

# 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:**

- Winter Faculty Dinner at Home of the Chair (3/20 & 3/21)
- Grand Rounds: L168 (12-1:30 PM)
  - F. Schneier, M.D., Columbia (1/15)
  - J. Mitchell, M.D., UND (2/12)
  - H. deWit, Ph.D., U of C (2/19)
  - Med/Legal Update (2/26)
  - D. Levinson, M.D., Stanford (3/12)
  - L. Towle, Ph.D., U of C (3/19)
- Case Conferences: L168 (12-1:30 PM)
  - N. Patniyot, M.D. (1/29)
  - E. Helder, M.A. (3/26)

## **"TOP STORY"**

### **DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION: MISSIONS & SECTIONS**

In late Fall 2008, the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience completed its basic administrative transformation. We now have Permanent Mission Director's and Permanent Section Chiefs. In addition the Department has three aligned Missions and Sections with designated leadership. The Clinical Mission is Directed by Daniel Yohanna. The Adult Psychiatry Section is helmed by Dr. Yohanna and the Child & Adolescent Section is helmed by Dr. Hirsch. The Education Mission is Directed by Deborah Spitz with very close working relationships with both the Clinical and Research Sections. The Research Mission is now Directed by Paul Vezina who also helms the (now consolidated) Research Section. About half of the faculty are in the Clinical Sections and about half in the Research Section. Clinical activity by selected members of the Research Section will be administered by the Clinical Section Chiefs. This new arrangement makes clear where faculty are located and to whom they report. It also is associated with an increased degree of oversight and responsibility by the Section Chiefs for the faculty in their respective sections. In addition, the further development of faculty will now be centered in the Sections with oversight by the Chair.

## **FACULTY** **PROMOTIONS**



**Deborah Spitz, M.D., has been promoted to Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience.**

Dr. Deborah Spitz received her M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and completed her residency training in psychiatry at The University of Chicago. She completed a fellowship in inpatient psychiatry at The University of Chicago and joined the faculty in 1983. She spent 12 years, from 1988 to 2000, at Tufts-New England Medical Center where she was Professor and Director of Residency Training. An inveterate educator, she has developed educational programs in psychiatry at the medical student, resident and graduate medical education levels and served as President of the Association for Academic Psychiatry. She has been active in the American Psychiatric Association's Scientific Program Committee and Committee on Women, the Association for the Advancement of Philosophy and Psychiatry, and the American Board for Psychiatry and Neurology. In 2003 she moved to Norwich, England and became the lead psychiatrist for the city, redesigning the delivery of mental health services for 170,000 adults. She served as a faculty member at the newly instituted University of East Anglia School of Medicine. She returned to U of C in 2003 and became the Mission Director for Education in 2006.

## **FACULTY** **PROMOTIONS**



**Dr. Paul Vezina has been promoted to Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience.**

Dr. Vezina received his Ph.D. in Psychology and Behavioral Neurobiology at Concordia University in Montreal. He did his postdoctoral training in neuropharmacology with Prof. Jacques Glowinski at the Collège de France in Paris. He began his career at The University of Chicago in 1994. Dr. Vezina is Director of the Behavioral Neuroscience Research Laboratory. The overarching goal of the research programs in his group is to understand the molecular, biochemical, neuropharmacological and behavioral consequences of exposure to stimulant drugs. He is particularly interested in deciphering the neuronal mechanisms underlying the generation of appetitive behaviors. The research conducted in his lab is multidisciplinary and benefits from interactions with a number of research groups at The University of Chicago and at other institutions in the U.S. and beyond. It is funded by research grants from NIDA (R01, P01) as well as some private foundations. In addition, Dr. Vezina is Program Director of the NIDA Training Program (T32) which provides training opportunities for 10 pre- and post-doctoral trainees. He also chairs the Faculty Animal Advisory Committee charged with formulating and recommending policies to the Dean's Office that will improve Animal Resources Center and IACUC activities in the BSD. Dr. Vezina is the Department's Research Section Chief and Research Mission Director.

## **FACULTY** **PROMOTIONS**



**Daniel le Grange, Ph.D., has been promoted to Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience.**

Dr. le Grange received his doctoral education at the Institute of Psychiatry, University of London, and completed postdoctoral training at the University of London and at Stanford University. He joined the University of Chicago in 1998 and directs the Eating Disorders Program. Dr. le Grange's main research interest is in the area of treatment outcome studies for adolescent eating disorders, and is being funded by the NIMH and NHMRC (Australia). He has lectured extensively in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and South Africa. Dr. le Grange is co-author of two family-based treatment (FBT) manuals, a parent handbook for eating disorders in adolescents, and a parent case book of FBT for anorexia nervosa. He is a Fellow of the Academy for Eating Disorders and over the past few years has held several leadership positions at the Academy. Dr. le Grange is also a member of the Eating Disorders Research Society, serves on the clinical and scientific advisory council of the National Eating Disorders Association and is a member of the professional advisory panel of Family Empowered and Supporting Treatment of Eating Disorders.

