Dr. Kenneth Brummel-Smith
Completed Health and Aging Policy Fellowship

In our last newsletter, we informed you that Dr. Kenneth Brummel-Smith was selected as a Health and Aging Policy Fellow. As a fellow, he sought to promote policy improvements that will lead to better care of our nation’s seniors, focusing on promotion of the POLST Paradigm.

The Fellowship, funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, allowed him to act as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. As a staff member of the Senate Aging Committee, he helped organize two major hearings – one on the state of Alzheimer’s research and care and another on advance care planning. This included researching the policy aspects of each topic, finding witnesses to testify, and writing questions for Sen. Nelson, chair of the committee and other members.

The Senate Aging Committee is an investigatory committee. Created in 1961 and made a permanent committee within the senate in 1977, it is described this way on the website.

Throughout its existence, the Special Committee on Aging has served as a focal point in the Senate for discussion and debate on matters relating to older Americans. Often, the Committee will submit its findings and recommendations for legislation to the Senate. In addition, the Committee publishes materials of assistance to those interested in public policies which relate to the elderly.

He feels his greatest accomplishment was participating in the hearing on advance care planning. Fewer than 25% of people in the United States have completed a living will or advance directive. Less than 40% of people who die each year have one. Yet when Congress attempted to include paying physicians to take the time to have such discussions with their patients, some incorrectly blamed them for creating “death panels.” Dr. Brummel-Smith wanted to restart the national conversation on this topic. The hearing, “Renewing the Conversation: Respecting Patient Wishes and Advance Care Planning” was held on June 26, 2013. Witnesses spoke on advance care documents such as the Five Wishes document, the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form, and The Conversation Project.

The Committee has asked him to stay on as a consultant fellow and continue to help with such projects as influencing Medicare to include more advance care planning in their activities, the problem of elder guardianship abuse, senior transportation issues, and others where a geriatrician might help frame the discussion.

Ken Brummel-Smith,
MD, Charlotte Edwards Maguire Professor and Chair, Department of Geriatrics, Florida State University College of Medicine

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Key Activities

January 30, 2013: Dr. Stuart Bagatell presented on POLST to the Coalition of Boynton West Resident Association (COBWRA).

March 17, 2013: Professor Marshall Kapp was quoted in a Sun Sentinel article about the POLST form stating: “Because living wills aren’t signed by a physician and often aren’t medically explicit, health care providers sometimes are reluctant to honor them in an emergency, especially given growing legal liability concerns.” Read the entire article.

April 15, 2013: The Tallahassee Democrat published an article by Dr. Ken Brummel-Smith and Professor Marshall Kapp as part of an ongoing series, "My View," of health-related articles by FSU College of Medicine faculty. The article discusses end-of-life care and the POLST form. View a video of Dr. Brummel-Smith discussing this topic.

April 25, 2013: Dr. Stuart Bagatell presented on "POLST and Patient Rights" at Abbey Delray, a senior living community in Delray Beach, Florida. Dr. Bagatell spoke to 30 residents and a group of nursing students.


August 27, 2013: Dr. Ken Brummel-Smith presented the webinar, “The Role of POLST in the Care of People with Dementia.” This event was sponsored by The National POLST Paradigm Task Force and funded by The Retirement Research Foundation.
2013 Student Activities

Department of Geriatrics Charles Matthews Scholarship Fund recipients College of Medicine student Juliana J. Matthews (pictured to the right) and College of Law student Carly Elizabeth Souther (pictured to the left) published “Factors Associated With Implementation of the POLST Paradigm: Results From a Survey of Florida Physicians” in Care Management Journals 14(4): 247-253 (2013). This article is based on their 2012 summer research project.

Students interested in engaging in Center supervised research for Summer 2014 should contact Marshall Kapp.

Directory

The Center currently maintains a POLST online directory. This directory contains the names, organizations, email addresses, and locations of those involved in implementing POLST in Florida. To be added to or removed from this list, please contact Nicholas Breeding or Kelly Gallavan.

General Call for Items

We urge you to keep sending the Center information about your own POLST-related activities so that we can enhance our ability to serve as an up-to-date coordinator and catalyst for progress with the POLST Paradigm in Florida. Email your submissions to Nicholas Breeding.

Center Receives POLST Grant

The Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law, coordinator for the Florida POLST Paradigm Network, has been awarded a Supporting Innovation in POLST Paradigm Expansion and Dissemination Grant by the Oregon Health and Sciences University and the Retirement Research Foundation. This grant is being used to develop and disseminate POLST-related educational materials for Florida medical schools, with additional distribution to Florida law schools.

Pilot Programs

Citrus Memorial Hospital, Inverness, FL
Contact: John S. Clardy III, JD (352) 795-2946 Clardy@tampabay.rr.com

Chapters Health PACE, Hillsborough, Hardee, Highlands & Polk counties, FL
Contact: Dr. Stewart Stein (863) 682-0027

HCA East Florida, JFK Medical Center, Atlantis, FL
Contact: Stuart Jon Bagatell, MD Stuart.Bagatell@hcahealthcare.com

University of Miami affiliated hospitals, Miami, FL
Contact: Robin Fiore, PhD rfiore@med.miami.edu

Jacksonville, FL pilot programs
Contact: Susan Ponder-Stansel, LISW ssstansel@communityhospice.com

Lee Memorial Hospital, Fort Myers, FL
Contact: Sherika Newman, DO sherika.newman@leememorial.org

To support the work of the Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law, including its POLST coordination and advocacy efforts, please contact FSU College of Medicine Development Officer Jim McNeill at jim.mcnell@med.fsu.edu or FSU College of Law Development Officer Jeanne Curtin at jecurtin@law.fsu.edu.