

# The University of Chicago

## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

### NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

SPRING 2012



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE...

### Welcome!

This is the third 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 other 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

## “TOP STORY”

### FILM FOCUSING ON DEPARTMENT'S RESEARCH ACTIVITY TO BE SCREENED AT THE APA MEETINGS



This May, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) will be highlighting the research activities of several departments of psychiatry across the US. These films, produced by WebsEdge, will all be about five minutes in length. In addition to our department in Chicago, similar films about the departments at Northwestern and UIC will also be featured. Filming was done in one day and involved Drs. Dulawa, King, LeGrange, and Vezina. Dr. Coccaro was also filmed to provide an overview of the department and an overview of his work in the area of aggression. Drs. Dulawa talked about her new animal model of anorexia nervosa and Dr. LeGrange discussed his clinical and research program in Eating Disorders. Dr. Vezina gave an overview of the Research Mission in the Department and discussed his own basic science program in Addictions. Dr. King focused her time on her exciting work in understanding addictions with alcohol and tobacco. While this five minute film will focus, primarily, on research activities, additional filming was done with Drs. Yohanna, Spitz, and Hirsch so that other small films highlighting the clinical and educational aspects of the department can be created as well. The current film will be screened on a continuous loop, with other similar films, on various film and video screens at the APA meeting coming up this May in Philadelphia.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Top Story	1
Transitions	2
Clinical News	2
Education News	3
Research News	3
Department Events	3
Publications	3
Listing of Clinical & Research Programs	4
Spotlight on Trainees & Staff	5
Next Years Adult & C&A Chief Resident	6



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Resident Research Presentations (M347: 2-5 PM on 6/7)
- Graduation & Faculty Appreciation at Home of the Chair (6/7: 6-8 PM)
- Grand Rounds: L168 (12-1:30 PM)
  - J. Constantino, M.D., Wash. U (4/12)
  - A. Marsland, Ph.D., U Pittsburgh (5/10)
  - J. Cowan, Ph.D., U of C (6/14)
- Case Conference::s H103 (12-1:30 PM)
  - A. Haedt-Matt (Psych Intern: (4/19)
  - R. John (Resident Case Conf (4/26)
  - N. Liu (Resident Case Conf (5/24)
  - J. Siva (Psychology Intern: (5/31 J103)
  - V. Khilani (Resident Case Conf (6/21)

## TRANSITIONS

Our five graduating PGY-4 Trainees have terrific plans for the next phase of their careers:



*Sara Coffey, D.O.* will be doing a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship with Cambridge Health Alliance in Boston this July.



*Rakesh John, M.D.* will be doing a sleep medicine fellowship at Mayo clinic, Rochester, MN this July.



*Shoaib Memon, M.D.* will be doing a fellowship in Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry at Northwestern this July.



*Andrei Pankov, M.D.* will be joining a group practice in Aurora this July. The group practice is called Dreyer Medical Group.



*Elena Tuskenis, M.D.* will be starting a position as an outpatient psychiatrist in rural Wisconsin this fall.

## CLINICAL MISSION: ADULT PSYCHIATRY



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

This month the DPBN participated in the annual Advocacy Day in Springfield, sponsored by the Illinois Psychiatric Society, by bringing 9 residents to learn about policy making and to promote good legislation to help and protect our patients. This has been a difficult year for psychiatric patients in Illinois. Significant cuts to mental health services has occurred and despite some being restored due to advocacy, the cuts have significantly impacted programs and hospitals. Our Emergency Department at UCM will feel the brunt of this as finding a bed for an unfunded patient will be increasingly difficult.

Most disturbing is an idea by the Department of Human Services (DHS), who oversees Medicaid, to cut all pharmaceutical benefits to patients on Public Aid. State Public Aid Programs are not required by the Federal government to provide medications for its beneficiaries (and you think giving States Medicaid vouchers will solve this?). Medications account for \$1.6 billion dollars of spending per year. DHS stated that it must cut \$2.7 billion or 23% of the Medicaid budget in order to be able to pay their bills next year in a timely manner. Second generation antipsychotics account for \$200 million of the spending for medications. The DPBN is working to teach residents the proper use of all psychotropic medications and in a fiscally sound manner. It would behoove all of us to consider this as we prescribe treatments for all our patients covered by Public Aid. For an appointment to the Adult Section please call 773-702-3858 for an intake.

