



Ryan Rieger

Ryan Rieger joined the PADRECC in July as our new Administrative Officer. Ryan is taking the place of Nicole Floyd who took a job as the Project Manager for the Scientific Resource Center AHRQ Effective Health Care Program in the Department of Medical Informatics & Clinical Epidemiology at Oregon Health Sciences University. We wish her well in her new endeavors. Ryan graduated with his Masters in Health Policy and Administration from Washington State University in 2005. He previously served as Administrative Fellow at the Portland VA Medical Center. In this position, Ryan was a member of the top management team, involved in daily operations of facility through clinical and administrative service projects and rotations. Ryan is enthusiastic about the experiences and challenges ahead as NW PADRECC's Administrative Officer.

PADRECC In Progress

We're pleased to announce that **Kathy Chung, MD**, was awarded a VA Career Development Award for her proposal "Quantification of Levodopa Induced Dyskinesia in Parkinson's Disease." This 3-year VA research award will fund her salary and provide resources for staff and materials. Kathy has recently moved her office to the PADRECC space at the VA and is excited about the opportunity of involving more veterans in Parkinson's disease research.

Congratulations to **Molly Davis, MD**, who has completed her geriatric psychiatry fellowship. Because of her interest in movement disorders, she has spent the last 2 years on rotation with the PADRECC clinic. Molly joined the team as faculty in August to provide expertise in managing movement disorder patients with a psychiatric overlay.

Jeff Kraakevik, MD, 2004-06 Movement Disorder Fellow, has been recruited by OHSU to a faculty position. In his new role, he will serve as the Associate Director for Education at the PADRECC, clinical director of the Parkinson's Center of Oregon, and share responsibility for the medical student neurology clerkship.

Steve Gunzler, MD, has been awarded 3rd year fellowship support at the Portland VA Medical Center. **Mike Kim, MD**, will be starting his fellowship at the Puget Sound Health Care System in July.

Jessie Little has joined the PADRECC to fill in behind Jane Anau who graduated this summer and took a job as a Research Coordinator at the VA/University of Washington in Seattle. Jessie previously worked for the Parkinson's Center of Oregon and is currently attending PSU to obtain her undergraduate degree in mathematics.

Kudos to **Joe Quinn, MD** and **Jane Anau**! Joe was awarded the "John Hammerstad Teaching Award" at the Neurology Department dinner in June. Jane was awarded "Best Sociology Student" at PSU

We would also like to welcome **Jason Aldred**. He has been accepted into the fellowship program and will be starting his fellowship with the PADRECC in June 2007.

Current Research Recruitment

Lynn Shinto, ND is currently recruiting patients for a study through OHSU which is examining the effects of fish oil on Parkinson's Disease patients who have been diagnosed with depression and are currently taking antidepressants. Dr. Shinto is looking to see if the fish oil helps to improve patient's mood and to determine if omega-3 fatty acids decrease blood levels of substances associated with depression.

Jeff Kraakevik, MD, and **Ron Blehm, PT**, are recruiting patients for a study exploring how well people with PD can get up from the floor. In a study of the general elderly population, approximately 30% had difficulties with arising from the floor. A study has not been done in a PD population where falls are frequent. They are trying to recruit 100 patients to go through a floor/rise assessment to gain prevalence data. It is then hoped that this data will be used a future study to develop a rehab program to help people safely rise from the floor.

Faculty Accomplishments

Publications, Abstracts & Grants received

Swarztrauber K, Koudelka C, Brodsky MA. Initial pharmacotherapy in a population of veterans with Parkinson disease. *Neurology*. 2006 May 9;66(9):1425-6.

Brodsky MA, Hogarth P, Nutt JG. OFF-off rebound dyskinesia in subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation of Parkinson's disease. *Mov Disord*. 2006 May 23; *In Press*.

Leverenz JB, Fishel MA, Peskind ER, Montine TJ, Nochlin D, Steinbart E, Raskind MA, Schellenberg GD, Bird TD, Tsuang D. Lewy body pathology in familial Alzheimer disease: evidence for disease- and mutation-specific pathologic phenotype. *Arch Neurol*. 2006 Mar;63(3):370-6.

Nutt JG. Long-term 24-hour duodenal infusion of levodopa: outcome and dose requirements. *Neurology*. 2006 May 23;66(10):1611-2.

Holford NH, Chan PL, Nutt JG, Kieburtz K, Shoulson I; Parkinson Study Group. Disease Progression and Pharmacodynamics in Parkinson Disease - Evidence for Functional Protection with Levodopa and Other Treatments. *J Pharmacokinet Pharmacodyn*. 2006 Apr 20.

Kay DM, Zabetian CP, Factor SA, Nutt JG, Samii A, Griffith A, Bird TD, Kramer P, Higgins DS, Payami H. Parkinson's disease and LRRK2: frequency of a common mutation in U.S. movement disorder clinics. *Mov Disord*. 2006 Apr;21(4):519-23.

Samii A, Ryan-Dykes P, Tsukuda RA, Zink C, Franks R, Nichol WP. Telemedicine for delivery of health care in Parkinson's disease. *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare* 2006;12(1):16-18.

