

IU GERIATRICS e-news for JULY 2007

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

Dr. Torke Back Home Again in Indiana

IU School of Medicine graduate and Indianapolis native [Alexia M. Torke, MD](#), joined the IU Geriatrics faculty as assistant professor of medicine on July 1, 2007.

Prior to returning to Indiana, Dr. Torke's medical and research career had taken her to Emory University School of Medicine where she was assistant professor of medicine and a clinical ethics fellow and to the University of Chicago where she was a physician in their primary care group and a fellow in medical ethics and general internal medicine.

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, or making major medical decisions for patients with dementia, delirium or other conditions that impair cognitive function. She has designed and evaluated curricula about end-of-life care and clinical ethics for medical students and residents.

Dr. Torke's geriatrics clinical duties will include staffing the IU Center for Senior Health. She will conduct research as a scientist with Regenstrief Institute and the IU Center for Aging Research and is the associate fellowship director at the Charles Warren Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics at the IU School of Medicine.



SAVE the DATE

Kenneth Covinsky, MD, MPH

will present

"What can functional status tell us about the older patient?"

Medicine Grand Rounds

August 15, 2007

8:30-9:30am

Wishard's Myers Auditorium

Dr. Covinsky is Professor of Medicine and the Edmund G. Brown, Sr. Endowed Chair in Geriatrics in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of California, San Francisco. He is also a staff physician at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

IU Geriatrics Welcomes New Geriatric Medicine Fellows

Sergey Gorbachev, MD, Sara Hamidi, MD, and Vijaya Sudanagunta, MD, pictured left to right, bring unique perspectives to the fellowship program but share the goal of providing high quality care and comfort to older adults in a team setting.

Dr. Hamidi completed a family medicine residency at Indiana University in 2006. During the geriatric medicine fellowship, she looks forward to gaining experience in providing care for frail older adults and to working in the Acute Care for Elders unit and in outpatient primary care.

Dr. Sudanagunta most recently practiced primary care with the St. Joseph's Medical Group in Stockton, California, and is board certified in family medicine. She looks forward to being a member of a team that addresses older adults' special needs and that promotes health in the later years of people's lives.

Dr. Gorbachev is the first fellow in the Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program who will train in both geriatrics and gero-informatics. The curriculum provides trainees with a year of clinical training in geriatric medicine and at least one additional year of education in medical informatics. Dr. Gorbachev recently completed an internal medicine residency in the Department of Medicine at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York.

After completing a family medicine residency at Indiana University, **Larrisa Dimitrov, MD**, will join the IU Geriatric Medicine Fellowship Program in October.



PUBLICATIONS

Arling G, Lewis T, Kane RL, Mueller C, Flood S. [Improving Quality Assessment through Multilevel Modeling: The Case of Nursing Home Compare](#). Health Serv Res. 2007 Jun;42(3p1):1177-99.

Schootman M, Andresen EM, Wolinsky FD, Malmstrom TK, Miller JP, **Miller DK**. [Neighbourhood environment and the incidence of depressive symptoms among middle-aged African Americans](#). J Epidemiol Community Health. 2007 Jun;61(6):527-32.

Malmstrom TK, Andresen EM, Wolinsky FD, Philip Miller J, Stamps K, **Miller DK**. [Mortality risk in older inner-city African Americans](#). J Am Geriatr Soc. 2007 Jul;55(7):1049-55.

Farlow MR, Cummings JL. [Effective pharmacologic management of Alzheimer's disease](#). Am J Med. 2007 May;120(5):388-97.

Feldman HH, Ferris S, Winblad B, Sfikas N, Mancione L, He Y, Tekin S, Burns A, Cummings J, del Ser T, Inzitari D, Orgogozo JM, Sauer H, Scheltens P, Scarpini E, Herrmann N, **Farlow M**, et al. [Effect of rivastigmine on delay to diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease from mild cognitive impairment: the InDDEX study](#). Lancet Neurol. 2007 Jun;6(6):501-12.

Menon U, Belue R, Sugg Skinner C, Rothwell BE, **Champion V**. [Perceptions of colon cancer screening by stage of screening test adoption](#). Cancer Nurs. 2007 May-Jun;30(3):178-85.

PRESENTATIONS

[AcademyHealth](#) held its 2007 Annual Research Meeting June 3-5, 2007, in Orlando, Florida. AcademyHealth is the professional home for health services researchers, policy analysts, and practitioners, and a leading, non-partisan resource for the best in health research and policy. The annual research meeting presents latest and greatest practice- and policy-relevant health services research from around the world.

[Gregory Arling, PhD](#), participated on a panel that discussed invited papers on "Using LTC Public Reporting Programs for Quality Improvement." The session examined the state of the art of quality measurement in long term care and described efforts to use incentives to improve nursing home quality.

Dr. Arling also served on a panel that discussed papers on the topic, "Transitions Between Care Providers: Risks & Opportunities." He presented his invited paper, "Targeting Nursing Home Residents for Transition to the Community." Co-authors were Robert Kane, Julie Bershady, and Teresa Lewis.

[Teresa Damush, PhD](#), presented two posters at the meeting. She was the lead author of "Pain Self-Management Skills among Primary Care Patients with Pain and Depression." Co-authors were Jingwei Wu, Matthew Bair, Jason Sutherland, and Kurt Kroenke. Dr. Damush was a co-author of "Self-Management of Blood Pressure After Stroke." Other authors were Arlene Schmid, **Tamilyn Bakas**, Usha Subramanian, Laurie Plue, and **Linda Williams**.

Stephanie Munger, BS, was a co-author and presented the poster, "Indianapolis Discovery Network for Dementia (IDND)" in the session on Measuring & Improving Quality. Other authors were **Malaz Boustani**, **Youcef Sennour**, **Ann Hake**, Rebecca Evans, and **Noll Campbell**.

[Hugh Hendrie, MB, ChB, DSc](#), presented "Epidemiological Considerations in Primary Prevention" at the 2nd [Alzheimer's Association International Conference on Prevention of Dementia](#) held June 9-12, 2007 in Washington, DC. The conference is the world's only multidisciplinary forum to convene professionals from the fields of bench research, drug discovery, medicine, care and public policy.

Dr. Hendrie was one of six speakers who presented their area of expertise related to primary prevention of Alzheimer disease. His co-authors **Christy Purnell, BS**, and Su Gao, PhD, assisted in reviewing the literature, writing, and shaping their collective efforts into the 15-minute presentation.



Greg Arling at AH 24th Annual Research Meeting
Photo courtesy of AcademyHealth

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Society of General Internal Medicine has appointed **Michael Weiner, MD, MPH**, as Chair of the SGIM Communications Committee. In working with the Committee, Dr. Weiner has been instrumental in founding a new SGIM Web Editorial Board, which is leading, overhauling, and expanding the society's Web site. He was also appointed Co-Chair of this Web Editorial Board. The editorial boards of the SGIM Web site, SGIM Forum, and Journal of General Internal Medicine report to the Communications Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kenneth Covinsky, MD, MPH, will present "What can functional status tell us about the older patient?" at Medicine Grand Rounds on August 15, 2007, 8:30-9:30am in Wishard's Myers Auditorium. Dr. Covinsky is Professor of Medicine and the Edmund G. Brown, Sr. Endowed Chair in Geriatrics in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of California, San Francisco. He is also a staff physician at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

After a summer hiatus, the 2007 – 2008 IU Geriatrics Conferences will begin on September 5th, 7:30-8:30am, in Wishard T2008 A&B. Visit the [IU Geriatrics](#) Web site for information on the speaker and topic.