IU Geriatrics Welcomes Dr. Kofi Quist to the Faculty

IU Geriatrics welcomed new faculty member Kofi Kafui Quist, MD, in August. Why did he choose IU?

“My interest in IU Geriatrics was because of the career diversity and development IU offers to clinicians. Clinical medicine and research is nicely interwoven and leads to the development of new ideas and models to improve patient care. One of such models is the Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Service, which appealed to me,” Dr. Quist states. “I also realized that mentoring was paramount and was made available to physicians in all aspects of service, building confidence and the desire to achieve greater heights in one’s professional career.”

Dr. Quist comes to Indiana University from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, New York, where he completed a geriatrics fellowship. Dr. Quist completed medicine residencies in Ghana and at the Metropolitan Hospital Center’s New York Medical College where he was the outstanding PGY3 resident in internal medicine.

As to his geriatric medicine clinical interests, Dr. Quist notes that the areas that excite him most are taking care of the acutely ill elders and polypharmacy.

“It has always been rewarding to me to see sick elders transitioned back to their usual functional state after an acute illness without any negative sequela as a result of their illness. Most of our elders are on multiple medications which predisposes them to the negative effects of these drugs. Reviewing, simplifying and eliminating unneeded medications is one of my passions.”

Dr. Quist joins IU as an assistant professor of clinical medicine. He provides outpatient consultative geriatric care at the Senior Health Center and inpatient care in the Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Consult Service, both at Methodist Hospital.

Dr. Quist is a member of the American College of Physicians and the American Geriatrics Society. He is certified as an internist by the American Board of Internal Medicine and will take the Geriatric Medicine subspecialty certification exam in November of this year.

Dr. Callahan Begins New R01, Alzheimer’s Disease Multiple Intervention Trial Project

In a five year study funded by the National Institute on Aging, Chris Callahan, MD is building on a previous R01 clinical trial that demonstrated the effectiveness of collaborative care for older adults with Alzheimer's disease cared for in primary care practices.

The trial demonstrated that guideline-level medical care resulted in improved quality of care and improved behavioral and psychological symptoms over one year among patients and their caregivers, but the findings did not reveal a significant difference between groups in functional decline. Both study groups experienced a significant decline in function over 18 months.

The new study, the Alzheimer’s Disease Multiple Intervention Trial Project, will test a home-based intervention specifically designed to slow the rate of functional decline among older adults with Alzheimer's disease.

In addition to building on Dr. Callahan’s past research, the study also builds from reported research which demonstrates the short-term efficacy of home-based occupational therapy interventions among older adults with dementia. Previous trials have shown that older adults with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, can both participate in and benefit from occupational therapy-based interventions delivered in the home. ADMIT will test a home-based intervention specifically designed to slow the rate of functional decline among older adults with Alzheimer’s disease.

The ADMIT R01 will conduct a two-year, randomized, controlled clinical trial to improve functioning among older adults with Alzheimer’s disease comparing a control group receiving best practices primary care with an intervention group receiving best practice primary care PLUS a home-based occupational therapy intervention.

The study team will test the primary hypothesis that subjects with Alzheimer’s disease in the intervention group will have improved function at two years compared with the best practice primary care control group.
IU RESPECT Center Advances Science Via Collaborative Interdisciplinary Community

Despite increased attention to palliative and end-of-life care over the past two decades, there remains a pressing need to advance the science through foundational descriptive work and innovative intervention research to grow the science.

The mission of the Indiana University Research in Palliative and End-of-Life Communication and Training (IU RESPECT) Center is to build a collaborative, interdisciplinary scientific community of researchers and clinicians to work together to advance the science of communication in palliative and end-of-life care across the lifespan.

Funded by the 2009-2010 IUPUI Signature Centers Initiative, the Center is led by co-directors Susan Hickman, PhD, Joan Haase, PhD, RN and Greg Sachs, MD. Among ten additional core faculty members are Alexia Torke, MD, MS and Barbara Habermann, PhD.

“The IU RESPECT Center is focusing on research to improve communication in the care of children, adolescents, adults, and elders facing serious illness that is life-limiting, debilitating, or terminal,” notes Dr. Hickman.

“We will capitalize on the complementary and expanding expertise at IU and will serve as a connection point for researchers and clinicians to support and promote our mission.”

IU RESPECT CENTER CALL for PILOT PROPOSALS

The Center will award two pilot projects, each worth up to $15,000, with a starting date of January 1, 2011. All teaching and research faculty at IUPUI who are qualified to apply for NIH funding are eligible. Preference will be given to new investigators and to research that fosters transdisciplinary collaboration.

Pilot grant proposals are due by 5:00 pm Monday, November 15. To apply, go to scope.medicine.iu.edu/files/RESPECTPilotProposal2010-9-15.pdf. Send questions to Molly Donovan at madonova@iupui.edu or 278-7749.

Presentations and Professional Activities

Arif Nazir, MD, CMD, presented “Quality Improvement in Nursing Home Care” at Medicine Grand Rounds on August 20, 2010.

Teresa Damush, PhD, was the recipient of a Special Contribution Award in recognition of the high level of productivity and contributions made in the planning and execution of the Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) sponsored HSR&D field meeting “Enhancing Implementation Science in VA” held July 19-20 in Denver, Colorado. Video and audio are available via the link.

Ella Bowman, MD, PhD, has accepted the nomination by Wishard CEO Dr. Lisa Harris to chair the Wishard Hospital Credentialing Committee. Dr. Bowman assumed leadership on July 1, 2010.

Arif Nazir, MD, CMD, and Michael Sha, MD, will lead the joint annual meeting of the Indiana Medical Directors Association (IMDA) and the Indiana chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) on Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30, 2010 at the Marten House Hotel and Lily Conference Center in Indianapolis, IN. The meeting brochure is available via the ACP website.

Cathy Schubert, MD, was interviewed and appeared in the article “The Preaching is Easy; The Practice Takes Effort” in the August 15 edition of the Indianapolis Star. She joined four local health care professionals in a feature focusing on changes they had made to improve their own health and challenges they continued to face. Her number 1 stress reliever?

“...I spend some time on my porch swing, consciously taking a few moments every day to go 'aah,' ” she said. “It helps me sleep better at night and not eat a bowl of ice cream.”
Publications


Brown LF, Kroenke K, Theobald DE, Wu J, **Tu W**. *The association of depression and anxiety with health-related quality of life in cancer patients with depression and/or pain*. Psychooncology. 2010 Jul;19(7):734-41. PMID: 19777535


**Save the Dates for Geriatrics Presentations**

Sheila Dolan, PT, WCC, will present “Pressure Ulcers/Wound Care & New Products” at the October 20 IU Geriatrics Conference held from 7:30-8:30am in Wishard T2008 A&B. Ms. Dolan is a physical therapist at Wishard Hospital and carries the Wound Care Certified credential.

Robert Pascuzzi, MD, will present “Selected Cases in Neurogeriatrics” at the October 27 IU Geriatrics Conference held from 7:30-8:30am in Wishard T2008 A&B. Dr. Pascuzzi is chair of the Department of Neurology at the IUSM.

Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, will present Medicine Grand Rounds on Friday, November 12, 12-1pm in Wishard’s Myers Auditorium.

The IU GERIATRICS e-news archive is available at medicine.iupui.edu/Geriatrics/News/. To subscribe, unsubscribe or send e-news comments, call 317-423-5586, or email Nancy Buchanan or Kathy Frank, RN, PhD.