

IU GERIATRICS e-news May 2009

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

Dr. Beck Recognized at IUPUI Academic Honors Convocation

Robin Beck, MD, was recognized and honored with a Prestigious External Awards Recognition (PEAR) at the IUPUI Chancellor's Academic Honors Convocation on April 17, 2009. Chancellor Charles R. Bantz and Vice Chancellor Uday Sukhatme presided over the formal, robed ceremony.

PEAR recipients are faculty members who have been recognized by a national or international professional organization for their academic achievements. They signify not only the "best of the best" at IUPUI but the "best of the best" to a broader national audience.

In 2008, Dr. Beck was named the 2008 Eric Baron House Call Doctor of the Year by the American Academy of Home Care Physicians. On behalf of Wishard's House Calls for Seniors program, she accepted a 2008 Indianapolis Business Journal Health Care Hero award for Community Achievement in Health Care. She also received a Tony and Mary Hulman Health Achievement Award in Geriatrics and Gerontology.

Dr. Beck is an assistant professor of clinical medicine and a geriatrician with IU Geriatrics where she is the medical director of the House Calls for Seniors program and Senior Care at Wishard.



Recognition for Dr. Beck

- 2008 Tony and Mary Hulman Health Achievement Award in Geriatrics and Gerontology
- 2008 Eric Baron House Call Doctor of the Year by the American Academy of Home Care Physicians.
- On behalf of the House Calls Program, accepted the 2008 Indianapolis Business Journal Health Care Hero Award for Community Achievement in Health Care.
- 2009 Prestigious External Awards Recognition (PEAR) from IUPUI

Jessica Brown Named 2009 MSTAR Scholar

When Indiana University medical student Jessica Brown searched for a summer experience to match her interests in research and geriatrics, she found a perfect fit in the Medical Student Training in Aging Research Program. Known as [MSTAR](#), the competitive national program provides medical students with an enriching experience in aging-related research and geriatrics under the mentorship of top experts in the field.

Ms. Brown met with IU-CAR Director **Dr. Chris Callahan** and IU MSTAR Director **Dr. Douglas K. Miller** who helped her understand what the program offered and reinforced her decision to apply for a scholarship at our IU Geriatrics site. Dr. Callahan, her MSTAR research mentor and faculty sponsor, shepherded her successful application.

Ms. Brown is exploring the correlation between late life depression and negative cardiovascular events over a 15-year time period. She is using data collected in local electronic medical records from patients who completed a depression screening in the early 1990's. Joining Ms. Brown and Dr. Callahan on the project are IUPUI As-

sistant Professor of Psychology [Jesse Stewart, PhD](#), and biostatistician Tim Stump, MA.

A goal of the national MSTAR program is to introduce students to academic experiences that they might not otherwise have during medical school. In addition to conducting a research project, IU MSTAR scholars participate in structured didactic experiences, shadow IU Geriatrics clinicians in outpatient and inpatient settings, and they interact and network with IU Geriatrics faculty members and IU-CAR investigators and staff.

Working in a research setting isn't new to Ms. Brown. She completed two research internships at the IU Medical Center during her undergraduate career and vowed to get a PhD and do genetics research. Following graduation, she conducted research in the Integrative Biology Department's imaging division at Eli Lilly and Company, but she also recalled a senior undergrad project and recognized its similarities to clinical research as well as its professional and personal appeal.

Ms. Brown notes, "I worked with older adults in a day center and devel-



oped a stronger interest in neurodegenerative diseases. I was able to observe the impact my project had on the elderly and realized that I would enjoy seeing patients and doing research. I felt attending medical school would better fulfill my interests."

She adds, "I really love geriatrics and neurology. I think that no matter what area of medicine I choose, it will involve the elderly."

Presentations and Professional Activities

As a John A. Hartford Foundation [Senior Geriatrics Leadership Scholar](#), **Steve Counsell, MD**, participated in the 2009 Senior Scholars Colloquium held in January in San Diego, California. The Colloquium involved meeting with national advisors and working with an executive coach toward leadership development. Immediately following the Colloquium, Dr. Counsell represented IU Geriatrics at the two-day Leadership Retreat of the [Association of Directors of Geriatrics Academic Programs](#) (ADGAP) which included a meeting of the Directors of Hartford Centers of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine and Training.

Hugh Hendrie, MD, ChB, DSc was interviewed on the PBS special "Alzheimer's Disease: Facing The Facts" that aired in February. The documentary's companion web site features video clips at www.alzheimersfacingthefacts.org/.

