

# IU GERIATRICS e-news for October 2007

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

## IDND Walks the Talk

In February of 2006, the [Indianapolis Discovery Network for Dementia](#) (IDND) set out to build a local think tank for health care providers, clinical researchers, and community advocates who are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and care of individuals with dementia.

Members began to meet and talk in an open, dynamic and flexible network – a [complex adaptive system](#) – to find a way to do three things:

- facilitate implementation of dementia research activities that meet local research, clinical, and community needs;
- promote a culture of discovery, cooperation, and team work among its diverse members; and
- disseminate knowledge and innovations in dementia care.

Walk forward to October 20, 2007, and watch the organization's three core players, **Malaz Boustani**, Pat Healey and **Stephanie Munger**, lead the first IDND Fall Summit and unveil RAPID-PC, a program for Recognizing and Assessing the Progression of Cognitive Impairment and Dementia in Primary Care.

The RAPID-PC program contains information such as a list of Dementia Red Flags, a Dementia Screening Flowchart, a 6-Item Screener for Cognitive Impairment, a Dementia Diagnostic Workup, and information for care providers and caregivers in managing aspects of dementia. The materials are free and may be downloaded from the IDND Web site at <http://www.indydiscoverynetwork.com/rapid.html>.

IDND's founder is [Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH](#), a geriatrician and investigator with IU Geriatrics, the IU Center for Aging Research and the Regenstrief Institute. [Stephanie Munger, BS, MPH candidate](#), is a project manager with the IU Center for Aging Research and the Regenstrief Institute.



## [RAPID-PC Program Handouts](#)

- [Primary Care Physicians Resource Guide](#)
- [Rapid Card 1](#)  
Dementia Red Flags and 6-Item Screener for Cognitive Impairment
- [Rapid Card 2](#)  
Dementia Screening Flowchart and Dementia Diagnostic Workup
- [Prevent Behavioral Symptoms Protocol](#)
- [Prevent Caregiver Handouts](#)  
Information for caregivers on managing aspects of dementia

## GRANT

### Developing Comprehensive Dementia-Specific Nursing Home Quality Indicators

Nursing home quality indicators measure how well nursing homes care for residents in categories like physical restraints, pressure sores and decline in mobility. They are widely used for regulation, public reporting and quality improvement. Yet there are no indicators that are specifically designed for residents with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

In research funded by the Alzheimer's Association, Principal Investigator [Gregory W. Arling, PhD](#), and colleagues are developing dementia-specific quality indicators that can assist consumers in evaluating nursing homes, help regulators target problems and reward homes that provide better care. The group is using existing data from nursing homes in Minnesota to determine which quality indicators are most relevant for people with dementia and will also create new dementia-specific indicators. The project builds on a five-year quality assessment project the team conducted for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the new findings will be translated directly into public policy.

Known locally as "CoNRAD - Comprehensive Nursing home Resident Assessment for Dementia," the project was awarded \$238,464 over three years. **Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH**, is a local co-investigator.

In fiscal year 2007, the Alzheimer's Association funded 109 awards to individual investigators, including [66 Investigator-Initiated Research Grants](#) (Dr. Arling's category) through their annual grant competition. Funded projects were ranked highest by peer reviewers in an extremely competitive field of 639 applications.



Dr. Greg Arling

## PUBLICATIONS

Stocking CB, Hougham GW, Danner DD, Patterson MB, Whitehouse PJ, **Sachs GA**. [Empirical assessment of a research advance directive for persons with dementia and their proxies](#). J Am Geriatr Soc. 2007 Oct;55(10):1609-12.

Weiner MG, Lyman JA, Murphy S, **Weiner M**. [Electronic health records: high-quality electronic data for higher-quality clinical research](#). Inform Prim Care. 2007 Jun;15(2):121-7.

Pryor ER, **Habermann B**, Broome ME. [Scientific misconduct from the perspective of research coordinators: a national survey](#). J Med Ethics. 2007 Jun;33(6):365-9.

