



Les Beitsch

Best-selling author? Most-cited will do

The *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* recently compiled a list of its 100 most-cited authors to provide recognition and gratitude for its contributors.

At the top of the list? Les Beitsch, chair of the College of Medicine's Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine. In fact, Beitsch was No. 1 with 245 cited articles even before the journal realized he had dozens of additional articles published under a slightly different variation of his name. In total, Beitsch has had 310 cited articles in the journal.

"Dr. Beitsch is a national leader in public health who has advanced the field in efforts to develop accreditation for all state and local public-health agencies," said Lloyd Novick, the journal's editor. "He has been a pioneer in quality improvement for population-health activities."

The news of his reach took Beitsch by surprise.

"Well, this is not the *New England Journal of Medicine* or the *Wall Street Journal*, but for my kind of work in the field of public health it's the place to showcase that work.

"It's a compliment to me that I'm stunned by."

Beitsch kids about his articles being of interest to only a few, but more people are starting to pay attention. His interest is amplified by his time as deputy secretary of the Florida Department of Health, and as head of the Oklahoma Department of Health.

"I saw firsthand that the infrastructure and capacity to do that work is threatened. It was inadequately funded," Beitsch said. "Health departments around the country couldn't do their jobs. Even with the Zika virus, the ability of public health to respond is only as strong as the weakest link in the system."

FSU Senior Health filling unmet needs

Faculty members in the Department of Geriatrics are not only teaching FSU med students how to treat older patients but increasingly offering geriatric care to Tallahassee-area communities. This year, the College of Medicine enterprise known as FSU Senior Health has expanded its reach.

Now, in addition to residents of Tallahassee's Westminster Oaks retirement community and rural Taylor County, FSU Senior Health also is offering geriatric care to Capital Health Plan members.

"CHP's membership is aging, mirroring the demographics of our area and country," said Chris Mulrooney, chief operating officer of the college's faculty practice plan. "And they have not always been able to find good ways to address some of their geriatric syndromes."

At CHP's Governor's Square site, FSU Senior Health sees Medicare-eligible patients who've been referred by their primary-care physicians. The geriatricians operate within CHP's Center for Chronic Care under the FSU Senior Health banner. In many cases, patients have multiple medications prescribed by multiple doctors.

"Providers who understand the value of a geriatrician will refer them, so there is somebody who is looking at all the components

of their care and coordinating them," Mulrooney said.

"Some patients are overmedicated, and some need other care that they weren't getting," Mulrooney said. "There's a big need we're helping to fill."

That's precisely the goal, said Daniel Van Durme, M.D., associate dean for clinical and community affairs: to help meet the unmet health-care needs of the Tallahassee region. For example, in rural Perry, where faculty members are providing consultation services through Doctors Memorial Hospital clinic, no other geriatric services are available.

With FSU Senior Health as the model, the College of Medicine is exploring additional niches where its mission and expertise can fill unmet community needs. Two enterprises in the works are FSU Primary Health and FSU TeleHealth.

FSU Senior Health geriatricians are Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D., medical director; Paul Katz, M.D., department chair; John Agens, M.D., education director; Lisa Granville, M.D., associate department chair; and Niharika Suchak, MBBS, associate professor. Both students and medical residents have rotated through FSU Senior Health practice sites.



Ken Brummel-Smith