



Department of Psychiatry & Health Behavior

## Medical Student Electives in Psychiatry

For more information, please go to the following webpage:  
<http://www.mcg.edu/som/coffice/OtherStudents/electives.htm>

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### PSY 5002 Consultation Liaison Psychiatry

Course Directors: Stewart A. Shevitz, M.D. ([sshevitz@mcg.edu](mailto:sshevitz@mcg.edu))  
Brian Kirkpatrick, M.D. ([bkirkpatrick@mcg.edu](mailto:bkirkpatrick@mcg.edu))

The student doctor will have the opportunity to learn directly about the medicine/psychiatry interface, working in a team with the residents and the attending at the MCG Hospital. By evaluation of patients, presentation of cases, participation in consult rounds and case conference activities, the student doctor will gain a working knowledge of the ways in which medical illness and medications affect the mental and emotional life of patients. This medical/psychiatric experience can be invaluable for those going into any specialty of medicine.

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### PSY 5004 Family Therapy

Course Director: Bernard Davidson, Ph.D. ([bdavidso@mcg.edu](mailto:bdavidso@mcg.edu))

This elective will provide the student doctor with supervision and training in the psychiatric assessment and treatment of individuals from a family systems perspective. Students will be involved in the treatment of marital and family therapy cases in the psychiatry outpatient clinic and are also expected to participate in the following activities: residents' family therapy seminars, weekly outpatient live case conferences, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) groups. Students will be assigned readings designed to acquaint them with basic and advanced clinical issues involved in Family Therapy approaches to treatment.

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## **PSY 5007 Eating Disorders**

Course Director: Christian R. Lemmon, Ph.D. ([clemmon@mcg.edu](mailto:clemmon@mcg.edu))

This elective will provide the student doctor with an opportunity to be an active member of the Eating Disorders Treatment Team at the MCG hospital. The student will be given a number of responsibilities to include: observation and participation in initial assessments and evaluations, observation and participation in individual and group psychotherapy of both inpatient and outpatient eating disordered patients. Students will be provided reading material concerning a comprehensive biopsychosocial approach to the assessment and treatment of eating disorders.

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## **PSY 5010 Inpatient Psychiatry**

Course Directors: Erick Messias, M.D. ([emessias@mcg.edu](mailto:emessias@mcg.edu))  
Brian Kirkpatrick, M.D. ([bkirkpatrick@mcg.edu](mailto:bkirkpatrick@mcg.edu))

This elective includes the learner as an integral part of a general hospital psychiatry inpatient team at MCG hospital (3S), an adult inpatient psychiatric unit offering an interdisciplinary approach to patient care. The student will be exposed to a diverse patient population which will provide him/her with learning experiences in mood, psychotic disorders, eating disorders, organic mental disorders, personality disorders, substance abuse, management of acute agitation, psychopharmacology, family therapy, inpatient psychotherapy in individual and group settings, and management of medical problems contributing to psychiatric illness.

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## **PSY 5021 Neuropsychology in Adult and Aged Non-Human Primates**

Course Director: Jerry Buccafusco, Ph.D. ([jbuccafu@mcg.edu](mailto:jbuccafu@mcg.edu))

This elective will provide the student doctor with the opportunity to participate in an ongoing research program at the MCG Animal Behavior Center in which Rhesus monkeys are trained to perform certain operant tasks used to assess cognition and memory. The objective will be to focus on the study of novel drugs and procedures developed for the treatment of cognitive diseases such as Alzheimer's and attention deficit disorder. Activities will include participation in the training of animals, administration of treatment regimens, and data analysis.

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## **PSY 5023 Inpatient and Consultation Child Psychiatry**

Course Director: Donna Londino, M.D. ([dlondino@mcg.edu](mailto:dlondino@mcg.edu))

The goals of this elective are to provide the student doctor with knowledge of diagnostic issues, evaluation strategies, behavioral and pharmacologic treatments, and mental health resources available for children. This rotation focuses on the treatment of children and adolescents admitted to the MCG hospital child and adolescent inpatient unit for acute psychiatric care. It also includes one afternoon of medication clinic per week to allow experience with children and adolescents who are followed for less acute issues such as maintenance of depression, ADHD and behavioral disruption. The elective will endorse familiarity with mental health issues facing children, adolescents and their families and will help the learner understand the concept of multidisciplinary treatment and the benefit of this form of treatment for the care of pediatric patients as well as appropriately discern which disorders may be treated by primary care physicians and

which disorders are best referred for specialty treatment by a child and adolescent mental health professional. The student will participate as a member of a multidisciplinary inpatient treatment team in the evaluation and inpatient care of children (ages 3-17 years) with severe behavioral and emotional problems, will be involved in individual, family, and group treatment modalities as well as attend didactic presentations on topics in child psychiatry and participate in medication clinic one afternoon per week to appreciate outpatient care and maintenance of treatment for less severe emotional and behavioral disturbance. The student will work directly with faculty and child psychiatry fellows as well as social work, a special education teacher, psychology, and ward nursing staff. Assessments are performed using a 360 degree model of evaluation with input from all disciplines with which the student has worked.

