

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

NEWSLETTER



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CHAIR'S MESSAGE...

Welcome!

This is the second of three seasonal (Fall, Winter, and Spring) newsletters that our Department will be publishing each year. These newsletters are designed to inform faculty, trainees, and staff of current news in the Department and to let others outside the Department know about us and our activities. Our Department is dedicated to its three missions: Education, Clinical Service, and Research and is structured accordingly. Currently, we are implementing a strategic roadmap so that we will be more robust in each of these areas in the coming years.

Emil F. Coccaro, M.D.

E.C. Manning Professor & Chair

**Department of Psychiatry &
Behavioral Neuroscience**



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Grand Rounds: L168 (12-1:30 PM)
 - A. Kumar, M.D., UIC (1/14)
 - D. Maestriperi, Ph.D., U of C (1/21)
 - J. Hudziak, M.D., U Vermont (2/11)
 - P. Vezina, Ph.D., U of C (2/18)
 - J. Gollan, Ph.D., NW U (3/11)
 - S. Vas, Ph.D., U of C (3/18)
- Case Conferences: L168 (12-1:30 PM)
 - K. Berg (Psychology Intern: 1/28)
 - J. Cooper (Resident Case: 3/25)

"TOP STORY"

NEW INTERIM DEAN-CEO

AND OTHER NEW DEANS FOR BSD



Everett Vokes, M.D., an international expert on the treatment of head and neck cancer, lung cancer and drug development, was appointed by President Robert Zimmer as Interim Dean-CEO last fall pending a search for a new Dean-CEO. Dr. Vokes has had a long and distinguished career in clinical and translational research, and as a leader in the Medical Center, most recently as Chair of the Department of Medicine and as the John E. Ultmann Professor in both the Departments of Medicine and of Radiation and Cellular Oncology. Dr. Vokes has also been the Deputy Director of the University's Cancer Research Center.



Jeffrey Matthews, MD, currently the Dallas B. Phemister Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, has been appointed the new Dean for Clinical Affairs. As such he is charged with optimizing the clinical programs that currently exist and to spearhead the development of exciting new clinical programs, especially those that span different clinical departments. Previous to his arrival at the U of C, Dr. Matthews was the sixth Christian R. Holmes Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Cincinnati. Prior to that he was the Chief of the Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess.

TOP STORY (CONTINUED)

Dr. Matthews has also played leadership roles in numerous professional societies, including Directorship of the American Board of Surgery.



The most recently appointed Dean is Conrad Gilliam, Ph.D. who is now the Dean for Research. Dr. Gilliam came to the U of C from Columbia University in 2004 when he was recruited to be the Chair of the Department of Human Genetics. In addition to this role, he had also been asked to take the lead on Bioinformatics in the BSD. Most recently, he was a Co-Chair of the recent Faculty Committee charged by the Dean and President to review the role of faculty in the leadership of the BSD. Dr. Gilliam's research focuses on the identification and characterization of heritable mutations that affect the nervous system. Research projects vary from genetic mapping of rare (Mendelian) disease mutations and characterization of their downstream consequences to the study of common heritable disorders using mouse models as well as genomic and bioinformatic approaches.

MEDIA NOTES

Dr. Dinwiddie discussed the Fort Hood Incident in an ABC News article entitled: "Experts Sift Clues to Army Psychiatrist Nidal Malik Hasan's Shooting Rampage" by Lauren Cox on 11/09/09.

Dr. Hirsch appeared on FOX News on 11/0/09 advocating caution regarding the potential use of THC in the treatment of Autism.

Link: <http://www.foxnews.com/search-results/m/27626206/marijuana-for-kids.htm>

Dr. Hunter discussed the increase observed in significant psychopathology in high school and college students from the 1930s to 2007 (Twenge, et al., in press, Birth cohort increases in psychopathology among young Americans, 1938-2007: A cross-temporal meta-analysis of the MMPI. Clinical Psychology Review) and its implications in an AP article by Martha Irvine, *Youth now have more mental health issues*, published Monday 1/11/2010.

