

IU GERIATRICS e-news February 2011

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

PROSPECT and COMET-AD Combine Investigator, Environment and Research Strengths

A new collaboration among scientists from the IU Center for Aging Research, the Medical Informatics Program at Regenstrief Institute and the Division of Clinical Pharmacology will enhance the existing information technology infrastructure in Central Indiana to improve the nation's capacity to conduct comparative effectiveness research (CER).

The collaboration is an AHRQ-funded R01 called Indiana PROSPECT.

To demonstrate the potential of enhanced technology within PROSPECT, IU-CAR will conduct a clinical trial of medication treatment for behavioral symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Called COMET-AD, the CER will be conducted in five memory care practices representing four health care systems affiliated with IDND--Wishard, IU Health, St. Vincent, and Community Health Network.

Patients participating in the study will be randomized to treatment with donepezil, rivastigmine, or galantamine. All are FDA-approved for Alzheimer's. The study is open-label and the memory care practice physicians will make determinations about initial

COMET-AD

Comparative Effectiveness Research Trial of Alzheimer's Disease Drugs

Indiana PROSPECT

Prospective Outcome Systems Using Patient-Specific Electronic Data to Compare Tests and Therapies

IDND

Indianapolis Discovery Network for Dementia

INPC

Indiana Network for Patient Care

eMR-ABC

Electronic Medical Record for Aging Brain Care

drug dosage, any dosage changes and the timing of those changes.

Existing clinical data repositories and clinical informatics tools will be enhanced to carry out the clinical trial. For example, two new research databases will be developed from the current INPC database, including one with de-identified data accessible to outside researchers for queries, hypothesis generation and other

comparative effectiveness research activities.

To facilitate collaborative care across multiple sites of care, the new infrastructure will incorporate the eMR-ABC--a robust stand-alone web-based patient registry, psychosocial need monitor, clinical decision-support, and case management tool for care of patients with cognitive impairment.

Collectively, the new infrastructure will capture, store, and track a broader array of health care outcomes important to patients and their caregivers. It will also support providers', caregivers' and researchers' increasing need to work in teams by providing new tools for communication and collaborative care management.

"In addition to adding new CER knowledge on Alzheimer's disease, these infrastructure enhancements will support a wide range of CER projects across an array of priority conditions," adds investigator **Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH**.

Other IU-CAR investigators working on the clinical trial are **Chris Callahan, MD**, **Hugh Hendrie, MB, ChB, DSc**, and **Siu Hui, PhD**.

Dr. Schubert Named to Leadership Roles at Indianapolis VAMC

In January of 2011, **Cathy Schubert, MD** entered the Indianapolis VAMC wearing not only a white coat but a new hat--as geriatrics section chief at the VA.

As section chief, Dr. Schubert chairs both the VA Geriatrics Work Group and the Geriatrics Management Team. In VA VISN 11 roles, she is a member of the Geriatrics and Extended Care Service Line Advisory Board and is project director for the proposal, Dementia Education for Patient Aligned Care Teams.

Dr. Schubert follows **Steve Counsell, MD**, the founding section chief.

Dr. Schubert's new roles include leading the new VA inpatient Acute Care for Elders (ACE) consultation service as its medical director and



I'm excited to watch Dr. Schubert apply her talents to these new geriatrics endeavors. We thank her for her terrific work, energy, and dedication to growing, innovating, and providing medical direction and patient care. Please join me in congratulating and supporting her during this exciting time for geriatrics.

Steven R. Counsell, MD
Director, IU Geriatrics

conducting ACE consults in her role as geriatrician. She is also medical director of the Geriatrics Consult Clinic and conducts patient consults in a clinic session.

On the [GRACE VA dissemination](#) front, she leads the GRACE Implementation Team and serves as Medical Director for the VA GRACE Program. Dr. Counsell continues to

direct the pilot, "Dissemination of GRACE Care Management to At Risk Older Veterans."

