Geriatric news items for the week of December 14, 2009

Sei Lee, MD and Michael Steinman, MD named distinguished reviewers

Sei Lee, MD, MAS (Asst Professor) and Michael Steinman, MD (Asst Professor) were both named as distinguished reviewers for the Journal of General Internal Medicine in 2009. This distinction was conferred on 11 people for the quality of their reviews and service to the journal.

Geriatric news items for the week of December 7, 2009

Elizabeth Murphy, MD and Carla Graf, MS, RN, CNS-BC announce the opening of the Acute Care for the Elderly Unit at UCSF Mt Zion

Elizabeth Murphy, MD and Carla Graf, MS, RN, CNS-BC are pleased to announce the opening of the Acute Care for the Elderly Unit at UCSF Mt Zion Hospital. The Mt Zion ACE Unit has developed a strong interdisciplinary team with a geriatric emphasis and will provide comprehensive proactive geriatric care to hospitalized elders.

Sei Lee, MD, MAS co-authors a paper featured in Academic Medicine

Dr. Sei Lee, MD, MAC (Asst Professor) co-authored a paper published in Dec 2009 in Academic Medicine on the 10 year experience of the VA Quality Scholars (VAQS) Fellowship (www.vaqs.org). Dr. Lee co-directs the VAQS site at San Francisco VAMC, with Seth Landefeld, MD. The paper highlights the unique nature of the VAQS program as the only fellowship in healthcare improvement and describes the success of VAQS graduates, including Dr. Lee and Drs. Michael Steinman, MD and Edgar Pierluissi, MD, also now on the UCSF faculty.

Michael Steinman, MD was the opening speaker at an Innovation Roundtable on polypharmacy

Michael Steinman, MD (Asst Professor) was the opening speaker at an Innovation Roundtable on polypharmacy sponsored by the AARP Health Policy Institute in Washington, DC. The purpose of the symposium was to identify programmatic and policy responses to the challenge of multiple medication use in elders.

Geriatric news items for the week of November 30, 2009

Michael Steinman, MD is quoted in a New York Times Article

Michael Steinman, MD (Assistant Professor) was quoted in an article in the New York Times about a recent study by fellow grant awardee Joseph Ross, MD on improving risk assessment of drugs after they are brought to market. Commenting on the paper, Dr. Steinman noted the multiplicity of high-profile drugs which have been withdrawn from the market in recent years, and highlighted potential benefits of a conservative approach to prescribing. Read Article

Geriatric news items for the week of November 16, 2009

UCSF Housecalls program is featured in SFGATE

The UCSF Housecalls program was featured on the front page of SFGate. The article highlights the great work that is being done in the Housecalls Program. This is one of the programs in the Division of Geriatrics that provides innovative care for seniors. Read article

A grant receives a score of 19 (2nd percentile) by NIH study section

A grant entitled: Neurodevelopment and Imaging among HIV-infected Children from the PREDICT study received a score of 19 (2nd percentile) by NIH study section on Monday, November 16. This grant will examine brain vulnerability in the setting of HIV by determining if timing of antiretroviral therapy impacts brain development. The findings may impact our understanding of HIV brain injury at all ages.

Louise Aronson, MD, MFA contributes to "Osler's Bedside Library: Great Writers Who Inspired a Great Physician"

Louise Aronson, MD, MFA was one of the national leaders in the medical humanities who contributed to "Osler's Bedside Library: Great Writers Who Inspired a Great Physician." The book, a companion and guide for contemporary readers published by the ACP Press, features excerpts from the literary masterpieces Osler himself recommended to his students and colleagues plus commentaries by scholars in medical humanities who discuss why the work remains relevant to the physician’s education and the practice of medicine.

