

Department of Psychiatry Chair Letter

News & Views about the Department of Psychiatry

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Our Vision: To Conquer Mental Illness.
Our Mission: To improve the mental health of our citizens through education, research, advocacy and innovative clinical care.

From the Chairman

Special points of interest:

- *Chair's Letter*
- *Heroes In The Fight Award*
- *NIH Grant Award*
- *Congratulations*
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Dear Colleagues:

Happy Spring to all. This has been a very busy time. What's new?

I am pleased that Dr. Robert Schneider is our new Chief of the Mental Health Service at the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center. As you know, Bob has a distinguished career as an educator and has shown outstanding leadership qualities. He is well-known nationally for his work integrating Psychiatry with Primary Care Medicine. He will be pursuing this work at the V.A., where there is a deep commitment to expanding this model.

Bob is senior author on the textbook Psychiatry in Primary Care, co-authored with Dr. James Levenson and published by the American College of Physicians. Bob has done a great job in getting new positions and space to expand our programs. We have a new Fellowship program coming on-line for Psychiatrists and Psychologists in the area of chronic mental illnesses.

We are delighted to be able to collaborate with such a strong ally and know we will work together to strengthen teaching, research and clinical care. Congratulations to Dr. Schneider and his family. Congratulations to the V.A. and to us for a successful recruitment.

Our Department Development Officer, Rupa Murthy and I have been working hard to develop community partnerships to sustain and advance creative programming in Psychiatry. We have been having "Fireside Chats" with community leaders interested in helping us.

The big news in the Depart-

ment is that our Human-Animal Interaction Program, headed by Dr. Sandra Barker, has received a \$1.4 million dollar endowment made available through the generosity of Mr. William Balaban, who had a deep commitment to this area. It was good that Bill was able to experience the work of our Center before his recent death.

It is especially sad to note the passing of Dr. Phil Collins, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry. Phil's association with our department goes back to the 1960's. He recently Attended on the Substance Abuse Consult Service and served as Psychiatric Consultant to VCU Student Counseling Center. Phil was well known for his good sense of humor, his caring for his patients and his concern for and excellent education of trainees. I have a personal sense of sadness as he served well as my Chief Resident many years ago.

My special congratulations go to our faculty and trainees for excellent recruitment of a wonderful PGY-I residency class and superb psychology trainees.

Heroes In the Fight Awards



Three members of the Virginia Treatment Center for Children (VTCC) were honored during a special dinner held at the Science Museum of Virginia on September 23, 2008. The honorees were **Dr. Robert Cohen**, Professor of Psychiatry, **Dr. Bela Sood**, Professor of Psychiatry and **Dr. Brian Meyer**, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry. A total of seven awards were given. *Isaac Abraham, R.N. of VTCC was also nominated.* Each was recognized as a "Hero" for their outstanding work in the field of mental health.



Dr. Cohen

The recognition dinner was hosted by Voices for Virginia's Children along with Mental Health America of Virginia, Psychiatric Society of Virginia, the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Virginia,



Dr. Sood

Virginia Federation of Families and the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards.

The dinner is part of a national program, "Heroes In The Fight", which celebrates the dignity, courage, hope and recovery in the ongoing treatment of persons with serious and persistent mental illness and recognizes "heroes" who provide care and support for these individuals and their families. Persons who best exemplify ongoing care and dedication are nominated by their peers within the local mental health community.

Dr. Meyer



The Heroes In the Fight program was established by Eli Lilly and Company.

NIH Education Grant to Train Researchers



Dr. Mike Neale

A Virginia Commonwealth University researcher has received a National Institute on Drug Abuse education grant totaling more than Two Million (\$2,000,000.00) to train the next generation of researchers studying the underlying causes of substance use behavior.

The five year grant will bring together pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellows from multiple academic backgrounds to develop and apply statistical genetic methods that can be used to analyze data on substance use, abuse and dependence. They will test hypotheses about the risk for substance abuse. These new methods will then be put into practice with the goal of preventing addiction and improving treatment.

Scientists and researchers require statistical methods implemented in computer programs to identify genetic and environmental factors that influence risk for the misuse of drugs. There currently is a shortage of individuals qualified to analyze the very large amounts of data being generated by genetic studies.

Principal Investigator **Michael Neale**, Ph.D., Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Human and Molecular Genetics and Associate Director of the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics said "We aim to make the most of the new data being collected by developing novel statistical methods and applying them to uncover complex genetic and environmental pathways that lead to serious substance abuse and addiction. The University provides an ideal environment for participants in the research education program to obtain a well-rounded education in this area."

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There is an article in VCU's Alumni Report about **Natalia Tszine Leach**, Ph.D., (2001) who credits VCU's Human and Molecular Genetics Program being the reason for her success today at Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard Medical School.

CONGRATULATIONS! Recent Appointments, Honors, Awards and Presentations

◆ **Dr. Sandra Barker** was invited to participate in a NIH Staff Training in Extramural Programs (STEP) in the fall. Entitled "Understanding the Human-Animal Bond: What Has Your Pet Done for You Lately?", the conference was attended by 104 live and 292 via live videocast.

