### BUSINESS CALENDAR

### **MAY 30**

MAY 30

RETAILERS SEMIMAR

The Michigan Retailers Association will present "Electronic Checkes: New Technologies for a New Millennium," an educational seminar for retailers and business owners 8-10 a.m. at the Hilton Novi, 2111 Hosgerty Road, Novi, Cost: \$20 for MRA members; \$30 for non-members. Contact Retha Lachance at (6800) 366-3699 or rlachance@retailers.com.

## JUNE 5

JUNE 3
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIER SEMIMAR
Tier Solutions, Inc. will offer a
special seminary for automotive
suppliers, "Smart Weapons for
Survival," 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at
the Yasilanti Marriott at Eagle
Crost, South Huron Street near
194. Speakers will describe
"smart" business methods that
each belle suppliers are took left. can help suppliers get costs down and margins up. No charge, Advanced registration requested. For information or to register, contact David Read at (734) 834-6133 or <david@tiersolutionsine.com>

### **JUNE 6**

MORGAN STANLEY SEMINAR
"Smart Women Finish Rich" is
the subject of a seminar given the subject of a seminar given at 6:30 p.m. at Morgan Stan-ley's Livonia office, 17420 Lau-rel Park Drive North. Free. Call Jody at (800) 746-4550, ext. 8028.

# Falling from page C6

bathroom?

Reaction time - This hearing test involves listening for a specific tone and then pressing a button. A latency or absence of response may indicate cognitive abilities have declined.

a button. A latency or absence of response may indicate cognitive abilities have declined.

Bupression — Significant clinical depression may make a mation less aware of his environment. Also, some patients on antidepressants may be more sensitive to the medication and experience more side effects.

Be Postural hypotension—This occurs when patients occurs when patients occurs when patients occurs when patients who have been sitting or laying for extended periods of time stand quickly and begin to walk. They experience dizziness and lightheadedness. When you stand up, there is a demand for the blood to reach the brain.. In extreme cases, patients will pass out, said Jacobson.

The condition is often exaggerated after eating a meal, when the demand for blood to digest food is increased.

Vision — Diseases that result in visual impairment for the elderly include cateracts, glaucoma and macular degeneration. Predictable visual edges, and slower adaptation to darkness.

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tion of movement.

"We have found evidence of impaired somesphesia in 70 percent of our patients," said Jacob-

### Ongoing evaluation

Ongoing evaluation
Dr. Bharati Srivastava, a
geriatric specialist with St.
Joseph Mercy's Senior Health
Clinic, Canton, sees only
patients age 65 and over.
Assessing risks for falling is
part of their initial, as well as
ongoing, medical evaluation.
"Everyone is asked have you
fallen, do you fall on a recurrent
basis, or do you have the feeling
you will fall, said Srivastava.
She evaluates for eyesight,
hearing, blood pressure, physical
gait, neurological functions,
foot problems (callueses, corns
and proper fitting shoes), and
number and kinds of medications.

and proper fitting shoes), and number and kinds of medientions.

According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, the risk of falling is greater for patients on medication with extended half lives (greater than 24 hours) and increases exponentially with the number of mediation used.

"If the elderly are on four or more prescriptions, they fall more," and Srivastava.

Srivastava also does a simple "get up and go" test. She sits her patients in a chair and tells them to get up and walk. If they need help, she wants to know why. Jacobson does the same test in which he determines the time it takes for a patient to rise to standing from an arm chair, walk three meters, ttiffi, walk hack to the chair and sit down.

Assessing for risk of falls in

seniors takes time, said Srivastava, often more than just one office visit. Some patients may unknowingly withhold information. For example, even if her patients say their neurological function is fine, Srivastava still does an evaluation for weakness in the legs or on one side, poor reflexes or a tendency to lean on one side. Also, she makes sure her patients who walk with a cane or walker are doing so correctly. Changing the height of a cane or suggesting a walker with wheels often results in smoother and safer ambulation. Fear of falling is another issue doctors must deal with in sasessing a patient's risk factors for falling, said Srivastava. "Seniors start limiting their activity. They begin to depend on others... They are actually at a higher risk when they have to walk. They're getting more debilitated."

With primary care physicians in this country being charged with so much responsibility they must be an expert in every sub-specialty as well as a manger of health Cairic and early Ford's Risk of Falls Clinic play a more important role in an aging population.

ic play a more important role in

an aging population.

The goal of both clinics is simple: Keep the elderly as independent as possible.

Contact Henry Ford Hospital's Risk of Falls Clinic at (313) 916-Risk of Faith Cliffic at (313) 510-9129 or (313) 916-1089. St. Joe's Senior Health Cliffic is located at 1600 S. Canton Center Road

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