



## Dr. Dustin Lange, New Post-doctoral Fellow is Featured on CINCCCH Homepage

**LEADERSHIP**



Dr. Dustin Lange

Dustin D. Lange, Ph.D., M.S. is our most recent post-doctoral fellow at the Center of Innovation for Complex Chronic Healthcare (CINCCCH) at Edward Hines Jr. VA

of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). While there, he co-wrote the book *Camo to Career: The Veteran's Guide to Career Success*, which is an essential guide written exclusively for recently separated service members going to college looking to launch a successful career.

Hospital. Dr. Lange, a Veteran, conducts research related to implementation and dissemination of evidence-based and translational practices in the use of complementary and alternative medicine for managing the symptoms of complex chronic illnesses and disabilities.

Prior to his post-doctoral training, Dr. Lange assisted in the implementation of academic and career services at the newly built Chez Family Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education at the University

of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). As a doctoral candidate at UIUC, Dustin was the lead author on 2 peer-reviewed articles and numerous poster presentations, a 2013 recipient of the *Robert P. Larsen* grant for research in Career Development, a 2010 James Scholar Faculty/Staff Award recipient, and named to the *List of Teachers ranked Excellent by Their Students* for 15 semesters. Dr. Lange received several military awards during his 8 year stint on active duty in the United States Marine Corps. We are pleased to have Dustin as an investigator in our Center.

## Dr. Carol Kostovich Participates in Leadership Conference

**LEADERSHIP**



Dr. Kostovich

Dr. Carol Kostovich was selected to participate in the National League for Nursing (NLN) Simulation Program for 2016.

This was a competitive application process in which only 20 registered nurses from across the United States and Canada were selected to participate. One of the goals of this program is to collaborate with colleagues from across the country on the development and implementation of a multi-site research study to

potentially contribute to the science of simulation. Beside being a great honor, this provides Dr. Kostovich with the opportunity to work on a multi-site research team, expanding her research experience. She has attended two meetings, with the first at the NLN Leadership Conference in Atlanta in February. The second meeting was a retreat held in Washington, DC the week of June 5-9, 2016. Dr. Kostovich looks forward to the opportunity to work with this impressive group of nurses.

## Dr. Kevin Stroupe Publishes Article on Veterans' Pharmacy and HealthCare Utilization following Implementation of Medicare Part D Pharmacy Benefit

PROJECT IMPACTS



Dr. K. Stroupe

Stroupe KT, Bailey L, Gellad WF, Suda K, Huo Z, Martinez R, Burk M, Cunningham F, Smith BM. Veterans' Pharmacy and Health Care Utilization Following Implementation of the Medicare Part D Pharmacy Benefit. *Med Care Res Rev.* 2016 Apr 17. pii: 1077558716643887. [Epub ahead of print]

The Medicare Part D pharmacy benefit may increase Veterans' options for obtaining medications (e.g., by making it easier for them to obtain prescription medications not on VA's formulary). However, availability of Part D may be one factor that contributes to increasing the complexity of Veterans' medication management. Investigators examined associations between enrollment in Medicare Part D pharmacy benefits and changes in medication acquisition from Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pharmacies. All women and a random 10% sample of men who were VA enrollees, >65 years old as of January 1, 2004, and alive through December 2007 were included in the sample. Difference-in-differences models with propensity score weighting were used to examine changes in medication acquisition between 2005 (before Part D was implemented) and 2007 (after Part D implementation) for Veterans who were or were not Part D enrolled. Of 231,716 Veterans meeting inclusion criteria, 49,881 (21.5%) were enrolled. While 30-day medication supplies decreased from 26.2 to 23.4 for enrolled Veterans, they increased from 36.6 to 37.4 for non-enrolled Veterans (difference-in-difference: -4.0,  $p < 0.001$ ). Reductions in 30-day supplies were greater among Veterans who were required to pay VA copayments for some or all medications and who used VA and Medicare outpatient services.

## Dr. Beverley Gonzalez Joins CINCCH as an Investigator/Biostatistician



Dr. Gonzalez

Beverly Gonzalez received her PhD from Arizona State University in 2015. She joined the Department of Veterans Affairs Center of Innovation for Complex Chronic Healthcare (CINCCH) as a Mathematical Statistician earlier this year.

