Geriatrics Research

Current Research

Faculty Research

- Identifying Adverse Events After Discharge from a Community Hospital
  Funded through an R01 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality grant, this study looks at the frequency of adverse events that occur after hospital discharge in patients age 65 and older and compares the results to patients younger than age 65. Principal Investigator: Dr. Dennis Tsilimingras, Department of Geriatrics Co-Investigator: Dr. John Agens.

Student Research

- Medical Student Hospital Charting of Cognitive and Functional Status During Required Fourth-Year Clerkship Rotations Both Before and After a Required Geriatric Clerkship
  This year, the Charles R. Mathews Geriatrics Education and Research Scholarship was awarded to Eli Friedman. Under the mentorship of Dr. John Agens, he will analyze patients’ charts of fourth-year medical students who either have or have not taken the Primary Care Geriatrics Clerkship.

- Understanding Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS) and Their Impact on Life-Space in Older Adults
  LUTS have been shown to negatively impact one’s quality of life and is most prevalent in the older adult population. Life space refers to the size of the spatial area through which a person moves in their life. Jason Gronert (mentored by Dr. Lisa Granville) will look at the impact of LUTS symptoms on older adults’ life space. Jason was awarded an FSU Summer Research Fellowship by the Division of Research.

- Using “Go Wish” Cards to Explore Older Adults End-of-Life Wishes
  Lindsay Gardner, under the guidance of Dr. Ken Brummel-Smith and Suzanne Baker, focused her research project on exploring the use of the Go Wish cards as a tool to begin end-of-life conversations in persons with intact or mild cognitive impairment. Lindsay graduated in May 2013.

- Use of the “Go Wish” Cards in Persons with Early Alzheimer’s Disease
  Because of the growing awareness of dementia in society, more people are being diagnosed at an early stage. It is precisely this early stage that an opportunity to have an in-depth discussion about one’s goals and wishes should be held so that physicians and family can understand the patient’s wishes for end-of-life care. Christine McLaughlin will work with Drs. Ken Brummel-Smith and Antonio Terracciano. Christine was awarded an FSU Summer Research Fellowship by the Division of Research.

We always welcome your feedback.
Email Geriatrics Research (geriatrics.research@med.fsu.edu) to let us know your suggestions.
American Geriatrics Society

At this year’s American Geriatrics Society (AGS) annual meeting, the Department was represented by 7 faculty, 5 students (including 3 officers from the Geriatrics Interest Group), 2 awards, 5 faculty presentations, and 3 research posters.

- **Awards**
  - Dr. Rosemary Laird was awarded the 2013 AGS Clinician of the Year Award. This is the second year in a row that a geriatrics faculty member has won this award. Dr. Niharika Suchak won this award last year.
  - Dr. Alice Pomidor was awarded Fellow status.

- **Faculty Presentations**
  - “Keeping Your Lifetime Warranty: Physical Activity for Older Adults. Talking the Talk: Motivational Interviewing” - Dr. Brummel-Smith
  - “ABIM Maintenance of Certification Pre-Conference Workshop” and “Competency Certification in Medication Management for Medical Students” - Dr. Granville
  - “E-Learning” and “Keeping Your Lifetime Warranty: Physical Activity for Older Adults. Go4Life and Other Resources” - Dr. Pomidor

- **Research Posters**

  **InterRAI™ Contact Assessment in Transitional Care: a pilot study to investigate the usefulness of the assessment based on functional status of the patient population.**
  **Faculty Mentors:** Dr. Niharika Suchak and Suzanne Baker
  **Students:** Marielys Figueroa-Sierra and Makandall Saint-Eloi

  The students conducted a pilot study to explore if using the assessment tool could help identify patients’ urgency levels of needing further assessment or services in a transitional-care center setting.

  **Identifying Adverse Events After Discharge from a Community Hospital**
  **Author:** John Agens, M.D.

  See the front page of this newsletter for more information on this research project.