A graduate of the UCSF Geriatrics Fellowship Program receives an award for educational product of the year

Dr. Kaycee Sink, a graduate of the UCSF Geriatrics Fellowship Program, and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Wake Forest University received an award for educational product of the year at the 2009 annual meeting of Reynolds Foundation Grantees. She received this award for her lesson in the Smart Prescribe Curriculum, Principles of Effective Prescribing. View the curriculum

Geriatric news items for the week of November 9, 2009

Rebecca Sudore, MD receives award for best poster

Rebecca Sudore, MD received the award for best poster at the 2009 Bay Area Symposium on Clinical Research for her
Eric Widera, MD and Alexander Smith, MD are recognized for their work on developing GeriPal

The Division of Geriatrics Welcomes Dr. Chek Wong visiting Fulbright Scholar

Kala Mehta, D. Sc. and Gwen Yeo, PhD present a webinar on Ethnicity and the Dementias

Jennifer Morris, MD and the UCSF Newsletter on Aging receive special notice on a post from the John A. Hartford Foundation

Dr. Madhuri Reddy’s article is identified by the American College of Physicians Journal Club

Kala Mehta, D. Sc. and Gwen Yeo, PhD present a webinar on Ethnicity and the Dementias

Rebecca Sudore, MD publishes an article in JAMA

The Lieberman Memorial Lecture takes place on October 13th

Geriatrics news items for the week of October 26, 2009

Janice Schwartz, MD and Michael Steinman, MD are awarded a NIH challenge grant

Delia Lee, a MSTAR student mentored by Louise Walter, MD presents at the Scientific Sessions of the 2009 AGS Meeting

Ken Covinsky, MD and Seth Landefeld, MD co-author an article
**Dr. Christine Kistler works to pass new policy to promote patient comfort and safety and increase efficiency**

Dr. Christine Kistler is one of the co-chairs of the UCSF Residents' and Fellows' Council (RFC) which has worked closely with UCSF to pass a new policy prohibiting 'daily lab' orders (e.g., CBC qAM) at UCSF. This was done to promote patient comfort, safety, efficient utilization of resources, and reduce iatrogenic anemia. This policy was proposed by the RFC in recognition that UCSF utilizes more laboratory tests per inpatient that any other academic medical center.

**Ron Walent, RN, PhD receives the Judith V. Braun Award**

Ron Walent, RN, PhD received the Judith V. Braun Award for Research Excellence Saturday at the Annual Meeting of the National Gerontological Nursing Association for his paper, "Autobiography, Environment and "Doing Well" in Older Nursing Home Residents." Dr. Walent is a NIA-funded postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Geriatrics and the UCSF Centers of Excellence in Geriatrics and Gerontologic Nursing, both funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation, Inc.

**Louise Aronson, MD, MFA launches an innovative Interprofessional Aging and Palliative Care curriculum**

Louise Aronson, MD, MFA, launched an innovative two year Interprofessional Aging and Palliative Care curriculum this fall. Over 70 students from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy have enrolled in the course which includes bimonthly seminars, clinical experiences in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, hospices and patient homes, and independent study. Helen Kao, MD gave the opening lecture, “Approach to the Older Patient: Essential Skills for All Specialties”; Helen Chen, MD speaks on Oct. 14, “Cross Cultural Issues at End of Life”. More information

**The California Health Care Foundation announces selection of new fellows**

Thursday, the California HealthCare Foundation announced the selection of new fellows in the Health Care Leadership Program, including Sandra Moody, BSN, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Geriatrics) and Director, Home-Based Primary Care, San Francisco VA.

**Nanjiang Hou joins the Division of Geriatrics**

Nanjiang Hou, MS joined the Division of Geriatrics and Psychiatry as a Senior Statistician on September 28th. Ms. Hou comes to us with over 7 years of experience in data management, statistical analysis and reporting for clinical trials data from the Department of Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University. She will be primarily working with Kristine Yaffe, Louise Walter, and Ken Covinsky.

**The Division of Geriatrics receives a site visit from HRSA**

The Division was recently honored with a site visit from the Health Resources and Services Administration. As one of only a few institutions with three federal grants for geriatrics education - the Geriatric Academic Career Awards, a Geriatrics Education Center, and a multidisciplinary fellowship for internal or family medicine, dentistry and psychiatry, they were eager to learn about our collaborative infrastructure and interprofessional training opportunities.