Her dissertation work focused on mixing Mathematical models and Statistical models via SIR models developed from data on Leishmaniasis in Bihar, India. While working on her dissertation, Beverly served as a Biostatistician at the Clinical Research Office (CRO) at Loyola University Chicago where she worked as a statistical consultant to principal investigators, residents, and medical students. She has also served as a Biostatistician in the Epidemiology Department at Johns Hopkins University focusing on Prostate Cancer research. Beverly has taught Biostatistics courses to MPH students at Brown University as a graduate student, and has taught Economic Statistic courses to undergraduates at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Beverly's current and future research interests include mathematical and statistical modeling and inference for various public health and medical issues with applications to cancer, pediatric research, epidemiology, and health services research. As the primary Biostatistician for CINCCH, Beverly consults with and provides statistical support for CINCCH researchers with funded grants and for those developing research proposals.

## Dr. Charlesnika Evans Leads Local Team as Part of a New QUERI Program

**NEW PROGRAM**

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Dr. Charlesnika Evans will lead a local team of CINCCCH investigators and study staff as part of the new Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) program called CARRIAGE (Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through Rapid Implementation of Available Guidelines and Evidence) (Program Directors: Michael Rubin, MD (Salt Lake City), Charlesnika Evans (Hines), Eli Perencevich (Iowa City)). This new QUERI program provides 5-years of funding and includes projects focused on addressing antimicrobial resistance by using evidence-based interventions and strategies to prevent healthcare-associated infections and improve use of antibiotics. CARRIAGE investigators will work directly with VA operations partners including the National Infectious Diseases Service and the National Center for Patient Safety to address the goals of their respective offices. The work led by the CINCCCH team will specifically enhance the implementation of new national VA guidelines to detect and prevent the spread of carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* in VA hospitals. The CARRIAGE QUERI will also build an *implementation network* to efficiently implement evidence-based strategies in participating sites as well as a *learning network* to promote best practices through shared learning.

## Dr. Saul Weiner receives funding for IIR

**NEW PROJECTS**

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Dr. Saul Weiner, Deputy Director of CINCCCH, has received funding approval for a new IIR, “Evaluating Use of Patient-Collected Audio Recorded Encounters for Provider Audit Feedback to Reduce Contextual Errors,” with a planned start date of October 2016. The three year study builds on a decade of HSRD funded research on “contextual error” which Dr. Weiner describes as “getting the science right but the care plan wrong” because of inattention to the Veterans relevant life context. The project will examine the efficacy and optimal strategy for implementation and scaling of an ongoing VISN 12 funded quality improvement initiative in which Veterans audio record their care and the data is then fed back to PACT teams to improve care, a process referred to as Audit & Feedback. The project will expand beyond VISN 12 to include the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center.

## LIPs Funded for Investigators at CINCCCH

**NEW PROJECTS**

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Six new LIPs were approved by Central Office for CINCCCH investigators. We are very excited about these new short term projects and are interested to see where they will fit into our center’s Patient-centered Chronic Care Model.

The projects funded for 2016 are:

1. Informing the Development of a Profile of Patient Preferences for PTSD Treatment among Veteran Users of VA Health Care– Bella Etingen PI
2. Understanding Clinician Language Regarding Neurobehavioral Change of Persons in Disordered States of Consciousness- Theresa Pape PI
3. Current practices for music therapy in VA– Sara Locatelli PI
4. Health Services Utilization among Homeless Veterans– Dustin French/Jason Raad Co PIs
5. Enhancing Sustainability of Traditional MBSR with VA Mindfulness Coach Smartphone Application- Karen Saban -PI
6. Evaluating VA and Non-VA Pharmacy Use in Chicago-area Veterans– Katie Suda PI

We look forward to the reports and publications generated from these short term projects and will be reporting on them as they unfold.



2016 CINCCCH Bulletin Board honoring famous Veterans.

The Center of Innovation for Complex Chronic Healthcare (CINCCCH) of Research Service has a special way of honoring our Veterans. May is the month that the Center has designated to put up a display poster board in honor of our Veterans. The display stays up all summer. Last year, the board’s theme was an actual contest to match employees of the Center with Veteran relatives. This year, the theme of the display, “Did You Know They Served? Facts about famous peoples’ service to our country.” There are some very interesting tidbits about these celebrities and their service. The display can be found in Building 1 outside Room B260 and will be up until Labor Day.

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**Salva Balbale, Charlesnika Evans et al** won 3rd place for best poster at the Twelfth Annual Lewis Landsberg Research Day at Northwestern University.

**Katie Suda, PharmD**, had an article published in JAMA, “Prevalence of inappropriate antibiotic prescriptions among US ambulatory care visits, 2010-2011.” She celebrated with the center by hosting a “JAMA” pizza party. Congratulations Katie!



Congratulations to **Dr. Bella Etingen** for successfully defending your dissertation this spring!

