



School of Medicine
Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior

DEPARTMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 2008

- ❖ [Nikia "Nikki" Curd](#) has joined the department as Administrative Assistant to the Chairman. She will support Dr. Buckley in his role as Chairman and as Associate Dean, and will also support departmental faculty in various areas. Nikki comes from the Department of Medicine where she gained a wealth of knowledge and experience that will be an asset for our department. Please welcome her when you have a chance. Her office # is EG 3024A, and her telephone extension is 1-6719.
- ❖ [Kelly Keller, LMSW](#) has joined the Intake and Triage Service as a full time Clinical Intake Coordinator. She will work on the 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM shift beginning June 16. Kelly completed her MSW internship with MCG and has worked with the MCG Social Services Department.
- ❖ **Departmental Graduation** will be on Friday, June 6th at Savannah Rapids Pavilion from 5-7 PM. All faculty, staff, and trainees are invited to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates. We'll be graduating 2 PGY-4 Psychiatry residents, 2 Child Fellows, 7 Psychology residents, and also awarding internship certificates to those finishing their PGY-1 year. Awards for Educational Excellence will be awarded to two faculty members, and the clinical and didactic teachers of the year recognized. A staff member of the year award will also be presented. We'll have catering by Very Vera and live music as well. Please join us for this special occasion.
- ❖ Congratulations to [Dr. Mike Ellis](#), who was named chief resident in Child Psychiatry for 2008-2009.
- ❖ Congratulations to [Dr. Manzoor Usman](#), who was named chief resident in General Psychiatry for 2008-2009.
- ❖ [Ms. Josepha Iluonakhamhe](#), a first year medical student with an interest in Psychiatry has been selected by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to receive a 2008 Student Summer Fellowship grant for her proposed research "Barriers Associated with Seeking Treatment for Eating Disorders: The Parental Perspective." Dr. Christian Lemmon is working with Ms. Iluonakhamhe in this capacity.
- ❖ [Ms. Lisa Johns](#), first year medical student and anticipated future psychiatrist, received a summer scholarship from the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers to work with her mentors [Dr. Lara Stepleman](#) and Dr. Mary Hughes (neurology) on the study, "Validation of a Measure of Patient Activation in a Multiple Sclerosis Clinic Population."
- ❖ [Dr. Brian Miller](#) has received a 4,000 Euro "EVO" grant for 2008 from the Oulu University Hospital, in support of his doctoral thesis research at the University of Oulu, Finland. The doctoral thesis, "Advanced Paternal Age, Psychosis, and Mortality" will be co-advised by Dr. Brian Kirkpatrick and Dr. Matti Isohanni, chair of psychiatry at the University of Oulu.
- ❖ [Drs. Phil Sinato, Stephen Welch, and Anil Saini](#), under the mentorship of [Dr. Erick Messias](#), presented posters at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to each of them!
- ❖ The Department is pleased to announce that effective in September 2008, [Dr. Adriana Foster](#) will be assuming the responsibilities of coordinating the Phase 3 Psychiatry clerkship for the junior medical students from [Dr. Jo Albritton](#). Dr. Albritton accomplished a great deal in her tenure as clerkship director, enhancing the quality of the clerkship and expanding greatly the number of training sites around the state to accommodate our students. The

demands of her involvement in ECM 2 and in other aspects of medical student education necessitate a change in leadership for the clerkship. Dr. Foster has been heavily involved with Psychiatry interest group and in elective development for students, so her transition into the clerkship director's role is a natural one. We want to recognize and thank Dr. Albritton for her many contributions, and look forward to working with Dr. Foster in her new capacity.