  **Consistency of Choices of End-of-Life Wishes Using the ‘Go Wish’ Cards: A Comparison of Elders with Intact Cognition and Mild Cognitive Impairment.**
  **Faculty Mentors:** Dr. Ken Brummel-Smith and Suzanne Baker
  **Student:** Melanie Siefman

  Melanie researched whether participants over age 65 with intact cognition or mild cognitive impairment were consistent in choosing end-of-life wishes over time using the “Go Wish” card game and if consistency of choices could be used to determine an authentic wish.
Notes of Interest

Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D.
Health and Aging Policy Fellowship
Senate Special Committee on Aging
Hearing: Renewing the Conversation: Respecting Patient’s Wishes and Advance Care Planning
June 26, 2013

“I had the great pleasure of assisting the Committee on developing and conducting the hearing on Advance Care Planning. This was my major goal for the fellowship. The subject of advance care planning had been derailed by the “death panel” assertion by Sarah Palin. I wanted to bring the subject back to center stage so topics such as POLST and reimbursement could again be discussed. I was very happy that Kim Lipsky, the director of the committee, suggested holding a hearing on the topic.

I completed a “policy brief” describing the key elements of the topic, a “lay of the land” describing past activities and bills regarding the subject, recommended and contacted witnesses to Oliver Kim, the deputy director of the committee, and briefed Sen. Bill Nelson (Committee Chair) the day before the hearing. During the hearing, I monitored questions and made further suggestions for questions to Sen. Nelson.” - Ken Brummel-Smith

The witness list, witness testimonies, and a video of the hearing can be found at: http://www.aging.senate.gov/hearing_detail.cfm?id=344148&.

External Research Collaborations

Video Game Interest Group

The interest group meets every few months and has been meeting since May 2012. The group discusses current research activities and provides suggestions for funding opportunities and other collaborations.

Current Members
- Alice Pomidor, M.D., M.P.H., College of Medicine, Department of Geriatrics
- Valerie Shute, Ph.D., College of Education, Education Psychology and Learning Systems
- Walter Boot, Ph.D., Department of Psychology
- Matthew Ventura, Ph.D., College of Education, Office of Research
- Bill Pomidor, M.D., Co-founder, Brainstorm Rising, LLC

Research Interests:
- Developing ElderQuest, a 3D video game aimed at helping medical students learn key principles of geriatric care.
- Using immersive games with stealth assessment to support learning of cognitive and non-cognitive knowledge and skills.
- Using video games as a means to improve perceptual and cognitive abilities and developing the best experimental designs to link video-game play to cognitive improvements in younger and older adults.
- Using and developing 21st century assessments and educational technology.
- Developing games for the general public using 3D modeling, simulation development, and the Unity game-design platform.

If interested in joining the group, please email Dr. Pomidor at alice.pomidor@med.fsu.edu.
## Scholarly Activities

### Announcements

- Drs. Kapp, Brummel-Smith, and Turner were awarded an Oregon Health and Science University grant for Supporting Innovation I POLST Paradigm Expansion and Dissemination. This project will develop and disseminate POLST-related educational materials for and to all Florida medical schools.

- At the 36th Annual Health Law Professors Conference sponsored by the American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics, Professor Kapp presented “Developing Legal Competencies for Medical Curricula” and “Nursing Home Culture Change: Legal Apprehensions and Opportunities.”

- Tallahassee Senior Center Rural Outreach Presentations
  - “Osteoporosis” by Ms. Baker.
  - “Making Medical Decisions: What are the Patient’s Rights and Responsibilities” by Professor Kapp.
  - “Staying Fit Through Exercise” and “Positive Aging” by Dr. Pomidor.
  - “The History of Medicine” by Dr. Joseph Gabriel (Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences)
  - “Living the FSU COM Mission” by Dr. Alma Littles (Department of Family Medicine)

- At the Alzheimer’s Project Annual Educational Conference, Dr. Granville presented “Evaluation and Management of Urinary Incontinence in Patients with Dementia.”

- Dr. Suchak served as a panelist on the FSU COM “Medical Perspective: Helping Patients and Families Plan for Difficult Medical Choices: Death Panels or Good Medical Practice?”

- At the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine conference, Dr. Turner presented “Using the ARCH Feedback Model to Facilitate.”

- Professor Kapp has been appointed to serve on the Person-Centered Care Planning Task Force sponsored by the Hulda B. and Maurice L. Rothschild Foundation. This national initiative will develop “a set of Person-Centered Planning Practices and Implementation Guidelines that provide guidance to care communities on how to plan around resident preferences for high-risk actions.”

- In June, the Department hosted its second American Geriatrics Society Lunch and Learn faculty development session. During this session, the Department shared take-home messages from the annual meeting with the FSU COM community.

### Awards

- Jason Konopack, M.D. was awarded the 2013 Florida Geriatrics Society Award for the Outstanding Student in Geriatrics.

