Senior Care at Wishard Launches Living Longer Better.org

How do I find a geriatrics doctor?
Will a doctor spend quality time with me?
I'm starting to forget things...what should I do?
How can I keep all my medicines straight?

What if an entire medical staff focused entirely on seniors? What if the staff is a team of experts from a variety of disciplines who are all committed to helping seniors be as healthy and independent as possible?

LivingLongerBetter.org is a resource developed by Senior Care at Wishard to help seniors and caregivers living in central Indiana and beyond learn more about the issues they face everyday. It’s also part of a recent marketing plan that includes radio and print media describing the benefits of Senior Care’s program of services. The goal of all of these services is to listen carefully to each senior’s needs, study his or her overall situation, and provide advice, insight and treatment to improve quality of life.

Senior Care Medical Director Robin Beck, MD, adds, “LivingLongerBetter has tidbits on all providers and staff who serve in the clinical programs of Senior Care and much of the patient information was written by some of the Senior Care staff. There are also listings of community events that Senior Care participates in, like HOPP, the Healthy Older People’s Program and Senior Expo, that you can share with patients or for your own information. So take a look, as you might learn something about your colleagues and more about the wonderful programs that Senior Care has to offer.”

Will Electronic Medication Reconciliation Improve the Quality of Transitional Care?

Principal investigator Michael Weiner, MD, MPH will produce outcomes to begin to answer this question with Medication Reconciliation to Improve Quality of Transitional Care, a three-year R18 funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Medical errors are common and dangerous. Approximately 20% of medical errors are related to prescription of medications. Most medication errors occur at transitions in care, such as when patients are admitted from ambulatory settings to hospitals or discharged from hospitals to ambulatory settings. Since prescriptions at hospital discharge are intended to be followed in ambulatory care, improving transitional and ambulatory care requires attention to the discharge prescriptions.

With medication reconciliation (MR), multiple sources of medication information are reviewed, to determine which medications are currently active, and which medications should be prescribed. The process of MR is tedious and time-consuming.

“Although implementation of formal medication reconciliation systems improves the fraction of cases undergoing MR,” notes Dr. Weiner, “we know relatively little about the extent to which these systems alter clinical outcomes. Research also indicates that medication reconciliation should be integrated with computer-based provider order entry, but this seldom if ever occurs.”

The specific aims of this study are to integrate an electronic MR system with an electronic prescribing system, conduct a randomized controlled trial of MR, and determine whether electronic facilitation of MR alters MR and the incidence of medication errors in ambulatory care. The study will target patients at Wishard Health Services.

Main outcomes include adverse drug events and erroneous discrepancies between the pre-admission medication list and the medication list upon the patient’s return to ambulatory care. Dr. Weiner hypothesizes that electronic facilitation of inpatient MR will improve completion of MR and will decrease the incidence of drug-related medical errors.
Hulman Health Achievement Award Recognizes Wishard for Contributions to Geriatrics

The Indiana Public Health Foundation presented a Tony and Mary Hulman Health Achievement Award to Wishard Health Services at the foundation’s annual award dinner on October 8, 2009, in Indianapolis.

Wishard CEO and Medical Director Lisa Harris, MD, and President of Health and Hospital Corporation Matt Gutwein, accepted the award from IU Geriatrics Director Steve Counsell, MD, presenting on behalf of the Department of Medicine, IUSM.

The Hulman Health Achievement Award was established in 1985 and recognizes Indiana's citizens and organizations whose efforts have resulted in a significant improvement to the human race.

The Hulman Health Award, presented in the Geriatrics and Gerontology category, recognized Wishard Health Services for:

- collaborating with the IU School of Medicine, to develop the most comprehensive clinical program for older adults in Indiana,
- designing a system of care for older adults that provides unique training experiences in geriatric medicine for medical students, residents and fellows of the IU School of Medicine each year,
- conducting landmark health services research studies that have made national contributions to improving health delivery and outcomes of care in vulnerable older adults, and
- supporting the career development of academic geriatricians who have become local and national leaders in geriatrics and gerontology.

Congratulations, Wishard Health Services!

Dr. Perez Named Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Director

Felipe Perez, MD has been named director of the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program at IU Geriatrics.

Dr. Perez replaces Glenda Westmoreland, MD, MPH who directed the fellowship from 2000 through September of 2009. She will continue as Director of Geriatrics Education and will have a greater focus on training medical students and residents.

Directing a geriatrics fellowship program is not new for Dr. Perez. He steps into the role at IU having directed the program for six years at the University of Illinois—Chicago, with eight fellows. The change of directorship has been approved by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education.

Read about the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship at http://medicine.iupui.edu/Geriatrics/Education/fellowship.asp.

Presentations and Professional Activities

The Indiana Geriatrics Society held its Annual Fall Conference on October 2, 2009 at the Methodist Conference Center in Indianapolis. The IGS is an affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society. Kathy Frank, RN, DNS was on the Program Planning Committee for the fall conference.

Several IU Geriatrics faculty members made presentations. Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH presented Update on Dementia, Felipe Perez, MD presented Fallout of Falls; and Steve Counsell, MD presented IOM Report and GRACE Model of Care.

IU Geriatrics faculty and staff currently lead IGS as officers and on committees. Ella Bowman, MD, PhD is vice president. Noll Campbell, PharmD, CGP is treasurer. Michael Sha, MD chairs the Public Policy Committee. Kathy Frank, RN, DNS represents IGS on the Council of State Affiliate Representatives (COSAR).

Steve Counsell, MD, presented “The GRACE Model: A Patient-Centered Medical Home Integrated with Mental Health” at the IUSM Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds on October 9, 2009.

Chris Callahan, MD, is a member of the National Institutes of Health Health Services Organization and Delivery (HSOD) Study Section and participated in grant reviews on October 8-9 in Seattle, WA. The HSOD Study Section reviews health services research studies on inpatient, ambulatory, sub-acute, acute, community-based, rehabilitative and long-term care.
Publications


For Your Calendar
Robert Pascuzzi, MD, will present a Neurologic Exam Demonstration at the IU Geriatrics Conference on Wednesday, November 4, 7:30-8:30am in Wishard T2008 A&B. Dr. Pascuzzi is professor and chair of the Department of Neurology at the IU School of Medicine.

Rafael Grau, MD, will present “Diagnosis & Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis” at the IU Geriatrics Conference on Wednesday, November 25, 7:30-8:30am in Wishard T2008 A&B. Dr. Grau is division chief and associate professor of clinical medicine in the Division of Rheumatology.

Dr. Bernardino Ghetti and the Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center invite you and a guest to attend a private screening of HBO’s Alzheimer Project on Thursday, November 12, 2009. The title is “Caregivers.” Following the screening, iADC faculty members will be available to answer questions about Alzheimer disease, current diagnosis, treatment and promising areas of research. The screening will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Riley Outpatient Center Auditorium, 601 West Drive, Indianapolis, IN. It’s free and open to the public, but registration is required. Please RSVP to 317-274-4939 or rcludy@iupui.edu.

News Headlines
Which comes first? Depression or Inflammation?

IU Center for Aging Research Affiliated Scientist Jesse Stewart, PhD, and colleagues have published a new study that is the first to examine both directions of the depression-inflammation connection and measure the physical and cognitive-emotional symptoms of depression, such as fatigue and sleep disturbance, in addition to the cognitive-emotional symptoms, such as pessimism and sadness.

Read the IU School of Medicine news release about the study which was published in the October 2009 issue of the journal *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*. 

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