Dr. Torke Promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine

It’s official! We congratulate Alexia M. Torke, MD, MS on her promotion, effective on July 1, to associate professor of medicine at the IU School of Medicine.

Dr. Torke is a scientist at the IU Center for Aging Research, an investigator at the Regenstrief Institute and is a core faculty member of the Research in Palliative and End-of-Life Communication and Training (RESPECT) Center. She directs the fellowship program at the Charles Warren Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics at IU Health.

Dr. Torke is interested in the ethical and communication aspects of medical decision making. She has conducted research on patients’ preferences for end-of-life care and currently focuses on the topic of surrogate decision making — how family members and others make major decisions for patients with dementia, delirium or other conditions that impair cognitive function. She has designed and evaluated curricula regarding end-of-life care and clinical ethics for medical students, residents and fellows.

You’ll see Dr. Torke in multiple settings as an attending physician on inpatient wards and on the Palliative Care Consultation Service at Wishard Hospital. She provides primary care to older adults in the IU Center for Senior Health at Wishard.

Dr. Torke is the principal investigator of an NIA K23, “Surrogate Decision Making for Hospitalized Older Adults - DECIDE.” In addition, she is funded by the IU Roybal Center for “The Family Navigator: A New Role to Improve Surrogate/Clinician Communication in the Hospital.” IU Health funds her project, “Values, Religion, Spirituality: A Survey of Surrogate-Clinician Communication in the Hospital.”

We congratulate Dr. Torke on her many professional accomplishments!

IU Geriatrics Faculty Dedicated to Work in Long Term Care, to AMDA and to INMDA

AMDA—Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine Forum presented ‘Monumental Steps for Quality’, in March in Washington, DC.

IU Geriatrics personnel who attended the 2013 annual conference are faculty Tochukwu Iloabuchi, MD, Arif Nazir, MD, CMD, Monica Tegeler, MD, CMD, Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, and Evelyn Bose, MD, CMD; and fellows Ian Chua, MD, Angela Hackman, MD, and Sofy Sendoya, MD.

IU Geriatrics presence in AMDA extends from the state level at the Indiana Medical Directors Association (INMDA) to the national level. Former Indiana director Dr. Nazir is serving on the AMDA Board of Directors as a representative on the State Presidents’ Council. Locally, Dr. Nazir is the medical director of Westpark Rehabilitation, of Extended Care for Senior Care at Wishard and of the Nursing Home Service at IU Health.

Dr. Tegeler is the president of the Indiana Medical Directors Association State Chapter and represented the state at the State Chapter Working Session. She is the medical director of American Village and of Harrison Terrace long term care facilities in Indianapolis.

Additional professional activities by our faculty at the forum included: Tochukwu C. Iloabuchi presented the “Skilled Nursing Hearing Augmentation for Better Outcomes Trial (SHOUT).” His co-author was Arif Nazir.

Malaz Boustani was a presenter at the Education Session, “Navigating Mood and Behavior Challenges in Long Term Care: Strategies for Optimal Outcomes.”

Monica Tegeler and Arif Nazir were speakers at the Models of Care session, “Reducing Unnecessary Hospitalizations: Opportunities and Challenges in New CMS Initiatives Supporting Nursing Homes.”

AMDA – Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine is the professional association of medical directors, attending physicians, and others practicing in the long term care continuum.
RESPECT Center Holds First Conference
The mission of the Research in Palliative and End-of-Life Communication and Training (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. With that mission in mind, the RESPECT Center held its first day-long statewide conference in March to bring together health care clinicians and researchers.

Faculty members with ties to IU Geriatrics and the IU Center for Aging Research are leaders in the RESPECT Center and had key roles in the conference, “Translating Research into Best Practice: Improving Palliative and End-of-Life Care.”

- Center co-directors Greg Sachs, MD, Susan Hickman, PhD, and Joanne Haase, PhD, RN welcomed attendees.
- Susan Hickman, an IU-CAR affiliated scientist, presented “The Indiana POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment) Program.”
- Greg Sachs and Ella Bowman, MD, PhD, moderated a session on Innovations and Best Practices in Palliative Care - a Rapid Fire Poster Session.
- Greg Sachs moderated and Kathleen Unroe, MD, MHA, participated on a panel discussing “Settings of Care” (for hospice and palliative care).
- Greg Sachs and Susan Hickman moderated the session, “Where are we now? Where are we going? Palliative Care and End-of Life Care in the State of Indiana.”
- Alexia Torke, MD, MS, was first author of the poster “Pilot Testing and Validation of a Survey of Surrogate-Clinician Communication in the Hospital.” Co-authors were Patrick Monahan, Kianna Montz, MA, James Slaven, Paul Helft, Greg Sachs, and Chris Callahan, MD.

