

The NEWSBRIEF

Midwest Center for Health Services & Policy Research
VA HSR&D Center of Excellence

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MCHSPR Researchers Showcase Work

in Parkinson's Disease

MCHSPR investigators will have a presence at the first World Parkinson Congress (WPC) to be held Feb. 22-25, 2006 at the Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. WPC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing an international forum for scientific findings, medical practices and caregiver initiatives related to Parkinson's Disease (PD). The Congress will bring together providers, researchers, allied health professionals, people with PD and caregivers of people living with PD to dialogue and work together to find the best treatments and ultimately a cure for this progressive debilitating disease. There are 90 partners supporting the WPC that span the entire world. Drs. Fran Weaver, Lance Rintamaki and colleagues have three posters accepted for presentation, one of which is included in a special poster tour. The first presentation is based on a multi-site study of deep brain stimulation for PD that is supported by VA's Cooperative Studies Program, NINDS and Medtronics. The second poster reflects work in understanding the extent and impact of stigma on persons with PD, and the third is about understanding the stress experienced and coping mechanisms of caregivers living with persons with PD.

Weaver FM. Quality of life in Persons with Parkinson's Disease Appropriate for Treatment with Deep Brain Stimulation. The World Parkinson Congress, Washington, DC. Feb. 2006. (part of poster tour).

Rintamaki L, Witt WP, Weaver FM, Malis R, Breslow D, Simuni T. The Experience of Stigma Among People Living with Parkinson's Disease. The World Parkinson Congress, Washington, DC. Feb. 2006.

Witt, W, Rintamaki L, Weaver FM, et al. Stressing and Coping Among Family Caregivers of Parkinson's Disease Patients. The World Parkinson Congress, Washington, DC. Feb. 2006.

Consortium on Complex Chronic Illness DoD Project

Drs. Kevin B. Weiss and Todd A. Lee of the Midwest Center for Health Services and Policy Research are part of a recently established consortium of investigators that aims to examine healthcare and outcomes of patients with multiple chronic illnesses. The Consortium on Complex Chronic Illness, Quality and Equity consists of four research groups: the Midwest Center for Health Services and Policy Research; the Health Policy Institute at Georgetown University; The Medstat Group from Thomson Corporation; and the Institute for Health Policy at Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital. The Consortium's first project was recently funded by the Department of Defense. This project involves analyzing the prevalence, costs and outcomes of eight chronic diseases that were designated as high priority areas by the Institute of Medicine. The eight conditions included in the project are asthma, diabetes, ischemic heart disease, depression, serious and persistent mental illness, stroke, hypertension, and tobacco dependence. Age and sex adjusted prevalence rates of each of the diseases are being calculated and compared for veteran, DoD, Medicaid and privately insured populations. Annual hospitalization rates and healthcare costs are being compared across the four populations. The project will provide important comparisons of the DoD population with other populations in terms of the prevalence of chronic diseases and the resources that are consumed and will ultimately lead to the DoD to identify and prioritize quality improvement efforts in those with beneficiaries with complex chronic diseases.

AHRQ DEcIDE COPD Project

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has recently established the DEcIDE (Developing Evidence to Inform Decisions about Effectiveness) Network as part of their Effective Health Care program. The goal of the new DEcIDE network research centers is to generate new knowledge to inform decision-makers. Investigators at the Midwest Center for Health Services and Policy Research are part of a consortium of institutions in the Chicago-area that comprise the Chicago-area DEcIDE Center. Drs. Todd A. Lee and Kevin B. Weiss are leading the Outcomes of COPD Management project that was among the initial projects funded under the DEcIDE framework. The objective of the project is to identify and prioritize key questions related to the management of patients with COPD and conduct an analysis of the key question or questions identified in the prioritization phase. The first phase of the project involved a review of datasets available to examine outcomes of COPD medication management. The second phase of the project which is currently underway involves identification and priority setting for key medication management questions in patients with COPD through the assembly of a COPD expert panel and a multistep process. Following development of the priority list, the final phase of the project will be to conduct analyses of the top one or two key questions identified in the second phase of the project.