**Helen Kao, MD and Louise Walter, MD publish an article**

Helen Kao, MD and Louise Walter, MD published "Improvement of Hospital Care of Elderly Patients: Thinking Outside the (Hospital) Box" in the Archives of Internal Medicine. They write, "it may be possible to avoid hospitalization entirely by caring for elderly patients in their homes.” Read full article

**Alexander Smith, MD and colleagues author an article in The Lancet**

Guy Micco, MD, Alexander Smith, MD and Patricia Villars, MD Authored an article in The Lancet titled "The Death of Ivan Ilyich and pain relief at the end of life". This is a thought provoking article focused on the question of whether there is overuse of pharmacologicals to treat various forms of suffering in hospice and palliative medicine. This article was also featured and discussed on GeriPal, a Geriatrics and Palliative care blog.

**Sandra Moody, MD announces that first patient enrolls in Eureka, CA HBPC practice**

Sandra Moody, MD (Associate Professor and Medical Director, Home Based Primary Care (HBPC), SFVAMC) announced that the new HBPC practice in Eureka, CA has enrolled its first patient. The new program extends SFVAMC's and Geriatrics services to homebound veterans 250 miles north of San Francisco for the first time. More than 50 patients will be enrolled over the coming months.

**Alexander Smith, MD and Eric Widera, MD publish an article in Geriatrics and Aging**

Alexander Smith, MD and Eric Widera, MD recently published an article in Geriatrics and Aging titled “Pain Management in Moderate and Advanced Dementia”. The article highlights the complex challenges seen when managing pain in patients with moderate or advanced dementia, as well as ways to overcome these challenges.

**The Division of Geriatrics celebrates graduating Fellows and Teacher of the Year Award**

On Sunday, September 27th, more than 50 Division of Geriatrics members and their families enjoyed a wonderful picnic in Tilden Park to celebrate graduating fellows Namitha Kanaal, MD...
Brie Williams, MD and Michael Steinman, MD author an article in the American Journal of Public Health

September 28, 2009

Brie Williams, MD and Michael Steinman, MD have authored an article in the American Journal of Public Health, titled "Prescribing Practices for Older Prisoners in the Texas Prison System." The paper provides important insights about inappropriate medication prescribing for older prisoners in Texas and the similarities to older adults in the community. This study also provides an overview of system-level pharmacy interventions that can improve the quality of geriatric medication prescribing both in prison and non-prison healthcare systems.

Sarah O'Brien joins the Division of Geriatrics

September 25, 2009

Sarah O'Brien joined the Division of Geriatrics as a Staff Research Associate. Ms. O'Brien has received a BS in Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science and in Spanish in 2005 from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Ms. O'Brien brings with her three years of research assistant/coordinator experience at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Wyeth Ghostwriting Documents Added to Drug Industry Document Archive

September 24, 2009

Wyeth Ghostwriting Documents Added to Drug Industry Document Archive. The Wyeth ghostwriting documents unsealed by a Federal judge last month at the request of PLoS, represented by Public Justice, and the New York Times. The documents illustrate how Wyeth Pharmaceuticals contracted with DesignWrite, a medical communications company, to write articles for top-tier medical journals with the intention of bolstering the sales of the Premarin family of hormone replacement products. After the documents were released, DesignWrite solicited prominent health professionals to appear as "authors." The documents are full-text searchable and limited metadata, such as names of people and organizations mentioned, has been created for most documents to aid searching. The documents can be found by entering "ddu:2009**" without the quotation marks in the query box on DIDA's home page.

