

IU GERIATRICS e-news November 2009

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

IU Geriatrics Welcomes Dr. Todd James and Dr. Monica Tegeler

A trio of new faculty members joined IU Geriatrics during the first half of the academic year. This fall, **Dr. Todd James** and **Dr. Monica Tegeler** joined **Dr. Felipe Perez** who arrived in July and was featured in the [August e-news](#).

Todd James, MD, comes to Indiana University from the Section of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago. He completed medical school, an internal medicine residency and a geriatrics fellowship at the U of I at Chicago.

Dr. James, a geriatrician, is based at Wishard in Senior Care where he is a clinician-educator. He currently provides care in the IU Center for Senior Health, the House Calls Program and in GRACE/Bridge Care Management.

Monica Tegeler, MD, completed



medical training at Saint Louis University (SLU), a family medicine residency at East Tennessee State University, then returned to SLU to complete a geriatric medicine fellowship.

Dr. Tegeler provides care in the IU Center for Senior Health at Wishard, in the Extended Care/Nursing Home Service and in Palliative Care at the

Roudebush VAMC.

Dr. James and Dr. Tegeler are joining the faculty as assistant professors of clinical medicine and are interested in teaching geriatrics to residents and medical students.

In today's workforce, it's not unusual to earn a bachelor's degree, then take a 90-degree turn and pursue education in a new field. Both of our newest faculty members took similar turns.

Prior to pursuing medical careers, Dr. Tegeler earned a bachelor of arts in studio art from SLU, and Dr. James earned a bachelor of arts degree in economics. He commenced work as a property tax analyst. He also worked as a research assistant at DePaul University.

IU Geriatrics welcomes these talented physicians who bring diverse skills and experiences to our program.

Dr. Sachs Publishes Editorial in *New England Journal of Medicine*

How far does an editorial message by a geriatrician travel? When **Greg A. Sachs, MD**, wrote about a career-shaping experience as a teenager and added research data that "moves the field forward in major ways," the world was ready to listen.

The editorial, "Dying from Dementia," was published in the October 15, 2009 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and was spotted in English and Spanish, on network television, on dot com, dot org and dot gov websites, in national newspapers and magazines from Alaska to Florida, Hawaii to Vermont, and from Indiana to Guam to India.

Dr. Sachs' editorial described the results of the *Journal's* original article, "The Clinical Course of Advanced Dementia." Lead author Susan



Mitchell, MD, MPH and colleagues examined mortality among patients with advanced dementia who resided in nursing homes. More than half the patients died in 6 months. Pneumonia, febrile episodes, and eating problems were frequent harbingers of death.

Based on his personal and professional experiences and the study findings, Dr. Sachs called on clinicians, patients' families, and nursing home staff to recognize and treat advanced dementia as a terminal

illness and suggested that palliative and hospice care could "greatly improve" the care of patients with advanced dementia. He also identified audiences who should read Mitchell's article – funders such as the NIH who have the opportunity to support comparative effectiveness research that includes palliative care, and policy

"Dying from Dementia"

Now, some 30 years after my grandmother's death, end-of-life care for many patients with dementia doesn't look all that different from the treatment she received.

Palliative and hospice care could greatly improve the care of patients with advanced dementia -- and perhaps simultaneously reduce the cost of care.

Nursing homes hold care planning meetings.... Thus, there is an existing venue in which providers and families can discuss the sorts of issues raised by Mitchell and colleagues and their implications for individual care.

makers who examine reimbursement issues such as hospice in nursing homes.

For links to the full editorial, original research article and media hits, turn to page 3.

Drs. Sha and Nazir Lead Local Annual Scientific Meeting

The Indiana Chapter of the American College of Physicians and the Indiana Medical Directors Association held a joint Annual Scientific Meeting in Indianapolis on November 13-14, 2009.

The meeting was led by ACP-Indiana Governor **Michael Sha, MD, FACP** and IMDA President **Arif Nazir, MD**.

The [IMDA](#) is a professional association of medical directors and physicians practicing in the long term care continuum dedicated to excellence in patient care. The [ACP](#) is a national organization of internists who specialize in the prevention, detection and treatment of illnesses in adults.

Dr. Sha welcomed attendees, provided an ACP briefing on national issues and business matters and led the "Doctor's Dilemma Jeopardy Competition."

Dr. Nazir presented the AMDA-IMDA President's Address. He also presented "Gain Without Pain: Best Practices in Pain Management in LTC."

The program included several additional speakers from IU Geriatrics and

Darnell Tapped for Laureate Award by Indiana ACP

Jeffrey Darnell, MD, retired Professor of Medicine, is known as the founding geriatrician of IU Geriatrics. He can add Laureate of the Indiana Chapter to his list of titles following the ACP-Indiana meeting in November.

The Laureate Award is the most prestigious honor bestowed to a chapter member at the local level. It was presented to Dr. Darnell by Dr. David Crabb, chair of the IUSM Department of Medicine.

The Laureate Award honors those Fellows of the American College of Physicians in Indiana who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education or research, and service to the community and to the American College of Physicians.

IU Geriatrics colleagues heartily confirm that Dr. Darnell is deserving of this honor. Congratulations, Jeff!



the IU Center for Aging Research.