Link: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100111/ap_on_re_us/us_stressed_out_students

NEW FACULTY



Marcella Almeida, M.D. Dr. Almeida has just been appointed as a Clinical Associate in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience. Dr. Almeida graduated from our Residency Training Program last June after serving as Chief Resident during her PGY-4 year. Now she is a Staff Psychiatrist at Mercy medical Center. In addition she heads one of our two Teaching Teams on the

Mercy Psychiatry Inpatient Service. Dr. Almeida spent much time in her medical school years working in a psychiatric hospital, participating in clinical and research activities which she presented at international meetings. After receiving her M.D. in 2002, she worked as a general doctor in the rural area of her state in Brazil, where she faced severe poverty and lack of resources. "This taught me a lesson about humanity and charity I could never learn from books", she says. She then worked in one of the main psychiatric hospitals in Brazil. Dr. Almeida has lived in many countries, attending high school in Rome and completing some of her medical training in Norway, Portugal and Michigan. She chose to pursue Psychiatry Residency training in the United States at the U of C becoming the Chief Resident in her final year. In addition, she was awarded the American Association of Directors of Psychiatry Residency Training Resident's Mentorship Award in 2007.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- Grand Rounds: L168 (12-1:30 PM)
Anand Kumar, M.D., UIC (1/14)
Dario Maestriperri, Ph.D., U of C (1/21)
James Hudziak, M.D., U Vermont (2/11)
Paul Vezina, Ph.D., U of C (2/18)
Jackie Gollan, Ph.D., Northwestern U (3/11)
Shona Vas, Ph.D., U of C (3/18)
- Case Conferences L168 (12-1:30 PM)
Kelly Berg, M.A. (Psychology Intern: 1/28)
Joseph Cooper, M.D. (PGY-4 Resident Case: 3/25)

CLINICAL MISSION: ADULT PSYCHIATRY



Daniel Yohanna, M.D., Vice-Chair and Director of Clinical Affairs & Section Chief of Adult Psychiatry.

Last year, I wrote about the increased attention we need to spend on returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and the rise of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in the military. Now comes a new trauma. The disaster in Haiti reminds us of the massive psychological effects people experience after a major trauma. Nearly 200,000 people and counting will have lost their lives in Haiti and just as many wounded. All survivors will have acute traumatic stress disorders and many will later develop PTSD, defined as one month duration of symptoms after the event. Symptoms include persistent re-experiencing of the trauma like nightmares, persistent avoidance of things that are associated with the trauma, numbing of general responses, like diminished interest in activities or significant events in one's life and a general increase in arousal, such as an inability to sleep, difficulty concentrating or an exaggerated startle response. To this we must now add the many rescue workers who will return from Haiti and experience difficulties, some of whom will be from the U of C Medical Center. The sheer volume of casualties, exposure to human remains and suffering will surely be extreme. The Outpatient Programs of our Department will standby to assist those returning to recover fully from the experience. A special PTSD clinic for Haiti Volunteers is now in operation. For appointments/questions, call Dr. Yohanna at 4-7008.

EDUCATION MISSION



Deborah Spitz, M.D., Director of Education.

Our Department's Adult Residency Program is in a constant process of review and evaluation of all our programs. Our last ACGME Site Visit was in March of 2007, and we are now preparing for an Internal Review, conducted by the Graduate Medical Education Committee, in February. All year, we hold weekly Residency Education Committee meetings, led by me and open to all residents and all faculty, to discuss rotations, supervision, curricula and address any problems that come up at any rotation site. Among our current projects are: A review of the lectures and articles used in each course. Dr. Steve Dinwiddie, Dr. Danielle Anderson and I have been meeting weekly to review our curriculum, identify any omissions, and collate essential articles that all residents should read. All faculty were asked to submit articles they viewed as essential for residents, and we hope to create an on-line library for residents. Collaborating on our inpatient rotation at NorthShore, I meet monthly with the psychiatrist educators at Evanston, Drs. Susan Anderson, Steven Chernaik and Scott Gordon, and Dr. Fred Miller, the Chair at NorthShore, recently met with our Department's management group to discuss the future growth at NorthShore. We are very pleased with the opportunities residents have at NorthShore, and look forward to continued growth.

CLINICAL MISSION: C & A PSYCHIATRY



Sharon Hirsch, M.D., Section Chief, C & A Psychiatry.

