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## Clinical CORNER

### RUSH study finds social networks protect older adults against damaging effects of Alzheimer's disease

Having close friends and staying in contact with family members may protect people from the effects of Alzheimer's disease, according to research by physicians at RUSH University Medical Center. The study was published in the May edition of the journal *Lancet Neurology*.

"Many elderly people who have the plaques and tangles associated with Alzheimer's disease don't clinically experience cognitive impairment or dementia," says Bennett. "Our findings suggest that social networks are related to something that offers a 'protective reserve' capacity that spares them the clinical manifestations of the disease."

While other studies have shown people with more extensive social networks were at reduced risk of cognitive impairment, the study by David A. Bennett, PhD, and his colleagues from the RUSH Alzheimer's Disease Center, is the first to examine the relationship between social networks and Alzheimer's disease pathology.

Participants in the study underwent clinical evaluations and 21 cognitive performance tests each year. Their social network was defined as the number of children, relatives (other than spouses and children) and close friends they see at least once a month. As the size of a participant's social network increased, the same amount of Alzheimer's disease pathology had less effect on cognitive test scores. The results were unchanged after controlling for cognitive, physical and social activities, depressive symptoms, and number of chronic diseases.

"Identifying factors associated with the ability to tolerate the pathology of Alzheimer's disease has important implications for disease prevention," says Bennett. "Previous studies suggest one factor is education. Now we know that healthy and frequent interactions with friends and family have a positive impact as well."

## RUSH Programs and Services Spotlight

### Changes in neurosurgery

In April, RUSH announced the opening of a new practice, **University Neurosurgery**, along with several important changes within the Department of Neurosurgery.

University Neurosurgery is a new practice that is part of the RUSH University Medical Group, the faculty practice plan of RUSH. It includes several surgeons formerly employed by the Chicago Institute of Neurosurgery and Neuroresearch (CINN): **Roy Bakay, MD; Richard Byrne, MD; Harel Deutsch, MD; Lorenzo Muñoz, MD; and Kelvin Von Roenn, MD.**

The practice also welcomes two new surgeons:

- **Shaun O'Leary, MD, PhD**, came to RUSH in May from Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, where he was an attending physician. He specializes in minimally invasive and complex spine surgery, stereotactic and functional neurosurgery, peripheral nerve surgery, brain tumor surgery and general neurosurgery.
- **John O'Toole, MD**, joins RUSH in August after completing his fellowship in spine surgery at the University of Chicago. He specializes in minimally invasive spine surgery, spinal oncology (including spinal column and spinal cord tumors), complex spinal reconstruction, spinal arthroplasty and spinal radiosurgery.

Endovascular neurosurgeon **Demetrius Lopes, MD**, will continue to work on the RUSH campus. He will see patients in the Spine and Back Center, Suite 118 in the Professional Building; his administrative office is located in Suite 970 of the Professional Building.

**Leonard Cerullo, MD**, is concentrating on his many administrative and practice obligations at CINN's Neurologic and Orthopedic Institute of Chicago. He remains on the RUSH faculty. Byrne continues to serve as acting chairperson of the Department of Neurosurgery.

### Participating physicians

**University Neurosurgery**  
1725 W. Harrison St.  
Suite 970  
(312) 942-6644

Richard Byrne, MD, medical director

Roy A. E. Bakay, MD

Harel Deutsch, MD

Lorenzo Muñoz, MD

Shaun O'Leary, MD, PhD

John O'Toole, MD

Kelvin A. Von Roenn, MD

**Chicago Institute of Neurosurgery and Neuroresearch (CINN)**  
1725 W. Harrison St.  
Suite 970  
(312) 942-6644

Leonard Cerullo, MD

Demetrius Lopes, MD

## focus on CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

### Upcoming CME courses at RUSH

#### Terrorism & Disaster: What Clinicians Need to Know — Emergency Mental Health After a Suicide Bombing

Online

Release date: August 1, 2006

Expiration date: August 1, 2007

Credit hours: 1

Sponsoring department: Department of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry

Location: <http://cme.emedicine.com>

Cost: None

Contact: Gillian Gibbs, Center of Excellence for Bioterrorism Preparedness, 1653 W. Congress Pkwy., 177 Murdock, Chicago

Phone: (312) 563-3820

E-mail: [Gillian\\_Gibbs@rush.edu](mailto:Gillian_Gibbs@rush.edu)

#### Future Shock: The Doctor Has No Clothes — Outcome Measures, CME, Public Reporting and You

October 12, 2006

Live

Credit hours: 2

Sponsor: Office of Continuing Medical Education

Location: RUSH University Medical Center, Searle Conference Center

Cost: None

Contact: Harold A. Kessler, MD, Office of Continuing Medical Education

Phone: (312) 942-8728

E-mail: [CME\\_info@rush.edu](mailto:CME_info@rush.edu)



## From the Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office

### HIV and high cholesterol study

High cholesterol levels are common in people with HIV infection, but conventional cholesterol-lowering medications may have harmful side effects when given to HIV-infected people. The RUSH University College of Nursing is collaborating with the Section of Infectious Diseases and the CORE Center on a study of a dietary supplement derived from sugar cane that has cholesterol-lowering properties. The study will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of this dietary supplement for treating high cholesterol in people with HIV infection.