Presentations at the 24th HSR&D National Meeting

MCHSPR, SCI QUERI and VIREc will be well represented at this year's HSR&D National Meeting. Among the presentations are:

Plenary Session

Stroupe K
#1003
Cost-Effectiveness of Angioplasty versus Coronary Artery Bypass Grafts for High-Risk Patients

CEA of PCI vs. CABG at Plenary Session Kevin Stroupe

Papers

Arnold N
#1008
Death, Where is Thy Record? Death Ascertainment for Veterans (VIREc)
Weaver FM
#1013
Evaluation of Three Models of All-Inclusive Care for Frail Elderly Veterans
Sohn MW
#1014
Transition to the New Race/Ethnicity Data Collection Standards in the Department of Veterans Affairs
Bennett CL
#1059
Prostate Cancer in Hispanics: An Emerging Focus of Patient Concern?
Stroupe K
#1072
Cost of End-Stage Renal Disease Care for Veterans Receiving Dialysis in VA vs. Non-VA Facilities

Workshops

Browning M
#2008
Clinical Decision Support Systems: The Iterative Process of Design (VIREc)
Murphy P
#2009
New VIREc Tools for Researchers Using VA Data (VIREc)

Posters

Weiner S
#3003
Defining and Exposing Contextual Errors in Medical Decision Making
LaVela S
#3051
Smoking Decisions and Behaviors of Individuals with Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders (SCI QUERI)
Parada JP
#3052
Medical Responses to Small-Scale Bioterrorism-Related Anthrax Attacks: A Cost-Effective Analysis

New PhD Post Doctoral Fellow - E. Amy Janke

Elizabeth Amy Janke, PhD, is the 2005 recipient of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship in MCHSPR. Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Amy earned her masters in Interdisciplinary Studies in Human Development from the University of Pennsylvania and her doctorate in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Health Psychology from Ohio University. Prior to joining MCHSPR, Amy completed her clinical internship at the VA Boston Healthcare System and post-doctoral training at VA Connecticut—West Haven Campus. Her mentors are Drs. Frances Weaver and Bonnie Spring. Amy's research interests focus in the areas of chronic pain and hepatitis C. Early in her graduate career, her research focused around examining psychosocial correlates of central sensitization and the influence of stress on pain (in particular, headache pain) within a laboratory paradigm. More recently, her interests have broadened to increasing understanding of and developing multidisciplinary treatments for chronic pain within the context of other medical co-morbidities, such as obesity and hepatitis C. She also has a secondary interest in examining the psychosocial factors related to diagnosis with and treatment of hepatitis C. Amy is particularly excited about the potential to apply new technologies to assist both clinical providers and patients in appropriate assessment and treatment of chronic pain disorders as they present within primary and specialty care settings.

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SCI QUERI News

Fran Weaver, PhD and Barry Goldstein, MD, PhD recently received funding from HSR&D to focus on respiratory complications in veterans with Spinal Cord Injury & Disorder (SCI&D). The grant, "Characterizing Variability in Respiratory Care in SCI&D" is known as the GAP study because of its focus on addressing gaps in knowledge in respiratory care and management. This study will assess current prevalence and treatment strategies, variation in practice and barriers to best practice in management of four high frequency/high risk respiratory conditions in veterans with SCI&D including; smoking, sleep apnea, community-acquired pneumonia, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). These are areas addressed in the clinical practice guideline (CPG) on Respiratory Management in SCI, "*Respiratory Management following SCI*", by the Consortium for Spinal Cord Medicine (CSCM). One-third of veterans with SCI are current smokers. Persons with SCI are more likely to have obstructive sleep apnea problems than the general population, and pneumonia continues to be a significant reason for mortality in this population. COPD also appears to be higher in the veteran SCI population than the general veteran population. Patient surveys, medical record reviews, and interviews with providers will be used to examine variability in best practice and identify barriers to best practices, particularly patient, provider and system issues regarding care provision. This study will serve as the basis for a study to implement best practices for management of respiratory-related illnesses in SCI.