This year has been especially rewarding with the addition of our new teaching affiliate at North Shore University Health System. Our inpatient rotation at the Highland Park location is now well established and our second year rotation in the Bridges Community Mental Health Program will begin in July with our second year child residents. We are also very excited about our new Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residents who will be starting July 1, 2010: 1) Ni Liu, M.D., is third year resident at the University of Chicago. Dr. Liu also has a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry. Her current research focuses on "Cultural Sensibility: A Process-Oriented Approach to Culture within a Developmental Framework"; 2) Vijay Vivek Khilnani, M.D. is from the University of Michigan Psychiatry Residency Program. He has a love of classical Indian music, and currently teaches and studies Indian Classical Music; 3) Jyoti Randhawa, M.D., is from the Psychiatry Residency Program at Michigan State University. As a medical student, Dr. Randhawa was active in AMSA, serving as Vice President for her local chapter. Now that we have finished our match, we return to our regular schedule of clinical work and to our combined Grand Rounds and Colloquium schedule. This year we have had the opportunity to visit with Dr. Findling, Hudziak, and Schreiner. Look for our new 2010-2011 Colloquium schedule soon!

RESEARCH MISSION



Paul Vezina, Ph.D., Research Section Chief and Mission Director for Research.

The restructuring of the Department's Research Section and its pre- and post-award service is moving ahead nicely. We have appointed Ms. Kai Jackson to the position of Research Section Manager. Ms. Jackson is a Certified Research Administrator with a BS from Loyola University and an MS from Purdue University. Starting February 1, 2010, she will oversee all pre-post award services in the Department and will be responsible for a number of administrative portfolios in the Research Section. We are currently working with Ms. Jackson to fill the remaining pre-post administrative position. Sandy Lieneck and Mert Vincent in Neurology will continue to help with grant related issues until this remaining position is filled. The assistance provided by Sandy and Mert, Keli Uhter in Neurobiology, as well as the hard work of our own Janet Nelson, has been invaluable. Due to this collaborative effort, the transition into our new administrative structure continues to evolve smoothly. For this, I extend to them my sincere thanks and appreciation. As we move ahead with this reorganization, I also look forward to continuing in future meetings the discussions we started in our Research Faculty Retreat in December. Given the recent loss of three research programs in our Section and expressed University initiatives for the expansion of the faculty, we will need to focus on developing a clear program for the development of research in our Department.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Maureen Lacy, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences. Dr. Lacy is a clinical neuropsychologist who specializes in the assessment and treatment of cognitive and affective disorders related to psychiatric and neurologic diseases. With Dr. David Frim, she recently published several book chapters (e.g. Neuropsychological Aspects of Hydrocephalus) and research articles (e.g., Neurocognitive Outcome following ETV in obstructive Hydrocephalus) in this area. She also is a co-investigator of a new study examining neuropsychological and psychiatric features of Chiari Malformation. As past president of The Association of Internship Training in Clinical Neuropsychology (AITCN) and recipient of a HRSA training grant, she continues to be committed to the training of future clinical scientists. Combining this with a desire to expand UCMC's commitment to multidisciplinary research, she continually collaborates with colleagues from across the Institution. With past geriatric fellow, Dr. Mohile, she examined the cognitive outcome of androgen treatment in prostate cancer. With radiologist, Dr. Burrowes, and colleagues, she explored the relationship between 3 dimensional ventricular volume reconstruction and cognition. With current intern Stephanie Assuras and neurologist Tony Reder, she is currently investigating the neurocognitive outcome of patients 16 years after initiating treatment with Betaseron for Multiple Sclerosis.