## **FACULTY** **PROMOTIONS**



**Dr. Royce Lee has been promoted to Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience.**

Dr. Lee received his M.D. at Northwestern and did his Psychiatry Training at Rush Medical Center here in Chicago. His scientific work will continue to be focused on the mechanistic role of brain neuropeptide dysfunction in neurotic disorders. Dr. Lee's laboratory is currently engaged in studies of the "social and stress" neuropeptides in relation to neurotic psychiatric disorders. A specific challenge is the creation of meaningful dependent variables for research purposes that someday could be translated into clinical tools. This requires going "beyond blobs" and interrogating neural function in a computationally rigorous manner. Towards this effort, Dr. Lee will continue collaborations with neuroscientists outside of and within our department (Neurology, Computational Neurosciences). At the same time, he will continue to provide clinical teaching and supervision in the context of the Personality Disorders Clinic, and continue to provide scientifically rigorous teaching to resident and medical students in the areas of neuroscience and psychopharmacology.

## CLINICAL MISSION: ADULT PSYCHIATRY



In this issue of the newsletter, I would like to highlight our Outpatient Quality Improvement Program (QIP). First, I would like to thank Anna Bower, APN, for her dedication to the Department's QIP program and for her superb organizational skills. Other members of the Department's QIP are Sharon Hirsch, M.D., Marie Tobin, M.D., Berdine Chong, M.D., and Chris Womack, M.D., representing residents and C&A fellows.

There are several quality indicators we are following in the adult section. Every medical staff member must meet core competencies to be reappointed. The QIP is involved in this process by measuring and documenting these requirements in patient care, medical/clinical knowledge, practiced based learning, interpersonal communication, professionalism and systems based practice. These are measured by physicians having sufficient peer review of the work, continuing medical education, presenting on or authoring papers on clinical work, IRB approved multidisciplinary research project, serving on a clinical committee, attending multidisciplinary conferences, being members of and participating in a professional society, proper medical record keeping and attending safety/risk management meetings. In addition, we have implemented a monthly Morbidity and Mortality (M&M) Rounds to review in depth, cases where harm or potential harm to patients has occurred. In this way, we can identify improved processes and take corrective action. Our aim is to improve the quality of care that can lead to better outcomes for our patients.

## EDUCATION MISSION



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

The fall and winter are recruitment seasons for the adult psychiatry residency, the child psychiatry fellowship, and the psychology internship program. In all programs, recruitment is an intensive effort involving faculty, residents, fellows and psychology interns working together to educate applicants about our programs and answer questions as well as to evaluate the applicants we select for interviews. The **Adult Residency Program** interviewed a strong group of over 80 applicants, and plans to admit a class of six PGY-1 residents as well as one PGY-2 resident who is transferring from another program. This year, 6 Pritzker medical students are planning to go into psychiatry. The Adult Psychiatry match results will be released on March 19. Beginning in the 2009/10 academic year, the **C&A Psychiatry Program** has expanded from two to three fellows per year. Three incoming child fellows were recruited in the Child Psychiatry Match: Susan Buratto, MD from The University of Chicago residency program, Muhammad Junaid, MD from Nassau University, and Xiaping Xie, MD from Rosalind Franklin. The **Psychology Internship Program** interviewed 57 excellent applicants for 4 spots. Match day for the psychology program is February 23. We look forward to meeting our matched trainees this spring, and working with them in June.

## CLINICAL MISSION: C & A PSYCHIATRY



We are pleased to announce our new Neurodevelopmental Clinic with Dr. Sharon Hirsch, MD attending, and the child residents, Drs. Womack and Gaffrey. We meet every Monday morning to see and evaluate children and adolescents with complex questions of pervasive developmental disorder, genetic behavioral disorders, and mental retardation complicated by behavioral difficulties.

We are pleased to have Dr. Scott Hunter from Pediatric Neuropsychology, and Dr. Mike Msall and Dr. Peter Smith from Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, as consultants. Drs. Msall and Smith are faculty with the Illinois LEND Program, a federally funded program addressing the needs of individuals with Developmental Disabilities, and are respectively, the Chief and Program Director for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics here at the University of Chicago. Dr's. Hirsch and Hunter are former UAP fellows (the predecessor to LEND). This collaboration offers a rich environment not only for patient care, but also fosters cooperation across departmental lines to promote research opportunities and a forum for journal club.