## Our Recent Publications

## DISSEMINATION

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Balbale SN, **Etingen B**, Malhiot A, **Miskevics S**, **LaVela SL**. Perceptions of Chronic Illness Care Among Veterans With Multiple Chronic Conditions. *Mil Med*. 2016 May;181(5):439-444. PMID: 27136650

**Budiman-Mak E**, Epstein N, Brennan M, Stuck R, **Guihan M**, **Huo Z**, Emanuele N, Sohn MW. Systolic blood pressure variability and lower extremity amputation in a non-elderly population

with diabetes. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract*. 2016 Apr;114:75-82. doi: 10.1016/j.diabres.2016.01.010. PMID: 26809904

Cramer JD, Kern RC, Tan BK, Peters AT, **Evans CT**, Smith SS. Potential national savings from prescribing guideline-recommended antibiotics for acute rhinosinusitis. *Laryngoscope*. 2016 Mar;126(3):579-81. doi: 10.1002/lary.25719. PMID:26509838.

**Etingen B**, **Miskevics S**, **LaVela SL**. Assessing the Associations of Patient-Reported Perceptions of Patient-Centered Care as Supplemental Measures of Health Care Quality in VA. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2016 Apr;31 Suppl 1:10-20. doi: 10.1007/s11606-015-3557-2. PMID: 26951271

Hogan TP, **Hill JN**, **Locatelli SM**, **Weaver FM**, Thomas FP, Nazi KM, Goldstein B, **Smith BM**. Health Information Seeking and Technology Use Among Veterans With Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders. *PM R*. 2016 Feb;8(2):123-30. doi: 10.1016/j.pmrj.2015.06.443. PMID: 26164352

**LaVela SL**, **Etingen B**, **Hill JN**, **Miskevics S**. Patient Perceptions of the Environment of Care in which Their Healthcare is Delivered. *HERD*. 2016 Apr;9(3):31-46. doi: 10.1177/1937586715610577. PMID: 26597101

**LaVela SL**, Turcios S, Malhiot A, **Etingen B**, **Hill JN**, **Miskevics S**. Do perceptions of family-centered care differ in older and younger family/caregivers of U.S. veterans? *Fam Syst Health*. 2016 Jun;34(2):136-49. doi: 10.1037/fsh0000173. PMID: 26986623

Lones K, **Ramanathan S**, **Fitzpatrick M**, **Hill JN**, **Guihan M**, Richardson MS, **Evans CT**. The Feasibility of an Infection Control "Safe Zone" in a Spinal Cord Injury Unit. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2016 Jun;37(6):714-6. doi: 10.1017/ice.2016.37. PMID: 26916410

Norton PA, Nager CW, Brubaker L, Lemack GE, Sirls LT, Holley R, Chai TC, Kraus SR, Zyczynski H, **Smith B**, Stoddard A; Urinary Incontinence Treatment Network. The cost of preoperative urodynamics: A secondary analysis of the VALUE trial. *Neurourol Urodyn*. 2016 Jan;35(1):81-4. doi: 10.1002/nau.22684. PMID: 25327775

Ricardo AC, Roy JA, Tao K, Alper A, Chen J, Drawz PE, Fink JC, Hsu CY, Kusek JW, Ojo A, Schreiber M, **Fischer MJ**; CRIC Study Investigators. Influence of Nephrologist Care on Management and Outcomes in Adults with Chronic Kidney Disease. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2016 Jan;31(1):22-9. doi: 10.1007/s11606-015-3452-x. PMID: 26138006

**Saban KL**, Mathews HL, **Collins EG**, Hogan NS, Tell D, Bryant FB, **Pape TL**, Griffin JM, Janusek LW. The Man I Once Knew: Grief and Inflammation in Female Partners of Veterans With Traumatic Brain Injury. *Biol Res Nurs*. 2016 Jan;18(1):50-9. doi: 10.1177/1099800414568661. PMID: 25636402

Schwartz A, **Weiner SJ**, **Binns-Calvey A**, **Weaver FM**. Providers contextualize care more often when they discover patient context by asking: meta-analysis of three primary data sets. *BMJ Qual Saf*. 2016 Mar;25(3):159-63. doi: 10.1136/bmjqs-2015-004283. PMID: 26202131

**Silva A**, **Tarlov E**, **French DD**, **Huo Z**, **Martinez RN**, **Stroupe KT**. Veterans Affairs Health System Enrollment and Health Care Utilization After the Affordable Care Act: Initial Insights. *Mil Med*. 2016 May;181(5):469-475. PMID: 27136655