

IU GERIATRICS e-news January 2010

A newsletter from [IU Geriatrics](#) and the [IU Center for Aging Research](#)

GRACE Care Management to be Deployed at Indianapolis VA

When **Dr. Steve Counsell** was named Geriatrics Section Chief at the Indianapolis VAMC in July of 2009, his responsibilities included developing a strategic plan for innovative geriatrics clinical services, education, and research. Grant funding of \$1.3 million over the next two years for

“Dissemination of GRACE Care Management to At Risk Older Veterans” is the first step in rolling out this strategic plan. Dr. Counsell and the Indianapolis VA competed successfully for this grant

funded out of the Veterans Health Administration Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, Washington, DC under a call for proposals “To Develop/Disseminate Innovative Patient Centered Alternatives to Institutional Extended Care.”

The Geriatric Resources for Assessment and Care of Elders, or GRACE, model includes home-based geriatric assessment and care management by a nurse practitioner and social worker who collaborate with the primary care physician and a geriatrics interdisciplinary team and are guided

by 12 care protocols for common geriatric conditions. The [GRACE care management model](#) will be disseminated and evaluated in Veterans aged 65 or older who receive primary health care at the Indianapolis VA Medical Center and who are at risk for institutional extended care.



As a new service within the Geriatrics and Extended Care Service Line, an implementation team will be assembled representing the core disciplines needed for suc-

cess of GRACE—geriatrics, primary care, nursing, social work, pharmacy, and mental health. Dr. Usha Subramanian, a VA geriatrician trained in the IU Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program, will lead the GRACE Implementation Team and serve as Medical Director for the VA GRACE Program. Dr. Dawn Bravata, Clinical Coordinator of the VA HSR&D Stroke QUERI, will help with GRACE evaluation.

Dr. Counsell adds, “Our team looks forward to implementing GRACE at the VA to inform and strengthen long-term care delivery and promote the

GRACE Implementation Team 12- Month Objectives

- Assemble a GRACE Steering Committee to involve key stakeholders in the implementation and evaluation process, including creation of a GRACE Dashboard to assess GRACE on measures of quality, resource utilization, and costs;
- Hire and equip VAMC personnel to deliver the GRACE model;
- Customize and load GRACE protocols and care plan strategies through CPRS templates;
- Implement GRACE in at least 200 older Veterans at risk for institutional extended care; and
- Evaluate the program for GRACE model implementation, Veteran and caregiver satisfaction, quality of care, and acute and extended care services utilization.

development of clinical programs that provide coordinated, comprehensive, and patient-centered care to our Veterans. I am especially excited about the potential for national dissemination of the GRACE model throughout the VA healthcare system.”

Dr. Weiner Named Director at IU, VA, Regenstrief Institute

IU Geriatrics congratulates **Michael Weiner, MD, MPH**, who has been named director of the [IU](#)

[Center for Health Services and Outcomes Research](#), director of the [Regenstrief Institute's Health Services Research Program](#), and director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development [Center of Excellence on Implementing Evidence-Based Practice](#), located at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Dr. Weiner joined the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriat-

rics, the IU Center for Aging Research and Regenstrief Institute in 1999 and currently is an associate professor of medicine.



Dr. Weiner's professional interests are health services research, geriatrics, and health informatics. At IU Geriatrics, he founded the gero-informatics program, which has focused on leveraging health information technologies to improve the care of older adults. He investigates the

effects of health information and information technology on physicians' practices and patients' outcomes. Currently he is studying the development and implementation of information systems

to promote clinical handoffs, patient-centered geriatrics care, and clinical decision support.

While Dr. Weiner's focus will be in the VA and at Regenstrief in areas of health services and outcomes research, he anticipates that his research interests will continue to include medical informatics and geriatrics.

