

IU GERIATRICS e-news for November 2007

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

Dr. Arif Nazir Joins IU Geriatrics

Arif Nazir, MD, joined the IU Geriatrics faculty as an assistant professor of clinical medicine in November of 2007. Dr. Nazir's new role is medical director of our Extended Care/Nursing Home Service where he will provide care to patients. He will also provide consultation in the IU Center for Senior Health.

Dr. Nazir turned his career aspirations toward becoming an academic geriatrician after completing a geriatrics fellowship in 2007 in the Department of Geriatrics at Michigan State University and after serving as medical director in a skilled nursing facility and an internist in Michigan. Earlier in his career he completed an internal medicine residency at the Crozer Chester Medical Center, and he was chief resident at the Frankford Hospital and a geriatrics fellow in the Department of Geriatrics, both at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In a taped message to the IU Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine site visitors last July, Dr. Nazir noted that he was attracted to IU Geriatrics because the program offers a perfect balance of clinical, education and research opportunities for junior faculty. In that realm, he looks forward to pursuing his research interests in quality improvement for patients in the transitional care setting and in behavior management in demented patients. In the future he would like to enhance the extended care environment as a setting for education of trainees and for research.



Dr. Arif Nazir

GRANT

National Institute on Aging Funds PRISM-PC Study on Alzheimer Screening in Primary Care

In 2003, **Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH**, participated on a panel of scientists that published recommendations to the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#) on the topic of screening for dementia. As a geriatrician and investigator, his interest was piqued by the lack of evidence to recommend for or against routine screening for dementia in older adults who don't have symptoms of memory loss or confusion. What do older adults see as the benefits and harms of dementia screening?

Armed with funding from [IU-Roybal](#), Principal Investigator Boustani created and pilot tested a structured questionnaire to capture older adults' sentiments about dementia screening. He gathered data to inform a successful R01 proposal, Alzheimer Screening in Primary Care: PRISM-PC Study, which was funded in September of 2007. The study will invite older adults attending primary care clinics in Indianapolis to offer their views on dementia screening and evaluate the impact of such attitudes on their acceptance of dementia screening.

A recent commentary in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* maintains that the benefit-to-harm ratio of conducting general population-based screening has not yet reached the point where the benefit outweighs the harm. However, as an author of that commentary, Dr. Boustani notes that "as new treatments for dementia become available, pressure will increase for earlier and faster dementia diagnosis and therefore screening."

As to future directions, Dr. Boustani anticipates that the study participants' responses, as measured in the current R01, could guide the design of specific counseling and educational interventions to overcome patients' reluctance to accept dementia screening.

Study co-investigators are **Chris Callahan, MD, Hugh Hendrie, MB, ChB, DSc, Wanzhu Tu, PhD**, and Patrick Monahan, PhD.



Dr. Malaz Boustani

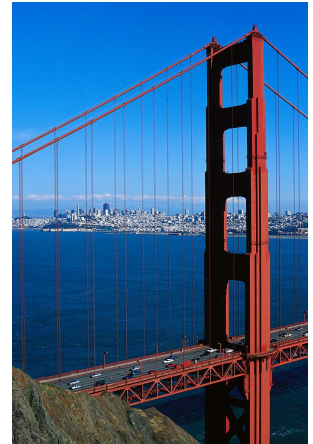
Learn more about dementia screening in primary care:

Brayne C, Fox C, **Boustani M**. [Dementia screening in primary care: is it time?](#) JAMA. 2007 Nov 28;298(20):2409-11.

PRESENTATIONS at Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting

The 60th [Annual Scientific Meeting](#) of the [Gerontological Society of America](#) was held November 16-20, 2007, in San Francisco, California. Investigators from IU Geriatrics and the IU Center for Aging Research contributed to the important presentations that informed the meeting theme, 'The Era of Global Aging: Challenges and Opportunities.'

Attending from IU Geriatrics and the IU Center for Aging Research were **Gregory Arling, PhD, Mary Austrom, PhD, Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, Steve Counsell, MD, Gene Lammers, MD, MPH, Douglas K. Miller, MD, and Greg A. Sachs, MD.**



The following posters, papers and symposiums were presented:

POSTERS:

Primary Author Gregory Arling, PhD, Lewis TM, Bershinsky J, Mueller C, Kane R. Nursing Home Resident Preference for Care and Community Discharge.

Laura Sands L, Xu H, **Co-Author Michael Weiner MD, MPH**, Rosenman MA, Craig BA, Thomas J. Amount of Home Care Services is Associated with Time to Institutionalization among Medicaid Patients with Dementia.

ORAL PRESENTATION of PAPERS:

Primary Author Gregory Arling, PhD, Lewis TM, Bershinsky J, Mueller C, Kane R. Comprehensive Measures of Nursing Home Quality: Development and Application of the Minnesota System.

Malmstrom TK, **Co-Author Douglas K. Miller, MD**, Coats MA, Jackson P, Miller JP, Morris JC. Informant-Based Dementia Screening in a Population-Based Sample of African Americans.

