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## Center for Management of Complex Chronic Care



### **Dr. Charlesnika Evans Receives a 2012 Presidential Early Career Scientist Award**

Charlesnika T. Evans, Ph.D., M.P.H., is a recipient of the 2012 Presidential Early Career Scientist Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).

Dr. Evans is a Research Health Scientist at HSR&D's Center for Management of Complex Chronic Care; VA/HSR&D's Spinal Cord Injury Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (SCI-QUERI); and a Senior Associate at the VA Center for Occupational Health and Infection Control (COHIC) in the Office of Public Health. She has expertise and research interests in epidemiologic methods, health outcomes, and infectious disease related research. Dr. Evans is currently the principal investigator of an HSR&D funded study focused on *Clostridium difficile* infection in Veterans with SCI, and the principal investigator of a recently completed study focused on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in the SCI population. She was also the co-principal investigator and a co-investigator on two HSR&D studies focused on evaluating VA's screening program for mild traumatic brain injury. In addition to her VA affiliation, Dr. Evans is also a Research Assistant Professor at the Center for Healthcare Studies in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University.



Timothy O'Leary, MD, PhD, Deputy CRADO; Director, Clinical Science Research & Development Service, & Charlesnika Evans, PhD, PECASE Recipient

Established in 1996, PECASE is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government upon outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent research careers. The award is given annually by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP); it recognizes preeminent young scientists and engineers for their innovative research and their "exceptional potential to shape the future through intellectual and inspired leadership."

On July 31, 2012, Dr. Evans received the PECASE award from OSTP at the Museum of Natural History on the National Mall in Washington, DC, which was followed by a tour and meeting with President Obama in the East Room of the White House.

CMC3 congratulates Dr. Evans on this well deserved honor and wishes her continued success.

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## Dr. Theresa Pape Named Deputy ACOS for R&D, Hines VA Hospital

Dr. Theresa Pape is now the Deputy Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS) for Research and Development at Hines VA Hospital (VAH). In that role she works with the ACOS of Research Service to develop and implement the strategic plan for Hines and Captain James A Lovell FHCC research programs. She is responsible for planning, developing, directing and overseeing scientific activities related to clinical, health services and rehabilitation research at Hines VAH, as well as compliance with VISN, VACO, ORD and ORO polices including accreditation of the human research protection program and animal research program. She serves as an ex officio member of R&D and serves as a resource to PIs on scientific and technical issues.

Dr. Pape still dedicates time to her research in neuro plasticity and neural repair specializing in Traumatic Brain Injury interventions and outcomes assessment.

Congratulations and good luck to Dr. Pape in her new role.

## Center for Evaluation of Practices and Experiences of Patient-centered Care (CEPEP) Funded

Sherri LaVela, PI. Lisa Burkhart, Marylou Guihan, Jennifer Hill, Neil Jordan, Carol Kostovich, Sara Locatelli, Min Woong Sohn, Kevin Stroupe, Fran Weaver and Saul Weiner, Co-Investigators.

Dr. Sherri LaVela was recently funded to conduct an evaluation of patient-centered innovations named CEPEP. This two year, million dollar center grant will evaluate the processes and outcomes of approaches to implementing patient-centered care and cultural transformation at the patient, family, provider/employee, and facility/system levels within and across Veterans Health Administration Centers of Innovation (COI) to identify the most effective ways to change (improve) culture throughout the organization.

There are four main aims to meet the objectives of CEPEP: (1) evaluate the implementation, sustainability, spread, and reach of patient centered care and cultural transformation (PCC&CT) innovations; (2) to measure the impact of PCC&CT innovations on patient, family, provider/employee, and facility/organizational levels; (3) to assess the budget and economic impact of PCC&CT innovations; and (4) identify and test existing patient-centered care metrics and additional patient-reported measures to make recommendations for measuring patient centered care.