To qualify, participants must:

- Be HIV infected and take medications for HIV infection
- Have high cholesterol or triglycerides
- Be between the ages of 18 and 60

For more information, or if you are a prospective patient, please contact Barbara Swanson, DNSc, RN, at (312) 942-8977.

### Rotator cuff tear, shoulder study

The Department of Orthopedic Surgery is participating in a study looking at the clinical outcomes of all arthroscopic rotator cuff repair surgeries. The principal objective of this study is to prospectively collect data on people who have arthroscopic rotator cuff repair and to determine how well they do over time. Patients will be asked to come to clinic for follow-up visits as needed. RUSH plans to enroll approximately 100 people annually.

Qualified participants must:

- Be between the ages of 18 and 85
- Provide written, informed consent
- Have undergone rotator cuff repair

For more information, please contact Brian Cole, MD, at bcole@rushortho.com. Prospective patients should contact Michelle Foulke at (312) 432-2381.

## Progress Notes

**Alan L. Landay, PhD**, has been appointed chairperson of the Department of Immunology/Microbiology in RUSH Medical College. Landay, who previously was professor and associate chairperson of the department, is internationally known for his research on HIV pathogenesis, diagnosis and prevention.

**INTRODUCTIONS** The following is a list of physicians who joined the Medical Staff of RUSH University Medical Center between March 1, 2006, and April 30, 2006. The Medical Staff Office and the Office of Marketing Communications have made every effort to publish accurate information that is as complete as possible; however, if the information below is incorrect or we have omitted information, we apologize and ask that you contact Muriel Coleman in the Medical Staff Office at (312) 942-5496.

**Kameno L. Bell, MD**  
Emergency medicine  
(312) 942-4978  
kamenol\_bell@rush.edu

**Veronica C. Garcia, MD**  
Anesthesiology - pain management  
RUSH Pain Center  
(312) 942-6631  
veronica\_garcia@rush.edu

## COMPLIANCE CENTRAL

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the GC modifier and how does it relate to billing for teaching physician services?**

**A:** The GC modifier indicates that the service has been performed in part by a resident under the direction of a teaching physician. The GC modifier must be attached to all physician claims when a service has been performed in part by a resident or fellow. The modifier certifies that the teaching physician was present during the key portion of the service and was immediately available during other portions of the service.

**Q: What do I do if a patient requests an amendment to their medical record?**

**A:** All requests for amendments to medical records must be immediately forwarded to the Privacy Office at 707 S. Wood St., Suite 317, or faxed to (312) 942-6875. The Privacy Office will then coordinate and forward the request to the HIPAA Patient Rights Committee, which will determine whether to deny or grant the amendment based upon input from the requestor of the amendment, the author of the record and other relevant information. Individual departments or physicians may not grant or deny an amendment without first consulting the Privacy Office.

*If you have any questions, contact the Corporate Compliance/RUSH Privacy Office at (312) 942-5303.*

## NEWS TO USE

### EPIC update: RUSH introduces new electronic medical record

RUSH has embarked on a journey to implement a fully integrated health care information system that will distinguish it from most other medical centers in the country. The EPIC system, which is designed to enhance patient safety, quality of care and efficiency, includes an electronic medical record that will be implemented in three phases. The first phase, beginning in March 2007, will include computerized provider order entry (CPOE), nursing documentation and operative scheduling.

The new inpatient CPOE system will be far more functional than RUSH's current system. One hundred-and-twenty key order sets, enough for all clinical areas, will be introduced during phase one. The order sets have been ranked according to current use, importance to patient safety and strategic importance to hospital corporate goals (CMS core measures, etc.). The rest of the approximately 250 order sets required for full functionality will be introduced during the second phase of implementation.

The CPOE advisory group is working with the clinical departments to review and improve order sets. The new inpatient order sets will promote safe, efficient and uniform care across the Medical Center. You will be able to access the order sets from your offices via the Internet, making it easier and more convenient to place and hold preoperative orders on your patients before surgery.

The electronic medical record is a great opportunity to improve patient care and efficiency, and physician involvement is the key to a successful implementation. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact Catherine Dimou, MD, at cdimou@rush.edu.

**Herbert J. Miller, PhD**, has been appointed as acting dean of the College of Health Sciences. He assumes this role as John E. Trufant, EdD, retires at the end of the academic year. Miller is currently chairman, director and associate professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and director of general educational resources for RUSH University.

**Jean Silvestri, MD**, has been appointed associate medical director, Pediatrics-Neonatal Division of Respiratory Care Services. She has been clinical director of the Special Care Nursery at RUSH since 2005. She previously served as director of RUSH's Center for SIDS Research and Disorders of Respiratory Control in Infancy and Childhood and as associate director of pediatric respiratory medicine.