Teresa M. Damush, PhD, and **Arlene Schmid, PhD, OTR**, made oral presentations at the 2009 State-of-the-Art Stroke Nursing Symposium held at the [International Stroke Conference](#) in February in San Diego, California.

Dr. Damush presented "Adapting Secondary Stroke Prevention Programs to Local Resources, Structures and Front Line Inputs." Co-authors with IU Center for Aging Research affiliations were Arlene Schmid, PhD, OTR, and **Linda Williams, MD**.

Dr. Schmid presented "Fear of Falling after Stroke in the Acute Setting." Among the co-authors were Linda Williams, MD, and **Hugh Hendrie, MB, ChB, DSc**.

Dr. Schmid also presented the poster, "Post-stroke Function Related To Depression And Other Medical, Social, and Psychological Factors." Dr. Williams was a co-author.

Dr. Damush and Dr. Williams were co-authors on the oral presentation, "Implementation of a Nursing Admission Dysphagia Screening Tool for Veterans with Acute Ischemic Stroke."



Chris Callahan, MD, was a visiting professor at the University of California San Francisco in February. While in California, he also reviewed proposals submitted to the [Hartford Geriatrics Health Outcomes Research Scholars](#) Awards Program. Sponsored by The John A. Hartford Foundation, in collaboration with the American Geriatrics Society Foundation for Health in Aging, the program supports physician-scientists committed to improving the health care of older adults during the critical transition from junior faculty to independent researcher.

Steve Counsell, MD, presented Medical Grand Rounds on "An Evidence-Based Approach to Improving Hospital Care of Older Persons" at Community Hospitals Indianapolis – East, on February 11, 2009.

Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH and **Stephanie Munger, BS, MPH**, presented four posters while attending the 2009 Annual Meeting of the [American Association for Geriatric Psychiatrists](#) held in March in Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting's theme was Preparing for A Rising Tide: The Changing Face of Mental Health Practice as Baby Boomers Age.

Dr. Boustani presented "Forecasting the Future Impact of Early Detection and Management Program for AD." He also presented "Recognition and Impact of CI in Acute Medical Care" with Noll Campbell, PharmD, and Stephanie Munger, BS, MPH as co-authors and presented "Attitudes of AD Caregivers Regarding Their Own AD Screening!" with Ms. Munger as co-author.

Stephanie Munger, BS, MPH presented "Research Discovery And Care Delivery in Dementia" with Dr. Boustani as a co-author.

As immediate past Chair of the [AGS Public Policy Committee](#), **Steve Counsell, MD**, attended the 3rd Annual Public Policy Summit of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) held February 12-13, 2009, in New York City to identify AGS policy priorities for 2009. AGS leaders discussed strategies to improve the health of older people including building on the Institute of Medicine Report: "Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce," focusing on quality, and promoting models of care. Dr. Counsell's presentation on lessons learned as a Packer Policy Fellow studying Australian models of care coordination for older adults (and reimbursement strategies to support these models) generated a lot of interest from the group.



Teresa Damush, PhD, received a special Citation Abstract award from reviewers and made an oral presentation of "Long Term Effects of a Stepped Intervention on Self-Management Behaviors among Primary Care Patients with Pain and Depression" at the [Society of Behavioral Medicine's](#) 30th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions held in April in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. As a Citation winner, an enlarged version of Dr. Damush's abstract was posted for viewing in the registration area throughout the conference and was displayed at the 30th Annual Opening Reception. IU-CAR scientist **Wanzhu Tu, PhD**, was a co-author.

Publications

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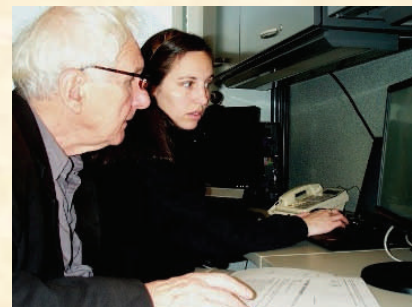
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Congratulations to IU-CAR's Research Coordinator **Christianna Purnell, BA**, on her first publication as lead author. In this photo, she joins the publication's senior author, **Dr. Hugh Hendrie**, in evaluating an instrument developed for the [NIH Toolbox Initiative](#).



IU MSTAR in 2010
For information about the 2010 MSTAR program at IU Geriatrics, visit the IU-CAR website in September.