Ageless Alliance: United Against Elder Abuse

Many elders feel betrayed and angry after having been abused or neglected. Many family members of abuse victims also feel this way. For years, the UC Irvine Health Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect team has offered support and guidance for elders and their families who find themselves in such difficult circumstances. Our team has heard many older adults and their families say they wanted to do something to help ensure that what had happened to them would not happen to someone else.

Yet, there was no specific group with whom they could connect. An idea...a desire...was born. Through the efforts of many dedicated people, this idea developed and took form. It would be a movement of people of all ages, across the country, who would come together to take action in their communities to help end elder abuse. And so began Ageless Alliance: United Against Elder Abuse.

Continued on page 2
I’m pleased to let you know of many exciting developments at UC Irvine Health. The Program in Geriatrics has grown significantly in patient care, research and teaching. Because of this growth, we are now a division of the Department of Family Medicine. As the Department Chair, I have appointed Dr. Lisa Gibbs to be the chief of the Division of Geriatric Medicine & Gerontology. You’ll hear from Dr. Gibbs directly in future issues.

Dr. Gibbs has a long and impressive resume of leadership and excellence in geriatric medicine. She received her medical degree from Stanford School of Medicine and went on to complete her residency and fellowship in geriatrics at University of California, Davis. She is the medical director of the SeniorHealth Center and directs our geriatrics fellowship and medical education program. Dr. Gibbs was recently awarded fellowship in the American Geriatrics Society, which is a prestigious award for AGS members who have demonstrated a professional commitment to geriatrics and have contributed to advancing the field of geriatric medicine. Most important, her patients love her for her dedication to finding answers to problems that have seemed almost impossible to resolve. Her commitment to our patients always shines through. We are lucky to have her on our leadership team.

— Laura Mosqueda, MD, FAAFP, AGSF
Associate Dean of Primary Care
Professor and Chair of Family Medicine
Ronald W. Reagan Endowed Chair in Geriatrics

Ageless Alliance, a program of the UC Irvine Health Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect, was launched at a White House-hosted elder abuse symposium on June 14, 2012. Its mission is to unite people of all ages, nationwide, who will work toward the elimination of elder abuse. Ageless Alliance focuses on raising awareness and promoting community involvement. Its website, www.agelessalliance.org, provides ideas about how to get involved and take action. It also offers an “action kit” to arm members with tools they can use. Members receive additional support through social media and email, and from the Ageless Alliance team directly.

Across the country, kids to adults are saying they can’t let abuse happen. They are joining the Ageless Alliance and taking action. Frustration, anger, isolation and powerlessness are being replaced with positive impact, unity and empowerment. Do you want to take a stand against elder abuse? To learn more and join for free, visit www.agelessalliance.org.

— Kevin Trout
Manager, Ageless Alliance
SeniorHealth Center Patient Shares Her Story

Adeline Marsala had been to respected physicians and hospitals, but wasn’t getting better. Then, UC Irvine Health’s medical team saved her brother-in-law’s life, so she decided to try the UC Irvine Health SeniorHealth Center. She saw Dr. Lisa Gibbs in February. “Dr. Gibbs took care of everything. It was unbelievable. Within two months the doctors at UC Irvine Health fixed problems I had been suffering with for 15 years,” Mrs. Marsala said.

“Within two months the doctors at UC Irvine Health fixed problems I had been suffering with for 15 years.”

That SeniorHealth Center is a great place, outstanding,” Mrs. Marsala stated. “To any senior, if they have any doubt about their care or whether to get a second opinion, I highly recommend you contact the SeniorHealth Center. I have seen several doctors there and I wouldn’t trade any of these doctors. Everyone I talk with who has doctors at UC Irvine Health is happy. The girls in the office are so kind. Everyone who takes care of you is patient and compassionate. They get me in right away when I have a problem. I have never seen anything like this.”

Innovations in Action

As part of our commitment to excellence, we are engaged in a number of innovative programs that will improve the quality of life for older adults. We are:

• **Expanding our House Calls program**, so that homebound frail and severely disabled seniors can see the physician in their own home.

• **Obtaining accreditation as a patient-centered medical home**, which reflects our commitment to comprehensive team-based care.

• **Expanding our memory care services** so that every older adult with concerns about his/her memory can receive an assessment and comprehensive treatment in one location.

• **Using iPads for patients** at high risk of hospitalization to allow additional interactions with the clinical team in between office visits.

• **Providing virtual visits via telemedicine** for our patients in nursing facilities so they may avoid hospitalizations and emergency room visits.

These programs are possible thanks to the support of our donors. Please consider joining us. There are several ways you can give. Ask us about a charitable gift annuity which allows you to give a gift while receiving a fixed income for the rest of your life. Or, you may write a check and return it in the enclosed envelope, give online at https://ua-web.uadv.uci.edu/eGiving, call us at 714-456-7396, or email Linda Haghi at lhaghi@uci.edu.

Congratulations to Annie Nguyen, PhD, MPH, who received a research grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging for her project entitled “Behaviors related to diabetes management among elderly Latino patients seen at a Federally Qualified Health Center.” The goal of this research project is to understand which factors help elderly Latino diabetic patients manage their diabetes.

Love the newsletter, but where’s the e-news?

Would you prefer to receive this newsletter by email? If so, just let us know by sending us an email at geriinfo@uci.edu and put in the subject line “e-newsletter”.

714.456.5530 • www.ucirvinehealth.org/medical-services/senior-health

Fall 2013 | 3
Welcome to Our New Faculty!

Alison Moore, MD, MPH, is joining us part time to develop our research program. Dr. Moore is currently a professor of medicine and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine and the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA. Dr. Moore has published 48 research papers, eight book chapters and innumerable abstracts and articles. She has been the principal investigator for major grants from the National Institute of Aging and the Hartford Foundation, among many others.

Raciela Austin, MSN, NP-C, joined our faculty effective June 1. Ms. Austin received her degree as a nurse practitioner at CSU Long Beach in 2012. She is an advanced practice nurse specializing in geriatrics; A nurse practitioner requires additional training beyond a registered nurse license. Nurse practitioners in California can treat and prescribe medication, in collaboration with physicians. Ms. Austin has been working at the SeniorHealth Center while obtaining her degree. She coordinates several of our innovative programs, including the iPad initiative for certain high-risk, vulnerable patients, and the telemedicine program with the skilled nursing facilities.

Cordula Dick-Muehlke, PhD, joins us full time from UC Irvine Institute for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorder (iMind) where she worked as a project scientist and director of education. Prior to that, she served as the executive director of the Alzheimer's Family Services Center in Huntington Beach for 17 years. Dr. Dick-Muehlke has dedicated her distinguished career to the care of people with dementia and their caregivers. She has received many awards and honors and has published numerous articles.