When addressing geriatrics colleagues, Dr. Weiner noted, “My goal is to maximize the usefulness of my skills and to have the largest positive impact for our field. Part of my job and wish is to maintain and optimize collaborative efforts that will lead to advances for our patients and populations. I look forward to ongoing research collaborations with you.”

Publications

Damush TM, Jackson GL, Powers BJ, Bosworth HB, Cheng E, Anderson J, Guihan M, LaVela S, Rajan S, Plue L. [Implementing evidence-based patient self-management programs in the Veterans Health Administration: perspectives on delivery system design considerations](#). J Gen Intern Med. 2010 Jan;25 Suppl 1:68-71.

Chang KC, Overhage JM, **Hui SL**, Were MC. [Enhancing laboratory report contents to improve outpatient management of test results](#). J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2010 Jan-Feb;17(1):99-103.

Hays LM, Pressler SJ, **Damush TM**, Rawl SM, **Clark DO**. [Exercise adoption among older, low-income women at risk for cardiovascular disease](#). Public Health Nurs. 2010 Jan-Feb;27(1):79-88.

Sadowsky CH, **Farlow MR**, Meng X, Olin JT. [Safety and tolerability of rivastigmine transdermal patch compared with rivastigmine capsules in patients switched from donepezil: data from three clinical trials](#). Int J Clin Pract. 2010 Jan;64(2):188-93.

Snitz BE, **Unverzagt FW**, Chang CC, Bilt JV, Gao S, Saxton J, Hall KS, Ganguli M. [Effects of age, gender, education and race on two tests of language ability in community-based older adults](#). Int Psychogeriatr. 2009 Dec;21(6):1051-62.

Presentations and Professional Activities

Alexia Torke, MD, MS, was a guest on *Sound Medicine* on December 27, 2009. She discussed [How Doctors Communicate with Patient Surrogates](#) with host Dr. David Crabb.



Dr. Nazir

The Board of Directors of the American Medical Directors Certification Program has named **Dr. Arif Nazir** a [Certified Medical Director in Long Term Care](#). Congratulations to Arif Nazir, MD, CMD!

Teresa Damush, PhD, was invited to present "Diffusion of Innovation and the Science of Spread" at the concluding meeting of National VA Cancer Collaborative in San Antonio Texas on January 13, 2010. The program was attended by front line clinical quality improvement teams from VA facilities across the US focused on improving cancer care practices.

As a member of the External Advisory Board, **Douglas K. Miller, MD**, reviewed the activities of the Claude D. Pepper Older American Independence Center at the University of Florida in January, 2010.

Save the Dates for Geriatrics Presentations

Liz Zauber, MD, will present Parkinson's Disease and Falls in the Elderly at the IU Geriatrics Conference on Wednesday, February 24, 7:30-8:30am in Wishard T2008 A&B. Dr. Zauber is affiliated with the Department of Neurology at the IU School of Medicine.

Brian Decker, MD, PharmD, will present Renal Disease, Therapies & When to Refer at the IU Geriatrics Conference on Wednesday, March 3, 7:30-8:30am in Wishard T2008 A&B. Dr. Decker is an assistant professor of clinical medicine in the Division of Nephrology at the IU School of Medicine.



Dr. Rich

Geriatrics Visiting Professor [Michael W. Rich, MD](#), will present "Heart Failure in Older Adults: An Emerging Epidemic of a Fundamentally Different Disease" at Medicine Grand Rounds on March 12, 2010. Dr. Rich is a leading geriatric cardiologist from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, and directs the Cardiac Rapid Evaluation Unit at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

The Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center will host the 2010 Spring Symposia on March 19 and 20 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The March 19 symposium is titled, Early Diagnosis and Biomarkers of Cognitive Decline. On March 20, the Fourth Annual Martin Family Caregiver Symposium presents Ethical Issues in Alzheimer Disease. **Greg Sachs, MD**, is the keynote speaker; **Alexa Torke, MD, MS**, and **Mary Guerriero Austrom, PhD**, will make presentations.