Registry Update

Marsha Andrews has been hard at work since joining the PADRECC in December. She has been debugging the registry database and working with **Susan O'Connor, RN**, and **Joe Quinn, MD**, to streamline the data collection process bringing us in compliance with the National mandates. Currently, the PADRECC registry contains 260 of our present and past patients; visit data for these patients is in the process of being uploaded, and new patients will continue to be added to the database. The survey has been redesigned to be more clinician and patient friendly and the Mini-mental and Geriatric Depression Scale has been added to insure depression is detected and treated in our patient population. The prevalence of depression in patients with PD is approximately 40%.

PADRECC Staff Corner

Team Perspective



Joseph Quinn, MD

Co-Director, NW PADRECC

Joe Quinn joined the PADRECC last fall as the Co-Director. His research is focused on the translation of laboratory findings to clinical trials in diseases of the nervous system, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. The design of clinical drug trials in Alzheimer's disease in 2006 depends on the demonstration that treatments are effective in animal models. The VA has funded Dr. Quinn's training in the use of animal models through a Research Career Development Award ending in July 2005, and a VA Merit Review grant was recently awarded to Dr. Quinn to study "Anti-amyloid therapy for Alzheimer's disease". The focus here will be on the testing in animals of agents which will be immediately available for clinical trials, including alpha lipoic acid, co-enzyme Q, and ibuprofen. In addition, an NIA-funded R21 grant to study copper chelation as a therapeutic strategy in the animal model of AD was also recently awarded to Dr. Quinn and collaborators. The copper-binding study drug has been used safely in human subjects with Wilson's disease, so again there is great potential for transition to clinical trials if the animal studies demonstrate efficacy. The National Institute of Aging recently agreed to fund a multi-site study of the effect of a dietary supplement called "DHA" in 400 patients with Alzheimer's disease, with Dr. Quinn as Project Director. The "Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study", an NIA-funded national consortium of Alzheimer's specialists, will conduct the trial, which is slated to begin enrollment in January 2007. Dr. Quinn is hoping to expand his research activities to include dementia prevention strategies in Parkinson's disease through his increasing involvement in the NW PADRECC.

Patient Education Talks

Over the last year, 6 patient education lectures have been held in Portland, and have been well received by patients. In an effort to meet the needs of those outside the Portland area, **Ali Samii, MD**, and **Romay Franks, RN**, have planned a lecture series to be held in Seattle. With the assistance from specialists at the Seattle VA, they will conduct 5 talks aimed at helping patients better understand and manage PD. We hope to video these talks for those living outside the Seattle metro area. Contact Romay for more information **(206) 277-4560**.

The following talks will be held at the Seattle VA (Building 1, Room 240) from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM:

Dementia in PD: Ways to Improve Mind & Memory, Dec 19, 2006

Jim Leverenz, MD

Exercise, Balance, Freezing, and Mobility Tips, Feb 20, 2007

Valerie Kelly, PT, PhD

Sleep Disorders, April 17, 2007

Ted Bushnell, MD

Medications in PD, June 19, 2007

Ali Samii, MD

The following talks will be held in the Portland VA Auditorium from 10:00 - 11:00 am unless otherwise noted:

Homeopathic Medicine and it's options for Parkinson's Disease, Friday, December 8, 2006

Joseph Dubroff, ND

Balance, Exercise and Parkinson's Disease and Tai Chi for PD, Friday, January 19, 2007

Note: This event will start at 9:30 instead of 10

Fay Horak, PhD and Strawberry Gatts, PhD

PD Medications: What's Old and What's New, Friday, March 9, 2007

Matt Brodsky, MD

Fatigue in Parkinson's Disease, Friday, May 18, 2007

Gordon Campbell, ANP

Topic to be Decided, Friday, July 27, 2007

Speaker to be Decided

Launch of Mini-residency

The NW PADRECC recently hosted **Mark Dietz, MD**, of the Fort Harrison, MT VA Medical Center to visit Portland for a week to train with the specialists in the PADRECC. Mark is a neurologist in our extended service area that sees many patients with movement disorders. As part of this mini-residency, he attended movement disorder clinics, botulinum toxin clinic, DBS programming sessions, neurology grand rounds, movement disorder journal club and presented some of his challenging cases to the PADRECC clinicians. If you are a provider interested in coming to Portland to learn more about movement disorders, please contact Jeff Kraakevik, MD, at jeff.kraakevik@va.gov.

V-tel

Our V-tel talks are provider oriented talks which are broadcast to several locations. Through a video conference type system, each talk is broadcast to the locations listed below so that attendees can watch the talk and then ask questions of the presenter. If you are unable to attend a talk or want to view a previous talk, you can request a VHS video tape of the talk by calling (503) 721-1091. For a list of previous V-tel talks you can visit our website at:

http://www.visn20.med.va.gov/portland/padrecc/providers/video_series.htm

All talks will be held from 11:30 - 12:30 at the Portland VA Hospital in Building 101, Room 109.

The topic and speakers are still to be decided for all of the following Dates:

Wednesday, January 10, 2007
Wednesday, April 11, 2007
Wednesday, July 11, 2007
Wednesday, October 10, 2007

V-tels can be viewed at the following VA Hospital locations:	
Anchorage	3202
Boise	110
Portland (Location of Live Talk)	Building 101, Room 109
Roseburg	C205
Seattle	204
Spokane	329A
Vancouver	Columbia Room
White City	158



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

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