Study to focus on osteoporosis in men

JOHNSON CITY – East Tennessee State University researchers have received a grant from the Tennessee Board of Regents to study osteoporosis risk in men.

The team will be led by Dr. Ronald Hamdy from the James H. Quillen College of Medicine and will include Dr. Arsham Alamian and Dr. Shimin Zheng from the College of Public Health and Dr. W. Andrew Clark from the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences. The team will be assisted by Dr. Tommy Piggee and Christian Magallanes from the College of Medicine.

The research team will evaluate the usefulness of assessing the bone mineral density at various parts of the distal radius in the wrist, compared to the conventional sites, to identify male patients age 50 years or older at risk for osteoporosis.

Current guidelines recommend scanning both the hips and lumbar vertebrae to make a diagnosis of osteoporosis and to use the distal radius only when the other sites cannot be scanned because of such factors as limited mobility of the patient, deformities, pain or mental impairment. The investigators will determine whether any parts of the radius bone in the forearm could be used to diagnose men at risk for osteoporosis.

Hamdy is professor of internal medicine and holder of the Cecile Cox Quillen Chair of Excellence in Geriatric Medicine at the College of Medicine. Alamian is assistant professor of epidemiology, and Zheng is assistant professor of biostatistics, both in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Clark is professor of clinical nutrition and associate dean of research and clinical practice in the Department of Allied Health Sciences. Piggee is a post-doctoral fellow in geriatric medicine, and Magallanes is a third-year medical student at Quillen.

“Dr. Ron Hamdy is an internationally respected expert in geriatric medicine, and I am pleased that our researchers will have the opportunity both to work with him and to support his work,” said Dr. Randy Wykoff, Dean of the College of Public Health at ETSU. “This is an important opportunity to advance interprofessional research in our region while addressing an important health question.”

Tennessee Board of Regents Diversity Research Grants support faculty research focused on underrepresented and targeted sub-populations.

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