



Dr. Elly Budiman-Mak Foot Function Index in VA Research Currents

PROJECT IMPACTS



Dr. Budiman-Mak

In the winter edition of VA Research Currents you will find an interesting article about one of our CINCCCH investigators, Elly Budiman-Mak, M.D. She was featured in an

“Impacts on Care” article about her Foot Function Index, (FFI) and it’s translation into 20 different languages around the world. FFI was originally developed in the 1980s by researchers led by Dr. Budiman-Mak. As part of a VA funded study to prevent arthritis foot deformity, the researchers realized a need to measure outcomes. Dr. Budiman-Mak explains the reasoning behind the development of FFI, “We developed the FFI because there was no

outcome measure for foot health and functioning in 1984.” She further goes on to say, “We wanted to measure outcomes, so we developed this very useful instrument.”

The FFI underwent extensive field testing over several years with different groups of patients to prove it’s worth. There are 23 questions that rate foot pain and disability. The FFI has several parts. The first focuses on pain and conditions/times when it is present. The second section asks about disability and the conditions when the patient has difficulty. The third section is focused on limitations in activities.

To directly quote the VA Research Currents article, “There are a lot of self-report measures used by foot surgeons, orthopedists, physical therapists, and other clinicians, but the FFI is one of the favorites used world-wide.”

Dr. Karen Saban Co-Leads Hines Site for Women’s Health PBRN

LEADERSHIP

Karen L. Saban, PhD, RN, APRN, CNRN, FAHA, was recently appointed Co-Site Lead for the VA Women’s Health – Practice Based Research Network (WH-PBRN). Dr. Saban, a Research Health Scientist in the CINCCCH and Associate Professor in the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, Loyola University Chicago, will work with Dr. Sudha Bhoopalam (Director of Hines VA Women’s Health and Co-Director of the Hines WH-BRN) to promote, support, and disseminate practice-based research and quality improvement initiatives designed to develop and identify

evidence-based approaches that improve the health and health care of women Veterans. Hines VA currently serves over 2,500 women Veterans with specialized women’s health services for primary care, gynecology, urogynecology, pharmacy, and mental health. Current research studies include (1) Mental Health Needs of Women Veterans (PI: Laura Miller, MD), (2) Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction for Women Veterans at Risk for Cardiovascular disease (PI: Karen Saban, PhD), and (3) Medication Use and Diagnoses in Women Veterans (PI: Katie Suda, PhD).

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has named Carol Kostovich, PhD, RN, a Nurse Educator Fellow for 2015. Dr. Kostovich is a Research Health Scientist at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, Hines, IL and an Associate Professor and Director of Simulation in the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, Loyola University Chicago. She is one of only 22 nurse educators in Illinois who has been given this year's honor. As a fellow, Dr. Kostovich will mentor new nursing faculty in the teaching and

scholarship of simulation. In addition, she will develop, implement and evaluate a simulation that teaches undergraduate nursing students how to incorporate *nursing presence* into the care of their patients.

Dr. Kostovich is the PI of an NRI study entitled, "Efficacy of an Internet Mantram Program on RN Delivered Patient Centered Care."



Dr. Kostovich

VA's Participation in PCORI CDRN Highlighted at Hines VA Hospital's Research Day

PARTNERS

Drs. Fran Weaver, Brian Schmitt and Elizabeth Tarlov will deliver the keynote presentation at the Hines VA Research Day on May 20, 2015. They will be talking about the progress several Chicago area health care institutions, including Hines VAH and Jesse Brown VAMC are making in established a clinical research data network (CRDN) supported by PCORI. The Chicago CRDN – CAPriCORN, which stands for Chicago Area Patient Centered Outcomes Research Network is one of 11 net-

works funded by PCORI to create a research data network within which comparative effectiveness studies can be conducted. During the first 18 months, CAPriCORN will identify and characterize 5 cohorts – a obesity/weight cohort, which is common to all the CDRNs, two common disease conditions: asthma and anemia, and two rare disease conditions: sickle cell disease and recurrent clostridium difficile infection. The team is already preparing for the Phase II submission to continue this groundbreaking work.

New Post-doctoral Fellow Joins CINCH

MENTORING



Dr. Meg Fitzpatrick

Margaret Fitzpatrick, MD, MS completed her Internal Medicine residency and Infectious Diseases fellowship at Northwestern University. During fellowship, she conducted various research projects pertaining to hospital epidemiology, infection control, and multidrug resistant bacteria. She also completed a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation

degree. Dr. Fitzpatrick is now an Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine and also has a clinical appointment in Infectious Diseases at Hines VAH. She is also pursuing a VA Health Services Research and Development MD

Post-Doctoral fellowship. She is working with her mentor, Dr. Charlesnika Evans, on a project that examines the epidemiology of multidrug resistant organisms in patients with spinal cord injury. Patients with spinal cord injury represent a unique population of complex, chronically ill patients who are at particularly high risk of poor outcomes related to infection and colonization with multidrug resistant bacteria. Dr. Fitzpatrick is also initiating a project evaluating the clinical impact of bacteriuria in patients with spinal cord injury prior to surgery. This project should support future studies that improve clinical design making tools for providers with regards to bacteriuria in spinal cord injury. Outside of work, Dr. Fitzpatrick is looking forward to her upcoming wedding this spring in Estes Park, Colorado and a fantastic honeymoon in Australia!



