IU GERIATRICS e-news for NOVEMBER 2004

The IU Geriatrics Program and the IU Center for Aging Research are thankful for the dedicated faculty and staff members who work with our geriatrics family. We will all miss Amna Buttar, MD, MS but plan to keep in close contact with her as she begins her new position at the University of Wisconsin Medical Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Center for Aging Research welcomes Kevin Terrell, DO, MS, and Lisa Riolo, PhD, PT, NCS, as affiliated scientists.

Dr. Terrell is assistant professor of clinical emergency medicine and has been on the IU School of Medicine faculty since completing his EM residency training here in 2000. In 2004 he was awarded a Dennis W. Jahnigen Career Development Scholars Award which funds his research, "Computer-Assisted Decision Support to Increase the Safety of Prescribing to Older Adults in the Emergency Department." Dr. Terrell also is a co-investigator on the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation-funded project "Geriatrics Education Network of Indiana (GENI): A Statewide Dissemination of Geriatrics Training." He is an affiliated scientist with Regenstrief Institute, Inc.

Dr. Riolo has been on faculty at Quinnipiac University, Emory University, and University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center before joining the IU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences as professor and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy in 2004. Dr. Riolo’s research interests include the interface between cognition and mobility and the role of attention in falling in older adults. Her clinical experience has focused on neurologic and geriatric rehabilitation, specifically acute rehabilitation for patients with brain injury and stroke and balance retraining for elders.

Cathy Schubert, MD, assistant professor of clinical medicine, has assumed the directorship of the IU Center for Senior Health at Wishard Health Services, located on the 4th floor of the Regenstrief Health Center. The IU Center for Senior Health provides outpatient geriatrics consultation, primary care for frail elderly, and specialty consultation including geriatric psychiatry, neurology, PM&R, and podiatry.

Yousef Sennour, MD, assistant professor of clinical medicine, has assumed the directorship of the Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit at Wishard Memorial Hospital. Youcef will lead the ACE Interdisciplinary Team to provide geriatric assessment and consultation to older patients admitted to the 24-bed ACE Unit and throughout Wishard Hospital. He also provides ACE consultations at Methodist Hospital where he continues to see older adults in the Center for Geriatric Medicine.

PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS at GSA
IU Center for Aging Research and IU Geriatrics Program personnel presented papers and symposiums and represented the program on national geriatrics committees during the 57th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America held in Washington, DC, November 19-23, 2004. The program for this meeting was organized around the four sections of the society: Biological Sciences; Clinical Medicine; Behavioral and Social Sciences; and Social Research, Policy and Practice.

Steve Counsell, MD, co-chaired the meeting of the American Geriatrics Society Public Policy Advisory Group and participated in meetings as a member of the AGS Education Committee and Association of Directors of Geriatrics Academic Programs all held in conjunction with the GSA meeting in Washington, DC November 19-20, 2004.

Doug Miller, MD, joined research colleagues to present two papers, “Cognitive Ability and Lower Body Function in Middle Aged African Americans” and “Sub-Clinical Disability Predicts the Onset of Frank Disability in 1-2 Years.” The papers reported on data from the African American Health project, a population-based panel study of 998 African Americans born in 1936-1950 from two diverse socioeconomic areas of St. Louis, MO.

Mary Guerriero Austrom, PhD, and Hugh Hendrie, MB, ChB, DSc, co-chaired the symposium “Providing Resources Early to Vulnerable Elders Needing Treatment for Memory Loss--PREVENT.” Representatives from the NIA attended to hear the following members of the PREVENT team report on our local randomized trial testing a comprehensive dementia screening, diagnosis and management program for older adults with Alzheimer’s Disease:

Hugh Hendrie presented “The Feasibility and Utility of a Comprehensive Screening and Diagnosis Program for Dementia in Primary Care.” (Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH was the author.) Dr. Hendrie also presented "Pharmacological Strategies for Treating Alzheimer Disease and Associated Behavioral Symptoms” and was a discussant for the symposium.

Cora Hartwell, RN, ANP, presented “The Role of the Geriatric Nurse Practitioner.” Trish Moore, RN, MSN, CNS, was a co-author.

Mary Guerriero Austrom presented “Non-pharmacological Intervention Strategies and Caregiver Support.”

Teresa Damush, PhD, presented “Promoting Physical Activity in Patients with Alzheimer Disease.”

Mary Guerriero Austrom and Hugh Hendrie co-chaired the symposium “Minority Recruitment Opportunities and Challenges: Programs of NIA-Funded Alzheimer Disease Center Education Cores.”

PRESENTATIONS
Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, presented “Diagnosis and Treatment of the Agitated Patient” at Grand Rounds on October 27, 2004, at the Bluffton Regional Medical Center in Bluffton, Indiana.

Mary Guerriero Austrom, PhD, Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, Teresa Damush, PhD, and Cora Hartwell, RN, ANP, presented the PREVENT Study at the 11th Annual IN Conference on AD sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association, Nov. 3-4, Indianapolis, IN.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
As a member of the National Advisory Committee, Chris Callahan, MD, attended the 2004 Annual Grantee Meeting of the national program, Depression in Primary Care: Linking Clinical and System Strategies, November 18-19, in Los Angeles, CA. Sponsored and funded for 5 years with $12 million by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the program goal is to increase the use of effective models for treating depression in primary care settings. The advisory committee assists in the evaluation of proposals, participates in site visits, and makes recommendations to the national program office regarding program elements.
The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation made a site visit to IU on November 30, 2004. Dr. Marie Bernard, Professor and Chair of The Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatric Medicine and Director of the Oklahoma Geriatric Education Center, University of Oklahoma, joined Rani Snyder, Senior Program Officer, National Programs from the Reynolds Foundation as reviewers. They interviewed the Steering Committee for the Geriatrics Education Network of Indiana (GENI): A Statewide Dissemination of Geriatrics Education project as well as Expert Faculty from all four of the GENI Work Groups. After 5 hours of interviewing, the reviewers offered positive feedback about GENI and the IU Geriatrics Program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
The December 15th IU Geriatrics Conference features M. Sue Kirkman, MD, associate professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism. Her presentation, “Diabetes in Older Adults,” will be held in Wishard T2008 A&B from 7:30-8:30am. Dr. Kirkman is director of the Endocrinology and Metabolism Fellowship Training Program.

Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, will present “Practical and Accurate Method to Dementia Diagnosis in the Geriatric Clinic” at the January 5th IU Geriatrics Conference held in Wishard T2008 A&B from 7:30-8:30am. Dr. Boustani is assistant professor of medicine, IUSM; center scientist, IU Center for Aging Research; and research scientist, Regenstrief Institute, Inc.

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