Dr. Schubert completed an internal medicine residency and a geriatric medicine fellowship at Indiana University and joined IU Geriatrics in 2004. She currently is an associate professor of clinical medicine.

Presentations and Professional Activities

“Congratulations to all of us!”



January was a time for celebrating not only the new year but the news that five IU Geriatrics faculty members passed their board exams.

Ella Bowman, MD, PhD, Gene Lammers, MD, MS and **Greg Sachs, MD** are newly certified in hospice and palliative medicine.

Kofi Quist, MD is newly certified, and **Steve Counsell, MD** and **Greg Sachs, MD**, are recertified in geriatric medicine.

In an exchange of celebratory emails among faculty members, Greg Sachs declared that he was “doubly relieved” that he passed both exams and that he will never again put himself in the position of suffering through both at the same time!

In 2007, the American Board of Internal Medicine elevated geriatric medicine from a certificate of added qualifications to a Subspecialty of Internal Medicine. The American Board of Medical Specialties first recognized hospice and palliative medicine as a subspecialty in 2008. The American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine certification is valid for a period of eight years. Geriatric medicine is valid for ten years.

Greg Sachs, MD is a co-leader of the Walther Program in Palliative Care Research and Education which was funded in December 2010 by the Walther Cancer Foundation. He announced that “...this grant is a real game changer. It will allow us to jump-start our work from one that is promising to one that makes a real difference.”

Steve Counsell, MD presented “Geriatric Resources for Assessment and Care of Elders” at a conference entitled “Innovations Across the Nation in Health Care Delivery” on December 16, 2010 in Washington, DC. The program featured panels of CEO’s and program leaders from institutions that have innovated at the patient care level; in creation of more highly coordinated patient care systems; and at the population level, in terms of improving population health. **Chris Callahan, MD** and **Kathy Frank, RN, PhD** also attended the conference which was convened by the health policy journal *Health Affairs*.



Kevin Terrell, DO, MS was an invited panelist at the [National Governors Association](#) on Monday, January 24, 2011 in Washington, DC. The NGA assembled a panel of approximately 15 experts to discuss the use of health information technology in the long-term care setting. Panelists represented a variety of federal and state government entities, leaders from large long-term care organizations, experts in HIT, and clinician-researchers.



As a member of the [Houston VA HSR&D Center of Excellence](#) Steering Committee, **Chris Callahan, MD**, attended a committee meeting on January 20-21, 2011 in Houston, TX. The CoE is a partnership between the Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development Service and Baylor College of Medicine. Current research efforts by the HSR investigators include health decision-making and communication, clinical epidemiology and outcomes, health services delivery and organization, and health policy and quality.

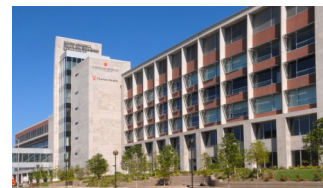


Douglas K. Miller, MD served on the External Advisory Panel for the [University of Florida’s Claude Pepper Older Americans Independence Center](#) in January 27, 2011. Their mission is to assess the risk factors and better understand the biological reasons for physical disability in older adults, develop and test effective prevention and rehabilitation therapies, and educate and train new investigators in research on aging and disability, while developing their leadership qualities and roles.

From the **IUSM**NEWSROOM

\$3.4 million Walther Cancer Foundation Grant Promotes Palliative Care Research, Education at IU Simon Cancer Center

December 16, 2010



Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center

INDIANAPOLIS -- A \$3.4 million grant from the Walther Cancer Foundation will promote research and education of palliative care at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center. [Read more...](#)

Publications

Hristidis V, Varadarajan RR, Biondich P, **Weiner M**. [Information discovery on electronic health records using authority flow techniques](#). BMC Med Inform Decis Mak. 2010 Oct 22;10:64.