Investigators will use a mixed methods approach for data collection/analysis, combining the strengths of quantitative and qualitative methods (incorporating existing VA administrative data and Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformations (OPCC&CT) metrics, and conducting prospective primary data collection). This multi-method approach to evaluation increases the validity and reliability of evaluation findings and provides a more comprehensive picture. Due to the wide-range and variation of efforts at the COIs, data collection will include formative and summative evaluation methods and data collection from a variety of sources at different points during the evaluation.

## **Dr. Karen Saban Receives NIH and VA Funding**

Dr. Karen Saban was recently awarded a National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) training grant (K01) entitled, “*Social Context and Inflammatory Risk of Stroke in African American Women.*” Dr. Saban is a former PhD, RN Fellow in CMC3. As part of this three-year mentored career development award, Dr. Saban will conduct a study comparing African American (AA) and Non-Hispanic White (NHW) women at risk for CVD in order to: (1) determine the extent to which prior life adversity contributes to CVD risk and the proinflammatory response to acute stress, (2) determine the degree to which prior life adversity predicts global DNA methylation status, and (3) evaluate global DNA methylation status as a predictor of the proinflammatory response to acute stress. The significance of this study lies in its potential to clarify mechanisms of CVD disease susceptibility and to determine the possible basis for the health disparity exhibited by disadvantaged, minority women.

Dr. Saban also received notice of an Award for an HSR&D Nursing Research Initiative (NRI) study entitled, “*Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) for Women at Risk for Cardiovascular Disease (CVD).*” This is an intervention study in which women Veterans at risk for CVD will be randomized into either an eight week MBSR program or health education control program. The following specific aims will be addressed: (1) determine the extent to which training in MBSR (a) improves psychological well-being, (b) decreases inflammatory burden, and (c) reduces CVD risk in women Veterans; and (2) evaluate protective and risk factors posited to moderate the effect of MBSR on psychological well being, inflammatory burden and CVD risk in women Veterans. It is expected that MBSR will improve psychological well-being and reduce CVD risk with improvements sustained for at least six months. Given that CVD is a major cause of mortality, this research may have broader implications for reducing CVD in the general population.

## **New CMC3 Investigators, Dr. Dustin French and Dr. Lisa Burkhart**

**Dustin French, PhD** has joined CMC3 from the Indiana University (IU) Center for Health Services and Outcomes Research, Regenstrief Institute, Inc, and Richard L. Roudebush VAMC where he was a core investigator in the VA HSR&D Center of Excellence on Implementing Evidence-Based Practice (CIEBP) Indianapolis, Indiana. He is an expert health economist, and his research is focused on the use of comparative effectiveness and cost effectiveness techniques for clinical translation. Prior to Indiana Dr. French worked at the VISN-8 headquarters in Bay Pines, Florida and the James A Haley VAMC in Tampa, Florida. He is faculty at Hines VAH COE and Northwestern University Department of Ophthalmology and Center for Healthcare Studies.

**Elizabeth (Lisa) Burkhart, RN, PhD** has recently joined CMC3 as a Co-Investigator on the newly funded CEPEP. She is Associate Professor in the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing at Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Burkhart’s research is focused on spirituality/spiritual care and informatics, where her expertise includes qualitative grounded theory of spiritual care in nursing practice, tool development and psychometric testing of a spiritual care instrument, and educational programming and evaluation designed to promote spiritual care based on the grounded theory. Additional research includes integrating spiritual care measures in the electronic health record and subsequently measuring documented spiritual care. Over the past three years, Dr. Burkhart collaborated with Hines VA Nursing Service as medical/surgical faculty in VA Nursing Academy: Enhancing Academic Partnerships.



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## Dr. Saul Weiner Appointed Vice Provost

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Saul J. Weiner as Vice Provost for Planning and Programs effective January 7, 2013, pending approval by the Board of Trustees at the University of Illinois. Dr. Weiner, Deputy Director CMC3, is a Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Medical Education in the College of Medicine. He also serves as Chair, Education Committee of the IT Governance Council at University of Illinois, at Chicago.