- **Dr. Charlotte Maguire was honored as a Great Floridian by Governor Rick Scott.**

### Publications

Granville L, Suchak N (2013). *BPH and Polypharmacy (Mr. Thompson)*, POGOe—Portal of Geriatric Online Education Geriatrics Education Module, 9216.


Scholarly Activities Continued


Lighthouse by Jan Taylor
Senior Artists Project Spotlight Artist - July 2013
Sponsored by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation grant.
On display on the third floor.
Community Involvement in Research

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

**Use of the “Go Wish” Cards in Persons with Early Alzheimer’s Disease**
Principal Investigator: Dr. Ken Brummel-Smith
- Advent Christian Village
- Alzheimer’s Association
- Alzheimer’s Project
- Movement Disorders Clinic (Dr. Maitland)
- Tallahassee Memory Disorder Clinic
- Westminster Oaks

**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: Dr. John Agens
- Archbold Memorial Hospital (Thomasville, GA)
- Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

**Understanding Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS) and Their Impact on Life-Space in Older Adults**
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lisa Granville
- Westminster Oaks

Department Research Website

Check out the Department’s new Research Website! It has been updated to reflect:

- Faculty research and scholarly interests.
- Current faculty research projects.
- Past and present student research. This includes projects supported by:
  - The Charles R. Mathews Geriatrics Education and Research Scholarship.
  - The Bridge to Clinical Medicine Community Service Preceptorship and Research Experience program.
  - The Division of Research’s FSU Summer Research Fellowships for Medical Students.
- A list of community organizations that have been involved in the Department’s research projects.
- Selected faculty publications and presentations that highlight the work of the Department.
- Activities conducted under the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation Grant.

Senior Artists Project
Jan Taylor: Spotlight Artist - July 2013
Sponsored by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation grant.
On display on the third floor.

Two Red Roses

Orange Hibiscus
Recent Issues in Medical Research

Consent, Standard of Care, and Premature Infants - Implications for Clinical Research?
The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) was a part of the multi-site Surfactant, Positive Pressure, and Oxygenation Randomized Trial (SUPPORT) that looked at optimal oxygen-saturation levels for severely premature infants. The study was approved by each site’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) and written informed consent was obtained from the parents of each neonate in the study. However, after two years of investigation, the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) mailed a letter to the lead site at UAB detailing its finding that “the conduct of the study was in violation of the regulatory requirements for informed consent, stemming from the failure to describe the reasonably foreseeable risks of blindness, neurological damage, and death.”

This blog post by the Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research’s (PRIM&R) education director, Elisa Hurley, and education and policy coordinator, Avery Avrakotos, reviews the events leading up to this development, the controversy surrounding SUPPORT, and the larger implications for future comparative effectiveness research. Read more on the PRIM&R blog. For other perspectives, read the National Institutes of Health response or the Harvard Law Blog.

Are Human Genes Patentable Material? Implications for Researchers?
“The Supreme Court determined that human genes fall within the “laws-of-nature” exception to patentable material. This decision invalidated Myriad’s exclusive claim to BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 tests that can be used in determining a woman’s risk in contracting breast and ovarian cancer. However, Myriad was not asserting a patent on the tests; its theory was that since it patented the genes, no one else had the right to use the genes in their research. “ Read more on the PRIM&R blog. For other perspectives, read the Supreme Court of the United States’ blog or the Cornell University Law School website.

Educational Research in Medical Schools - Resource Articles
For those interested in or already conducting educational research in the medical school environment, the following articles offer you some perspectives from research colleagues and IRB experts and outline important considerations when conducting educational research.

- Clinician Educators’ Experiences with Institutional Review Boards: Results of a National Survey
- Medical Students as Human Subjects in Educational Research
- Trends in Study Methods Used in Undergraduate Medical Education Research, 1969-2007
- When Do Medical Students Become Human Subjects of Research? The Case of Program Evaluation

Upcoming Conferences

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

- Society of Teachers of Family Medicine 47th Annual Spring Conference
  When: May 3-7, 2014
  Where: San Antonio, TX

- Society of Teachers of Family Medicine 40th Annual Conference on Medical Student Education
  When: January 30 - February 2, 2014
  Where: Nashville, TN

- American Geriatrics Society 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting
  When: May 15-17, 2014
  Where: Orlando, FL