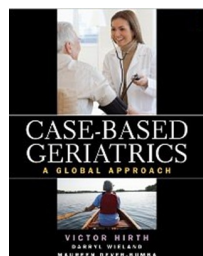
Pittman J, **Bakas T**. [Measurement and instrument design](#). J Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs. 2010 Nov-Dec;37(6):603-7. PubMed PMID: 21076260.

Schmitt FA, **Farlow MR**, Meng X, Tekin S, Olin JT. [Efficacy of rivastigmine on executive function in patients with Parkinson's disease dementia](#). CNS Neurosci Ther. 2010 Dec;16(6):330-6. PubMed PMID: 20950329.

Schmid AA, Andersen J, Kent T, **Williams L**, **Damush T**. [Using intervention mapping to develop and adapt a secondary stroke prevention program in Veterans Administration Medical Centers](#). Implement Sci. 2010 Dec 15;5:97.

Gao S, Nguyen JT, **Hendrie HC**, **Unverzagt FW**, **Hake A**, Smith-Gamble V, Hall K. [Accelerated Weight Loss and Incident Dementia in an Elderly African-American Cohort](#). J Am Geriatr Soc. 2011 Jan;59(1):18-25. doi: 10.1111/j.1532-5415.2010.03169.x. PubMed PMID: 21054328.

Bakas T, Li Y, **Habermann B**, **McLennon SM**, Weaver MT. [Developing a cost template for a nurse-led stroke caregiver intervention program](#). Clin Nurse Spec. 2011 Jan-Feb;25(1):41-6. PubMed PMID: 21139466.



Cathy C. Schubert, MD and **Heather Riggs, MD** co-authored a chapter, "Interdisciplinary Team Care of the Older Adult with Cancer," in [Case-Based Geriatrics: A Global Approach](#). The guide utilizes a case-and-evidence-based approach to help readers understand the key principles and clinical points of geriatric medicine and health-care. Written to reflect the field's growing trend toward interdisciplinary collaboration, the book is of value not only to physicians, but to the entire health team involved in the care of older adults.

Save the Dates for Geriatrics Presentations

Thomas Zunica, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, will present "Foot Problems in the Older Adult" at the March 16 IU Geriatrics Conference held from 7:30-8:30am in Wishard T2008 A/B.

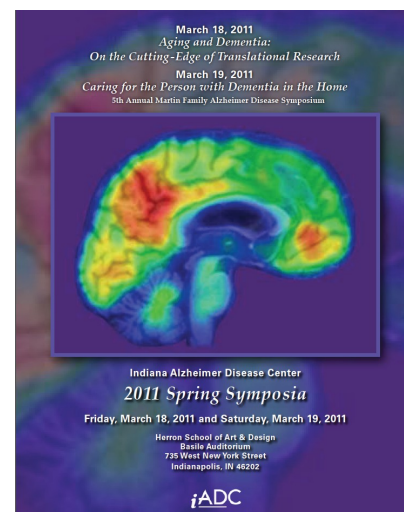
Brandy R. Matthews, MD, will present "Brains Behaving Badly: Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration" at the April 27 IU Geriatrics Conference held from 7:30-8:30am in Wishard T2008 A/B. Dr. Matthews is an assistant professor of clinical neurology and is associate director of the Neurology Residency Program.



American Delirium Society to Hold Inaugural Conference

Join a group of health care professionals in all specialties from across America in a quest to better understand the science of delirium and its prevention, treatment, and long-term consequences.

The [American Delirium Society](#) will hold its Inaugural Conference, "Advancing Delirium Care through Research," on June 5-7, 2011 in Indianapolis, IN. Visit their website and click on the conference registration link for details about registration, abstract submission and exhibitor and event sponsorship.



Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center 5th Annual Spring Symposia March 18-19, 2011

Basile Auditorium in the
Herron School of Art & Design
735 W. New York St, Indianapolis.

IU Center for Aging Research scientists will present "New Frontiers in Alzheimer Disease Clinical Research: Interventions Across the Continuum of Care" on March 18.

[Click here](#) for a link to the symposia brochure.

