IU GERIATRICS e-news for JULY 2006

IU Geriatrics and IU Center for Aging Research faculty and staff continue to mourn the tragic and sudden loss on July 29th of geriatrics faculty member Dr. David Wilcox, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, and Medical Director, Lockefield Village Health & Rehabilitation Center. We celebrate Dr. Wilcox's life and his special contributions to patient care and teaching as a faculty member at IUSM for the past 18 years. Dr. Wilcox will be remembered through the annual Division of General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics "Outstanding Teaching Award" and new IU Medical Group - Primary Care office on the southside both to be named in his honor.

IU Geriatrics Welcomes New Geriatrics Fellows

As new geriatrics fellows, Gordana Gataric, MD, Vijaya Sirigirireddy, MB, and Yusef Hazimeh, MD, are meeting with our General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics faculty and staff members, learning their way around the geriatrics clinical sites, and getting oriented to the customary things that a new job brings.

Dr. Gataric most recently practiced with Advanced Healthcare Associates, a local group practice specializing in geriatric care in outpatient and inpatient settings. Her experiences there motivated her to seek formal training in geriatrics, and she plans to eventually add that certification to her 2002 certification in internal medicine.

Dr. Sirigirireddy recently completed an internal medicine residency in the Department of Medicine at Michigan State University’s Hurley Medical Center in Flint, Michigan. She described a geriatric rotation as introducing her to the special needs of an aging population. She is interested in doing a combined Geriatrics Oncology Fellowship.

Dr. Hazimeh joins IU Geriatrics after completing an internal medicine residency in 2006 at the State University of New York's Medical University at Syracuse.

The new fellows join Padma Chimata, MD, who is beginning the third year of a combined Geriatrics Rheumatology Fellowship. This year her training focus is rheumatology in addition to some geriatrics clinical experiences.

GRANT

Congratulations to Principal Investigator Teresa Damush, PhD, who has been awarded a $775,000 grant for her VA Health Services Research & Development Investigator-Initiated Research (IIR), “Adapting Tools to Implement Stroke Risk Management to Veterans.” Co-PI on the 3-year project is Linda Williams, MD.

The IIR program enables VA clinicians and social scientists to pursue their personal research interests while advancing HSR&D priorities and contributing to the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of VA health care. Dr. Damush’s new award complements her work as leader of the Implementation Core and as a member of the Dissemination Core for the VA Stroke Quality Enhancement Research Initiative.

PUBLICATIONS


**PRESENTATIONS**

**IUCAR Participates in International Conference on Alzheimer's**

Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, Chris Callahan, MD, and Hugh Hendrie, MB, ChB, DSc, joined more than 5,000 leading experts and researchers at the 10th *International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders* (ICAD) held July 15-20, 2006, in Madrid, Spain.

As a part of the Alzheimer’s Association research program, ICAD serves as a catalyst for generating new knowledge about dementia and fostering a vital, collegial research community. Drs. Boustani, Callahan, and Hendrie were authors on the following posters:

"Effectiveness of Collaborative Care for Alzheimer Disease in Primary Care: A Clinical Trial" by Chris Callahan, Malaz Boustani, Frederick Unverzagt, PhD, Mary Guerriero Austrom, PhD, Teresa Damush, PhD, Tony Perkins, MS, Bridget Fultz, BA, Siu Hui, PhD, Steve Counsell, MD, and Hugh Hendrie.

"The PRISM-PC Questionnaire" by Malaz Boustani, Chris Fox, Patrick Monahan, Tony Perkins, Lea Watson, Hopkins J, Mary Guerriero Austrom, Frederick Unverzagt, Chris Callahan, and Hugh Hendrie.

“Histamine-2 Receptor Antagonists And Cognition: Are They Harmful?” by Malaz Boustani, Kathleen Hall, Kathleen Lane, Hisham Aljadhey, Sujuan Gao, Frederick Unverzagt, Mick Murray, Adesola Ogunniiyi, and Hugh Hendrie.

IUCAR Affiliated Scientists Yansheng Du, PhD, Ann Hake, MD, and Martin Farlow, MD, also attended the conference.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Our faculty participated in and led a number of committee meetings held during the AGS and SGIM annual meetings in the spring.

Steve Counsell, MD, chaired a meeting of the AGS Public Policy Advisory Group, attended the AGS Committee Chairs and AGS Quality Ad Hoc Workgroup meetings. He also attended meetings of the John A. Hartford Centers of Excellence Program Directors and ADGAP, the Association of Directors of Geriatrics Academic Programs.

As deputy project director of the AGS-Hartford Foundation Project, “Increasing Geriatrics Expertise in Surgical and Related Medical Specialties,” Douglas K. Miller, MD, met with the Council for Surgical and Related Medical Specialties. He also attended a meeting of the Geriatrics Education for Specialty Residents Program, and the Dennis Jahnigen Career Development Scholars, two initiatives of the AGS-Hartford project.

As director of the SGIM IDEA (Improving Doctoring for Elder Americans) Task Force, Chris Callahan, MD, led a planning meeting of the Visiting Professor Program in Geriatrics and Gerontology. He is a member of the AGS Research Committee which met during their annual meeting.

Glenda Westmoreland, MD, MPH, serves on and met with the SGIM Education Committee and the JGIM Editorial Board.
Steve Counsel, MD, has been selected to join the Board of Directors and serve as Chair of CHOICE, the Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities. CHOICE is a program of Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration and enables people who are elderly or have disabilities to live independently in their own homes or in community integrated settings. It proposes to allow persons ready access to community resources in order to improve the quality of life of families and children with an emphasis on seniors and persons with disabilities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
John L. Pipas, President & CEO of VNS Healthcare System, will present "Hi-Tech, Hi-Touch: Creating a Balanced Approach Model for Home & Hospice Care" at the IU Geriatrics Conference held September 6 from 7:30-8:30 am in Wishard T2008 A&B. Mr. Pipas is a member of the Community Advisory Board for IU Geriatrics, the IU Roybal Center and the IU Center for Aging Research.

For news about the Indiana Geriatrics Society, check out the IU Geriatrics and the American Geriatrics Society web sites.