CLINICAL PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Every Monday afternoon, as many as 24 patients arrive at the Department of Psychiatry in the clinic "un-cleverly" named the *Monday Afternoon Clinic or MAC* for short. (The clinic had been on Thursday afternoons for many, many years and was to no surprise called TAC). This clinic has been the source of medication management and support for nearly 120 patients who have severe, persistent, mental illness. Many MAC patients have been coming to us for well over ten years and it is common for some to have been getting their care here for over 25 years. They have also helped train 6 new residents every year on the pharmacologic treatment of severe mental illnesses, like Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder, as well as demonstrating to the residents struggles these patients endure and the brave and honorable way in which they do it. They are a rather select group of people with severe illness who can always make their appointments and do not need consistent case management or home visits to function, what is referred to as Assertive Community Treatment or ACT. They are also very into research! As a group, they have volunteered for all kinds of research projects over the years that are conducted in the MAC by a variety of researchers from various Departments within the University. Research in genetics, medical economics, anthropology, clinical drug trials, novel mechanisms of action in psychotic disorders, neuropsychological testing and many other studies have been conducted in this clinic. It is not unusually for a patient to ask if there is a study they can participate in when they arrive!

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Abraham A. Palmer, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Genetics and holds a secondary appointment in Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience. Dr. Palmer obtained his undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Chicago in 1992 and obtained a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from the University of California San Diego. He came back to the University of Chicago in 2005 after doing two post-doctoral fellowships, one at Oregon Health & Sciences University and another at Columbia University.

Dr. Palmer's research focuses on understanding the role of genetic variation in shaping behavior. Genetic differences influence susceptibility to psychiatric diseases as well as variability for normal behavior. An individual's phenotype is the product of many different genes, the environment and their complex interactions. Identifying these genes, as well as understanding their biological function, promises to revolutionize the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric diseases. Dr. Palmer seeks to use mice as a model genetic system to identify specific genes that contribute to heritable disorders. In addition, Dr. Palmer also collaborates with several other labs, most notably Dr. Harriet de Wit's, to examine the role of genetic variability in human subjects. The integration of mouse and human genetics are one of the overarching goals of Dr. Palmer's research.

RESEARCH PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Royce Lee, M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience.

Dr. Lee's research program is focused on two interrelated questions. The first is how we may alter neuropeptide function in trauma and stress related psychiatric disorder. The second is how we might measure the neuropsychopharmacological effect precisely so that a biomarker could be utilized for prognostic or diagnostic purposes.

Funding for this research has come from NIH, The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, NARSAD, the Brain Research Foundation and other sources. Dr. Lee has found that childhood trauma is related to elevated central corticotropin releasing hormone (CRH) in adults with personality. This is accompanied by pituitary desensitization of CRH receptors.

His preliminary data indicate that CRH and other neuropeptides such as vasopressin, oxytocin, and insulin may gain access to the brain to affect behavior via the intranasal route. The issue of how to measure the neuropharmacological effect of neuropeptides in humans is difficult. He is currently examining how high density scalp EEG may reflect the effect of exogenous neuropeptides on neurophysiological function.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOLARSHIP

Levisohn P, Mintz M, Hunter SJ, Yang H, et al. A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, non-inferiority trial to evaluate the neurocognitive effects of adjunctive levetiracetam in children with partial onset epilepsy. *Epilepsia*, 50:2377-2389, 2009.

Kjelsberg E, Rustad A, Karnik N. Social-emotional adjustment predicts criminal recidivism in female prisoners. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*. 2009.

Coccaro EF, Lee R, Kavoussi RJ. Aggression, suicidality, and intermittent explosive disorder: serotonergic correlates in personality disorder and healthy control subjects. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 35:435-44, 2010.

Le Grange D, Lock J, Loeb K, & Nicholls D. An Academy for Eating Disorders Position Paper. The role of the family in eating disorders. *International Journal of Eating Disorders* 43:1-5, 2010.

Naaman S, Radwan K, Johnson S: Coping with early breast cancer: Couple adjustment processes and couple-based intervention. *Psychiatry* 72(4), Winter 2009.

Loweth JA, Singer BF, Baker LK..., Vezina P. Transient overexpression of α -Ca2+/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II in the nucleus accumbens shell enhances behavioral responding to amphetamine. *The Journal of Neuroscience* 30:939-949, 2010.

SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINEES



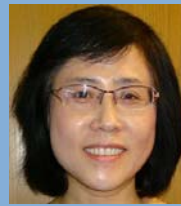
Jennifer Ediden earned a Master's degree from Boston University before entering the Ph.D. program at Loyola University. She has completed externships at Stroger's Hospital, Ruggles Elementary School, University of Chicago and the Wellness Center at Loyola. She has presented her research at AABT & Society for Research on Adolescence. Her dissertation is entitled " Psychosocial development, well being, and internalizing symptoms during emerging adulthood: An examination of mediating and moderating factors." Jennifer is in the Child Neuropsychology track.