- ❖ [Dr. Brian Miller](#) recently received an American Psychiatric Institute for Research and Education (APIRE)/Janssen Pharmaceuticals Resident Psychiatric Research Scholars Fellowship. This award pays travel expenses to attend the APA Annual Meeting, as well as a \$2,500 stipend towards a research project.
- ❖ NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Georgia is recognizing [Gareth Fenley](#), MCG Certified Peer Specialist, with a "Gedi Knight" award, which is its top award for individuals in the state. Only two Gedi Knights were named this year in Georgia. Gareth serves as president of NAMI Augusta. The Augusta affiliate also received an organizational award for having the greatest membership growth in the state since Gareth became its president.
- ❖ [Dr. Christian Lemmon](#) presented "Eating Disorders: What Primary Care Providers Need to Know" at the 43rd Annual Primary Care and Family Medicine Conference Continuing Education Series for the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine.
- ❖ [Ms. Adienne Mott](#), first year medical student, received a School of Medicine Dean's Summer Fellowship to work with her mentor, [Dr. Lara Stepleman](#), on the study, "Changes in Quality of Life Among Patients in an MS Center Referred for Aquatics Therapy." Dr. Lara Stepleman and Dr. Mary Hughes (neurology) also received a \$5000.00 grant this month from The Family Y of Augusta Georgia for expenses related to the project. We greatly appreciate the Family Y's generosity.
- ❖ WRDW-TV Channel 12 News featured [Gareth Fenley](#) in special coverage for National Mental Health Month on May 19, 2008. MCG Patient Advisors Kathy Ringel and Caryl Pender were also featured speaking on camera. The Behavioral Health Advisory Council initiated and accomplished an institutional policy change allowing MCG to facilitate public speaking by people who receive mental health care services. Gareth is the staff support person for the Advisory Council.
- ❖ [Dr. Peter Buckley](#) and [Dr. Brian Miller](#) recently co-authored a chapter "First Episode Schizophrenia: Considerations on the Timing, Selection, and Duration of Antipsychotic Therapies" for Schizophrenia, 2nd edition (Eds. Kasper and Papadimitrol).
- ❖ [Dr. Christian Lemmon](#) presented "Who is a Good Candidate for Bariatric Surgery? How a Multidisciplinary Evaluation & Treatment Team Can Help..." at the Annual AADA Spring Workshop Continuing Education Series for the Augusta Area Dietetic Association.
- ❖ [Dr. Erick Messias](#) had an article titled "Asthma and suicidal ideation with and without suicide attempts among adults in the United States: what is the role of cigarette smoking and mental disorders?" accepted for publication in Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.
- ❖ [Dr. Brian Kirkpatrick](#) had the following articles accepted for publication:
 - Kirkpatrick B, Galderisis S. Deficit schizophrenia: an update. In press, World Psychiatry.
 - Fernandez-Egea E, Bernardo M, Parellada E, Justicia A, Garcia-Rizo C, Esmatjes E, Conget I, Kirkpatrick B. Glucose abnormalities in the siblings of people with schizophrenia. In press, Schizophrenia Research.
- ❖ [Journal Club](#) will be held on June 12th at 12N in EC-2230. [Case Conference](#) will be held on June 26th at 12N in EC-2230. [Dr. Carmen Nichita](#) will be the discussant for Case Conference.

❖ Below is the current Grand Rounds schedule for the month of June:

6/5 Faculty Meeting

6/12 Resident Case Conference – Masood Zafar, M.D.
Psychiatry Resident, Medical College of Georgia
"The Relationship of Depression to Cardiovascular Disease"

6/19 Columbia Swap – Meera Narasimhan, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Neuropsychiatry, Subspecialty – General Psychiatry
Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science – Univ. of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

6/26 Juan DeLecuona, MD
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry and Health Behavior
Medical College of Georgia

❖ [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 **"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. Peter Buckley](#) and his research team are currently conducting the following studies:

- **"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. For more information, please call: Dawn or Rebecca at (706)721-0409 or (706)721-4605.
- **"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. 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.

❖ **ADHD Diagnostic Trial:** [Dr. Donna Londino](#) is conducting a study of EEG use in evaluation & diagnosis of ADHD and are seeking children and adolescents ages 6-17 whose parents are seeking a comprehensive evaluation for behavioral or attention problems, i.e. possible symptoms of ADHD. As this study is testing a diagnostic approach, we would prefer subjects who have not already had a comprehensive diagnostic workup to establish the diagnosis of ADHD. Procedures are free of charge and subjects are reimbursed for participation. This study does not involve taking medication. Please contact [Jennie Westbrook](#) at x6585 or patients may call 721-7835.