◆ **Dr. James Levenson's** Textbook of Psychosomatic Medicine has been published in Spanish and will soon be published in Chinese.

◆ **Faison Center for Life Skills and Employment** was the winner of the 2009 Commissioner's Award from the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.

◆ **Dr. Susan Kornstein** was recently chosen for the Peer Review Circle of Honor by the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry.

◆ **Dr. Xiangning Chen (Sam)** received an Independent Investigator Award from NARSAD last November.

◆ **Dr. Alan Entin** received the Distinguished Psychologist of the Year Award from the American Psychological Foundation for Outstanding Leadership in Clinical Psychology for contributions to the field of psychology and art.

◆ **Dr. Dace Svikis** and **Dr. Lori Keyser-Marcus** were awarded a new grant from NIDA. Dr. Svikis also received a funded R01 award of over \$2,000,000 for a five year period to study Computer vs. Therapist Delivered Intervention for Drug Abuse.

◆ **Dr. John Urbach** has again been invited to teach in the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Continuing Education Program at their national meeting in Chicago in May.

◆ New additions include the births of babies for **Drs. Armistead and Peter Henderer (William), Anita and Andrew Binder (Jacob), Eugene and Katrina Sun (Kenji Morgan) and Akm and Parvis Akter Sulaman (Reanna Farsin)**.

◆ It is with best wishes that we say farewell to **Barbara Kane**. She has been with us since 2000, working in W-8, HPIP and most recently, Nelson Clinic. Mrs. Kane will be returning to Winston-Salem, N.C., to a new job as Assistant Registrar of Deeds.

◆ Sad condolences to **Marie Baker-Roach, Jim Wade** and **Michele Rice** and their families for the deaths of their loved ones.

Second Annual Child Mental Health Advocacy Award Gala



Committed Virginians turned out at the Virginia Aviation Museum in Richmond, Virginia on Saturday, October 18, 2008 in support of children's mental health when the VTCC Advisory Council hosted its Second Annual Child Mental Health Advocacy Award Gala and Benefit Auction. This year's Honoree was the Honorable Timothy M. Kaine, who was recognized for his work and legislative initiatives in Virginia in support of child mental health. The Honorary Chairman was Marilyn Tavenner, Secretary of Health and Human Resources for the state of Virginia. The evening was led by VTCC Advisory Council Chairman Jean Hovey-Murray, and board members Susan Debuque, Bank Greene, Sherri Wyatt, Michelle Schroeter, Jesselle Christensen, and Bradley Purcell. Nearly 150 guests were in attendance at the gala which included a silent auction, live auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres, music, and dancing. This year's gala raised over \$20K to fight against childhood mental illness and to support the services and programs of Virginia Treatment Center for Children. The event was a success raising friends and well as funds. The next gala is scheduled for September 26, 2009 at the Virginia Aviation Museum.

Psychology Fellow



Dr. Jennifer Cameron earned her Ph.D. from the Medical (Clinical) Psychology program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she completed her dissertation

on depression and coping in cardiac rehabilitation patients. She is passionate about improving physical health through behavior change and psychotherapy. She most enjoys working with cardiac patients and addressing sleep and eating behaviors. Dr. Cameron started her post-doctoral fellowship in Clinical Health Psychology at VCI in September 2008 to pursue these interests and training opportunities.

VCU Psychiatry Collaboration in India 2009

In 2006, VCU initiated a program of international collaboration with universities worldwide. VCU established 15 relationships in different disciplines including three medical institutions (University of Chandigarh, India, Mesina, Italy and Cordoba, Spain).

Dr. Joel Silverman went to Chandigarh in January 2007 to initiate the program. In 2008, **Dr. Savita Malhotra** came to VCU and again in January 2009, Dr. Silverman and **Dr. Anand Pandurangi** traveled back to this northern Indian city of 1,000,000 for a three day teaching visit.



Chandigarh's Government Complex

Chandigarh is unique in India because it is the capital city of its own territory as well as the two northern states of Punjab and

Haryana. The photo below is the city's symbol with the open hand representing "welcome to all who come here".



Chandigarh's Rock Garden

Chandigarh is 100 miles from the capital of India, New Delhi, and is a relatively modern city. Designed by Swiss-French Architect LeCorbusier, the city is laid out in rectangular sectors. There are many beautiful gardens and a great amount of



Chandigarh's Sectors

sculpture for tourists and residents to enjoy when in the city.

While Drs. Silverman and Pandurangi were there, they toured the PGI-MER (Post Graduate Institute of Medical

Education and Research) facility, met with faculty individually and in small groups, met with the leadership including the Director of the Institute and the Chair of Psychiatry as well as being special guests at social receptions and luncheons.



PGIMER

Two highlights of the trip were when they observed a clinical case conference entitled "Anxiety—Depersonalization Syndrome".

The case presented was a 23 year old male with anxiety, panic and perceptual changes. The residents and faculty had the opportunity to observe and question in a Grand Rounds format not only the young man but afterwards, his mother.