Matt (Garrett) Thorton hails from University of Houston. In 2008 he won the Excellence in Documentation Award from UH. He completed externships at MD Andersen, Baylor College, University of Houston, and MED-VA MC. His work at the VA fostered his dissertation entitled "Relation between post-concussive symptoms, brain injury, and post traumatic stress in OEF/OIF veterans with a history of mild traumatic brain injury." Matt is in the Adult Neuropsychology track.

SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINEES

Residents and Fellows:



Dr. Ni Liu is a current PGY-3 resident, and she will stay on with us for her Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship in July 2010. Dr. Liu obtained her M.D., Ph.D. from China. She worked as junior faculty at the U of C from 1999-07, with 15 publications in molecular immunology. Her current research interests have shifted toward issues in cross-cultural psychiatry. She recently submitted a proposal for her APA-SAMHSA fellowship. She plans to use some of these resources to support her research on exploring the effect of culture and immigration on children and adolescent mental health. She also wants to be an ambassador for ideas across cultural divides – most especially between the US and China.



Dr. Shoaib Memon is currently a second year Adult Psychiatry resident. He is a graduate of the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science located in North Chicago, IL, class of 2007. He joined the residency in 2008 after a year abroad studying Spanish and Arabic. His interests include forensic psychiatric mental health in immigrant and refugee communities, as well as cultural considerations in delivery of psychiatric care. He is currently collaborating with an independent interpretation company to develop a curriculum for medical interpreters working with mental health practitioners.

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



Pam Helder, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Chair. Pam joined the Department in January 2006 as the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Chair; although she wears many hats many of you may better know her as the deadline dodger's nightmare or the sweet tooth enabler. Prior to coming to Psychiatry she worked for the Chair of Neurology from 1997 through 2005 and before coming to the University she worked her way up the ladder in the Department of Neurology at Michael Reese Hospital for 20 years. She graduated from Moser Business School (Robert Morris College) in 1974 and worked for the State of Illinois Dangerous Drugs Commission before switching to the health care field at Michael Reese. Pam is originally from the southwest suburbs of Chicago but moved to Indiana 14 years ago and is hoping to return to Illinois this summer. She keeps herself very busy with her own business, STB Transcription Company, as well as dabbles as a consultant for PartyLite Gifts. Pam enjoys movies, theatre, dancing, and will try just about anything once. She shares her home with a handsome five year old red Min Pin, Buddy.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Adult Psychiatry Programs:

Mood Disorder Program*
Anxiety Disorder Program*
Personality Disorder Program*
Aggression Disorder Program*
Obesity Program*
Psychotic Disorder Program*

Inpatient Psychiatry
Consultation- Liaison Psychiatry
Adult Clinical Neuropsychology

Child & Adolescent Programs:

Mood & Anxiety Disorder Program*
ADHD and Disruptive Disorder Program*
Developmental Disorder Program*
Eating Disorder Program*

Inpatient Psychiatry
Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry
C&A Clinical Neuropsychology

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RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Behavioral Genetic Studies of Aggression and
Antisocial Behavior (Dr. Jacobson)

Behavioral Neuroscience Research Laboratory
(Dr. Vezina)

Biologic & Pharmacologic Treatment Studies of
Impulsive Aggression (Dr. Coccaro)

Biological and Treatment Studies of Nicotine and
Alcohol Addiction (Dr. King)

Biological Studies of Stress and Personality (Dr. Lee)

Eating Disorder Treatment Studies (Dr. le Grange)

Human Neuropsychopharmacology (Dr. de Wit)

Molecular Genetics of Mood & Psychotic Disorders
(Drs. Gershon, Badner, and Liu)

Molecular Psychopharmacology (Dr. Dulawa)

Multi-Cultural Health Research Program (Dr.
Sanchez-Johnsen)

Obesity Research Treatment Studies (Dr. Chen)

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