IU Geriatrics Welcomes Geriatric Medicine Fellows

Felipe P. Perez, MD, director of the IU Geriatric Medicine Fellowship, welcomed three new PGY4 fellows for the 2011-2012 academic year. They are pictured left to right, Asha Chakka, MD, Alex Garrido, MD, and Alicia Scott-Wright, MD, ScD. They join advanced geriatrics fellows PGY5 Tochukwu “Toch” Iloabuchi, MD, and PGY7 Heather Riggs, MD.

Prior to arriving at Indiana University, Dr. Chakka completed her medical degree at the Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad, India and an internal medicine residency at the Interfaith Medical Center, an affiliate of SUNY in Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Garrido completed a family medicine residency at IU where he was chief resident in 2010-2011. He graduated from medical school at the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Colombia. He plans to practice family medicine.

Dr. Scott-Wright looks forward to honing her clinical skills at IU. Her background includes master’s level training in public health & tropical medicine and in medical informatics, and she has a doctor of science in health policy and management from the Harvard School of Public Health.

IU Geriatrics Welcomes Geriatric Medicine Fellows

She completed her MD degree at Albert Einstein, Yeshiva University, Bronx, NY.

Dr. Iloabuchi completed his one year clinical fellowship at IU Geriatrics. This year’s advanced activities include working with Dr. Steve Counsell on publishing GRACE data and with Dr. Arif Nazir on skilled nursing facility curriculum development. Consistent with his passion of disseminating best geriatrics practices through patient care and clinical education, he will complete the Academy of Teaching Scholars Tier 2 program and update the resident geriatric modules.

Dr. Riggs is entering her fourth year in a combined Geriatric-Hematology/Oncology fellowship. The first year two years focused on clinical geriatrics and clinical hematology/oncology. The final two years are primarily research combining the two sub-specialties.

Dr. Beck Honored for Senior Care at Wishard Service and Leadership

Accolades, awards and smiling faces awaited Robin Beck, MD on March 30, 2011, as colleagues gathered to celebrate her service to Senior Care at Wishard. After nearly six years as medical director of the program, Dr. Beck is shifting the focus of her work to increase direct patient care and advance the House Calls for Seniors Program.

Speakers Steve Counsell, MD, director of IU Geriatrics and Beth Nikides, manager of Senior Care at Wishard, expressed gratitude and praise for Dr. Beck’s outstanding leadership of Senior Care and dedication to the program’s patients. They presented her with a plaque and crystal award to commemorate her contributions.

A tribute by Wishard President and CEO Lisa Harris, MD, brought the crowd to their feet in a standing ovation for Dr. Beck.

In a new role as associate medical director for Senior care, Dr. Beck will provide ongoing leadership in the areas of quality, documentation and coding, and e-prescribing. She will help the program continue to move toward “medical home” certification for House Calls and the IU Center for Senior Health.

A national search is under way to identify her successor. Fortunately for Wishard’s seniors, Dr. Beck will log many more miles as she and her patients continue their relationship with LivingLongerBetter.org.
Dr. Tu Promoted to Professor
The IU Center for Aging Research congratulates Center Scientist **Wanzhu Tu, PhD**, whose promotion to professor has been approved by the IU Board of Trustees.

Dr. Tu is a biostatistician who conducts his own independent research, and currently is the PI of two NIH-funded R01’s. He also collaborates with colleagues in aging research and health services research.

Dr. Tu completed a PhD in Statistics at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, in 1997. Before joining the IUSM faculty in 1999, he was a post-doctoral fellow in the Division of Biostatistics, now the Department of Biostatistics.

Presentations and Professional Activities

---

**Jesse Stewart, PhD**, is the PI of “**Computer-Based Depression Treatment to Reduce Coronary Artery Disease Risk**,” a pilot clinical trial funded through the National Clinical Research Program of the American Heart Association.

**Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH**, is the president of the **American Delirium Society** which held its inaugural meeting in June 2011, in Indianapolis. The ADS fulfills the leadership role in the US for advancing professional, consumer, governmental and health-industry knowledge concerning delirium and the most promising strategies for minimizing its human and capital costs.

**Noll Campbell, PharmD, FASCP, BCPP**, presented “**Enhancing the Care of Hospitalized Older Adults with Memory Problems (eCHAMP)**” at the 2011 meeting of the American Delirium Society.

**Cathy Schubert, MD**, was a moderator and presented “**ACE: Heading off Problems Before They Start**” and “**GRACE: Concept and Application**” at the Veterans Health Administration Employee Education System’s conference, **Safe Acute and Urgent Care for Frail Elderly Veterans** held in June in Indianapolis.

**Arif Nazir, MD**, presented the poster “**A New Tool for Delirium Screening in Skilled Nursing Facilities**” and made a state chapter working session presentation, “**Indiana Medical Directors Association (IMDA) Was not Rebuilt in a Day!**” at the **AMDA** Long Term Care Medicine 2011 conference held in March in Tampa, Florida.

**Kevin Terrell, DO, MS**, has been named a member of the Board of Directors for the **Indiana Health Care Policy Institute**. The Institute’s mission is to promote healthcare issues concerning aged, and chronically ill Hoosiers. Its multi-disciplinary group conducts research on key issues in long-term care health policy with outcomes that help shape Indiana’s LTC policy.

**Steve Counsell, MD** was quoted in an article “**Shortage of geriatrics specialists growing**” in the April 24, 2011 edition of **USA Today**. The article mentions **GRACE—Geriatric Resources for Assessment and Care of Elders** as a successful model for teams of health care providers working in concert with geriatricians.
IU GERIATRICS e-news July 2011

Publications


From the IUSM NEWSROOM

Common Drugs Linked to Cognitive Impairment and Possibly to Increased Risk of Death
June 24, 2011

INDIANAPOLIS -- A large, long-term study confirms that medications with anticholinergic activity, which include many drugs frequently taken by older adults, cause cognitive impairment. The research is also the first to identify a possible link between these drugs – which include over-the-counter and prescription sleep aids and incontinence treatments – and risk of death. Read more...

Writing DNR Orders Takes Longer, Death More Likely When Surrogate Decision-Maker Involved
July 11, 2011

INDIANAPOLIS -- Indiana University and Regenstrief Institute researchers report that it takes significantly longer for orders to forgo resuscitation in the event of cardiac arrest to be written for patients who had that decision made for them by a surrogate decision-maker compared to patients who made their own decisions, even though patients with a surrogate were sicker and the resuscitation issue might arise sooner. Read more...

The IU GERIATRICS e-news archive is available at medicine.iupui.edu/Geriatrics/News/. To subscribe, unsubscribe or send e-news comments, call 317-423-5396, or email Nancy Buchanan or Kathy Frank, RN, PhD.