Carolyn Peterson joins the Division of Geriatrics

September 22, 2009

Carolyn Peterson joined the Division of Geriatrics as a Staff Research Associate. Ms. Peterson's first day was on September 8th and she is working with our research group at the SFVA. Sarah O'Brien has received a BS in Brain, Behavior, and Cognitive Science and in Spanish in 2005 from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Ms. O'Brien brings with her three years of research assistant/coordinator experience at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Anna Chang, MD gives keynote lecture to UCSF's 150 new first-year medical students

September 18, 2009

On Thursday, September 17, Anna Chang, MD gave the keynote lecture in Foundations of Patient Care to UCSF’s 150 new first-year medical students. Dr. Chang serves as the course director for FPC, which is the only longitudinal and clinically relevant course in the first two years of medical school in the forefront of medical education innovations including competency-based assessments and portfolios.

Sandra Moody, MD is selected to participate in the CHCF Leadership Program

September 4, 2009

Sandra Moody, MD has been selected to participate in a fellowship in the California Health Care Foundation's Health Care Leadership Program. The program is a two-year fellowship that offers clinically trained health care professionals the experiences, competencies, and skills necessary for effective vision and leadership of our health care system.

Anna Chang, MD is selected for membership in the Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators

August 24, 2009

Anna Chang, MD has been selected for membership in the Haile T. Debas Academy of Medical Educators. Dr. Chang will be formally inducted during a celebration on Monday, September 21. Election to the Academy is one of the highest honors for educators in the field of medical education.

Brie Williams, MD receives a K23 Clinician-Investigator Award from the National Institute on Aging

August 24, 2009

Brie Williams, MD will receive a K23 Clinician-Investigator Award from the National Institute on Aging for her work on health care of older prisoners. Dr. Williams is one of the rare K-award applicants who will be funded on her first application in this very difficult funding environment. Dr. Williams will start work on her award in November.

Rebecca Sudore, MD publishes article on health literacy and quality of care

August 24, 2009

Rebecca Sudore, MD continues her excellent research on the impact of health literacy on outcomes and quality of care. In the June issue of Patient Education and Counseling, Dr. Sudore published a paper that showed that limited health literacy and inability to speak English conspire together to damage the quality of communication between the patient and her doctor. Other division faculty authors included Seth Landefeld, MD and Brie Williams, MD. Other UCSF authors included Eliseo Perez-Stable, Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, and Dean Schillinger.

Kala Mehta, DSc, MPH publishes article in Neurology

August 24, 2009

Kala Mehta, DSc, MPH continues her work on understanding how race and ethnicity impacts dementia. In an article in Neurology, Dr. Mehta presents intriguing results showing higher rates of survival after a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease in African-American and Latino patients, compared to white patients. Kristine Yaffe and Deborah Barnes were co-authors.
Michael Steinman, MD publishes article in the Archives of Internal Medicine
August 24, 2009

Michael Steinman, MD published an important paper on the quality of medication prescribing in the elderly in the August issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine. Dr. Steinman showed that current criteria for measuring prescribing quality, particularly "drugs to avoid criteria" are largely ineffective at distinguishing between elders who do or do not have a problematic medication as part of their regimen. This finding calls for better criteria for measuring prescribing quality in the elderly. Seth Landefeld, MD was a co-author on the paper.

Louise Aronson, MD publishes a description of reflective learning faculty development curriculum
August 24, 2009

Louise Aronson, MD is continuing to attract notice for her innovative work on reflective learning. Dr. Aronson has published a description of her reflective learning faculty development curriculum in Medical Education.

Eric Widera, MD is a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Awards
August 24, 2009

Eric Widera, MD continues to be recognized for his exceptional teaching as a recipient of one of the 2009 Academy of Medical Educators Excellence in Teaching Awards. Dr. Widera was recognized for his skills as a direct teacher and his leadership in Palliative Care and Geriatrics education at UCSF.

Rebecca Sudore to participate in the AAHPM LEAD Program
July 15, 2009

Rebecca Sudore, MD has been selected to participate in the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine Leadership Education and Academic Development Program (AAHPM LEAD). The AAHPM LEAD is an innovative 3-year leadership development program designed to promote collaboration among hospice and palliative medicine junior faculty as they prepare to assume leadership positions at academic institutions.

