Geriatrics Research

Current Research

Charles R. Mathews Geriatrics Education and Research Scholarship:
The goal of the Charles R. Mathews Scholarship is to provide students at the Florida State University College of Medicine (FSU COM) with the opportunity to engage in a summer research project with Department of Geriatrics faculty that relates to the field of geriatrics. For more information, call the Geriatrics Research Director, Suzanne Baker, M.A. at (850) 645-1831 or email suzanne.baker@med.fsu.edu. The call for proposals for students will be sent out in March.

Medical Student Hospital Charting of Cognitive and Functional Status During Required Fourth-Year Clerkship Rotations Both Before and After a Required Geriatric Clerkship:
Using a chart abstraction tool, patient’s charts of fourth-year medical students who either have or have not taken the Primary Care Geriatrics Clerkship were audited. Student researchers reviewed the charts for documentation of various geriatric topics. Institutional Review Board (IRB) applications have been renewed for data collection and analysis at five locations. To date, the student researchers have collected data on 11 students. Lead faculty: John Agens, M.D.

Go Wish Research Study:
The goal of this study is to help older adults identify their goals and wishes should they become seriously ill. The concept of an “authentic wish,” a wish that is heart-felt and persistent, has been discussed in the medical ethics literature. Yet few studies have measured whether wishes are consistent over time or whether different wishes are made at different times. This study will help us answer these questions. This summer research project funded by the Charles R. Mathews Scholarship is being extended to collect more data at two additional sites, Lake Ella Manor and the Tallahassee Senior Center. The student researcher will now be a FSU COM Bridge student. Principal Investigator: Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D.

We always welcome your feedback. Please let us know how we are doing and if there are items you would like to see added to our newsletter. Email Suzanne Baker (suzanne.baker@med.fsu.edu) or LaVon Edgerton (lavon.edgerton@med.fsu.edu) to submit your request.
ElderQuest® - Video Game Fun with the Association of American Medical Colleges Competencies: ElderQuest® is a 3D video game aimed at helping medical students learn geriatric-care principles while having fun. The game is played from a medical student’s perspective. Key members of the geriatrics team are integrated into the game and storyline in order to illustrate the interprofessional team-based model for geriatric care. Collaborators are looking into potential SBIR or private foundation grant opportunities to either explore or design and implement ElderQuest® beyond the pilot stage. Lead faculty: Alice Pomidor, M.D., M.P.H. External Collaborators: FSU College of Education and the Department of Psychology.

AFrame Digital Telemedicine Project: This study will evaluate the use of a novel mobile technology that remotely monitors the wellness of seniors. AFrame Digital’s FDA-cleared MobileCare™ Monitor system uses sensors embedded in discreet, noninvasive wrist monitors to gather activity, location, and impact data including impacts related to falls. The system produces real-time continuous remote monitoring. Caregivers have access to easy-to-navigate, web-accessible dashboards and configurable alert settings that generate exceptions-based reports and automated alerts. This study will recruit 80 participants ranging in age from 75 to 85 years old; half will have chronic heart failure and half will not. Lead External Collaborators: Neil Charness, Ph.D. and Walter Boot, Ph.D. from the FSU Department of Psychology Internal Faculty Consultant: Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D. - Alice Pomidor, M.D., M.P.H. will be taking on Dr. Brummel-Smith’s role while he is on faculty development leave.

9th Annual Research Fair

Geriatrics faculty and student researchers will present the following posters at the 9th Annual Research Fair on Tuesday, February 12, 2013.

Factors Associated with Implementation of the POLST Paradigm: Results from a Survey of Florida Physicians
FSU Medical Student: Juliana Matthews
FSU Law Student: Carly Souther
Faculty Advisor: Marshall Kapp J.D., M.P.H.

Medicare Non-Acceptance by Primary Care Physicians in Tallahassee
FSU Medical Student: Jesse O’Shea
Faculty Advisor: Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D.

Consistency of Choices of End-of-Life Wishes Using the “Go Wish” Cards: A Comparison of Elders with Intact Cognition and Mild Cognitive Impairment
FSU Medical Student: Melanie Siefman
Faculty Advisors: Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D.
Consultant: Elizabeth Menkin, M.D. (The Institute for Palliative Medicine, San Diego, CA)

interRAI™ Contact Assessment in Transitional Care: a pilot study to investigate the usefulness of the assessment based on functional status of the patient population
FSU Medical Student: Marielys Figueroa-Sierra, M.S.
Faculty Advisor: Niharika Suchak, M.B.B.S., M.H.S., F.A.C.P.

A Tool for Audit of Hospital Charting of Functional and Cognitive Status by Year Four Medical Students: A Pilot Study
FSU Medical Student: Eli Friedman, J.D., M.S.
FSU Graduate: Mitchell Kutner
Faculty Advisor: John Agens, M.D.

ElderQuest®: Enhancing Learning with Video Games
Alice Pomidor, M.D., M.P.H., Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D., Suzanne Baker, M.A.

Personality and Risk of Alzheimer’s Disease: New Data and Meta-Analysis
Antonio Terracciano, Ph.D., Angelina R. Sutin Ph.D., Yang An, M.S., Richard J O’Brien, M.D., Luigi Ferrucci, Ph.D., M.D., Alan B. Zonderman, Ph.D., Susan M. Resnick, Ph.D.
Community Involvement in Research

The Department of Geriatrics would like to thank the following community organizations for participating in our research projects.