## TRANSITIONS

Our graduating C&A and C/L Fellows also have+ plans for the next phase of their careers:



*Vijay Khilnani, M.D.* will be the Attending Psychiatrist at Compass Health Center in Northbrook. This is an Evidence-based Mental Health Center on the Northshore. He will be working in the Adult/Adolescent and Child partial hospitalization programs, intensive outp programs while he develops his own onsite private practice.

*Jyota Randhawa, M.D., Ni Liu, M.D and Thomas Cantey, M.D.* are undecided what their next step will be or where their next journey will take them.

## CLINICAL MISSION: C&A PSYCHIATRY



*Sharon Hirsch, M.D., Director of C&A Psychiatry.*

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) encompass Autism, Asperger's, and Pervasive Developmental Disorders. ASDs are characterized by problems in social interaction, in communication and in restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped behaviors. On March 30<sup>th</sup> 2012, the CDC published its newest report of the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Data Monitoring Network (ADDN) showing an increased prevalence of 1:88 children with ASDs. The ADDN diagnoses ASDs based on record review, and as such relies on the quality and quantity of information in the records. This increase in prevalence of ASDs is not clearly understood. It may simply be due to better ascertainment by primary care evaluations. Or a preference of families to live near the medical centers with specialized services for autism which are the ascertainment centers. Several interesting hypothesis have been put forward, including linking the increase in ASDs with obesity or diabetes in pregnancy, advanced paternal age, and specific genetic conditions. We know that about 10% of children with ASDs have also been identified as having genetic or chromosomal disorders, including fragile X syndrome and tuberous sclerosis. Our section of Child Psychiatry continues to collaborate across the University with diverse groups of investigators such as the Conte Center for Computational Systems Genomics of Neuropsychiatric Phenotypes to unlock the key to this puzzle. Through understanding and treatment we can understand more about helping people with ASDs to become successful and productive members of society.

## EDUCATION MISSION



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

The results are in! This year the Department had very successful recruitments in all programs, matching with impressive applicants in our Child Match, our Psychology Internship Match, and in our Adult Residency Match. We will welcome these new trainees in June and July.

What is next? This spring, there will be a site visit for the Psychology Internship Program, and this fall the Adult Psychiatry program and our Psychosomatic Fellowship will be site visited by the Residency Review Committee of the ACGME. In preparation for these site visits, the directors of each program are reviewing rotations and didactics to ensure that we have met all requirements. However, a site visit is really an opportunity to review the goals and objectives of training with trainees, and for faculty and trainees to discuss together whether each part of the program meets its intended goal. Within the adult residency program, we are holding weekly meetings for faculty and residents together, examining each rotation and each course to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum, reviewing the ideal placement of each course within the curriculum, and thinking together about how the overall program might better meet the needs of residents. In addition, the Pritzker Medical School will have its site visit by the LCME in the fall, so the entire institution is using this year to review its curriculum.

## DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Next year our "External-Guest" Grand Round Speakers are:

- Cheryl King, PhD. Developmental Aspects of Stress (9/13/12)
- Andreas Meyer-Linderberg, M.D. PhD. Imaging & Genetics (10/25/12)
- Matcheri Keshavan, M.D. Schizophrenia/Neuroscience(11/11/13)
- Rachel Yehudra, M.D., Neurobiology of PTSD (1/10/13)
- Wayne Katon, M.D., Medical Psychiatry/CL (2/14/13)
- Charles Nemeroff, M.D., Neurobiology of Mood Disorders (3/14/13)
- Bradley Peterson, M.D., Imaging & Neurodevelopment (4/14/13)
- Howard Steiger, PhD. Eating Disorders (5/16/13)