SYMPOSIUMS:

Mary Guerriero Austrom, PhD, was the primary author of the symposium, *Reflecting the Many Faces of Alzheimer's disease: Recruiting for Diversity in NIH Alzheimer Disease Centers*. She was the lead author, with **Bridget Fultz, MA**, as a co-author, on the symposium paper, "A Collaborative Approach to Recruitment: The Collaborative Alzheimer Disease Research Exchange [CADRE]."

Malaz Boustani MD, MPH, was a participant in the symposium and co-author of the paper, "Barriers to Primary Care Dementia Screening: A Review of the Evidence" in the symposium *Ethics of Dementia Screening*.

Greg A. Sachs, MD, was a participant in the symposium and co-author on two papers, "Social Forces Shaping Conceptual Development of Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) as a Clinical Entity," and "Making the Diagnosis of MCI and the Ethical Implications," in the symposium *Professional and Personal Perspectives on Mild Cognitive Impairment*.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES at GSA Annual Meeting

Greg Sachs, MD, attended meetings of the [Board of Directors](#) for the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) and of the AGS [Ethics Committee](#) where he represented the Board. He also attended an Editorial Board meeting for the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

As chair of the group, **Steve Counsell, MD**, led a meeting of the [Public Policy Advisory Group](#) of the American Geriatrics Society. He represented that group in a meeting of the AGS [Steering Committee](#). As director of the local IU Geriatrics Hartford Center of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine, he attended a meeting of directors from other Centers of Excellence. He also attended a business meeting of the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs ([ADGAP](#)) and a [Hartford Senior Scholars](#) meeting.

Gene Lammers, MD, MPH, is a member of the American Geriatrics Society Public Policy Advisory Group and attended their meeting.

Douglas K. Miller, MD, attended a meeting of the Urban & Neighborhood Aging [Special Interest Group](#) and the *Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences* Editorial Board meeting as a member of the board.

Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, attended meetings of the AGS Research Committee and the AGS Junior Faculty Research Interest Group.

PUBLICATIONS

Brayne C, Fox C, **Boustani M**. [Dementia screening in primary care: is it time?](#) JAMA. 2007 Nov 28;298(20):2409-11.

Boustani M, Sachs G, Callahan CM. [Can primary care meet the biopsychosocial needs of older adults with dementia?](#) J Gen Intern Med. 2007 Nov;22(11):1625-7.

Damush TM, Plue L, **Bakas T**, Schmid A, **Williams LS**. Barriers and facilitators to exercise among stroke survivors. Rehabilitation Nursing. 2007;32(6):253-262.

Arora VM, Johnson M, Olson J, Podrazik PM, Levine S, Dubeau CE, **Sachs GA**, Meltzer DO. [Using assessing care of vulnerable elders quality indicators to measure quality of hospital care for vulnerable elders](#). J Am Geriatr Soc. 2007 Nov;55(11):1705-11.

Kroenke K, Bair M, **Damush T**, Hoke S, Nicholas G, Kempf C, Huffman M, Wu J, Sutherland J. [Stepped Care for Affective Disorders and Musculoskeletal Pain \(SCAMP\) study Design and practical implications of an intervention for comorbid pain and depression](#). Gen Hosp Psychiatry. 2007 Nov-Dec;29(6):506-17.

Unverzagt FW, Kasten L, Johnson KE, Rebok GW, Marsiske M, Koepke KM, Elias JW, Morris JN, Willis SL, Ball K, Rexroth DF, Smith DM, Wolinsky FD, Tennstedt SL. [Effect of memory impairment on training outcomes in ACTIVE](#). J Int Neuropsychol Soc. 2007 Nov;13(6):953-60.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Gene Lammers, MD, MPH, co-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" at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Indiana Chapter of the American College of Physicians on October 5-6, 2007, in Indianapolis.

Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, was a featured speaker and presented "What Clinical Research Means for You" at the AWARE for All Clinical Research Education Day on November 3, 2007, at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. AWARE for All is a program of the Center for Information and Study on Clinical Research Participation, a non-profit organization focused on educating and informing the public about clinical research participation. This free event featured educational sessions, free health screenings, a clinical research handbook for attendees, and a discussion by local residents about their participation in clinical research.

Chris Callahan, MD, presented "Collaborative Care to Improve Outcomes among Older Adults" at the Sixth Annual Bartlett Lectureship honoring James W. Bartlett, MD at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. As Visiting Professor November 5-7, 2007, Dr. Callahan also met with junior faculty to discuss career development and met with their research faculty to discuss mental health services research.

Youcef Sennour, MD, presented "Late Life Depression" at the Roudebush VA Noon Conference on November 29, 2007. The presentation covered the differences in depression presentation in the elderly compared to younger patients, the use of screening tools such as PHQ9 and GDS, treatment options in primary care, and depression QI projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The IU Geriatrics Conferences have concluded for calendar year 2007. The January 2, 2008, conference is canceled due to the holiday.

[Daniel E. Rusyniak, MD](#), will present "Toxic Etiologies of Memory Impairment and Change in Mental Status," on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, from 7:30-8:30am in Wishard's T2008 A&B. Dr. Rusyniak is Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and director of the [Medical Toxicology Fellowship](#) in the Department of Emergency Medicine, Division of Medical Toxicology, Indiana University School of Medicine.