Geriatrics Faculty Earn Geriatrics Academic Career Awards

IU Geriatrics congratulates faculty members Ella Bowman, MD, PhD, Todd James, MD and Arif Nazir, MD who are the recipients of 5-year Geriatrics Academic Career Awards.

The GACA is a competitive grant offering from the Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration. It is awarded to academic junior faculty in geriatrics who spend 75 percent of their total time on teaching and developing skills in interdisciplinary education in geriatrics. The GACA provides each of our clinician-educators awardees with $70,000 funding per year and supports dedicated time for career development.

In addition to being named GACA recipients, these faculty members had previously been named John A. Hartford Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine Scholars for career development in this academic year.

In announcing the GACA awards, IU Geriatrics Director Steve Counsell recommended the organizations who provide the support and environment for junior faculty to submit and carry out competitive projects.

“Congratulations also goes to the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, the Department of Medicine, IU Medical Group - Primary Care, the IU Center for Aging Research, Regenstrief Institute, and partner health systems Wishard and Clarian Health,” adds Dr. Counsell.

Faculty Members Advance to Associate Professor

Process + Preparation + Persistence is the formula that led to success for three faculty members who were promoted to associate professor in July of 2010. What helpful advice did they receive on their paths to promotion? What helpful tips do they have for colleagues seeking promotion?

Robin Beck, MD, associate professor of clinical medicine, offers these tips.

- Keep a “CV” folder where you can put things that belong on your CV as they happen, then update your CV periodically. I had really never done this so updating my CV was a nightmare. Now that I’ve created the folder, it’s so much easier.
- Take the time to read/look at the sample dossiers. This was very helpful.
- Go to the meetings that Dr. Bogdewic holds for a general overview.
- Start thinking about promotion several years before you want to go up.
- Talk to Chris Callahan.

Kevin Terrell, DO, MS, associate professor of emergency medicine, has these thoughts on seeking promotion.

- Publications are the coin of the realm.
- Don’t get discouraged when grants aren’t funded and manuscripts are rejected. Keep applying and keep writing.
- If you don’t apply, you won’t get funded.
- Follow the advice of your mentors.
- Persistence pays.
- If 20% of your grant applications are funded, then you’re doing great.
- Look for opportunities to write and get published, especially early in one’s career.

Cathy Schubert, MD, associate professor of clinical medicine, writes:

While I was still a fellow, Chris Callahan told me to start a “kudos file” as a place to store those little scraps of goodness that sometimes come our way as we work...complimentary letters from patients/families, thank you notes from staff, newspaper articles or other accomplishments. Because I had stored all these items in one place over the years, it was easy to pull it all together when it came time for making my dossier.

As early in your career as possible, learn about what is required for promotion, what the process for promotion is, who your resources are, etc. That way, you can systematically work on achieving what is necessary as you go along and not be scrambling to publish or join committees or whatever at the last minute.
**Publications**


**Save the Dates for Geriatrics Presentations**

The Indiana Geriatrics Society holds its 4th Annual Fall Conference on Friday, October 22, 2010, 8:00am-5:00pm at the Methodist Conference Center, 1801 N. Senate Blvd, Indianapolis, IN.

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.