Clinical Fellows Join the Division
July 15, 2009

Dr. Carie Chin-Garcia, Dr. Angela Hsu and Dr. Carla Perissinotto joined the division as Clinical Geriatrics Fellows on July 1, 2009. Dr. Chin-Garcia completed her Internal Medicine residency at California Pacific Medical Center. Dr. Hsu completed her Internal Medicine residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, and is new to the Bay Area. Dr. Perissinotto completed her Internal Medicine residency right here at UCSF. They join Dr. Namita Kansal and Dr. Veronika Steenpass in the Clinical Geriatrics Fellowship. We are delighted to have them all here!

GeriPal - A Geriatrics and Palliative Care Blog launches
July 15, 2009

Alexander Smith, MD and Eric Widera, MD have launched a new blog regarding Palliative Care and Geriatrics – www.geripal.org. A number of faculty have already contributed to the blog! Please feel free to comment on the site, and if you are interested in posting, contact Dr. Smith or Dr. Widera.

Brie Williams, MD is lead author in JAGS article
July 15, 2009

Brie Williams, MD was lead author in an article in JAGS titled, "Caregiving Behind Bars: Correctional Officer Reports of Disability in Geriatric Prisoners." Karla Lindquist was second author and Louise Walter was senior author. This paper continues Dr. William's landmark work on healthcare of older prisoners. It demonstrates the need for better approaches towards identifying disability in older prisoners.

Alexander Smith, MD is lead author in Annals of Emergency Medicine article
July 15, 2009

Alexander Smith, MD was lead author on a publication in the Annals of Emergency Medicine that described the perspectives of Emergency Department (ED) providers on improving Palliative Care in the Emergency Department. The paper provides a number of important insights about how to how the quality of palliative care care be improved in the ED, particularly with respect to improving communication and synergy with outpatient providers.

Michael Harper, MD is senior author in Academic Medicine article
July 15, 2009

Michael Harper, MD was senior author on the lead article in the July edition of Academic Medicine, which focused on training in the 4th year of Medical Students. The first author was Pamela Liss Lerman, a Psychiatry resident at UCSF. The conclusions are based on interviews with residency program directors. The paper demonstrates the importance of the 4th year in training students for residency and has important implications for curricular reform.

Helen Kao, MD is featured on CBS evening news
June 6, 2009

Helen Kao, MD was featured on the CBS, KPIX evening news in a story about proposed budget cuts to home health, IHSS, Medicaid. Dr. Kao is shown caring for one of her patients and comments on how budget cuts will impact the services she provides for low-income and senior patients. *Please note Dr. Helen Kao was referred to as Nancy Kao in error.
Deborah Barnes, PhD and Geriatrics Faculty featured on CBS Evening News, Time Magazine, and US News & World Report

May 22, 2009

Deborah Barnes, Ph.D. was a lead author on an article co-authored with Drs. Covinsky, Whitmer, Kuller, Lopez, and Yaffe. The published a study titled, "Predicting risk of dementia in older adults. The late-life dementia risk index" was featured in on the CBS Evening News with Katie Couric, Time Magazine and US News & World Report.

Read article in Time Magazine article
View CBS Evening News report

Alex Smith, MD receives Junior Faculty Development Award from National Palliative Care Research Center

May 21, 2009

Dr. Alex Smith is the recipient of a Junior Faculty Development Award from the National Palliative Care Research Center. This highly competitive award is given to early career faculty who are expected to become national leaders in Palliative Care research. His project will examine emergency department use at the end of life. This is one of many accomplishments for Dr. Smith in his very productive first year on our faculty.

Read Published Article

Candice Crider, RN received the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing

May 8, 2009

Candice Crider, RN received the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing as part of the Nurse Week festivities at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center (SFVAMC). Ms. Crider has been the first floor nurse manager at the SFVAMC Community Living Center (CLC) since February of 2006. This award recognizes her exceptional leadership and outstanding advocacy on behalf of the CLC veterans.

