DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE NEWS

ISSUE VIII



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH, 2007

GERIATRICS & GERONTOLOGY SECTION OVERVIEW

Aging — If it's not your issue...it will be. Vision: To promote healthy aging and prevent frailty

To build aging-related research, education, clinical care and community outreach within the Department of Medicine, AHSC, across the UA campus, SAVAHCS, and throughout the state.

Fellowship Program

- VA funded, one year program, IM/FCM, 4 positions
- Availability for 2nd year
- Options to complete AzCRTP and/or MPH
- 3 graduates received HRSA Geriatric Academic Career Awards

Clinical Programs

- Nationally recognized geriatric programs at the SAVAHCS with skilled faculty
- Designated VA Clinical Programs of Excellence: Geriatric Clinic and Home-based Primary Care
- Comprehensive VA programs: geriatric clinic, home-based primary care, hospice and palliative care, subacute care, and rehabilitation
- Care Coordination/Home Telehealth VA Programs: Disease Management for Heart Failure, **COPD** and Diabetes
- Building clinical programs at UPH and UPH-K

Research and Grants

- Vision: Aging cuts across, and links the sections of the DOM in basic science, clinicaltranslational research, and health services
- Southern Arizona Foundation grant, providing for specialized fellowship training in geriatrics

Donald W Reynolds Foundation Geriatric Training Grant

- o \$1.9 million dollar, 4 year educational grant establishing the Arizona Reynolds Program of Applied Geriatrics, a comprehensive competency-based program designed to prepare physicians to provide safe and quality care for frail elders throughout the state
- Training medical students, residents, faculty and practicing physicians, with a focus on sub-specialties of medicine, and surgery and related specialties

o Director, Mindy J. Fain, MD

- HRSA-funded, Arizona Geriatric Education Center grant
 - o \$1.2 million, 3-year (renewable) program to provide interdisciplinary training of health professionals in geriatrics

 - o Co- Directed by Jane Mohler, RN, MPH, PhD and Mindy Fain, MD o State-wide consortium: UA AHSC, ASU- SW and Nursing; AZ-AHECs
 - o Focus: ethnically diverse, vulnerable elders, in medically underserved rural and urban areas

Publications, Awards and Honors (2006-2007)

- Book chapter, 4 articles, 3 abstracts
- Editor: Arizona Geriatrics Society Journal

AGS Best Poster "Biology of Aging"

- Medical Student finalist for AGS Henderson Award

- Dean's List for Excellence in Teaching in the Clinical Sciences 2006
 Curriculum Committee Tucson and Phoenix (aging theme)
 UA approved as site for AFAR/MSTAR program, supporting aging research for medical students

Community Outreach

- Community Outreach Grants ~ \$250,000, assisting state agencies in implementing and evaluating aging-related programs
- Other Activities include:
 - o Member, Attorney General Senior Advisory Council (AZ)
 - o Member, Pima County Attorney General Elder Abuse Task Force
 - o Community conferences: dementia, caregiving, elder abuse and neglect, methamphetamine and the elderly

Education

Interdisciplinary Studies in Aging

- Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (online)
- PhD minor
- Undergraduate Minor in Aging (proposed for 2008) 2 tracks: Health Professions and Non-HP

To Build aging expertise among all disciplines, including law, architecture, business

Mindy J. Fain, MD

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Destiny Mawson Administrative Assistant (520) 626-6854

Faculty

Holly Ahner, MD Scott Bolhack, MD John T. Boyer, MD Rosemary Browne, MD Claudia Capurro, MD Richard Hoffman, MD David Jaskar, MD Susan Morris, MD Paul Tatum, MD

Co-appointments

Leona Downey, MD Carol Howe, MD, MLS M. Jane Mohler, RN, MPH, PhD Katherine Neiderer, DPM Janet M. Campion, MD, MPH

Fellow

Zuhair Ghanem, MD

EVENTS

- AAC Friends Membership Tea Nov. 2, 2007
- Founder's Day "Staying Alive" Nov. 9, 2007
- COM 40th Anniversary Nov. 9, 2007
- Tucson Melanoma Update Nov. 10, 2007
- CATwalk Nov. 10, 2007
- Celebrate Scholars and Scholarship Nov. 15, 2007
- Integrative Medicine Community Lecture Series Nov. 27, 2007

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In July, the Hospital Quality Alliance adopted, on a preliminary basis, 10 performance measures of hospital outpatient quality that will be reported to Hospital Compare. This CMS database, available to the public, currently tracks inpatient quality measures in the management of myocardial infarction, heart failure, pneumonia and surgery patients. The new outpatient measures are in testing and awaiting final approval this November by CMS in order to begin tracking in 2008. They are similar to the inpatient measures and include 5 Emergency Department timing issues in MI (i.e. time to aspirin, EKG, fibrinolytics), ACE or ARB in left sided ventricular dysfunction, timing and selection of antibiotic prophylaxis prior to surgery, appropriate antibiotic selection for community acquired pneumonia, and HbA1C measurement in diabetics. These measures are also similar to the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (i.e. P4P) measures instituted earlier this year.

On the flip side, in fiscal year 2009, CMS has decided that it will not make higher payments for certain hospital-based complications including those due to an object left inside a patient during surgery, air embolism, blood incompatibility, catheter associated UTI, mediastinitis after CABG, as well as patient falls. - *Jason Krupp*, *MD*

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ANCHOR."

POINTS OF INTEREST

Gordon A. Ewy, MD—Founder's Day Speaker Presenting "Staying Alive" Friday, Nov. 9, Noon-1:00 pm DuVal Auditorium

Genomic Minimalism in the Early Diverging Intestinal Parasite (*Giardia lamblia*) Departments of Medicine and Immunobiology were involved in this project.

The genome of the eukaryotic protist Giardia lamblia, an important human intestinal parasite, is compact in structure and content, contains few introns or mitochondrial relics, and has simplified machinery for DNA replication, transcription, RNA processing, and most metabolic pathways. Protein kinases comprise the single largest protein class and reflect Giardia's requirement for a complex signal transduction network for coordinating differentiation. Lateral gene transfer from bacterial and archaeal donors has shaped Giardia's genome, and previously unknown gene families, for example, cysteine-rich structural proteins, have been discovered...

To read the complete article please visit http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/317/5846/1921





Dr. Gordon Woods and students Megan Moore, Rachael Riopel and Candace Engelhardt



Dr. William Johnson and student Christina Hayhurst

WANT TO SUBMIT INFO FOR THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?

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