Currently, there are more than 100,000 Veterans receiving Parkinson's disease-related care and services from the VA. Management of Parkinson's disease includes treatment of both motor and non-motor symptoms. Mild cognitive impairment is a common non-motor symptom which negatively impacts functioning and quality of life and is also a risk factor for developing dementia. There is a critical need to develop treatments to improve cognition and slow or stop the progression to dementia. Sandra Kletzel, PhD has received an intent to award (pending JIT) Level 1 Career Development Award from the Department of Rehabilitation and Research Development to begin to address this area. The objective of Dr. Kletzel's award "Cognitive Biomarker Targets for Treatment in Veterans with Parkinson's Disease" is to enhance our understanding of the mild cognitive changes that occur most frequently in Veterans with Parkinson's disease. Dr. Kletzel, currently an HSR&D Post-doc Fellow at CINCCCH will use a variety of tests to examine changes in memory, executive function, language, attention and visuospatial function. Dr. Kletzel will also use advanced neuroimaging techniques, such as resting state functional magnetic resonance imaging, to assess how neural activity between interacting brain regions that support normal cognitive function is changed in Parkinson's patients with mild cognitive impairment. Information gained about these brain and behavior relationships will be used to guide future research that focuses on the development cognitive rehabilitation interventions.

November Special Collection Women's Veterans' Health in *Women's Health Issues*

IMPACTS

In November 2014, Women's Health Issues (WHI) released a special collection on women Veterans' health which included Dr. Sherri LaVela's article entitled, "Caregiving Experiences and Health Conditions of Women Veteran and non-Veterans Caregivers." Women's Health Issues is the official journal of the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health which is based at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University. The collection is available online at <http://www.whijournal.com/content/special-collections>. Congratulations Dr. LaVela!

December Team Building Activity - a Little fun, and a Great Cause

TEAM BUILDING



CINCCCH staff gathered Thursday, December 11, to kick off the holiday season with an Ugly Sweater and Crazy Socks party, organized by CINCCCH Activity Group 5. The event had three separate activities planned. First, decked out in tinsel, pom-poms, ornaments, and other holiday decorations, CINCCCH staff

showed creativity and a sense of fun in their ugly sweater creations.

Second, the attendees participated in a sock exchange, and each left the party with at least one pair of crazy socks to scare away the winter cold. The third part of the event was the most rewarding. Participants all brought a small donation to go to a needy Veteran's family.

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COMPLEX CHRONIC HEALTHCARE**

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CINCCCH Kudos Corner

Charlesnika Evans, PhD was recently nominated and approved as a permanent member of the Healthcare Safety and Quality Improvement (HSQR) Study Section for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Dr. Evans recently received her service pin at Hines VAH for 10 years of service. Congratulations!

She also was recently promoted to Associate Professor in Department of Preventive Medicine and Center for Healthcare Studies, Institute for Public Health and Medicine, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, one of our partners.



Neil Jordan, PhD was promoted on September 1, 2014 to the position of Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Studies and Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University.

Naomi Ashley Research assistant, has performed as a singer-songwriter for over 17 years. Her album, *Trying to Fly* was funded by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council. She is currently collaborating with spoken word performer David Kodeski who wrote a

series of stories about growing up in Niagara Falls. Naomi is writing music to accompany his stories. The show will have a run in Chicago later in 2015.

Our Recent Publications

DISSEMINATION

Dookeran KA, **Silva A**, Warnecke RB, Rauscher GH. Race/Ethnicity and disparities in mastectomy practice in the breast cancer care in Chicago study. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2015 Jan;22(1):66-74. PMID: 25135847.

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Gauthier TP, **Suda KJ**, Mathur SK, Harriman D, Pham J, Aragon L, Abbo LM, Hooton TM. Free antibiotic and vaccination programmes in community pharmacies of Miami-Dade County, FL, USA. *J Antimicrob Chemother*. 2015 Feb;70(2):594-7. PMID: 25331056

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Herrold AA, Kletzel SL, Harton BC, Chambers RA, **Jordan N, Pape TL**. Transcranial magnetic stimulation: potential treatment for co-occurring alcohol, traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorders. *Neural Regen Res*. 2014 Oct 1;9(19):1712-1730. PMID: 25422632

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Matsumura JS, **Stroupe KT**, Lederle FA, Kyriakides TC, Ge L, Freischlag JA; Open Versus Endovascular Repair (OVER) Veterans Affairs Cooperative Study Group; Open Versus Endovascular Repair OVER Veterans Affairs Cooperative Study Group. Costs of repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm with different devices in a multicenter randomized trial. *J Vasc Surg*. 2015 Jan;61(1):59-65.e2. PMID: 25238728.

Ruggiero L, Riley BB, Hernandez R, Quinn LT, **Gerber BS**, Castillo A, Day J, Ingram D, Wang Y, Butler P. Medical assistant coaching to support diabetes self-care among low-income racial/ethnic minority populations: randomized controlled trial. *West J Nurs Res*. 2014 Oct;36(9):1052-73.

Saban KL, Mathews HL, DeVon HA, Janusek LW. Epigenetics and social context: implications for disparity in cardiovascular disease. *Aging Dis*. 2014 Oct 1;5(5):346-55. PMID: 25276493