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Hall named to U.N. experts group

As the population ages, interest in services for the elderly is gaining more attention in the United States. As might be expected, the U.S. isn't the only country interested in quality of life issues for the elderly. This interest is global and an IUSM faculty member is playing a role in the decision-making process which may affect 75-year-olds from Rwanda to Russia to Rhode Island.

Kathleen Hall, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and director of the Indianapolis Study of Health and Aging, recently participated as an expert in the group meeting, "Caregiving for Older Persons: Gender Dimensions," at the invitation of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

The meeting was held in Valletta, Malta, Nov. 30 through Dec. 2. Eleven experts and 17 observers participated in the policy meeting.

The group developed recommendations for social policy guidelines pertaining to the care of the dependent elderly with a particular emphasis on the role of women, Dr. Hall said.

The experts focused on establishing recommendations for issues pertaining to informal caregiving and the reliance on women to undertake that function, along with policy issues regarding the elderly and their caregivers. The debate also focused on how to change the traditional roles and expectations of men and women in the workplace and homes when it pertains to caregiving. Women's increased participation in the workplace in all regions of the world has outpaced adjustments in perceptions, attitudes and expectations, and in the organization of the infrastructure of societies, especially with regard to caring for older persons.

In the past, family units were strengthened by the number of their offspring, which in turn provided many hands to care for aging parents. However, that has changed in many cultures. Families are smaller and in today's mobilized society, adult children frequently do not live close

enough to elderly relatives to be caregivers.

“The U.N. is looking at this from a global perspective,” said Dr. Hall. “The aged population is growing. Older women are more apt to live longer and be poor. There is a diversity of support systems for the elderly in various countries. We were to look at those issues and come up with ways to address the needs.”

The U.N. estimates that by the year 2025, more than 70 percent of the world’s older population will be living in developing countries. That, coupled with the fact that the fastest growing segment of the aged population is age 80 and over, make these recommendations even more crucial.

The experts were in agreement that it is the responsibility of governments to design policies and programs to provide care for dependent older persons and to support those who provide such care.

The list of recommendations developed by the experts will be presented to the 42nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March under the agenda item “Emerging Issues.” Their recommendations also will contribute to the ongoing work of the U.N. program on aging and as input to the International Year of the Older Persons in 1999.

When finalized and formally adopted, the recommendations will be disseminated in several formats, including posting on the world wide web at gopher://gopher.un.org:70/00/esc/cn6/1998/official/98cn6-4.en

Dr. Hall said she is not at liberty to release a complete list of recommendations at this time. However, they addressed issues such as the rights and responsibilities of the elderly and the rights of the caregivers; the fact that older women are more apt to lack family support than older men and more apt to live in poverty; a call for an increase in the pay scale for professional caregivers, and the universal inclusion of parental leave to family leave policies.

“It was such a fabulous experience to work with these people with different perspectives” Dr. Hall said of the meeting. “Learning how various cultures and societies deal with these universal problems was very interesting.”

Dr. Hall was one of two representatives from the United States. The other was Irene Hoskins, the American Association of Retired Persons representative to the U.N. at Geneva, Switzerland.

Cardiac rehab draws legislative attention

Michael Busk, MD, assistant professor and medical and research director at the National Institute

for Fitness and Sport, addressed the Indiana General Assembly Feb. 3 when legislators recognized a resolution declaring Feb. 8-14 National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week. The resolution was introduced by Rep. Tim Brown, MD, a family practice physician from Crawfordsville.

On Feb. 11, IUSM, Wishard Health Services and NIFS hosted an open house for their cardiopulmonary rehabilitation participants in recognition of National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week. Dr. Busk spoke about the importance of cardiac rehabilitation and about two programs at NIFS: the W.I.N. program (Wishard, IU and NIFS) and the R.E.A.C.H. program (Respirator Efficiency and Cardiac Health).

The W.I.N. program is 4 to 12 weeks long and provides medically supervised exercise, education and counseling. REACH is a long-term maintenance program which can be joined by individuals who have completed the W.I.N. program.

Honors

Michael Sadove, MD, professor of plastic surgery and medical director of the craniofacial program at Riley Hospital, was honored at a Feb. 11 luncheon by the Broad Ripple Sertoma Club. Dr. Sadove was awarded Sertoma's Service to Mankind Award for his work with children with craniofacial disorders. Dr. Sadove is recognized nationally for his expertise in the management of complex craniofacial abnormalities in children. He has performed hundreds of operations restoring and rebuilding the facial structure of children and young people.

Amy Shapiro, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, will be honored March 1 at the IU Founder's Day ceremony at Assembly Hall in Bloomington with the 1998 W. George Pinnell Award for outstanding service. The award recognizes outstanding service by faculty members to the university, to a profession or discipline or to the public. Dr. Shapiro is the founder and director of the Indiana Hemophilia Comprehensive Center. Her program has been recognized nationally.

Michael Clark, PhD, MD, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine has been reappointed to the College of American Pathologists' Forensic Pathology Committee. CAP is the world's largest association composed exclusively of pathologists.

Kenneth Moresco, MD, assistant professor of radiology, is the 1998 recipient of the Dr. Gary J. Becker Young Investigator Award presented by the Society of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology. Dr. Moresco's manuscript "Endovascular Repair of Arterial Pseudoaneurysms Using a Perfusion Balloon Catheter" was selected as the work best fitting the ideal of promoting academic research among young interventional cardiologists. Dr. Moresco will receive an all-expense paid trip to the 1998 SCVIR annual meeting in San Francisco, a plaque and an honorarium. He will

present his paper during the Embolization Scientific Session on March 5.

IHEN conference slated for March 6

Meg Gaffney, MD, assistant professor at IUSM and director of the Indiana Healthcare Ethics Network, will deliver welcoming remarks at the Network's third annual statewide ethics conference.

Also speaking at the conference, "Ethics and Professionalism in Managed Care," will be Daniel Sulmasy, MD, a Franciscan friar and director of the Center for Clinical Bioethics and an associate professor at Georgetown University Medical Center, and Peter Ubel, MD, of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania. Both men have presented and written extensively on a variety of ethical and professional issues.

The March 6 conference will address the special ethical and professional challenges posed by managed care and medicine, including conflicting obligations, conflicts of interest, rationing, and the role providers may play in determining the future of health care.

The conference will be at the Ritz Charles, 12156 N. Meridian, Carmel. For additional information, contact the IHEN office at 630-6721.

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