## RESEARCH MISSION



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

The Department's Research Section boasts several thriving research programs that incorporate a number of successful laboratories. Three of these research groups have established world class, NIH funded research programs in addictions, the focus of this quarter's newsletter. All three are associated with a NIDA funded Training Program in Addictions Research based in the Department. **Dr. Harriet de Wit's** research aims to identify determinants and consequences of drug use by investigating a number of biological, genetic, and psychological variables in healthy human subjects. The patient driven research of **Dr. Andrea King** uses human laboratory and clinical trials research methodologies to investigate the etiology and explore therapeutics for the treatment of alcohol and nicotine dependence. Finally, **Dr. Paul Vezina's** research uses behavioral, biochemical, genetic, molecular, and neuropharmacological approaches in the rodent to characterize the neurobiological consequences of drug exposure that drive drug taking. I am very happy to announce that these investigators will soon be joined by **Dr. Jon Grant**, a psychiatrist working at the interface between clinical care and research in addictions. Dr. Grant's innovative clinical research and his focus on neurobiological translation will nicely complement our current strengths. The breadth of his work encompassing research in impulse control disorders in chemical addiction, pathological gambling, tricotillomania, and kleptomania will significantly expand our research program in addictions. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Grant to our Department.

## PUBLICATIONS

Palmer AA, de Wit H. Translational genetic approaches to substance use disorders: bridging the gap between mice and humans. *Human Genetics*, Dec 15, 2011 [Epub ahead of print].

NA Shanahan, LP Velez, VL Masten, Dulawa SC. Essential role for orbitofrontal 5-HT1B receptors in obsessive-compulsive disorder-like behavior and serotonin reuptake inhibitor response in mice. *Biological Psychiatry* 70:1039-48, 2011.

Fink JW, Bush S, Rog L, & Pliskin NH. Electrical injury in the workplace. In S. Bush & G. Iverson (Eds.), *Neuropsychological Injury in the Workplace*. New York, Guilford Press, 2011.

Keenan K, Hipwell, AE, Stepp S. Race and sexual behavior predict uptake of HPV vaccine. *Health Psychology* 31:31-34, 2012.

Lee RJ, Hempel J, Tenharmel A, Liu T, Mathe AA, Klock A. The neuroendocrinology of childhood trauma in personality disorder. *Psychoneuroendocrinology* 37:78-86, 2012.

Singer BF, Scott-Railton J, Vezina P. Unpredictable saccharin reinforcement enhances locomotor responding to amphetamine. *Behavioural Brain Research* 226: 340-344, 2012.

Coccaro EF, Lee R, Owens MJ, Kinkead B, Nemeroff CB. Cerebrospinal Fluid Substance P-Like Immunoreactivity Correlates with Aggression in Personality Disordered Subjects. *Biological Psychiatry*, Mar 24, 2012 [Epub ahead of print].

## CLINICAL PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



**Deborah Spitz, M.D.**, A recent front-page article in *The New York Times* bemoaned the disappearance of psychotherapy in the practice of general psychiatry. (Closer reading revealed that the driving force was economic, the psychiatrist in question deciding he required an income of \$500,000 per year.) Neither that income nor

that practice has ever been my goal. In fact, what is most pleasurable to medical students entering psychiatry remains most pleasurable to me—the opportunity to get to know patients well over time, and the possibility that through building a relationship devoted to exploring their sense of meaning in the world and what is important to them, change can happen. I like puzzles and enjoy treating people with affective disorders, so many of my long term psychotherapy patients have refractory mood disorders which, at least initially and intermittently, require a lot of attention and thought. But building a long term psychotherapeutic relationship on top of puzzling out a complex psychopharmacologic dilemma is what I think psychiatrists are uniquely suited to do, and it is what I hope to inspire residents to practice. The privilege of entering into the world of another is enriching both for the patient and therapist, and through my teaching of psychodynamic psychotherapy I try invite residents to share the pleasure of participating in this process.