- Assessment of Baseline Characteristics of Older Adults at the Transition Center, Principal Investigator: Niharika Suchak, M.B.B.S., M.H.S., F.A.C.P.
  - The Transition Center at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

- Using “Go Wish” Cards to Explore Older Adults’ Goals and Wishes in the Event of Serious Illness, Principal Investigator: Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D.
  - Westminster Oaks Retirement Community
  - Lake Ella Manor
  - Tallahassee Senior Center

- Medical Student Hospital Charting of Cognitive and Functional Status During Required Fourth-Year Clerkship Rotations Both Before and After a Required Geriatric Clerkship, Principal Investigator: John Agens, M.D.
  - Archbold Memorial Hospital (Thomasville, GA)
  - Baptist Health Care
    - Baptist Hospital (Pensacola, FL)
    - Gulf Breeze Hospital (Gulf Breeze, FL)
    - Jay Hospital (Jay, FL)
  - Sacred Heart Health System (Pensacola, FL)
  - Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (Tallahassee, FL)

Notes of Interest

“In early December 2012, I had the pleasure to travel to San Diego, CA for my very first Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) conference. PRIM&R is an organization whose mission is to advance the highest ethical standards in the conduct of biomedical and social science/behavioral research. They accomplish this mission through education, membership services, professional certifications, and public policy initiatives.

This year’s meeting attracted over 4,000 members from a range of backgrounds including physicians, social science and biomedical researchers, as well as institutional review board (IRB) members and administrators. I attended a variety of sessions, including several on conducting research with vulnerable populations with memory impairments, best practices in clinical research, and development of data monitoring plans and general data safety. All of the sessions were very informative and the format allowed for considerable discussions between participants. I was invigorated by the dialogue and innovative ideas exchanged during the meeting. I cannot wait to see what next year’s meeting will have to offer!”

~ Suzanne Baker, M.A.
Research Director, Department of Geriatrics

Senior Artists Project Spotlight Artist - January 2013
Sponsored by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation grant.

Country Barn by Siroos Tamaddoni
On display on the third floor in the FSU COM, Thrasher building.

Monet Garden by Siroos Tamaddoni
On display on the third floor in the FSU COM, Thrasher building.
Scholarly Activities

Announcements

- Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D. has been awarded a one-year Health and Aging Policy Fellowship by the Atlantic Philanthropies to develop policy to improve advance care planning in end-of-life care.

- Alice Pomidor, M.D., M.P.H. will be acting as session moderator for the “Life Beyond Driving” session and presenting during the “Medical Fitness to Drive” session of the Older Driver track at the annual Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities, to be held in April 14-16, 2013 in Denver, CO.

- Antonio Terracciano, Ph.D. has been invited to be part of the Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences editorial board.

Awards

Marshall B. Kapp, J.D., M.P.H.

Florida State University College of Medicine was named the 2012 Shining Star of Educational Innovation by the Association of American Medical Colleges Group on Regional Medical Campuses, based on the project “Humanizing the Legal Risk Management Education of Medical Students: A Collaborative Project of Central and Regional Medical Campuses.” Investigators were Marshall Kapp (Geriatrics and Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law), Dennis Baker (Faculty Development), and Greg Turner (Geriatrics and Faculty Development).

Alice Pomidor, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Pomidor has been awarded Fellow status with the American Geriatrics Society. Announcement of her advancement to fellowship will be made during the AGS 2013 Annual Meeting Members Business Meeting in Grapevine, TX, at which time she will receive her fellowship certificate from the AGS President.

Publications

John Agens, M.D.


Lisa Granville, M.D.


Marshall B. Kapp, J.D., M.P.H.


Scholarly Activities Continued

**Antonio Terracciano, Ph.D.**


Sutin AR, Costa PT Jr., Chan W, Milaneschi Y, Eaton WW, Zonderman AB, Ferrucci L, & Terracciano A (in press). I know not to, but I can't help it: Weight gain and changes in impulsivity-related personality traits. *Psychological Science.*


Welcome

We would like to welcome Antonio Terracciano, Ph.D. to the Department of Geriatrics. Dr. Terracciano joined our team in August 2012. His research interests include aging, genetics, health, personality traits, and cross-cultural studies.

Before joining the Department of Geriatrics, Dr. Terracciano was a staff scientist at the National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health. His research focuses on how psychological traits and genetic factors contribute to physical and mental health across the lifespan. Dr. Terracciano uses longitudinal and cross-cultural methodologies to examine changes in traits with age, from adolescence to older adulthood. Dr. Terracciano has also led or participated in large collaborative genome-wide association studies to identify common genetic variants associated with personality traits, depression, and cigarette smoking. His research aims to individuate factors that contribute to health and longevity by reducing health risk behaviors and promoting resilience against diseases of aging, such as Alzheimer’s disease.

Upcoming Events

**American Geriatrics Society**
2013 Annual Scientific Meeting
When: May 3-5, 2013
Where: Grapevine, TX

**Florida Council on Aging**
2013 Florida Conference on Aging
When: August 12-14, 2013
Where: Orlando, FL

**Florida Geriatrics Society**
2013 Annual Meeting
When: June 2013 (Exact date TBD.)
Where: TBD

**Florida Medical Directors Association**
22nd Annual Conference
When: October 17-20, 2013
Where: Lake Buena Vista, FL

**Florida State University College of Medicine**
9th Annual Research Fair
When: February 12, 2013
Where: College of Medicine Atrium

**Gerontological Society of America**
2013 Annual Meeting
When: November 20-24, 2013
Where: New Orleans, LA

**Society of Teachers of Family Medicine**
46th Annual Spring Conference
When: May 1-5, 2013
Where: Baltimore, MD

**Southern Gerontology Society**
34th Annual Meeting
When: April 4-7, 2013
Where: Queen City—Charlotte, NC

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