Drs. Silverman and Pandurangi were invited to participate in a seminar entitled "Competence, Capacity and Guardianship"

where they were able to compare and contrast the US and Indian forensic practices.

Another educational opportunity afforded our faculty was when they were invited to observe a Child Psychiatric Clinic and Substance Abuse Program. In the clinics, they were impressed with the thorough and comprehensive work-ups. PGIMER is an acute care hospital with 1,500 beds and 64 medical sub-specialties. It is among the premier hospitals in Asia.

At the invitation of the Chairman of Psychiatry, Dr. Silverman presented "The Future of Public Psychiatry" to the faculty and residents as a lecture. Dr. Pandurangi presented "Atypical Polypharmacy" at lecture. Both were well received. The Department looks forward to future exchanges of faculty and intellectual cross fertilization.



Chandigarh's Morni Hills

Around The Department Since September

Fall Faculty Dinner Meeting

Early Fall was an excellent time to meet to discuss the financial issues we will be facing throughout the department. With anticipated budget cuts, a tightening of belts was advocated. The dinner meeting was held at BlackFinn Restaurant.

Dr. Silverman presented "how we can ride out the storm" together". Questions and answers came after dinner.



Left to right: Drs. Lamps, Meyer, Schneider, Fernandez

Upcoming Dinner Meetings

The next **Faculty Dinner meeting** will be at BlackFinn on April 28 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. All faculty members are urged to attend. BlackFinn is located at 1001 Haxall Point and there is free parking in the deck for patrons of the restaurant. Bring your parking ticket in for validation. **Robert K. Schneider**, M.D., Chief, Mental Health Service, Hunter Holmes McGuire Veteran's Administration Medical Center, will be the featured speaker for the evening; he will be discussing the VCU/VAMC partnership. The annual **Clinical Faculty Affiliate Appreciation Dinner** will be held at Maggiano's Restaurant at Short Pump on Wednesday, April 29 at 5:30 p.m. Two Clinical Faculty will host the panel discussion: **Angela Torres**, MD will detail the resident training program on forensics that she is developing at Central State Hospital and **Caroline Coster**, MD, will discuss transition from training to teaching & practice.

Dorris Douglas Budd Award



Left to right: Dr. Silverman, Delores Yeatts, Dr. Urbach

The **Dorris Douglas Budd Award** was established in 1981 and is named for a VCU secretary to the Vice President of Administration from 1951 to 1981. Psychiatry's own **Delores Yeatts** was one of this year's nominees for 2008 award and has been with the department for 15 years. Delores is Residency Coordinator. (Dorris Douglas Budd died April 10, 2009.)

Howard University Rotating MDs

McGuire VAMC Offering Psychology Fellowship and Internships

Residents from Howard University Hospitals in Washington, DC, began rotating on psychiatry services here at VCUHS in September, 2008. The two institution's Offices of Graduate Medical Education made a commitment to provide training opportunities for Howard residents in several specialties, including Psychiatry. Howard hopes to broaden its range of educational experiences through this partnership and VCUHS will have the benefit of additional resident presence.

Residency Directors **Dr. John Urbach** and **Dr. Jan Hutchinson** made plans for rotations by PGY-2's and PGY-4's on inpatient medical psychiatry and geropsychiatry services. **Dr. Cheryl Al-Mateen** will supervise child psychiatry rotations at VTCC. Dr. Al-Mateen is a Howard alumna. **Drs. Alex Trutia** and **Sultan Lakhani** are supervising the work of the Howard residents on medical and geriatric psychiatry. Most of the visiting residents are spending a month on each of these services, working together with the rotating residents of MCV Hospitals.



Jessica Herrera, MD



Akbar Broadway, MD



Anissa Maroof, MD



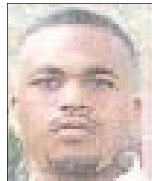
Sanique Cartwright, MD



Liusong Fu, MD



Terri Turner, MD



Kenyatta Jones, MD



Shana Nguyen, MD

The Psychology Section of the Mental Health Service welcomed its initial group of pre-doctoral interns and a post-doctoral fellow for the first time in several years this past fall. The interns will be rotating through several specialty programs including PTSD, Polytrauma and Spinal Cord Injury, along with a mandatory rotation in inpatient/outpatient mental health. Shared experiences will be available with the Psychiatry Residents, such as case presentations and in-services. The Fellow will have primary assignments in the Polytrauma programs but will also participate in the PTSD and Mental Health programs. **Dr. Michael Ellwood** is the Director of Training for Psychology interns and **Dr. Treven Pickett** is the Associate Service Line Chief and Director of Training for the Polytrauma Psychology Fellow.

Webb Fellowship Winner

Dr. Christopher Kogut was selected to receive the 2008 William Webb Fellowship. The Fellowship program was created to foster the career development and leadership potential of advanced residents and Psychosomatic Medicine fellows.



Dr. Kogut will be working on an academic project exploring how physicians make decisions about providing medications for HIV in light of complex social and mental health problems. He will present his project at the 2009 Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada in November.

If your Newsletter was delivered to an incorrect address or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send a note to ecunningham@vcu.edu.



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