



School of Medicine  
Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior

## DEPARTMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

June-July 2007

❖ Please welcome [Dr. Geoffrey H. Young](#) to our department. Dr. Young is a psychologist and has joined our department as Associate Professor alongside his appointment as Associate Dean for Admissions at MCG. He has outstanding credentials and experience in academic education. He will also participate in teaching in our department and may in time also do some clinical work, as his schedule permits. In line with the strong department presence already at an institutional level in medical student teaching through the involvement of many of our faculty, Dr. Young's strategic appointment adds further to our department educational commitment. Please take the opportunity to meet and greet Dr. Geoffrey H. Young at our forthcoming department annual "state of the dept" presentation scheduled for July 26.

❖ [Tammie Beal](#) received the 2007 staff award of the year at the graduation ceremony on June 8. Congratulations, Tammie!

❖ Our new PGY- interns have arrived and are on service. Please welcome them.

[M.J. Albright](#) - Medical College of Georgia  
[Stephen Fleming](#) - Medical College of Georgia  
[Erica Smith](#) - University of South Florida  
[Philip Sinato](#) - St. Christopher's College of Medicine  
[Stephen Welch](#), University of Florida

❖ The Child, Adolescent and Family Division is proud to welcome [Dr. Mike Ellis](#) to the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Training Program and to have [Dr. Amanda Gowans](#) as chief resident over this academic year!

❖ Our new Psychology interns have arrived and are on service. Please welcome them.

[Chris Bell](#)  
[Kathryn Bottanari](#)  
[Meagin Crawford](#)  
[Suzannah Creech](#)  
[Kerry Renner](#)  
[Sarah Stevens](#)

❖ [Dr. Donna Londino](#) was awarded the Lasdon Foundation sponsored 2007 Educational Outreach Program for Southeastern Medical students summer scholarship grant in the amount of \$ 3000.00 to sponsor [Diana Mattingly](#), a rising second year medical student to participate in research and receive mentorship and exposure to the field of child psychiatry. Diana will be working with Dr. Londino over the summer. If you see Diana, please make her welcome.

❖ [Dr. Amanda Gowans](#) served as PRITE Fellow at the PRITE and CHILD PRITE Editorial Board Meeting in Kananaskis, Alberta in June and was reappointed for an additional year because of her stellar contributions as a resident member of the Editorial Board.

- ❖ [Dr. Carmen Nichita](#) passed the Forensic Psychiatry Board exam. She is now double board certified in General Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry.
- ❖ Effective July 2007, our Chairman [Dr. Peter Buckley](#), will be taking on additional institutional responsibilities. In the position of Associate Dean for Leadership Development, Dr. Buckley will be assisting Dean Miller in senior school of medicine recruitments, faculty leadership development, and faculty affairs strategic planning.
- ❖ [Dr. Sandra Sexson](#) chaired the PRITE Commission in Kananaskis, Alberta June 22-24.
- ❖ [Dr. Christian Lemmon](#) was recognized by the dietetic interns as the 2006-2007 Speaker of the Year for the Augusta Area Dietetic Internship.
- ❖ [Dr. Brian Miller](#), PGY-3, is training to run the Governor's Cup half-marathon in Columbia, South Carolina in October to raise awareness and financial support for NAMI Augusta. With assistance from NAMI Augusta president [Gareth Fenley](#), he is organizing a team (Psyched to Run for NAMI) from the department to participate in this event. So far five others have expressed interest in the event. The team's website is [www.nami.org/namiwalks07/GEO/MCGPsych](http://www.nami.org/namiwalks07/GEO/MCGPsych). If you are interested in participating or supporting this event, please visit the website above or contact Brian at [brmiller@mail.mcg.edu](mailto:brmiller@mail.mcg.edu).
- ❖ [Gareth Fenley](#) and [Edna Stirewalt](#) have volunteered to participate in the Georgia NAMI Walk event, a 5K mental health fundraising and awareness walkathon in Atlanta on September 29. Supporters and additional walkers to join the "Garden City Gaiters" team are welcome.
- ❖ [Dr. Donna Londino](#) attended her first meeting of the ABPN Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Exam Question Writing Committee on June 28.
- ❖ The MS Psychology program was awarded \$50,000 research funding by Teva Neuroscience Foundation.
- ❖ The newly revised seminar schedule for PGY-1 and 2 residents has been put into place. These residents have protected time for educational activities from 7:30-1:00 p.m. each Thursday. No clinical assignments should be made for this time period.
- ❖ [Dr. Sandra Sexson](#) was a speaker at the Georgia Academy of Pediatrics summer meeting in Sea Island, Georgia June 15-17.
- ❖ New this year faculty and residents in the general psychiatry program will need to document weekly supervision in a supervision log that will be signed weekly by the resident and the faculty member. This will facilitate meeting the requirement of 2 hours of supervision per week as mandated by the RRC.
- ❖ Please join us on July 26, 2007 in the Small Auditorium (BC 140) from 7:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. as [Dr. Buckley will be giving his annual the State of the Department Address](#). Breakfast will be provided. This year, we are also including a "meet and greet" for the new residents as part of the session. This will take place from 7:15 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