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### **PSY 5028 HIV/AIDS: Psychiatric and Psychosocial Issues**

Course Director: Lara M. Stepleman, Ph.D. (lsteplem@mcg.edu)

The goal of this elective is to provide the student doctor with the opportunity to explore the psychological impact of HIV/AIDS by participating as part of MCG's HIV/AIDS Mental Health Treatment Team. The objectives include becoming familiarized with the following areas: 1) common psychiatric disorders in the HIV population, 2) substance abuse, 3) cultural and sexual orientation diversity, 4) psycho-pharmacology in HIV disease management, 5) adjustment to illness, 6) treatment adherence, and 7) end-stage AIDS/grief work. Activities include participation in assessment, individual and family therapy, and psychological consultation in several HIV/AIDS treatment environments. Reading assignments will be provided and students will participate in an ongoing "Diversity Issues in HIV" reading group.

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### **PSY 5029 Molecular Neurobiology of Treatment Outcome of Schizophrenia**

Course Director: Sahebarao P. Mahadik, Ph.D. (smahadik@mcg.edu)

This elective will provide the student doctor with the opportunity to explore the molecular neurobiologic markers of antipsychotic actions on the brain in rats. The learner will study the common molecular markers in body fluids in early psychotic and chronic patients with schizophrenia before and after treatment with antipsychotics. The student will examine the association of these molecular substrates to several key symptomatic dimensions in patients to understand their clinical applicability. Activities will include training in all aspects of laboratory analysis and observation of standardized clinical assessments in patients.

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### **PSY 5030 Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Outpatient Experience**

Course Director: Eric Lewkowiez, M.D. (elewkowiez@mcg.edu)

This elective will provide the student doctor with the opportunity to become familiar with diagnostic issues, evaluation strategies, and behavioral and pharmacological treatments of child and adolescent psychopathology. Emphasis is placed on evaluating the child's performance in family, school and social situations along with biological predisposition to illness. Students will work directly with faculty and child psychiatry fellows in the evaluation and treatment of children and adolescents (2-18 years) with a variety of behavioral and emotional problems.

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## **PSY 5034 Applied Clinical Psychopharmacology**

Course Director: Adriana Foster, M.D. (afoster@mcg.edu)

The goals of this course include providing the student with exposure to application of advanced psychopharmacology in clinical psychiatry, giving the student an opportunity to research and critically interpret literature on topics of psychopharmacology. The learner will become familiar with criteria of drug selection for major psychiatric illness, with monitoring guidelines for psychiatric drugs and with the current knowledge about personalized medicine as it applies to psychiatry. The student will see psychiatric outpatients, present cases to the attending, and give input in the plan of care. The student will also perform literature searches and will write a portion of a literature review article on a topic of psychopharmacology.

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## **PSY 5035 Psychological Approaches to Chronic Pain**

Location: MCG Anesthesiology Pain Management and Augusta VAMC Downtown Division, Augusta, GA

Course Directors: John G. Arena, Ph.D. (john.arena@med.va.gov)  
Rebecca Jump, Ph.D. (rjump@mcg.edu)

The goals of this elective are to provide the student doctor with exposure to the biopsychosocial approach to the assessment and treatment of chronic pain patients, give the student an opportunity to research and critically interpret literature on topics of pain psychology, and an opportunity to participate in writing a literature review-type article on a topic relevant to pain psychology or to present a relevant topic at the Pain Medicine Lecture Series. The learner will gain an awareness of psychological factors relevant to the assessment of chronic pain patients and develop skill in evaluating these factors and devising appropriate treatment recommendations; become familiar with cognitive-behavioral treatment approaches for chronic pain patients; gain experience with a variety of chronic pain presentations across two clinic settings; and develop knowledge of the interaction between psychology and medicine in the treatment planning for certain pain conditions (e.g., opioid dependence, spinal cord stimulator candidacy evaluations). Activities will include directly observing and participating in the assessment and treatment of outpatients, discussing cases with the attending, and giving input in the plan of care. The student will perform literature searches and will either write a portion of a literature review article on a topic of psychological pain management or present a seminar at the Pain Medicine Lecture Series.

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