Aging Brain Care Model Receives $7.8 Million in CMS Innovation Funding

A $7.8 million Health Care Innovation Award to Indiana University from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), will expand the Aging Brain Care model developed by researcher-clinicians from the IU Center for Aging Research (IU-CAR). Based upon a successful pilot study conducted at Wishard Health Services, the new program will evaluate the ability of the ABC program to deliver better health care to older adults.

The ABC model broadens the definition of a patient to include family members who help cognitively impaired and depressed individuals to live in the community. Physicians, nurses, social workers and other staff members work closely with both the older adult and family caregivers -- in the exam room and in the home, as well as over the phone and via email -- to deliver care to improve both brain and physical health.

The ABC model provides individualized and integrated care through an interdisciplinary care team staffed by nurse-practitioners, social workers and care coordinator assistants. These teams work with patients, families, primary-care providers and specialists to develop patient-specific care plans, deliver evidence-based protocols, and respond to real-time monitoring and feedback, improving care and lowering cost through care management.

Dr. Iloabuchi Joins IUSM and IU Geriatrics Faculty

For two years, the IU Geriatrics faculty and staff have known him by name and by his participation in the fellowship program. In July, they congratulated Tochukwu “Toch” Iloabuchi, MD on his new role and title—Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine.

Dr. Iloabuchi joined the IU School of Medicine faculty after completing two years in the IU Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program. He is the eighth fellow to transition to an IU faculty appointment since the fellowship’s inaugural year in 1997.

Dr. Iloabuchi graduated from medical school at Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Nigeria and completed an internal medicine residency at the Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York where he served as one of three chief residents. The diverse opportunities in the IU Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program were a perfect fit for Dr. Iloabuchi whose post-residency goals were to advance his clinical training and continue in a teaching role with medical students and residents.

Following a year of geriatrics clinical training and with an eye on an academic career, Dr. Iloabuchi dove into year two of fellowship by taking on advanced activities that included working with mentor, Dr. Steve Counsell, on publishing GRACE data and with Dr. Arif Nazir on skilled nursing facility curriculum development. Consistent with his passion of disseminating best geriatrics practices through patient care and clinical education, he completed the Academy of Teaching Scholars Tier 2 program and updated the resident geriatric modules.

While Dr. Iloabuchi’s new academic role is clinician-educator, his fellowship research work won recognition at the local and national levels. He presented “Risk Factors for Early Hospital Readmission among Community Dwelling Low Income Seniors” at Medicine Grand Rounds in May and received third place among the 30 submissions in the Annual Fellow Research Competition. His submission of the same work to the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society garnered an invitation to make an oral paper presentation at the Health Services and Policy Research session.

Dr. Iloabuchi is a 2012-2013 Hartford Scholar. This junior faculty award will allow Dr. Iloabuchi to dedicate time to furthering his skills in curriculum development, research, and leadership.

“Dr. Iloabuchi will be a tremendous asset to our growing clinical and teaching programs. He plans to focus on improving care transitions for patients returning home after rehabilitation in a skilled nursing facility,” notes Steve Counsell, MD, director of IU Geriatrics.

Partners in the CMS-supported project:
- Wishard Health System
- Healthy Aging Brain Center at Wishard
- IU Center for Aging Research
- Regenstrief Institute
- Indiana University Geriatrics Program
- Indianapolis Discovery Network for Dementia
- Indiana Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute
- IU Simulation Center at Fairbanks Hall
- Indiana Network for Patient Care

Over the three-year period of CMS support, the award recipients estimate that 25 jobs will be created for positions including advanced practice care coordinators, nurses, medical care coordinators’ assistants, social workers and a medical director.
IU Geriatrics Welcomes Geriatric Medicine Fellows

Felipe P. Perez, MD, director of the IU Geriatric Medicine Fellowship, welcomed four new PGY4 fellows at the beginning of the academic year. They are pictured left to right, Yazen Beddawi, MD, David Bose, MD, Ian Chua, MD, and Sofy Sendoya, MD, MHA.

Dr. Beddawi is a graduate of the Internal Medicine Residency program at the IU School of Medicine. He has a strong interest in compassionate team care for the elderly in the critical care setting. During his residency, he was known for his intellectual curiosity, clinical competence, and commitment to teaching and great organizational skills. He conducted mentored research projects throughout his residency. Dr. Beddawi graduated from medical school at Damascus University in Syria.