Read New York Times Article

Anna Chang, MD receives AME Cooke Award

May 1, 2009

Dr. Anna Chang was presented with AME Cooke Award for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at the 7th annual UCSF Education Day. The award honors the year's most outstanding hypothesis-driven educational research project. Dr. Chang received the award for her study of early predictors to identify students who fail the required fourth year clinical skills exam.

Read Published Article

UCSF Geriatrics program ranks 9th in nation

April 24, 2009

UCSF Geriatrics was ranked 9th among all Geriatrics programs in the US by US News & World Report. UCSF joins Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Yale, UCLA, Duke, the Univ of Michigan, and Mt. Sinai in the top 10 rankings. The UCSF School of Medicine ranked fifth among all medical schools in the nation.

view ranking list- Best Geriatrics Programs
view ranking list -Best Medical Schools

Maxine Davis is the new Division Administrator for Geriatrics

April 10, 2009

Maxine Davis has been promoted to serve as Division Administrator. Maxine has worked and risen steadily in the Division over the last decade, and she has come to know the Division very well. In her new position, Maxine will be responsible for overall leadership of our administrative functions and staff, and for working with faculty in our strategic initiatives.

Read New York Times Article

2009 Newsletter on Aging is now available

April 10, 2009

The Spring 2009 edition of UCSF Newsletter on Aging is now available. Click here to view a PDF version of the Newsletter

Rebecca Sudore, MD is quoted in a New York Times Article

April 3, 2009

Rebecca Sudore, MD was quoted in a recent New York Times article titled, "Do you know what your doctor is talking about?" In this article, Dr. Sudore comments on the association of limited health literacy with mortality in the elderly.

Read New York Times Article

Leslie Kernisan, MD authors an article and is featured on KSL Channel 5 News

April 3, 2009

Leslie Kernisan, MD has authored an article in Journal of the American Medical Association titled, "Association Between Hospital-Reported Leapfrog Safe Practices Scores and Inpatient Mortality." This article comments on the relationship between hospitals’ safe practice scores and risk-adjusted inpatient mortality rates. Dr. Kernisan was also recently featured on a KSL Channel 5 Newscast regarding this topic.

View News Report
Read Published Article

Sei Lee, MD publishes an article in the recent issue of JAGS

April 3, 2009

Sei Lee, MD has published in article in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society on functional status, SES, and all-cause mortality in older drinkers. In this novel article, Sei shows that older persons who are daily light consumers of alcohol have markedly better prognostic profiles than non drinkers, including much higher SES and much better functional status. This article was recently featured in the New York Times.

Read New York Times Article

Seth Landefeld, MD authors and editorial in a recent issue of JAGS

April 3, 2009

Seth Landefeld, MD is author of an editorial in the most recent issue of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society on functional status, SES, and all-cause mortality in older drinkers. In this novel article, Seth shows that older persons who are daily light consumers of alcohol have markedly better prognostic profiles than non drinkers, including much higher SES and much better functional status. This article was recently featured in the New York Times.
American Geriatrics Society on the promises and perils of quality indicators in Geriatrics. This editorial presents novel insights into the important discussion about how to best improve processes of care for older persons. Read Article

**Alex Smith, MD receives a KL2 Award**

**April 3, 2009**

Alex Smith, MD has been awarded a KL2 award from the UCSF Clinical and Translational Science Institute, to start July 1, 2010. The award will support Alex's development as a clinician researcher in Palliative Care, and support his work to improve the provision of Palliative Care in the Emergency Department. The KL2 process was extremely competitive, and it is a testament to his great work that he was able to obtain this award in his first year at UCSF.

**Louise Aronson, MD is part of the Deputy Editor Team at the Journal of General Internal Medicine**

**April 3, 2009**

Louise Aronson, MD has been named part of the Deputy Editor Team at the Journal of General Internal Medicine. Louise will be in charge of redesigning and improving the Reflections section, starting a new section titled, "Passages." This be a great use for Louise's skills in writing and scholarly work in reflecting learning.