Dr. Weiner's research, in health policy and medical decision making, has been funded since 2001. His publications include studies of how large health care organizations manage uninsured patients and the performance of clinicians at addressing contextual factors in patients' lives when planning their care.

*The Investigators and Staff of CMC3 wish you a very* ❄️  
*Happy Holiday Season.* ❄️

## Selected Publications - October to December 2012

Abbott DE, Merkow RP, Cantor SB, Fleming JB, Varadhachary GR, Crane C, **Bentrem DJ**, Bilimoria KY. Cost-effectiveness of Treatment Strategies for Pancreatic Head Adenocarcinoma and Potential Opportunities for Improvement. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2012 Nov;19(12):3659-67.

Akkina SK, Ricardo AC, Patel A, Das A, Bazzano LA, Brecklin C, **Fischer MJ**, Lash JP. Illicit drug use, hypertension, and chronic kidney disease in the US adult population. *Transl Res*. 2012 Dec;160(6):391-8.

**Evans CT, Weaver FM, Rogers TJ**, Rapacki L, **Miskevics S**, Hahm B, **Smith B, LaVela SL**, Goldstein B, Burns SP. Guideline-recommended management of community-acquired pneumonia in Veterans with spinal cord injury. *Top Spinal Cord Inj Rehabil*. 2012;18(4):300-305.

**LaVela SL**, Goldstein B, **Etingen B, Miskevics S, Weaver FM**. Factors associated with H1N1 influenza vaccine receipt in a high risk population during the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic. *Top Spinal Cord Inj Rehabil*. 2012;18(4):306-314.

**LaVela SL**, Prohaska TR, Furner S, **Weaver FM**. Chronic diseases in male veterans with multiple sclerosis. *Prev Chronic Dis*. 2012 Feb;9:E55.

**Locatelli SM, Sohn MW**, Spring B, Hadi S, **Weaver FM**. Participant Retention in the Veterans Health Administration's MOVE! Weight management program, 2010. *Prev Chronic Dis*. 2012;9:E129.

Lora CM, Ricardo AC, Brecklin CS, **Fischer MJ**, Rosman RT, Carmona E, Lopez A, Balaram M, Nessel L, Tao KK, Xie D, Kusek JW, Go AS, Lash JP. Recruitment of Hispanics into an observational study of chronic kidney disease: the Hispanic Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort Study experience. *Contemp Clin Trials*. 2012 Nov;33(6):1238-44.

Schwartz A, **Weiner SJ, Weaver F**, Yudkowsky R, **Sharma G, Binns-Calvey A**, Preyss B, **Jordan N**. Uncharted territory: measuring costs of diagnostic errors outside the medical record. *BMJ Qual Saf*. 2012 Nov;21(11):918-24.

Stelmack JA, Tang XC, Reda DJ, **Stroupe KT**, Rinne S, Massof RW; for the LOVIT II Study Group. VA LOVIT II: a protocol to compare low vision rehabilitation and basic low vision. *Ophthalmic Physiol Opt*. 2012 Nov;32(6):461-471.

**Stroupe KT**, Lederle FA, Matsumura JS, Kyriakides TC, Jonk YC, Ge L, Freischlag JA; Open Versus Endovascular Repair (OVER) Veterans Affairs Cooperative Study Group. Cost-effectiveness of open versus endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm in the OVER trial. *J Vasc Surg*. 2012 Oct;56(4):901-909.

**Stroupe KT, Tarlov E**, Lee TA, Weichle TW, Zhang QL, Michaelis LC, Ozer H, Durazo-Arvizu R, **Browning MM, Hynes DM**. Hemoglobin levels triggering erythropoiesis-stimulating agent therapy in patients with cancer: the shift after United States food and drug administration policy changes. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2012 Nov;32(11):988-97.