero for Advancement in Health Care

IU Geriatrics and the IU Center for Aging Research congratulate Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH who was chosen this spring by the Indiana Business Journal as a 2014 Health Care Hero.

Many of us who work beside and collaborate with Dr. Boustani are aware of his accomplishments and his professional successes since joining the faculty in 2002. Colleagues recognize Aging Brain Care, the Healthy Aging Brain Care Monitor, the HABC Anticholinergic Cognitive Burden Scale, and the eMR-ABC, as our everyday workhorses.

But what do these monikers mean to health care consumers and to health care systems? Take a look at the IBJ’s excellent description of Dr. Boustani and his team’s innovative work that moved—with speed—Aging Brain Care from the research lab to the world.

When Dr. Boustani was a finalist in the 2013 Health Care Hero physician category, he considered building the Healthy Aging Brain Center and developing the Aging Brain Care program as his greatest accomplishments. “It’s been like completing the circle of life for me,” he said.

What drives him now? “I can’t stop seeing patients,” he said, “because they are the source of my innovation.”

Dr. Keith Joins IU Center for Aging Research

What do Top 10 by 2025, NHLBI K01, and Fuel Up to Play 60 have in common? They’re numbers at the heart—figuratively and literally—of Dr. NiCole Keith’s professional expertise and personal passion.

Dr. Keith is associate professor of kinesiology at IUPUI and is a 2014 recruit to the IU Center for Aging Research and the Regenstrief Institute community of scholars. Her degrees include a doctor of philosophy in exercise physiology from the University of Connecticut Neag School of Education and a master of science in clinical research from the IU School of Medicine.

Using her expertise in health disparities, physical activity, and aging, Dr. Keith conducts research that evaluates the impact of health promotion activities on delaying decreased fitness and functional decline. She seeks to use physical activity as an inexpensive and accessible method of reducing the racial and socioeconomic health disparities gap.

While Dr. Keith’s focus as an exercise physiologist and researcher is improving fitness in older adults, she maintains professional ties to associations that serve a variety of constituencies. She will begin duties as a vice president of the American College of Sports Medicine following the May 2014 ACSM Annual Meeting. She is a member of the Society of Behavioral Medicine and belongs to SBM’s Ethnic Minority & Multicultural Health and the Physical Activity Special Interest Groups.

“We recruited Dr. Keith because we want to build our portfolio of research in prevention, fitness, and weight gain prevention,” notes IU-CAR director Chris Callahan, MD. He invites readers to ask Dr. Keith about her connection to the 2012 Super Bowl in Indianapolis.
RESPECT Center Hosts Statewide Conference
The Research in Palliative and End-of-Life Communication and Training (RESPECT) Center hosted a day-long conference in March at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, Indiana.

The theme, Let’s Talk Palliative Care: Improving Care for Seriously Ill Patients and their Families, brought together clinicians and researchers interested in evidence-based palliative and end-of-life care to help enhance clinical practice and foster new partnerships for translational research.

Center co-directors Greg Sachs, MD, Susan Hickman, PhD, and Joanne Haase, PhD, RN welcomed attendees.

A featured speaker, James A. Tulsky, MD, presented “Good Communication is Not Magic: An Empirical Approach to Talking with Seriously Ill Patients." He is professor of medicine and nursing and the director of the Center for Palliative Care at Duke University.

Faculty members with ties to IU Geriatrics and the IU Center for Aging Research are leaders in the Center and had key roles in the conference.

- Alexia Torke, MD, MS, moderated the Rapid Fire Poster Session, “Innovations and Best Practices in Palliative Care.”
- Kathleen T. Unroe, MD, MHA, presented the poster “Hospice in Nursing Homes: Perspectives of Front Line Staff.” Chris Callahan, MD was a co-author.
- Alexia Torke, MD, MS, was a co-author on the poster, “The Component of Trust in End of Life Decision Making in the NICU: Parent Perspectives.”
- Greg Sachs moderated and Susan Hickman participated on a panel discussing “Legislative Hot Topics: POST Implementation and Opioid Regulations.”
- Greg Sachs presented “The Last Frontier: Palliative Care for People with Dementia.”
- Ella Bowman, PhD, MD; Greg Sachs, Susan Hickman and Joanne Haase, and RESPECT Project Manager Laura Holtz, BS, CCRP, were members of the Conference Planning Committee.

Indiana Geriatrics Society Presents Annual Spring Dinner Meeting
IGS President Kathy Frank, RN, PhD, welcomed members and guests to the Indiana Geriatrics Society’s 8th Annual Spring Dinner Meeting in March at the Renaissance Indianapolis North Hotel.

Following a reception and dinner, guest speaker Michael Wasserman, MD, presented “The Business of Geriatrics: Not an Oxymoron.” Dr. Wasserman is a board certified geriatrician and co-founder of Senior Care of Colorado.