MCHSPR Post Doc Programs accepting applications now!

MD Post Resident Fellowship Program will be accepting applications for 2006 extended until April 1, 2006.

PhD Post Doctoral Fellowship Program will be accepting applications for 2006 until September 1, 2006.

Call (708)202-2414 or visit our website at <http://www.va.gov/mchspr> for more information.

News from Lakeside CBOC

The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center (JBVAMC)/Lakeside CBOC continues to investigate cancer screening among Veterans, with a focus on improving these processes. In October 2005, Charles L Bennett, MD, PhD, MPP, Associate Director for the VA Midwest Center for Health Services and Policy Research, JBVA/Lakeside CBOC and co-program director for Cancer Control at the Robert H Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, was awarded a National Cancer Institute Navigator grant (U01 CA116875). The \$24 million nine-site collaborative seeks to implement and evaluate cancer "navigator" programs that will assist persons who have a positive screening test for cancers of the colon/rectum, prostate, cervix, or lung to initiation of cancer therapy or ruling out of the cancer diagnosis. The JBVA component of the trial will focus on veterans who have a positive screening test for cancer of the colon/rectum or prostate. Rosario Ferreira, MD, MAPP, a previous VA HSR&D Career Development Awardee, is a co-investigator on this project. Of note, the Chicago project is the only site in the consortium that includes a VA Medical Center.

Recent Publications of MCHSPR Staff

Au D, Blough D, Kirchdoerfer L, Weiss KB, Udris EM, Sullivan SD. Development of a quantifiable symptom assessment tool for patients with chronic bronchitis: The Chronic Bronchitis Symptoms Assessment Scale. COPD: Journal of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. 2005;2(2):209-216.

Evans CT, Smith B, Parada JP, Kurichi JE, Weaver FM. Trends in antibiotic prescribing for acute respiratory infection in veterans with spinal cord injury and disorder. Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, 2005;55:1045-1049.

Finklestein JA, Lozano P, Fuhlbrigge AL, Carey VJ, Inui TS, Soumerai SB, Sullivan SD, Wagner EH, Weiss ST, Weiss KB. Practice-level effects of interventions to improve asthma care in primary care settings: the pediatric asthma care patient outcomes research team. Health Serv. Res. 2005;40(6pt1):1737-1757.

Goetz LL, Nelson AL, Guihan M, Bosshart HT, Harrow JJ, Gerhart KD, et al. Provider adherence to implementation of clinical practice guidelines for neurogenic bowel in adults with spinal cord injury. Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine, 2005;28:394-406.

Goldstein B, Weaver FM, Hammond MC. New CDC recommendations: Annual influenza vaccination recommended for individuals with spinal cord injuries. Journal of Spinal Cord Medicine, 2005;28:394-406, Commentary

Nebeker JR, Virmani R, Bennett CL, Hoffman JM, Samore MH, Alvarez J, et al. Hypersensitivity cases associated with drug-eluting coronary stents: a review of available cases from the Research on Adverse Drug Events and Reports (RADAR) project. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2006 Jan 3;47(1):175-81. Epub 2005 Dec 1.

Siddiqui TJ, Zamani T, Parada JP. Primary cryptococcal prostatitis and correlation with serum prostate specific antigen in a renal transplant recipient. J Infect. 2005;51(3):e153-e157.

Weiss KB, Paramore LC, Liljas B, Revicki DA, Luce BR. Patient satisfaction with Budesonide Turbuhaler trade mark versus Triamcinolone Acetonide administered via pressurized metered-dose inhaler in a managed care setting. J Asthma 2005;42(9):769-776.

Wolf MS, Fitzner KA, Powell EF, McCaffrey KR, Pickard AS, McKoy JM, Lindenberg J, Schumock GT, Carson KR, Ferreira MR, Dolan NC, Bennett CL. Costs and cost effectiveness of a health care provider-directed intervention to promote colorectal cancer screening among Veterans. J Clin Oncol. 2005 Dec 1;23(34):8877-83.

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