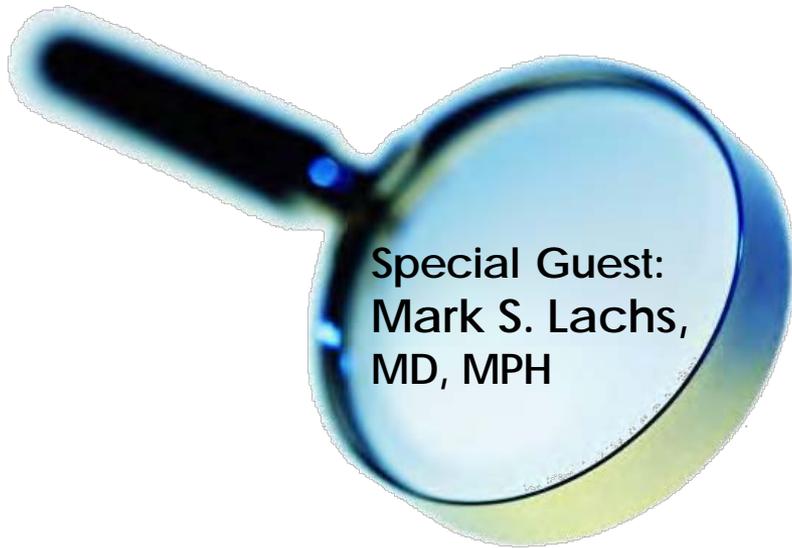




# Evaluating Elder Abuse Research Studies

Elder Abuse Research For  
Non-Researchers: Part 1 of 2

2012



Special Guest:  
Mark S. Lachs,  
MD, MPH

# Podcast Sponsor



- National Center On Elder Abuse (NCEA)
  - Directed by US Administration on Aging
  - Helps ensure that elders and adults with disabilities live with dignity and without abuse, neglect, and exploitation
  - Based at UC Irvine's Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse And Neglect, Program in Geriatrics
  - A resource for education, research, and promising practices in stopping abuse

# Podcast Speakers

- **Moderator: Mary Twomey, MSW**
  - Co-Director of the NCEA
  - Co-Director of the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect at UC Irvine
- **Guest Speaker: Dr. Mark Lachs**
  - Geriatrician and Researcher at Weill Cornell Medical College, NY
  - Director of New York City Elder Abuse Center





# How Do We Know What Published Research To Trust?

- Need tips to find solid research to use in practice
- When reviewing research consider basic criteria:
  - Has a specific research question been articulated by the author(s)?
  - Can you tell what the investigators are up to?
  - Is there a clear description of research methods and the study population?
  - Are the clients you care about like those in the study?
    - A study on adult day care or nursing home residents may not apply to community residents!



# How Do We Know What Published Research To Trust?

- If an intervention study, there are two things to think about:
  - Is the intervention carefully described and replicable?
  - Is there a control group?
    - We want to see a control group as a comparison to those receiving the intervention.



# Elder Abuse Research Challenges

- We don't see much research on elder abuse prevention and intervention
  - This research is difficult to do!
  - Research subjects can be frail, isolated, cognitively impaired, and have medical problems
  - May have to conduct research in abusive environments
  - High rates of attrition from studies
  - Progress is slow



# Elder Abuse Research Challenges

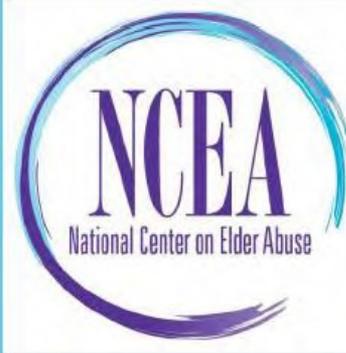
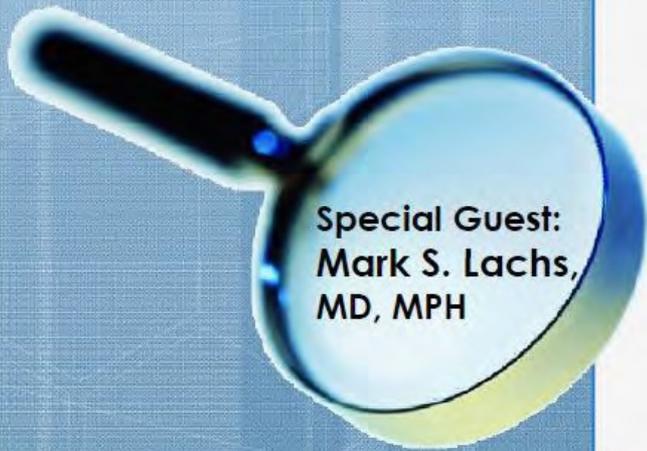
- Types of mistreatment are lumped together in research and subject to the same intervention
  - But this is not how we apply intervention in practice
  - Results may not be useful
- Plea for smaller studies of high quality
  - Use homogenous populations
  - Short, describable, and reproducible interventions



# Future of Elder Abuse Research

- What's on the horizon for elder abuse research?
  - Many different challenges
    - Financial exploitation
      - Information technology interventions
    - Resident to resident mistreatment
    - Dementia research
    - Assessing multi-disciplinary teams

# Elder Abuse Research For Non- Researchers



- Tips For Evaluating Research Studies
- Understanding Incidence vs. Prevalence
- Challenges and Future Directions in Elder Abuse Research

2012

Music: "How Little We Know" performed by Carmen McRae  
PowerPoint Creator: Kevin Trout, MSW Intern  
Accidental Engineer: Elaine Chen



# Learn More And Get Involved

- Visit NCEA at [www.ncea.aoa.gov](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov) for:
  - Elder abuse research
  - Downloading education and public awareness tools
  - Getting involved and making your voice heard!
- Mark Lachs, M.D. at Weill Cornell Medical College  
<http://www.med.cornell.edu/research/mlachs/biography.html>
- Visit Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect at UC Irvine, Program in Geriatrics at [www.centeronelderabuse.org](http://www.centeronelderabuse.org)