We also work with Dr. James Tongsgard in Pediatric Neurology on specific cases, and plan to have a more formal interdisciplinary clinic that involves referrals from that program in the near future.

## RESEARCH MISSION



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

As we embark on a new year, one that quite suddenly has brought home in a real way the financial plight of our nation, our institution, and those institutions around us, it is important not to lose sight of the very positive developments that continue to take place in our Department.

Our Research Mission is doing very well. In the last year, we collectively generated ~80 scientific publications spanning the diverse research areas we investigate in the Department. Our research programs continue to be very well funded. So far this year (2008-2009), total annual Direct Costs from federal sources alone in the Department amount to ~\$9.8 Million with ~\$3 Million in Indirect Costs. To date this year, we have submitted 31 grants and have had 9 funded. Given the current funding climate, our success rate is rather enviable. We should all be especially proud of these achievement. In particular, kudos go this time around to Emil Cocco (R21, R01 Supplement), Kate Keenan (R01 and R21 Subcontracts), Andrea King (R01), Daniel le Grange (R01), Michael McCloskey (R03) and Lisa Sanchez-Johnson (2 R21s). I look forward to our Psychiatry Research Faculty meetings this year to get to know all of you and your successful research programs a bit more.

## DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### Upcoming Events:

Faculty Dinner at Home of the Chair (3/20 & 3/21)

### Grand Rounds: L168 (12-1:30 PM)

Franklin Schneier, M.D., Columbia (1/15): Social Anxiety

James Mitchell, M.D., UND (2/12): Eating Disorders

Harriet deWit, Ph.D., U of C (2/19): Drugs of Abuse

Med/Legal Update (2/26)

Doug Levinson, M.D., Stanford (3/12): Schizophrenia

Leo Towle, Ph.D., U of C (3/19): Seizure Disorders

### Case Conferences L168 (12-1:30 PM)

Nick Patniyot, M.D. (1/29)

Emily Helder, M.A. (3/26)

## CLINICAL PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### We now bring you news of evolving Psycho-Oncology services being provided by the Department:

**1. Clinical Psychology:** Please welcome **Amy Siston Ph.D.**, to the Department. Dr. Siston's primary focus is the psychosomatic needs of oncology patients. Specifically, Dr. Siston will provide: (a) Psychological evaluation and therapy to cancer patients at 3 clinics per week in DCAM (Wed am, pm in 3J and Thurs am in 6D) and (b) similar services in her office in the Department on Thursdays pm.

**2. Psychiatric Evaluation / Therapy for Oncology Patients:** As part of our focus on psycho-oncology, we will continue to provide: (a) Psychiatric consultation and therapy daily for hospitalized cancer patients and (b) psychiatric services at one OPD clinic per week (Thurs 8am-12pm).

**3. Psycho-Oncology Rounds** occur weekly, and include a team of social workers who continue to provide support services for patients in your individual programs. This meeting occurs at 12 noon on Wed in Department of Psychiatry, room M 343. You, and/or your team members, will be invited to attend if a patient under your care is being discussed. We understand that due to busy schedules this may not be feasible so you will receive a written brief summary of the psycho-oncology issues discussed. In addition, the social worker assigned to the patient will have a detailed summary of the issues, and the recommended management.

**Please E-Mail Dr. Tobin (mtobin@bsd.uchicago.edu) for more information about any or all of the above.**

## SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOLARSHIP

Shanahan NA et al. & **Dulawa SC**. Chronic reductions in serotonin transporter function prevent 5-HT1B-induced behavioral effects in mice. *Biological Psychiatry* 65:401-408, 2009.

**Lee R**, Petty F, Coccaro EF. Cerebrospinal fluid GABA concentration: Relationship with impulsivity and history of suicidal behavior, but not aggression, in human subjects. *J Psychiatric Research* 43:353-359, 2009.

Shi J et al. & **Liu C**. Further evidence for an association of G72/G30 with schizophrenia in Chinese. *Schizophrenia Research* 107:324-326, 2009.

**Jacobson KC** et al. Ordered subsets linkage analysis of antisocial behavior in substance use disorder among participants in the Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism. *Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet*. 147B:1258-1269, 2008.

**McCloskey MS** et al. & Coccaro EF. Cognitive-behavioral therapy for intermittent explosive disorder: a pilot randomized clinical trial. *J Consult & Clinical Psychology* 76:876-886, 2008.

**Keenan K** et al. Subthreshold symptoms of depression in preadolescent girls are stable and predictive of depressive disorders. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry* 47:1433-1442, 2008.