## CLINICAL SPOTLIGHT



**Scott Hunter, Ph.D.**, has been Director of the Pediatric Neuropsychology Service since 1999 and was promoted to Director of Neuropsychology in 2011. He is co-director of the Psychology Training Program with Dr. Shona Vas. A highly respected expert on pediatric neuropsychology and neurodevelopmental disorders locally and nationally, his program has strong relationships with Pediatric Epilepsy, Pediatric Neurosurgery, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and clinical research with the Children's Oncology Group, and Pediatric Infectious Disease and the multisite NIH-funded Pediatric HIV and AIDS Cohort Studies (PHACS). With Dr. Niranjana Karnik, Dr. Hunter is studying neurocognitive development in homeless youth and spearheading an innovative intervention for executive dysfunction and associated sexual and substance abuse risks. Dr. Hunter is a liaison for the American Psychological Association (APA) Committee of Children, Youth and Families and was appointed to the APA Committee on Professional Practice and Standards (COPPS). He serves on the NIDDK DSMB for Pediatric Acute Liver Failure studies. Dr. Hunter is senior editor of three Cambridge University Press published books on pediatric neuropsychology, and co-author of chapters in reference texts on clinical neuropsychology and research articles on the neurocognitive impact of medications for epilepsy and moderators of diabetes and ADHD treatments. He is on the editorial board of two peer-reviewed journals and regularly serves as a reviewer for multiple publications in child psychiatry and psychology.

## RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT



**Royce Lee, M.D.**, research goal is to improve the treatment of personality disorder by increasing our understanding of its neurobiology. This year we published our third replication of an association of central corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH) levels in spinal fluid and childhood trauma in an adult personality disordered sample. The central CRH level increase was accompanied by desensitization of the pituitary gland to exogenous CRH and enhanced negative feedback from dexamethasone. Thus, personality disordered adults with histories of significant childhood trauma have elevated stress hormone in their brain, but their body desensitizes to its effects. To follow up on these findings, I began a program of research to develop a novel probe of central stress hormone function: intranasally administered CRH. Across two independent experiments with replicating results, it was found that intranasal CRH is associated with an enhanced early, automatic neural response to emotional faces as measured by the N100 event-related potential. This year we also completed the first ever experimental validation of a proprietary small-molecule neuropeptide receptor antagonist, using fMRI neuroimaging and an intranasal vasopressin probe. It is possible that future treatments of personality disorder may include modulation of central neuropeptide signaling, but caution is warranted as counterintuitive effects are possible.

## RESEARCH PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



**Elliot Gershon, M.D.**, in the past several years has focused on *copy number variants (CNVs)*, chromosomal microdeletions and microduplications. These variants have only recently been recognized as a major source of human genetic variation. CNV mutation rates are 100 to 10,000 times the point (single nucleotide) mutation rate. These events are particularly associated with neuropsychiatric disorders. In 2009, Dr. Gershon and colleagues discovered that there is an excess of very rare large CNVs throughout the genome in BP, as compared with controls (Zhang D et al, *Molecular Psychiatry*). His colleagues and he then determined that the rate of *de novo* CNVs is increased in BP and SZ (Malhotra et al. *Nature*, 2011). For SZ (*Nature*, Vacic et al., 2011) Dr. Gershon was part of a team that discovered a recurrent rare CNV associated with Schizophrenia, a deletion of VIP2 (vasopressin receptor 2).

Most recently, Dr. Gershon and Dr. Chunyu Liu, a former colleague now at UIC, have been advancing knowledge of genetic regulation of expression and methylation of specific genes. In human autopsy brains, they have discovered true quantitative trait loci (QTLs) for gene methylation, and greatly extended the landscape of quantitative trait loci for gene expression. Furthermore, his colleagues and he have recently found that there is significant enrichment of cis-regulatory gene expression SNPs and methylation quantitative trait loci among bipolar disorder susceptibility variants (Gamazon et al., *Molecular Psychiatry*, 2012).

In summary, Dr. Gershon has been a luminary in the field of Psychiatric Genetics and continues to lead the field and make extremely insightful and important contributions to the field.

**NEXT YEARS ADULT  
CHIEF RESIDENTS**



**Dr. Nguyen** attended Cornell University and received his MPH in Health Services Mgmt from Boston University. He subsequently worked in hospital administration at NYU Medical Ctr in NYC before switching over to pharmaceutical marketing working for such companies as Pfizer & Novartis. He made the decision to enter medical school and graduated from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. As part of his training, he has developed a strong interest in public psychiatry, GLBT mental health issues, and the treatment of the chronically mentally ill. He is excited about his role as co-chief resident which will allow him to explore his interests in administrative psychiatry and providing support to his fellow residents and department. After graduation, he plans to pursue an adult inpatient/outpatient career.



