Awards and Honors

Congratulations to Mark Ilgen

Received a ‘thank you’ note from University of Michigan President Schlissel regarding his recent suicide prevention presentation at the Detroit Arsenal, a major military production plant.
Congratulations to Eve Kerr
Recipient of the Louis Newburgh Research Professorship in Internal Medicine, a new endowed chair, effective September, 2015

Congratulations to Sanjay Saint
Recognized as one of the Best Physicians of the Year 2015 by Medscape for Infection Prevention Efforts

In the News
Can nursing homes get 300,000 dementia patients off deadly antipsychotics?

Helen Kales
America Tonight
October 5, 2015

Too much, too late: Doctors should cut back on some medications in seniors, two studies suggest

Jeremy Sussman,
Tanner Caverly, Eve Kerr
UMHS Press Release and 14 other outlets
October 26, 2015

First, do no harm: Hospital patients given anti-heartburn drugs have higher risk of dying, study finds

Sandeep Vijan and Matt Pappas
UMHS Press Release and 10 other outlets
November 10, 2015
Other Press Mentions

- Sanjay Saint was quoted in The Baltimore Sun on solving the mysterious death of Oliver Cromwell, a 17th-century English Protestant military and political leader. October, 2015.

- Rod Hayward's study on excessive testing of adults with type 2 diabetes was later cited in 2 Minute Medicine, Medscape, Physician's Briefing, Doctors Lounge, Zee News (India), Medicinenet, Science 2.0, Medical News Today, Healio.com, Times of India, Big News Network, Yahoo! News India, Science Daily, MedicalXpress, MedlinPlus, Philly.com, EurekAlert!, Newswise, Drugs.com. December, 2015.

- Navish Krishnan, Angie Fagerline, Ted Skolarus’ study on rethinking patient-physician communication of biopsy results-the waiting game was later cited in 6 Minutes, Medscape. November, 2015.
Strategies to Prevent Infection and Reduce Inter-individual Transmission (SPIRIT)

The work is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The University of Utah is the primary awardee and Ann Arbor VA is a subcontractor for work to be conducted. The project will focus on developing and implementing novel methods to increase healthcare workers’ adherence to barrier precautions and evaluating the role of microbial sampling to guide the implementation of source control strategies.

Team Members: Sarah Krein, Molly Harrod, Jennifer Meddings, Maria Hughes, Matt Samore (University of Utah/Salt Lake City VA)

Identifying, measuring, and facilitating opportunities for de-intensification of medical services

This study, funded by HSR&D, will develop a reproducible method to identify, validate, and reliably measure indications for de-intensification of medical services in primary care, ultimately decreasing unnecessary and potentially harmful care. This method could eventually be used to identify and validate a broad range of clinical measures and develop measurement deployment approaches on an ongoing basis in a comprehensive performance management system.

Team Members: Eve Kerr, Timothy Hofer, Steven Bernstein, Tanner Caverly, Laura Damschroder, Angela Fagerlin, Sarah Krein, Lilian Min, Sameer Saini, Jeremy Sussman, Rob Holleman, Caitlin Kelley, Manoli Klamerus, Katherine Prenovost, Caitlin Reardon, Mark Heifand (Oregon)
Peer support to enhance diabetes shared medical appointments: Examining comparative effectiveness

Numerous programs, including Shared Medical Appointments (SMAs), have been found to be effective in helping Veterans improve their self-management of chronic conditions to achieve short-term gains in clinical and Veteran-centered outcomes. A key challenge now is to develop and implement scalable approaches that are effective in enabling Veterans to maintain gains achieved through more intensive programs. This study is funded by HSR&D.

Team Members: Michele Heisler, Julie Lowery, Timothy Hofer, Wyndy Wiitala, Christine Kowalski, Angela Larkin, Jennifer Burgess

Featured Publications

Same-day integrated mental health care and PTSD diagnosis and treatment among VHA primary care patients with positive PTSD screens

Augmenting ongoing depression care with a mutual peer support intervention versus self-help materials alone: A randomized trial

“Telephone-delivered mutual peer support or patients with depression did not improve outcomes beyond those observed with enhanced usual care. Other peer support models, with more professionalized peers delivering a structured curriculum, may be more effective.”


"These data suggest that nurse PICC teams play an integral role in PICC use at many hospitals and that use of such teams may promote key practices to prevent complications."


CCMR Publications
A complete list of publications of 2015 is available.

Please contact Soo Hwang with feedback on this newsletter.
Credit for Icons: Noun Project