**Dr. Alex Smith is the Lead author in the most recent issue of JAMA**

**March 13, 2009**

Dr. Alexander Smith was lead author in the most recent issue of JAMA, titled, "Palliative Care for Latino Patients and Their Families: Whenever We Prayed, She Wept." Geriatrics faculty member Rebecca Sudore, and Eliseo Perez-Stable were coauthors on the paper. This article is part of the JAMA series on Perspectives on Care at the Close of Life. The article provides a wonderful framework for thinking about the importance of cultural competence and sensitivity in end of life care.

**Dr. Louise Walter receives the 2009 Outstanding Scientific Achievement in Clinical Investigation Award**

**March 13, 2009**

Dr. Louise Walter has received the 2009 Outstanding Scientific Achievement in Clinical Investigation Award from the American Geriatrics Society. This is the AGS' highest award for research achievement, awarded annually to the Geriatrician whose work has had the greatest impact on care of older persons. Louise's award recognizes her groundbreaking work on cancer screening which has influenced numerous guidelines and had a major impact on the approach to cancer screening in older persons in the US.

**Dr. Helen Kao will be the recipient of the 2009 Ida Cannon Award from Alta Bates Hospital**

**March 9, 2009**

Dr. Helen Kao will be the recipient of the 2009 Ida Cannon Award from Alta Bates Hospital. Ida Cannon was a legendary social worker who is credited as the founder of medical social work. This award is presented to a health professional who best exemplifies the spirit of Ida Cannon by advocating for patients and attending to all of their needs.

**Dr. Sei Lee was awarded a Hellman Family Award for Early Career Faculty**

**March 9, 2009**

Dr. Sei Lee has been awarded a Hellman Family Award for Early Career Faculty. This award recognizes early career faculty at UCSF whose work shows originality and the promise of distinction. Sei joins Brie Williams and Rebecca Sudore to become our 3rd faculty member to receive the Hellman Award.

**Dr. Anna Chang to represent the SFVAMC physicians at the closing ceremonies of nursing week**

**March 9, 2009**

Dr. Anna Chang was asked to by the nursing staff at the VA to represent the SF VAMC physicians at the closing ceremonies of nursing week. This recognizes Anna's extraordinary leadership of the CLC and her status as a role model for multidisciplinary collaboration.

**Alexander Smith receives a pilot award**

**March 9, 2009**

Dr. Alexander Smith received a pilot award from UCSF Clinical and Translational Science Institute's Strategic Opportunities Fund for his project titled, "Racial and Ethnic Differences in End of Life Care." This award recognizes junior faculty with exceptional potential to succeed as independent investigators.

**Adam Schickedanz publishes a paper in the January issue of JAGS**

**January 30, 2009**

Adam Schickedanz, an MSTAR (Medical Student Training in Aging Research) student mentored by Rebecca Sudore, MD published a paper in the January issue of JAGS titled, A Clinical Framework for Improving the Advance Care Planning Process: Start with Patients' Self-Identified Barriers. This paper describes patients views of barriers to advance directive completion. This was one of the few studies to examine this issue from the perspective of patients, and provides important insights that may guide improved completion of advance directives. read abstract

**Alexander Smith, MD publishes an important study examining differences in end of life treatments for minority elders with cancer**

**January 26, 2009**

Alexander Smith, MD published an important study examining differences in end of life treatments for minority elders with cancer. Dr. Smith demonstrated higher rates of hospitalization, higher rates of ICU care, and lower rates of hospice use in minority elders. The findings have important implications for improving end of life care in minority elders. To read the abstract click here

**Seth Landefeld, MD and Michael Steinman, MD have authored a commentary in the New England Journal of Medicine**

**January 26, 2009**

Seth Landefeld, MD and Michael Steinman, MD have authored a commentary in the
New England Journal of Medicine titled, "The Neurontin Legacy--Marketing Through Misinformation and Manipulation." This paper comments on the deceptive and inappropriate industry practices to increase off label use of neurontin.

The commentary is based on Dr. Steinman's landmark analysis of voluminous industry documents that showed how CME and research were manipulated to promote use of Gabapentin. To read this paper click here.