



Project GREAT News

- Gareth Fenley, CPS, made a guest appearance to discuss Mental Health Month with Carl Thornton, Jr., of WTHB-AM, on May 18.
- Gareth Fenley, CPS, was interviewed by the editor of Columbia County Magazine and featured in an article about NAMI Augusta.
- Gareth Fenley, CPS, led a discussion session titled "Symposium on 'The Soloist'" at the state conference of NAMI Georgia on May 16.
- The Mental Health Fair initiated by MCG's Behavioral Health Advisory Council was held at Augusta State University on April 27. Co-sponsors included ASU, MCG's Department of Psychiatry, MCGHealth, and the Augusta Coalition for Mental Health Advocacy.
- For the second year, Gareth Fenley, CPS, presented a lecture on recovery and patient- and family-centered care to medical students in the "Brain and Behavior" course.
- Gareth Fenley, CPS, was selected to be a featured speaker on a national conference call for NAMI affiliate leadership, sponsored by NAMI's national Multicultural Action Center.
- Project GREAT accepted an invitation from SAMHSA to partner in a national campaign for mental health recovery (www.whatadifference.org)

Upcoming Events

- The 9th Annual State of the Department Address will be held on Thursday, August 6 in EC-1222. Breakfast will be served at 7:15 a.m., with the presentation beginning promptly at 8:00 a.m. Given the important nature of this presentation, we ask that you please arrive and be seated prior to the 8:00 a.m. start time.

During the presentation, we will be announcing the recipients of the Community Partner Award, the Advocate Award and also the 2009 Staff Award for outstanding contributions to the department

- Below is the current Grand Rounds schedule for the month of August:

- 8/13 **Resident Case Conference**
Department of Psychiatry & Health Behavior
Medical College of Georgia
- 8/20 **Dr. Travis Bruce**
USC - Columbia
- 8/27 **Dr. Donna Londino**
Department of Psychiatry & Health Behavior
Medical College of Georgia

Residency News

- The following abstracts were presented by residents at the APA meeting in San Francisco:
 - MJ Albright: Informed Consent for Mood Stabilizing Agents in Women of Childbearing Age. Authors: Drs. Albright, Messias, Nichita This is in collaboration with Dr. Nichita, completing a project initiated by Ben Carr last year.
 - Erica Smith: Spirituality and Suicide: Results from the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. Authors: Drs. Smith and Messias. (This abstract was also mentioned in an article in the online Journal MedPage Today, LLC. <http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/APA/14324>)
 - Brian Miller: Meta-analysis of Paternal Age and Risk of Schizophrenia in the Offspring. Authors: Drs. Miller, Messias, Kirkpatrick and collaborators from Finland. This is another product of Brian Miller's great track record - outstanding indeed - and the fruitful collaboration Dr. Brian Kirkpatrick has welded with a research group in Finland.



Publications

- Gillies, R. A., Thomas, A., & House, A. (2009). Who talks in class? Impact of sex and race on medical student participation. *Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education*, 15(1), 12-15.
- Wagner P, Huff T, Salazar S, Gillies R, House A, Thomas A, Messias E. Teaching the heart of medicine: the medical interview. *AAMC: MedEdPortal*; 2009. Available at: <http://services.aamc.org/jsp/mededportal/retrieveSubmissionDetailById.do?subId=3162>.
- Dr. Anilkumar Pillai has a research article "Decreased VEGF mRNA expression in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex of schizophrenia subjects" accepted for publication in *Schizophrenia Research*.
- Arena, J. & Jump, R. (2009). Evidence Based Non-Pharmacological Interventions for Chronic Pain. In (P. Sturney, Ed.) *Handbook of Evidence-Based Practice in Clinical Psychology*. New York: Wiley and Sons.



997 St. Sebastian Way
Augusta, GA 30912
706.721.6720 ph
706.721.1793 fax
www.mcg.edu/som/psychiatry/

General Announcements

- Dr. Beth NeSmith, assistant professor of physiological and technological nursing in the MCG School of Nursing was among the first in the nation to receive National Institutes of Health stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The two-year, \$147,000 grant will support at least three jobs and the research of African-Americans in the Augusta community who may suffer from cocaine-related renal disease. The recovery act seeks to create or save more than 3.5 million jobs over the next two years. The multidisciplinary research team also includes three MCG School of Medicine faculty members: Dr. Peter Buckley, chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior, Dr. Harold Szerlip, professor in the Sections of Nephrology, Hypertension and Transplantation Medicine and Pulmonary Disease, and Dr. John Catravas, director of the MCG Vascular Biology Center and senior associate dean for basic science research.
- Dr. Carlos Giloni, a visitor from Israel, spent a week of observation in the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior at MCG and at the VA during the month of June.
- Dr. Donald Manning, Medical Director for Georgia's Department of Mental Health, joined our department as a senior faculty member in July.
- Dr. Peter F. Buckley, chair of the Medical College of Georgia Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior and associate dean for leadership development in the MCG School of Medicine, has been elected chair of the PanAmerican Division of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is the leading professional and educational body for psychiatrists in England and Ireland. The increasing globalization of health care prompted the college to establish a network of international divisions in 2004 to facilitate the exchange of information about psychiatry throughout the world.

The PanAmerican Division, covering 41 countries in North, South and Central America, is the largest division and supports the professional development of psychiatrists as well as interfacing with leadership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and American Psychiatric Association.