Dr. Bose was chief resident of the St. Mary’s Family Medicine Residency Program in Evansville, Indiana. Following graduation in 2004, he helped start a Federally Qualified Health Center in DuQuoin, Illinois, then moved to full time primary care geriatrics at St. Mary’s Senior Health Center in Evansville. He has been involved in both outpatient and long term care services and is intrigued by the challenges faced by primary care physicians in geriatrics. He returns to academic medicine with interests in faculty development.

Dr. Chua graduated from the Family Medicine Residency Program at the IU School of Medicine. His relationship with his grandparents, who raised him in his formative years, was an important foundation for his desire to care for older adults. Dr. Chua’s experiences caring for the elderly during his residency reinforced his interest in geriatrics. Dr. Chua completed medical school at the University of Santo Tomas, Espana, Manila, Philippines.

Dr. Sendoya is a graduate of the Family Medicine Residency Program at the IU School of Medicine. Her long term goal is to have an academic career in the clinical care, education, research, and administrative arenas of geriatrics. Dr. Sendoya completed medical school at Universidad del Valle, in Cali, Colombia. Her work in general medicine in a small town in Colombia brought out her affinity for older patients and their families.

An additional PGY4 physician is scheduled to join the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship in the fall.

Publications


IU-CAR Hosts Geriatrician Researcher from the Netherlands

He’s a professor, a geriatrician and principal investigator who conducts research focusing on development of complex interventions with a special focus on cognitive decline. Colleagues in his group have carried out randomized trials on exercise, occupational therapy, and care by general practitioners versus specialists in dementia patients.

Is he Chris Callahan, MD or Marcel Olde Rikkert, MD, PhD? Or both?

The similarities between the two clinician-researchers and their programs made for a bountiful exchange in both directions when the Center for Aging Research and its director Chris Callahan hosted Dr. Rikkert for two weeks during his sabbatical from the University Medical Centre Nijmegen in The Netherlands and the Radboud Alzheimer Centre. His team is responsible for a number of innovative models from which IU-CAR’s own work has benefitted, including some of the original work with occupational therapy in the home.

As a former visiting scholar for a year at Cambridge University in the UK, Dr. Callahan was skilled in scheduling time devoted to exchanging program information with time to work on the academic products that faculty members count on finishing during a sabbatical.

In addition to that academic work, Dr. Rikkert attended the American Delirium Society Conference in Indianapolis, shadowed in outpatient and in-patient geriatrics venues; met with leaders in geriatrics research and clinical care; with researchers in health services, occupational therapy, psychiatry, biostatistics, and neurology; and with leaders at the Regenstrief Institute and the VA Health Services Research and Development program.

Finally, international visitors enjoy seeing all that our city offers and are grateful for their host’s efforts.

Bike on the Monon Trail? Check.
Enjoy local craft beer and watch the Netherlands play voetbal? Check.
Buy souvenirs from Indianapolis Motor Speedway for family? Check.
Present host with Champion trophy? Check.

Presentations and Professional Activities

Chris Callahan, MD presented “Collaborative Care for Dementia in Primary Care” and participated in a panel discussion at the Care Coordination and Care Transitions session held during the Translating Innovation to Impact Conference held in Washington, DC in June. Sponsored by the Administration on Aging and the Alliance for Aging Research, the meeting focused on evidence-based interventions that support people with Alzheimer’s disease and their caregivers at home and in the community.

Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH presented “Triggers (Self Report, Tools)” on the Cognitive Assessment Process panel for the Alzheimer’s Disease in Primary Care Settings session held at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference 2012 in Vancouver, BC. He also was lead author of the poster, “Real World Prescribing in the Treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease: Results of an In-Depth Physician Survey” in the session, Clinical Diagnosis Across the Spectrum I.

Save the Date

Visiting Professor G. Michael Harper, MD will present “Pharmacologic Treatment of Alzheimer Disease: Have We Been Duped?” at Medicine Grand Rounds on Friday, August 17, 12:00-1:00PM in Wishard Myers Auditorium.

Dr. Harper is a geriatrician, associate professor of medicine, vice chief in the Division of Geriatrics, and director of the Geriatrics Fellowship Program at the University of California, San Francisco. He is director of the Geriatrics & Extended Care Service Line and associate chief of staff for Geriatrics & Extended Care at the San Francisco VAMC.

6th Annual IGS Fall Conference

“Updates in Geriatrics…… Across the Continuum of Care”
Friday, October 5, 2012 7:30 am—5:00 pm
Methodist Conference Center in Indianapolis, IN

Email Kathy Frank, or phone 317-630-8183

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.