The Indiana Geriatrics Society is a state affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society and is an interdisciplinary organization for those interested in the care of older adults in Indiana. This is a statewide initiative to enhance the visibility of geriatric medicine and the entire interdisciplinary team, to provide educational programs, and to collaborate with the American Geriatrics Society on public policy issues.

Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center Hosts Scientific Symposium
The Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center (IADC) presented its 2014 Scientific Symposium on Alzheimer’s Disease: Early Detection and Intervention in March at the IU Health Neuroscience Center in Indianapolis.

While the event is designed for scientists and clinicians, family members and the community also attended to hear updates on current research at the IADC and in the field. Topics included neuroimaging using biomarkers, genetics, treatments including exercise, and promising early interventions. A special CME session on assessing elderly patient's vulnerability to fraud was offered.

Principal investigator Chris Callahan, MD presented “Testing Interventions in the Home: The ADMIT Trial.” The Alzheimer’s Disease Multi-Intervention Trial is an R01 funded by the NIA.

ADMIT research team member and first author Lauren Bracey presented the poster, “Alzheimer’s Disease Multiple Intervention Trial (ADMIT).” Co-authors were project coordinator Denisha Ferguson, AA, and research assistant Brittany Bernard, BS. Research assistant Abby Sachs and Mungai Maina also represented the team at the conference.
**From the IUSM NEWSROOM**

**Back to basics: Redesigning systems of care for older adults with Alzheimer's disease**

April 8, 2014

INDIANAPOLIS -- The number of older adults with dementia in the United States is forecast to more than double over the next 40 years. Caring for these individuals will have a significant impact on caregivers as well as the health care system and its workforce.

In a paper published in the April issue of the peer-reviewed journal Health Affairs, Regenstrief Institute investigator and IU-CAR director Christopher M. Callahan, MD, reviews two new dementia care models that seek to decrease stress for caregivers, reduce health care costs and improve quality of care for older adults.

Dr. Sha became active in the Indiana Chapter during his training years at the IUSM, followed by accomplishments as governor-elect and governor of the Indiana Chapter from 2007-2012:

- Elected chair of the national ACP Council of Young Physicians in 2004
- Made "unparalleled" contributions at the ACP Annual Meeting
- Hired an executive director who brought professional management to the chapter
- Secured financial footing for the chapter
- Helped develop national ACP policies and services
- Expanded the chapter and attendance ~50%
- Developed collaborations with the Indiana Medical Directors Association
- Addressed the needs of segments of the chapter by creating segment-focused Councils

Dr. Sha is a geriatrician and medical director of the Indianapolis VAMC Primary Care Geriatrics Teaching Clinic.

**JAGS Features Publication by Dr. Iloabuchi**

Congratulations to Tochukwu Iloabuchi, MD, MS, for his role as first author of "Risk Factors for Early Hospital Readmission in Low-Income Elderly Adults" which was published in the March 2014 Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

The article was based on a 24-month study that identified risk factors for readmission in low-income seniors and was based on data collected in the Geriatric Resources for Assessment and Care of Elders (GRACE) trial. The study found that a broad range of nonmedical risk factors played a greater role than previously recognized in early hospital readmission of low-income seniors.

Dr. Iloabuchi completed a Geriatric Medicine Fellowship at IU Geriatrics and joined the IUSM faculty in 2012. He currently sees patients in the Eskenazi Health Center for Senior Health, Eskenazi Health Extended Care Service, IU Health Methodist Senior Health Center and IU Health Nursing Home Service. He is active in teaching programs throughout the patient care settings.

**Innovative, coordinated brain care could save billions of health care dollars**

April 8, 2014

INDIANAPOLIS -- Studies have shown that a new patient and caregiver centered model of innovative, coordinated brain care for older adults improves health outcomes and quality of care for those with cognitive impairment. A new study from the Regenstrief Institute, Eskenazi Health and Indiana University Center for Aging Research Implementation scientists who developed the Healthy Aging Brain Center care model shows that such care also produces impressive cost savings.
Professional Activities

Steve Counsell, MD was invited by America’s Essential Hospitals to speak in Boston on February 27, 2014 to a learning collaborative of 6 safety net hospitals in Massachusetts. Participants were interested in learning about the GRACE model as they work to implement evidence-based complex care management programs for high risk patient populations.

Steve Counsell, MD served as Visiting Professor at North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System in New Hyde Park, NY on March 6, 2014. He met with Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine faculty and trainees and health system leaders to discuss geriatric care strategies; in addition to presenting Medicine Grand Rounds titled, “GRACE Team Care – An Innovative Model of Care for Vulnerable Elders”.

Publications


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