Kevin Terrell, DO, MS and **Eugene Lammers, MD, FACP** were panelists on "Pass the Buck: Best

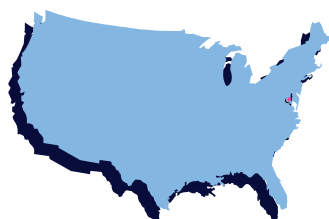
Practices in Transitional Care."

Todd James, MD and **Leo Solito, MD** presented "Geriatrics Update," a Self-Evaluation Process Module.

Presentations and Professional Activities

[Aging with GRACE: Quality Integrated Care for Low-Income Elders](#), authored by **Steve Counsell, MD**, was published in the Sept-Oct 2009 edition of [Aging Today](#), a newsletter of the American Society on Aging.

Glenda Westmoreland, MD, MPH made a podium presentation, "Engaging Practicing Physicians in Geriatrics" at the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs 2009 Annual Reynolds Grantee Meeting held October 21-23, 2009 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Dr. Westmoreland and **Kathy Frank, RN, DNS**, represented Indiana University as Cohort II grantees. The meeting offered an opportunity to network among medical educators who are implementing and assessing the most innovative, cutting-edge geriatrics education products.



Chris Callahan, MD, served on the panel that reviewed proposals for Advanced Centers for Intervention and/or Services Research (ACISR)(P30) and Developing Centers for Intervention and/or Services Research (DCISR)(P20) in Washington, DC on November 13, 2009. The centers engage in research activities relevant to mental health intervention and/or services in the community.

Michael Weiner, MD, MPH, led a panel discussion, "Advancing transitional care through informatics research, development, and applications" at the American Medical Informatics Association 2009 Annual Symposium held in San Francisco, CA in November, 2009. The expert panel discussed transitional care in diverse environments, especially the transition from hospital to ambulatory follow-up care.

Steve Counsell, MD, has accepted an invitation to become a member of the [National Priorities Partnership's](#) (NPP) Care Coordination Work Group. As a member, he will provide technical expertise and guidance to the Work Group and be involved with the development and implementation of work plans that serve to advance the partnership's work. The NPP is a collaborative effort of 28 major national organizations that collectively influence every part of the healthcare system. Dr. Counsell was nominated by the American Geriatrics Society. The NPP national priority for care coordination has as its goal to "ensure patients receive well-coordinated care within and across all healthcare organizations, settings, and levels of care."

Publications

Sachs GA. [Dying from dementia](#). N Engl J Med. 2009 Oct 15;361(16):1595-6.

Weiner M, Wells S, Kerse N. [Perspectives of general practitioners towards evaluation and treatment of cardiovascular diseases among older people](#). J Primary Health Care 2009 Sep;1(3):198-206.

Schmid AA, Acuff M, Doster K, Gwaltney-Duiser A, Whitaker A, **Damush T,** **Williams L,** **Hendrie H.** [Poststroke fear of falling in the hospital setting](#). Top Stroke Rehabil. 2009;16:357-66.

Sennour Y, **Counsell SR,** Jones J, **Weiner M.** [Development and implementation of a proactive geriatrics consultation model in collaboration with hospitalists](#). J Am Geriatr Soc 2009 Nov; 57(11):2139-45.

Weiner M. Computerized physician order entry. In: Liu L, Özsu MT, eds. Encyclopedia of database systems: Springer, 2009. ISBN 978-0-387-35544-3. Available at <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-39940-9>> (13 November 2009).

Weiner M. Evidence based medicine. In: Liu L, Özsu MT, eds. Encyclopedia of database systems: Springer, 2009. ISBN 978-0-387-35544-3. Available at <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-39940-9>> (13 November 2009).

Sabbagh MN, Sandhu SS, **Farlow MR,** Vedders L, Shill HA, Caviness JN, Connor DJ, Sue L, Adler CH, Beach TG. [Correlation of clinical features with argyrophilic grains at autopsy](#). Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord. 2009 Jul-Sep;23(3):229-33.

Journal and Media Links for "Dying from Dementia"

[Editorial in NEJM](#)
by Dr. Greg Sachs
October 15, 2009 (pdf)

[Original Research Article in NEJM](#)
by Mitchell et al
October 15, 2009 (pdf)

[Treating Dementia, but Overlooking Its Physical Toll](#)
in *New York Times*
October 20, 2009

[New Study on Dementia](#)
KCBS Radio Interview
San Francisco, CA
October 16, 2009

[Should advanced dementia be considered a terminal illness?](#)
in *Scientific American*
October 14, 2009

[Advanced Dementia: Managing the Burden](#)
CBS Evening News
November 2, 2009

Save the Dates for Geriatrics Presentations



Cathy Schubert, MD, will present "Unique Needs of Older Adults with Malignancy: An Update of Geriatrics in Oncology" at Medicine Grand Rounds on Friday, December 18, 2009, 12-1pm in Wishard's Myers Auditorium.

The next IU Geriatrics Conference is Wednesday, January 6, 2010, when Richard Kovacs, MD, presents "Anti-Coagulation in Older Adults with Atrial Fibrillation" from 7:30-8:30am in Wishard's Room T2008A&B. Dr. Kovacs is a professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology at IUSM.



Geriatrics Visiting Professor [Michael W. Rich, MD,](#) will present 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.