René Roberts Receives Darnell Medical Student Geriatrics Achievement Award

René Michelle Roberts, a fourth-year medical student pursuing a career in family medicine, has been named recipient of the Dr. Jeffrey C. Darnell Medical Student Geriatrics Achievement Award for 2011.

The award recognizes a medical student for outstanding service and leadership in the care of older adults.

Created in 2006, the award honors the founding father of geriatrics at Indiana University, Dr. Jeff Darnell, for his 31 years of service and dedication to his patients and to IU Geriatrics.

Ms. Roberts received an engraved crystal keepsake for her compassionate care and outstanding work during a geriatrics elective. Her name has joined previous recipients on the Darnell Award perpetual plaque located in the Medical Science Building.

Glenda Westmoreland, MD, MPH, presented the award to Ms. Roberts on November 12, 2010, preceding Medicine Grand Rounds delivered by IU Center for Aging Research Associate Director Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH. His presentation was "A Rapid Translation from Discovery to Delivery: The Story of the Aging Brain Program at Wishard."

JAMA Authors Note Great Potential for GRACE Model of Care in Aging Theme Issue

Health-care reform is calling out for ways to improve health and lower costs. We have found a strategy to do that for a very vulnerable growing population in a way that shows cost savings over time and has the added benefit of providing services that these seniors desperately need but can’t get elsewhere.

Steven R. Counsell, MD
Geriatrician & Director, IU Geriatrics

Authors Chad Boult, MD, MPH, MBA, and Darryl Wieland, PhD, MPH, highlighted the GRACE model of care in “Comprehensive Primary Care for Older Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions: Nobody Rushes You Through” which appears in the Care of the Aging Patient section of JAMA. The November 3, 2010 issue focuses on aging.

Based on expert consensus about the available evidence, the paper identifies 4 proactive, continuous processes that can substantially improve the primary care of community-dwelling older patients who have multiple chronic conditions. Three models of chronic care include these processes--GRACE, PACE, and Guided Care.

The models appear to improve some aspects of the effectiveness and the efficiency of complex primary care and have the greatest potential to improve quality of care and quality of life for older patients with complex health care needs, while reducing or at least not increasing the costs of their health care.

The authors describe how the models work, steps for implementation, and how they differ in structure and operation.

“We were able to deliver care which was very popular with patients and their doctors, improved health outcomes, and saved money because it helped keep seniors from having to use the emergency department or be admitted to the hospital,” adds Dr. Counsell, who directs dissemination of the GRACE Program.


Read a review of JAMA article in the ACP Internist Weekly

Read about GRACE in IU Newsroom
Presentations and Professional Activities

Geriatrics Fellows Certified by ABIM

IU Geriatrics congratulates geriatrics fellows Qurrat Shamim, Kristi Lieb, Dennis Joseph, and Toch Iloabuchi (pictured left to right) on their successful Internal Medicine Board Certification through ABIM. They join fellows Heather Riggs & Sajid Chaudhry who are already board certified.

Board Certification demonstrates that physicians have met rigorous standards through intensive study, self-assessment and evaluation. Additionally, certification encompasses the six general competencies established by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education and sets the stage for continual professional development through values centered on lifelong learning.

Dan Clark, PhD, (left) reports that the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) website published the article “Outpatient Weight Loss and Lifestyle Program Treats, Prevents Diabetes in Underserved Communities.” Dr. Clark and Lisa Harris, MD, are principal investigators of the program which is free to Wishard Community Health Center patients and provides education and support for nutrition and fitness. Wishard Health Services is a member of NAPH.

Hugh Hendrie, MB, ChB, DSc was quoted in an October 11, 2010, New York Times article titled, Taking Retirement May Retire Memory, Too.

Steve Counsell, MD was the featured speaker at the Annual Health Policy Conference, Rebalancing Healthcare in the Heartland, held September 30, 2010 at the University of Iowa Health. He presented “Evidence-Based Models of Integrated Medical and Social Care.”

Greg Sachs, MD, presented “IN-PEACE, the Indiana Palliative Excellence in Alzheimer Care Efforts Program, at the Annual Kathleen Foley Palliative Care Retreat and Research Symposium on October 12-14, 2010, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. Sachs attended the meeting as a 2008 pilot project grantee of the National Palliative Care Research Center.

Ella Bowman, MD, PhD, presented “Acute Care for Elders Consult Service: A Unique Interdisciplinary Team Teaching Model,” to the Wishard Interdisciplinary Synergistic Healthcare (WISH) Team on October 18, 2010.

Kathy Frank, RN, PhD and Gina Connolly, RN, MSN, presented an “Interprofessional Team Building Skills Workshop” at the Indiana Geriatrics Society’s Annual Fall Conference on October 22, 2010.

Kevin Terrell, DO, MS, (left) was an invited speaker at the American Case Management Association Leadership Conference held November 11, 2010 in Little Rock, Arkansas. The conference focus was transitions of care. He presented “Care Transitions (in both directions) between Nursing Homes and Emergency Departments.”

Publications


Save the Dates for Geriatrics Presentations
Jeanne Dickens, MD, MS, will present “Clinical Depression in the Elderly” at the January 19 IU Geriatrics Conference held from 7:30-8:30am in Wishard conference room T2008 A/B. Dr. Dickens is an associate professor of clinical psychiatry and a geriatric psychiatrist.

Dr. Dickens will highlight the diagnostic criteria and symptomatology of depressive disorders listed in DSM IV-TR and will focus on commonly encountered comorbid medical illnesses as well as recommended pharmacologic and non-medicinal treatment interventions.

Babar Khan, MD, will present “Geriatric Care in the ICU” at the February 16 IU Geriatrics Conference held from 7:30-8:30am in Wishard T2008 A/B. Dr. Khan is a fellow in the IU School of Medicine’s Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care.