## RESEARCH PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



**Eunice Chen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience.**

Dr. Chen's primary research interest is in the development of psychosocial treatments for individuals with 'difficult-to-treat' eating and weight disorders. This includes the development of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) for eating disorders and co-occurring disorders (borderline personality disorder and major depression) and for individuals with eating disorders who do not rapidly respond to standard treatments.

Currently Dr. Chen is completing a small randomized controlled trial examining DBT for women with bulimia nervosa and major depression. In addition, her lab is starting a large randomized controlled trial for women with binge-eating disorder who do not rapidly respond to standard treatment (Cognitive-Behavior Therapy for binge-eating). This trial will compare DBT with an enhanced version of Cognitive-Behavior Therapy. Dr Chen's treatment development work with Daniel le Grange also includes the adaptation of Family Based Therapy for young adults with Anorexia Nervosa. Finally, as part of Dr. Chen's treatment work, she runs a translational program to examine emotional processes as they relate to treatment utilizing psychophysiological assessment and behavioral neuroscience methods.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### Holiday Party (12/14/08)



*Theodote Pontikes*

*Berdine Chong*



*Michael Marcangelo*

*Danielle Anderson*

*Kristen Jacobson*

### The Anxiety Clinic Team at Da' Bulls (2/12/09)



*"Close, but  
no cigar!"*

*Shona Vas*

*Sandi Rueger*

*Justin Matsuura*

## SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINEES



*Peter Doyle, M.A.* is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. His clinical work will build on his background in cognitive-behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, and psychodynamic psychotherapies. Mr. Doyle's primary research interest and focus of publication has been in the area of treatment outcome in eating disorder interventions, specifically examining early response to treatment.



*Lindsey Felix, M.A.* received her BA in psychology and sociology from Marquette University and her MS in clinical psychology from Illinois Institute of Technology. She is currently a predoctoral psychology intern at UCMC and a doctoral candidate at Illinois Institute of Technology. Her clinical interests include the evaluation and treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders. Her research focuses on the academic functioning of pediatric patients with epilepsy. Specifically, her work seeks to examine the role executive functioning plays in the relationship between cognitive abilities and academic achievement. She is currently working in the Adult Neuropsychology and the Pediatric Neurology Clinics.

## SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINEES



*Dr. Madhukar Kumar* is a second year Adult Psychiatry Resident, having joined the program in 2007. He completed his medical training at Patna Medical College in India where he was awarded the Gold Medal in general medicine. As a student, he developed an interest in public health planning, including mental health. He continues to retain this as an interest. He later trained at the South London and Maudsley Hospitals in London, being awarded the Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 2005. His other interests include mental health in the developing world, Cultural psychiatry, and sleep disorders.



*Dr. Sara Coffey* is one of our new Adult Psychiatry Residents. Dr. Coffey is a graduate of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is in her first year of training at the University of Chicago. Prior to medical school, Sara worked in Child Welfare at the Department of Human Services. Dr. Coffey is interested in C&A Psychiatry and of particular interest; children and families in the state child welfare system. Additionally, she is interested in being an advocate for patients and families. While in medical school, Sara had the opportunity to visit with several state and federal officials on behalf of patient's rights and the futures of the medical field. Being involved with patients on a local and national level is something that Dr. Coffey looks forward to pursuing throughout her career.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ADMINISTRATION



*Catherine (Cathy) Ward, P.H.R.,  
Director of Human Resources,  
Academic Affairs and Operations.*

Cathy joined the Department in February of 2008. Currently Cathy is the Director of HR, Academic Affairs and Operations for the Departments of Neurobiology, Neurology and Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences. Before joining the University of Chicago staff in 1996, she worked in various administrative positions in healthcare organizations and an executive search firm. At UCMC, she has worked in various managerial positions in the Departments of Neurology, Radiology, Medicine, Family Medicine and Ophthalmology and Visual Science. Cathy attended Purdue University and majored in communications. She has been a member of the Society for Human Resource Management since 2002. In 2005, she was one of the first in the Biological Sciences Division to earn certification as a Professional in Human Resources from the Human Resource Certification Institute, an affiliate of the Society of Human Resources Management.

Cathy was born and raised in Northwest, Indiana where she currently resides with her husband, David, and two K-9 kids, Jewel, a pug, and Penelope, a French bulldog. In her free time, she enjoys movies and theatre, hiking, biking, skiing, golfing, traveling, reading and outings with her K-9 kids, aka "the girls."

## 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 and CBT Treatment Studies of Impulsive Aggression (Dr. McCloskey)

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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