The keynote speaker was Bernard Hammes, PhD, Director of Medical Humanities and of Respecting Choices® at the Gundersen Health System in LaCrosse, WI.

Armed with plenty of positive feedback from the 145 attendees and wanting to build on the 2013 successes, the Center hopes to host a conference in 2014.

Presentations and Professional Activities
IU-CAR Research Manager Amie Frame, MPH, is first author of “Development and Implementation of an Electronic Decision Support to Manage the Health of a High-Risk Population: The enhanced Electronic Medical Record Aging Brain Care Software (eMR-ABC).” The paper was accepted by Academy Health’s eGEMS Forum, a new open access journal focused on using electronic clinical data to advance research and quality improvement.

As director of CHEP, Douglas K. Miller, MD, presented opening remarks at the 5th Annual Community Advisory Council meeting of the Indiana CTSI’s Community Health Engagement Program in March. He also updated the attendees on the Indiana CTSI and co-presented an interactive workshop, “Program Evaluation.”

Dr. Boustani Highlights Aging Brain Care Model at CICOA Signature Breakfast
More than 400 supporters of CICOA attended the Fourth Annual Signature Breakfast in April and heard Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH talk about the ABC model that treats dementia patients and provides support to family caregivers.

Dr. Malaz Boustani Develops Aging Brain Care Model that Includes Caregiver Support
At the Signature Breakfast, Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, medical director of Wishard Health Services’ Healthy Aging Brain Center and member of CICOA’s Foundation Board of Trustees presented, “Becoming an Effective Caregiver for Your Loved One.” Boustani shared findings based on the Aging Brain Care model he developed to treat dementia patients, a model that also focuses on providing support to family caregivers. Watch the presentation or read more.

Read about his presentation and find a link to view it at http://www.cicoa.org/media-center/429-boustani.html

Dr. Garrido Named Shining Star Physician

Question: Who is known by his peers as enthusiastic about geriatric care; a great provider, educator, leader; thorough and takes his time with patients and family; a good, open communicator and treats everyone equally? It’s former IU Geriatric Medicine Fellow Alex Garrido, MD (above right), who in early 2013 was named a Shining Star Physician by his employer, St. Joseph Memorial Hospital in Murphysboro, Illinois.

Dr. Garrido graduated from our local fellowship program in 2012 and moved to Illinois where he is medical director for Helia Healthcare of Carbondale, provides care in an outpatient geriatrics clinic, and is working with a committee to create an Acute Care for Elders Unit at St. Joseph Hospital. What did Dr. Garrido say in response to receiving the award?

“I was so surprised and it is a great honor. I need to really continue to live up to what I was taught by my family and elders in my life.”
From the IU M NEWSROOM

IU & Regenstrief conducting nation’s first randomized controlled dementia screening trial

April 4, 2013

INDIANAPOLIS - Researchers from the Indiana University Center for Aging Research and the Regenstrief Institute are conducting the nation’s first randomized controlled dementia screening trial to weigh the benefits and risks of routine screening for dementia. The results of the five-year trial will help policy-makers, individuals and families weigh the pros and cons of routine screening of adults age 65 and older.

The Indiana University Dementia Screening Trial: The IU Choice Study is enrolling 4,000 participants randomized into usual care or screening. Those who receive usual care will not be screened for dementia on a routine basis. Patients randomized to the screening track will receive dementia screening, and those whose screening results are positive for cognitive impairment will participate in the Healthy Aging Brain Care collaborative dementia care program. Patients from both study arms will be followed for at least 12 months.

Read more...

Students in Geriatrics Interest Group Volunteer at 18th Annual Spring House Calls

2012 IU-CAR Summer Research Scholars Kristen Geros and Anne McLaren participated in the oldest and longest-running medical service-learning project at the IU School of Medicine.

Indianapolis residents from Haughville, Blackburn and near east neighborhoods welcomed IU medical students, faculty, staff and friends to their homes in April for the Annual Spring House Calls. The student-led event reaches out to elderly, minority or disabled homeowners who benefit from a helping hand.

“Even if it’s not us they see next time they go to the doctor, we want to convey the message that future physicians want to help out—to build or reinforce a sense of trust and connection between patients and physicians,” said Braca Benizry Cantor, a third-year medical student and co-chair of the project.

Read more about this and additional student outreach activities on the near eastside at http://inscope.iu.edu/features/stories/2013-04-11-featured-story-spring-house-calls-gallery-inscope.shtml

Publications


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.