

September 19, 2013

**Sharon K. Inouye, M.D., M.P.H., granted Leadership Award
by the National Institute on Aging to build nation's first delirium research center**

Kick-off event slated for October 30, 2013

Sharon K. Inouye, M.D., M.P.H., Director of the [Aging Brain Center](#) in the [Institute for Aging Research](#) at Hebrew SeniorLife, professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and a faculty member in the Division of Gerontology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), recently received the prestigious Academic Leadership Award (K07) from the National Institutes of Health to build the nation's first Center of Excellence for Delirium Research. The Center, which will be called CEDARTREE (Center of Excellence for Delirium in Aging: Research, Training and Educational Enhancement) will be located at Hebrew SeniorLife and will operate under the direction of a national advisory board in close collaboration with Harvard Medical School and other academic institutions throughout Massachusetts.

CEDARTREE will offer comprehensive interdisciplinary training and mentorship in delirium research to attract interdisciplinary investigators to engage in collaborative, delirium-related, and patient-oriented research. CEDARTREE will advance research and training, foster dissemination of research findings, and serve as a local and national resource for delirium research. Healthcare professionals interested in participating in delirium research and training are invited to contact Dr. Eva Schmitt: evaschmitt@hsl.harvard.edu ; (617) 971-5392).

The first CEDARTREE event will feature Donna Fick, Ph.D., a distinguished Professor of Nursing at Penn State University School of Nursing with a talk titled: *Delirium Superimposed on Dementia* and will be held on Wednesday, October 30, 2013, 8:30-9:30 in the Cable Synagogue at Hebrew SeniorLife, 1200 Centre Street, Boston.

Dr. Inouye is an internationally recognized expert in aging and geriatric medicine, clinical research methods and research training, whose investigations into the recognition of and risk factors for the onset of delirium in elderly patients have influenced hospital care around the world. Her work involves translating theories of clinical investigation into practical applications that directly improve the quality of life for older adults. Dr. Inouye developed and validated a new instrument for the identification of delirium called the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM), which is now translated into more than 20 languages and is the most widely used tool in the field. She also developed the [Hospital Elder Life Program](#) (HELP) to prevent delirium in hospitalized patients. Published in a landmark study in the *New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)*, the strategy has been successful in reducing delirium in hospitalized patients by 40 percent and has been adopted by over 200 hospitals worldwide. She currently serves as Director of the [Successful Aging after Elective Surgery](#) (SAGES) study, an \$11 million Program Project on Delirium funded by the National Institute on Aging. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

—more—

About the Institute for Aging Research

Scientists at the Institute for Aging Research seek to transform the human experience of aging by conducting research that will ensure a life of health, dignity and productivity into advanced age. The Institute carries out rigorous studies that discover the mechanisms of age-related disease and disability; lead to the prevention, treatment and cure of disease; advance the standard of care for older people; and inform public decision-making.

About Hebrew SeniorLife

Hebrew SeniorLife, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, is a national senior services leader uniquely dedicated to rethinking, researching and redefining the possibilities of aging. Based in Boston, the non-profit, non-sectarian organization has provided communities and health care for seniors, research into aging, and education for geriatric care providers since 1903. For more information about Hebrew SeniorLife, visit www.hebrewseniorlife.org or connect on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or our [blog](#).

#