



School of Medicine  
Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior

## DEPARTMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 2008

- ❖ The interviewing season for the general psychiatry program has come to an end. Overall we interviewed 48 applicants for the 5 PGY-1 positions that we have available. We very much appreciate all the faculty, residents and staff that contributed their time to this effort. Although very time-consuming, we are optimistic about the results that will be forthcoming on **Match Day** which this year is Thursday, March 20th.
- ❖ Please welcome **Regina Kennedy** and **Monique Ross** who join our Department as PCAs in the outpatient clinic. In addition to taking patient vital signs, they will be working to help us meet Joint Commission Medication Reconciliation compliance requirements.
- ❖ A schedule of weekly resident group meetings can be accessed by clicking the following link <http://www.mcg.edu/som/psychiatry/resident/ResidentMeetings.htm>.
- ❖ **Case conference** will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 12N in EC-2230. **Dr. Dan Bahmiller** will present and the discussant will be **Dr. Adriana Foster**.
- ❖ **Journal Club** will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 12N in EC-2230. **Drs. M. J. Albright and Heerain Shah** will be presenting.
- ❖ **Mock Boards for USC** will be held in Columbia on Friday, March 28th. M.D. faculty interested in participating should contact Angie Kelley.
- ❖ **Mock Boards for MCG** will be held on Friday, April 25th. MD faculty, please mark this date and be available to participate even if it is only a 1/2 day session.
- ❖ The **General Psychiatry Resident Retreat** will be held on Thursday, April 17th. No residents will be available on that date and faculty will be required to cover clinical services.
- ❖ Congratulations to **Dr. Lara Stepleman** and her team for being awarded a \$37,000 grant from the Multiple Sclerosis foundation to continue their work with patients and families affected by the disease.
- ❖ **Dr. Brian Miller** won the GPPA Skobba Award for the third year in a row for the best resident research paper. He will be presenting a post at the GPPA meeting in Atlanta February 14-16th. Congratulations to Brian!
- ❖ **Dr. Amanda Gowans** and recently graduated **Dr. Mark Hessenthaler** passed Part I of the ABPN examination taken in November.
- ❖ **Dr. Anil Saini** will be presenting a case of PTSD at the at the GPPA winter meeting on February 16th. Dr. Nassir Ghaemi of Emory will be the discussant.
- ❖ **Dr. Georgia Lou Huff**, a PGY-4 resident, will be joining the Department on March 1st. Dr. Huff did her first three years of training at East Carolina, and is transferring here for her final year to be closer to her home in Anderson, SC. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Huff.

- ❖ [Dr. Bernard Davidson](#) had an interview with Better Homes and Gardens Magazine, dealing with overspending, overeating, muscle tension, whirring thoughts, and rising tempers.
- ❖ [Dr. Sandra Sexson](#) served as a board examiner for ABPN Part II in January in Portland.
- ❖ [Dr. Brian Kirkpatrick](#) has the following articles accepted and in e-publication.
  - Kirkpatrick B, Messiah E, Harvey PD, Fernandez-Egea E, Bowie Cr. "Is Schizophrenia a Syndrome of Accelerated Aging?" Schizophrenia Bulletin.
  - Fernandez-Egea E, Miller BJ, Bernardo M, Donner T, Kirkpatrick B. "Parental History of Type 2 Diabetes in Patients with Nonaffective Psychosis." Schizophrenia Research.
- ❖ [Dr. Eric Lewkowicz](#) gave a presentation to Family Medicine entitled "Demystifying ADHD."
- ❖ [Dr. Donna Londino](#) and her research team have received extramural funding for a study on ADHD and the Qeeg. Dr. Londino attended the Harvard/Macy program for educators as a part of her Lansdon Fellowship in January.
- ❖ [Dr. Erick Messias](#) was selected as Study Expert for the Global Burden of Disease Study, a study coordinated by Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and the World Health Organization. He will be a corresponding member to the cross cutting Issues Expert Group.
- ❖ [Dr. Sandra Sexson](#) was named again to the list of Top Doctors in America. Dr. Sexson will be chairing the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's annual Lifelong Learning and Maintenance of Certification Institute in Washington, DC.
- ❖ [Dr. Bernard Davidson](#) had the following articles/press releases in publication:
  - "Simple Resolutions" (Augusta Chronicle, January 2008)
  - "Keeping those New Year's Resolutions" ([www.wdef.com](http://www.wdef.com), January 2008)
  - "Resolve to keep those New Year's Resolutions" ([www.womenshealth.gov](http://www.womenshealth.gov), December 2007)
  - "Tackling the pounds" ([www.dodgecity.com](http://www.dodgecity.com), January 2008)
  - "Online Resources Help Make – and Keep- New Year's Resolutions" ([www.muninetguide.com](http://www.muninetguide.com), January 2008)
- ❖ [Dr. Dale Peoples](#) successfully completed his Board examinations in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.
- ❖ [Dr. Sandra Sexson](#) had the following article in publication:
  - SB, Sexson WR. The Role of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist on Health Care Institutional Ethics Committees. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinics of North America, Volume 17 (January 2008), pp 209-224.
- ❖ Below is the current **Grand Rounds** schedule for the month of December:
 

2/7	<b>Faculty Meeting</b>
2/14	<b>Resident Case Conference – Amanda Gowans, M.D.</b> , Child Psychology Resident, Medical College of Georgia
2/21	<b>Columbia Swap (TBA)</b>
2/28	<b>Randall Marshall, M.D.</b> Director of Trauma Studies and Services, New York State Institute, New York State Office of Mental Health; Co-Director, Center for the Study of Trauma and Resilience, NYSPI; and Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Columbia University of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, NY The Psychology of Threat: Lessons from 9/11

- ❖ **Dr. Peter Buckley** is currently conducting 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
- ❖ **Dr. Peter Buckley** is currently conducting 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.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Depression Trial:** Referrals of depressed patients are needed for a Novartis clinical trial of agomelatine (a melatonin receptor agonist) being conducted by Dr. Hobby. Subjects are assigned to receive agomelatine, paxil, or placebo on a 1:1:1: basis for the acute 8-week study, and completers are eligible to continue in a one-year, open-label extension study. All medication and procedures are free of charge and subjects are reimbursed for participation. Please contact Geri Floyd at x1-2168 or patients may call 721-7835.
- ❖ **AstraZeneca HALO Study:** Patients aged 18-55, Diagnosed with Schizophrenia, on only one of the following: Quetiapine, Olanzapine, or Risperdal (oral or IM), and smokes at least 10 cigarettes per day.
- ❖ **NIH CAMP Study:** Patients age 18-65, Diagnosis of Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective D/O, On a stable dose of Olanzapine, Quetiapine, or Risperdal (not including IM), and with a BMI  $\geq 27$ .