Dr. Buckley asks that everyone make every effort to attend. We want to welcome our new residents by having good attendance, and you will have the opportunity to hear about the current status of the department as well as future initiatives.

- ❖ [Dr. Sandra Sexson](#) was an invited participant in an ABPN convened conference regarding the proposed in training evaluations of residents on June 7.
- ❖ [Dr. Donna Londino](#), in collaboration with the University of Miami, is participating in a regional educational study to evaluate the knowledge, opinions, and interest of medical students, residents, and child fellows about psychiatry, and particularly child psychiatry. The cumulative data from these surveys will be utilized to develop strategic tools to increase recruitment into the area of child and adolescent psychiatry where there is a national shortage of providers.

- ❖ **Dr. Erick Messias** is currently conducting a study on "Social Behavior in Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective". Patients diagnosed with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder between the ages 18 to 65 can participate in the study and will be compensated \$10 for their time. The study is a 1 visit study lasting approximately 30 minutes and will simply involve an interview. For more information, please call [Linh Nguyen](#) at 706-721-0496.
- ❖ **Dr. Adriana Foster** is currently conducting a study on "Pharmacogenetic Study of CYP450 2D6 and 2C19 in Patients with Significant Adverse Effects from Antidepressants" for persons between the ages 18-65, with a diagnosis of depression. The study is a 1 visit study and excludes persons diagnosed with bipolar disorder or any anxiety disorder. For more information, please call: Dawn or Rebecca at (706)721-0409 or (706)721-4605.
- ❖ **Dr. Peter Buckley** is currently conducting the following studies:
  - A study on "High-Dose Ziprasidone in Schizophrenia Patients" for persons between the ages of 18-65, concomitant or PRN medications at a stable dose for 6 weeks. The study will last for 3 months and excludes persons with alcohol or substance dependence within the past 12 months or abuse within the past 3 months. For more information, please call: Dawn or Rebecca at (706)721-0409 or (706)721-4605
  - A study on "Double-Blind, Fixed-Dose Study of the Effect on Weight of Bifepunox Versus Olanzapine or Risperdal in the Treatment of Outpatients with Schizophrenia" for persons between the ages of 18-65, with PANSS score <70, CGI-S < or = 3, 3 months or more since last exacerbation of schizophrenia. The study will last for 2 months and excludes persons with a diagnosis other than Schizophrenia, presence of personality disorder, risk of violence, suicidality within 3yrs, or previous exposure to Bifepunox. For more information, please call: Dawn or Rebecca at (706)721-0409 or (706)721-4605.
  - A study on "RO1 "Relapse Prevention: Long-Acting Atypical Antipsychotics" (PROACTIVE)" for persons between the ages 18-65, diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, Exacerbation of illness in within 1 year. The study will last for 3 years and excludes persons who are 1<sup>st</sup> episode patients, allergic to Risperidone, or have failure to respond to Clozapine. For more information, please call: Dawn or Rebecca at (706)721-0409 or (706)721-4605.
  - A study on "A multi-center, open-label, parallel-group, randomized, flexible dose study to evaluate the safety and tolerability of switching from existing atypical antipsychotics to bifepunox in subjects with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder" for persons between the ages of 18-65, diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, stable for 8 weeks, taking only 1 antipsychotic. The study will last for 26 weeks and excludes persons who are acutely psychotic, have any unstable disorders, take depot antipsychotic. For more information, please call: Dawn or Rebecca at (706)721-0409 or (706)721-4605.
- ❖ **Dr. Brian Kirkpatrick** is recruiting study volunteers for a brief medical research study on risk factors in schizophrenia. The study requires one visit lasting an hour, a medical history is taken, one blood sample is needed, and subjects are paid for their time. For more information, please call [Linh Nguyen](#) at 706-721-0496.