AWARDS

- Dr. Brian Miller received a 2009 New Investigator Award from the New Clinical Drug Evaluation Unit (NCDEU), which is co-sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology (ASCP). This award included a travel stipend to attend the 2009 NCDEU meeting, where he presented a poster on "Metabolic Effects of Olanzapine in Newly-Diagnosed, Antipsychotic-Naïve Patients with Nonaffective Psychosis."
- Dr. Sandra Sexson was reappointed as Chairperson of the APA's Council on Medical Education and Lifelong Learning.
- Sharon Jenkins Tucker, who was on the original steering committee that created Project GREAT was awarded 2009 Clifford Beers Award at the 100th Anniversary Mental Health America Gala in Washington D.C.
- MCG medical students – Ms. Anna-Marieta Moise, Ms. Jessica Michelle Lee, Ms. Kathryn Flake, Ms. Erin Dainer, and Mr. Philip Murray - with support from Dr. Adriana Foster and Ms. Gareth Fenley, have received the highly competitive "Helping Hands" Service Award from the American Psychiatric Association. Their project will be to assist homeless individuals, who need mental help, get assessed and connected with local Augusta providers.
- Dr. Donna Londino was appointed to the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology CAP Video Committee.
- Dr. John Arena was elected as President of the Association for Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback (AAPB). This three-year board term entails a one-year period as President-Elect, one year as President, and a third advisory year as Past-President. Dr. Arena has also been awarded AAPB's 2009 Distinguished Scientist Recognition Award, "in recognition of your career efforts in the publication of scientific works including biofeedback."



Research Studies

Clinical Research Manager
Edna Stirewalt
706-721-7968

- Dr. 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. 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 1st 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. Buckley and his research team are currently conducting a study on "**UNC/FNIH 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 ≥ 27 . For more information, please call: Dawn or Rebecca at (706)721-0409 or (706)721-4605.
- Dr. 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.
- Dr. Buckley and his research team are seeking for participants for a research study entitled, **Comparing of Optimal Antipsychotic Treatments for Schizophrenia (COATS)**. Participants must be age 18-40 who have schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder with a recent worsening of their symptoms and have been treated with an antipsychotic medication for less than five years. The study will last for 6 months and excludes persons with Diabetes. For more information or to make a referral, contact: Dawn Montoya, 706-721-0409, Rebecca Nichols, 706-721-4605 or Edna Stirewalt, 706-721-7968.
- Dr. Buckley and his research team are looking for **healthy participants (Control)** as well as **Active patients** for a one-visit study, entitled, **NIH Genomic Psychiatry Cohort (GPC)**. Participants might qualify if: age 18 or older, are able to give informed consent, and are able to provide us with reliable information. Participants will receive payment. For more information or to make a referral, contact: Dawn Montoya, 706-721-0409, Rebecca Nichols, 706-721-4605, or Edna Stirewalt, 706-721-7968.

Presentations

- Four upcoming presentations by Project GREAT were accepted:
 - Fenley, G. (2009) How to involve peer specialists in the education of medical professionals. Accepted for presentation at the 3rd annual conference of the National Association of Peer Specialists. Tucson, Arizona.
 - Mabe, P.A. & Fenley G. (2009) Practical tools for recovery-based training and practice. Accepted for presentation at the 34th Annual USPRA Conference. Norfolk, Virginia.
 - Mabe, P.A. & Fenley, G. (2009) Project GREAT: Putting the recovery model of mental health care into practice. Accepted for presentation at the 4th International Conference on Patient- and Family-Centered Care. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 - Noseworthy, D. (2009) Project GREAT update. Accepted for presentation at the 8th Annual Georgia Mental Health Consumers Network Conference. St. Simon's Island, Georgia.
- Lara Stepleman, Marie-Christine Rutter (postdoctoral fellow), Lisa Johns (medical student), and Adrienne Mott (medical student) attended the Consortium of MS Centers Annual Conference in Atlanta and presented the following posters:
 - Stepleman, L. M., Rutter, M. C., Johns, L., Wright, D., Hibbard, J., & Hughes, M. (2009, May). Validation of a measure of patient activation in a MS clinic population. 2009 Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers, Atlanta, GA.
 - Stepleman, L. M., Mott, A., Wright, D., Rutter, M. C. & Hughes, M. (2009, May). Referrals to aquatic therapy in MS: Patient characteristics impacting follow-through. 2009 Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers, Atlanta, GA.
 - Wright, D., Stepleman, L. M., Hughes, M. (2009, May). An educational intervention for sexual function and intimacy concerns in MS patients. 2009 Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers, Atlanta, GA
- Steve Harrington, president of the National Association of Peer Specialists, visited MCG and presented Grand Rounds entitled "Hearing voices: The consumer movement in mental health" and a workshop entitled "Touching the heart: Meaningful relationships mean recovery."
- Hevil Shah, MPH, Brent Rossen, Benjamin Lok, PhD, Amy House, PhD, David Scott Lind, MD, Adriana Foster, MD presented a poster titled "A Pilot Study to Evaluate the Use of an Interactive Virtual Patient with Depression to Teach History-Taking Skills in a Psychiatry Clerkship" at the 35th National meeting of the Association of Directors of Medical Student Training in Psychiatry (ADMSEP) in June.
- Dr. M.J. Albright and Gareth Fenley, CPS will be presenting work with Project GREAT at a plenary session of this year's annual conference of the National Association of Peer Specialists in August in Phoenix, AZ.