

IU GERIATRICS e-news for FEBRUARY 2008

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

Dr. Nazir Certified in Geriatric Medicine Subspecialty



Arif Nazir, MD, is now a card-carrying geriatrician. He is the first IU Geriatrics faculty member to pass the qualifying exam following the [American Board of Internal Medicine's](#) (ABIM) elevation in 2007 of geriatric medicine from a certificate of added qualifications (CAQ) to a Subspecialty of Internal Medicine.

The subspecialty status is viewed as a great step forward for the field and will help convey the value of geriatrics to consumers and professional groups.

The Geriatric Medicine Certification Program is jointly developed by the ABIM and the American Board of Family Medicine. The exam is administered to candidates from both Boards. The ABFM continues to recognize geriatrics with a CAQ.

To become certified in the subspecialty of geriatric medicine, physicians must have:

- Been previously certified in internal medicine by ABIM
- Satisfactorily completed the requisite graduate medical education fellowship training
- Demonstrated clinical competence in the care of patients
- Met the licensure and procedural requirements
- Passed the Certification Exam in Geriatric Medicine

Dr. Nazir is an assistant professor of clinical medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. He is medical director of the IU Geriatrics extended care/nursing home service and provides consultation in the IU Center for Senior Health.

Medical Students Bring Wii Fun to Lockefield Village

They're donated to YMCAs, libraries, hospitals, retirements homes and now to Lockefield Village Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. [Ella Bowman, MD, PhD](#), faculty advisor of the Student Geriatrics Interest Group, reports that the SGIG and the Internal Medicine Student Interest Group have purchased and are planning to present a Wii system to Lockefield Village.

Ten medical students, including SGIG student leader Gayathri Suresh, hosted a party with 40 residents and demonstrated the system in early 2008. [Michael Sha, MD](#), also attended the event as a faculty advisor for the Internal Medicine Student Interest Group.

Nintendo's Wii (pronounced as the English pronoun we) is a home video game console with a wireless remote that can be used as a handheld pointing device and can detect acceleration in three dimensions. Dr. Bowman notes that data has demonstrated its usefulness in improving functional capacity in nursing homes residents.

AWARD

Congratulations to IUCAR Affiliated Scientist [Kevin Terrell, DO, MS](#) who will receive a 2008 Merck/AGS New Investigator Award in May at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society in Washington, DC. The award is presented to individuals whose original research reflects new and relevant research in geriatrics and to recognize individuals who are committed to a career in aging research. The project is titled, "Computer-assisted Decision Support to Improve the Safety of Prescribing to Older Emergency Department Patients."

Dr. Terrell is an assistant professor of Emergency Medicine at the IUSM and an affiliated scientist at the Regenstrief Institute, Inc. His mentor is **Douglas K. Miller, MD**.



GRANT



Principal Investigator [Alexia M. Torke, MD](#), has received funding from the [IU Roybal Center](#) for a pilot study involving surrogate consent in the hospital setting. The study will allow Dr. Torke to examine the frequency that physicians relied on surrogates rather than hospitalized adults over age 65 to make major medical decisions. This includes surgical, radiological and bedside procedures, changes in code status, and placement in hospice or nursing homes—all decisions that both legally and ethically should involve a process of informed consent.

The results will be useful in designing both a more in-depth prospective study of the decision making process and eventually an intervention to improve communication between care providers and surrogates. Dr. Torke's study team includes **Greg Sachs, MD, Chris Callahan, MD**, Paul Helft, MD, Sandra Petronio, PhD, **Christy Purnell, BS, Jamila Winstead**, and **Bridget Fultz, MA**.

Dr. Torke is an assistant professor of medicine and associate fellowship director at the Charles Warren Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics at the IU School of Medicine. She is a center scientist at the IU Center for Aging Research and a research scientist at the Regenstrief Institute.

PUBLICATIONS

Bowman EH, Brown J, Corea AT. [Serotonin and Neuroleptic Malignant Syndromes Linked to Venlafaxine Overdose and Amantadine Withdrawal](#). Resident and Staff Physician. 2008 Jan;54(1).

Boustani M, Schubert C, Sennour Y. [The challenge of supporting care for dementia in primary care](#). Clin Interv Aging. 2007;2(4):631-6.

Clark DO, Keith N, Chrysler L, Perkins AJ, Willis D. [Design and reach of a primary care weight management program](#). J Health Care Poor Underserved. 2008 Feb;19(1):171-9.

Andresen EM, Malmstrom TK, Wolinsky FD, Schootman M, Miller JP, **Miller DK**. [Rating neighborhoods for older adult health: results from the African American Health study](#). BMC Public Health. 2008 Jan 25;8(1):35. doi:10.1186/1471-2458-8-35

Campbell KH, Stocking CB, Hougham GW, Whitehouse PJ, Danner DD, **Sachs GA**. [Dementia, Diagnostic Disclosure, and Self-Reported Health Status](#). J Am Geriatr Soc. 2008 Feb;56(2):296-300.

Bruno A, Kent TA, Coull BM, Shankar RR, Saha C, Becker KJ, Kissela BM, **Williams LS**. [Treatment of hyperglycemia in ischemic stroke \(THIS\): a randomized pilot trial](#). Stroke. 2008 Feb;39(2):384-9.

PRESENTATIONS

Youcef Sennour, MD, presented "Dementia Care: How to Navigate the Maze" at Bloomington Hospital's Medical Education Noon Conference in Bloomington, Indiana on February 15, 2008. More than 50 providers and students attended the session that provided education about the progression of dementia, the complexities around the care of patients with dementia, and the need to recognize caregiver burden.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH, and **Stephanie Munger, BS**, presented the Healthy Aging Brain Center Initiative and the Indianapolis Discovery Network for Dementia at the [Indiana Collaborative Conference on Aging](#) (ICCA) held at the Adams Mark Hotel on February, 2008, in Indianapolis. Over 300 people attended the interdisciplinary conference which focused on information sharing among professionals and students in the aging network.

Steve Counsell, MD, discussed the GRACE Study as a guest on the February 10th edition of [Sound Medicine](#), a radio program produced by the Indiana University School of Medicine and WFYI Public Radio. The program is a forum for health issues affecting local communities and educates and encourages listeners to make sound health decisions. Search and listen to past shows in multiple streamed formats in the [Sound Medicine Web archives](#).



Chris Callahan, MD, reviewed proposals as a member of the NIH [Health Services Organization and Delivery](#) Study Section February 7-8, 2008 in Bethesda, Maryland. HSOD reviews health services research studies that include multidisciplinary investigations of the predictors, processes and outcomes of health services; organization; decision-making; delivery, utilization and quality of care; and costs, cost-effectiveness and financing of health care.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg A. Sachs, MD, will present "Pediatrics to Geriatrics: Ethics Across the Life Course" on Wednesday, March 26th, 11:30-12:30 in the Riley Outpatient Center Auditorium. The event is a part of the Fairbanks Ethics Lecture Series sponsored by the Charles Warren Fairbanks Center for Medical Ethics.

The IU Geriatrics Conferences on April 9 and 30 are canceled due to national meetings of the Society of General Internal Medicine and the American Geriatrics Society.

The Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center symposia on Mild Cognitive Impairment will be held April 18 and 19, 2008, at the Indiana Historical Society. The day-one theme is "An Evolving Concept in Research and Clinical Practice." Day two features the Second Annual Martin Family Alzheimer Disease Symposium, "Impact on the Patient and Family." Details and registration are available at <http://cme.medicine.iu.edu/2/scripts/prodView.asp?id=29963>.

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