Haren MT, Malmstrom TK, Banks WA, Patrick P, **Miller DK**, Morley JE. [Lower serum DHEAS levels are associated with a higher degree of physical disability and depressive symptoms in middle-aged to older African American women](#). Maturitas. 2007 Aug; 57(4):347-60.

Sikorski A, Given CW, Given B, Jeon S, Decker V, Decker D, **Champion V**, McCorkle R. [Symptom management for cancer patients: a trial comparing two multimodal interventions](#). J Pain Symptom Manage. 2007 Sep;34(3):253-64.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Youcef Sennour, MD**, and **Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH**, shared their expertise with members of the American College of Physicians during the [Annual Scientific Meeting of the Indiana Chapter](#) on October 5-6, 2007, in Indianapolis. This year's symposium brought extra focus to cardiovascular disease, hospitalist medicine and diseases of aging.

Dr. Sennour presented "Improving Hospital Care for Older Adults, The ACE Concept."

Dr. Boustani presented "Current State of Dementia Care and Research in Indiana", "The PREVENT Study", and "Translating the Lessons of PREVENT into Your Clinic and Care of Your Patients with Dementia."

**Glenda Westmoreland, MD, MPH**, described GENI, the Geriatrics Education Network of Indiana when she presented "Improving Quality of Life for Older Adults" at the Translational Research Discussion held at IUPUI on October 15, 2007. The event recognized the way the IUPUI campus is translational and transformative and was part of "Celebrate IU" week, an opportunity to recognize and celebrate all of Indiana University's campuses and their multitude of prestigious and award-winning programs.

Dr. Westmoreland was one of five faculty speakers chosen to show how they translate their research into practice to improve the lives of people in the state of Indiana and beyond.



Dr. Glenda Westmoreland

**Michael Weiner, MD, MPH**, presented a poster at the Regional Meeting of the [North American Primary Care Research Group](#) (NAPCRG) in Auckland, New Zealand, on October 17, 2007. The poster was titled, "A pilot study of home-based self-management of osteoarthritis, among inner-city older adults using adaptive turnaround documents." Co-authors with ties to the IU Center for Aging Research are **Bridget Fultz**, **Chris Callahan**, and **Dan Clark**. The NAPCRG is a multidisciplinary organization for primary care researchers and welcomes members from all primary care generalist disciplines and related fields, including epidemiology, behavioral sciences, and health services research.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Glenda Westmoreland, MD, MPH**, **Youcef Sennour, MD**, and **Kathy Frank, DNS, RN**, attended the Annual Meeting of Grantees of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation on October 25 - 27, 2007, in Las Vegas, NV. Dr. Westmoreland is principal investigator for GENI, the [Geriatrics Education Network of Indiana](#), which was funded by the Reynolds Foundation in 2003. GENI strengthens geriatrics education of medical students, residents and practicing physicians by recruiting champions of geriatrics to empower

others to improve the quality of care for Indiana's older adults. GENI uses the "train-the-trainer" strategy to enhance geriatrics content, relationship-centered care, teaching techniques, and leadership to effect quality improvement in primary care.

[Douglas K. Miller, MD](#), participated on the NIA Special Emphasis Panel to review Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers (OAICs) and Coordinating Center (P30) applicants on October 30-31, 2007, in Bethesda, Maryland. The Pepper Centers are generally considered the premier infrastructure for medical gerontological research in the country and were established in honor of the late US Congressman Pepper to establish 'centers of excellence' in geriatrics research and training.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Margaret Gaffney, MD, will present "An Update on Dermatology for Older Adults" at the IU Geriatrics Conference on Wednesday, December 5, 2007, from 7:30-8:30am in Wishard's T2008 A&B. Dr. Gaffney is a practicing dermatologist, an associate professor of clinical medicine in the Department of Dermatology at the IU School of Medicine and is a core faculty in the Indiana University Center for Bioethics.