**Dr. Ribeiro** did medicine and residency training in psychiatry in Brazil, her home country. She finished her PhD in the field of neurosciences in 2004, having a concomitant private practice and a position as attending psychiatrist in a substance abuse/disorders unit. In 2005, she moved definitively to the US, when she accepted the position of Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Foundation Fellow at UCLA, doing research in the field of pharmacogenomics. In 2006, as a Post Doctoral Associate at the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Miami, she continued her studies on translational research. In 2007 she accepted to a position of Senior Research Associate III in the same research team. She is passionate about understanding the biology of the mind and its pathological processes. She also has extensive training in psychodynamics and is a fervent enthusiast of psychotherapy. Currently is doing research during her residency at University of Chicago with plans to establish collaboration with her mentors in Brazil and Australia.

**SPOTLIGHT ON  
TRAINEES**

**TRANSITIONS ~ Psychology Interns:**

**Our psychology interns are all moving on up! We are very proud of their accomplishments and wish them well in their new roles.**



**Lisa Jacola, M.S.** is headed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN for a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology



**Lynette Silva, M.S.** will be an adult neuropsychology postdoctoral fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Department of Psychiatry.



**Alissa Haedt-Matt, M.A.** has accepted a faculty position in the Department of Psychology at the Illinois Institute of Technology and will be staying in Chicago.



**Janani Sivasithamparam (Jenn Siva), M.S.** is returning to Canada for a position at Kaplan Psychologists Assessment & Treatment Center in Hamilton, Ontario.

**NEXT YEARS C&A  
CHIEF RESIDENT**



**Dr. Henry** earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City's School of Medicine after completing his undergraduate studies at the same institution. He went on to train at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis as an intern and general psychiatry resident before joining the child & adolescent psychiatry program at the University of Chicago. He was previously elected Vice President of his medical school class and has served on the Board of Directors for the HealthPartners Institute for Medical Education. Dr. Henry has an interest in researching quality of life and subjective well-being.

**SPOTLIGHT ON  
ADMINISTRATION**



**Brandy Tyrpin, BHA;** Education Mission Administrator of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience.

Brandy's longstanding dedication to the Educational Mission is evident by her career within the Department of Psychiatry. With the continuous changing nature of the Educational Mission, Brandy has been awarded a number of opportunities for growth and knowledge to expand her career. Brandy joined the Department in the summer of 1997 initially as a Secretary and has been promoted several times and most currently holds the Education Mission Administrator position. Academically, Brandy earned a Bachelor of Health Administration degree from Governors State University.

Brandy is originally from the south east suburbs of Chicago and currently resides in Saint John, Indiana, along with her husband, Dave, seven year old Nathan and four year old twins Owen and Eli. Brandy and the "Boys" have quite the extended family including a Labrador retriever, turtles, a tank full of fish, and any other critters the kids catch. Brandy is very active. She runs, practices yoga, takes spin and boot camp classes, and recently discovered a passion for unusual races. Brandy has completed a Mudathalon, a Monster Dash, and plans to complete a Warrior Dash this summer. You can usually find Brandy outdoors with her family at one of the children's games or another sporting event.

## 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

**\*Call Intake @ (773) 702-3858**

## 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)

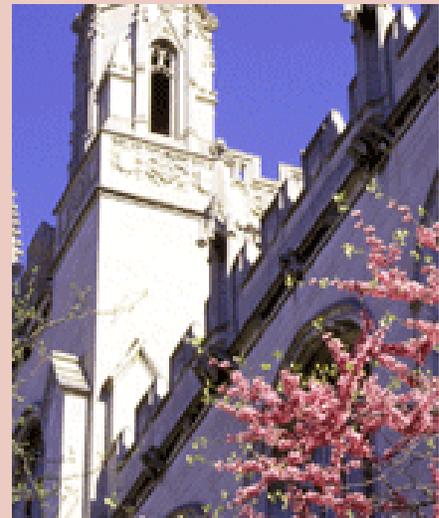
Molecular Psychopharmacology (Dr. Dulawa)

Obesity Research Treatment Studies (Dr. Chen)

Neuroscience of Psychosis (Dr. Keedy)

## The University of Chicago

Department of Psychiatry,  
MC #3077; Rm. B330  
5841 S. Maryland Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637



We're On the Web:  
<http://psychiatry.uchicago.edu>

