



School of Medicine
Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior

DEPARTMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 2008

- ❖ [Michelle Torres](#) has accepted the position of Office Associate in the department. Michelle comes to us from outside of MCG and has a wealth of knowledge and experience. She will primarily support the Child and Adolescent Division, but will also have other responsibilities related to Grand Rounds, residency training and administrative support. Her first day will be March 10 and her work space will be located on the 2nd floor in the C&A area. Please take a moment to welcome her.
- ❖ [Aprell Edwards](#), Administrative Assistant for Dr. Buckley will be taking another position at MCG. Her last day will be Friday, March 14, 2008. Aprell has been a valuable asset to our department and she will truly be missed. We are sad to see her go, but we wish her much success in her new position. Please stop by to thank her for the valuable service that she has provided to our department.
- ❖ February 25, 2008 was the **National Match Day** for the Psychology Internships/ Residencies. We were able to fill the six positions, and I am pleased to report that we anticipate having well trained and highly competent individuals that will be joining us for the 2008-2009 academic year. This year we went through an extensive review of the 89 completed applications received and invited 40 for interviews. For the Health Behavior Track (3 positions), we matched out of the top 27 rankings. For the Medical Psychology Track (1 position), we matched with our second choice. For the Child and Family Track (1 position) we matched with our second choice. And for the Psychology of Women Track (1 position) we matched with our sixth choice. I fully anticipate that our new residency class will make excellent contributions to our departmental efforts next year. The 2008-2009 class will be the following:

HEALTH BEHAVIOR TRACK

[Jill Henderson](#)
[Rebecca Temple](#)
[Hanan Trotman](#)

University of Southern Mississippi - Clinical
Tennessee State University - Counseling
Emory University - Clinical

MEDICAL PSYCH - HIV-AIDS TRACK

[Kimberly Davis](#)

Tennessee State University - Counseling

CHILD AND FAMILY TRACK

[Jordan Gilleland](#)

University of Georgia - Clinical

PSYCHOLOGY OF WOMEN TRACK

[Milagros Evardone](#)

Texas A&M University – Clinical

- ❖ **Match Day for the General Psychiatry Residency Program is Thursday, March 20th.** Match results will be announced at the end of the day in a post-match celebration. Stay tuned for time and location.
- ❖ [Dr. Amanda Gowans](#) received a PRITE Fellowship Award from the American College of Psychiatrists.
- ❖ [Drs. Phil Sinato, Stephen Welch, and Anil Saini](#), under the mentorship of [Dr. Erick Messias](#), have each had posters accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association this May in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to each of them. They will have the opportunity to travel to Washington to present their work and represent MCG.

- ❖ [Dr. Brian Miller](#) received the GPPA Skobba award for best resident research paper at the same meeting. This was the third year in a row that Dr. Miller has won this honor.
- ❖ [Dr. Anil Saini](#) presented a case of PTSD at the Georgia Psychiatric Physician's Association meeting in Atlanta on Saturday, February 15th. Dr. Saini received many positive comments on the high quality of his presentation there.
- ❖ [Drs. Ben Carr, Stephen Fleming](#) and [Stewart Shevitz](#) will represent the GPPA and the Medical Association of Georgia on April 1st at the Georgia State legislature in Atlanta. They will be serving as the "Doctor of the Day", on call for minor medical problems at the State Capitol. The Doctor of the Day is introduced on the floor of the legislature at the start of the session and also has the opportunity to meet with legislators and testify as needed on that day.
- ❖ The [MCG-VAMC Consortium Psychology Workforce Development Project](#) is a federally funded project devoted to improving the mental health workforce of the state of Georgia. Funded by HRSA (Bureau of Health Care Professionals) the MCG-VAMC consortium has been providing workshops on various mental health topics throughout Region 2 for the past five years. For the next three years the educational outreach initiatives of this project will be focused on partnering with Project GREAT [Georgia Recovery-Based Educational Approach to Treatment funded by Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases (MHDDAD)] to immerse mental health professionals in the Recovery model of mental health care throughout Region 2. Workshops have now been scheduled for the Avita Community Partners in Flowery Branch and the Ogeechee Community Mental Health System in Swainsboro.
- ❖ [Dr. Sandra Sexson](#) was interviewed by NBC Augusta concerning the "effects of media sexuality exposure on children and adolescents."
- ❖ [Project GREAT](#) is featured in the winter/spring issue of *MCG Today*.
- ❖ [Drs. Lara Stepleman, Melissa Santos](#) (former psychology resident and fellow), and their colleagues at the Boston VA published the article, "The integration of HIV training into internship curricula: An exploration and comparison of two models" in the journal of Training and Education in Professional Psychology.
- ❖ [Dr. Sandra Sexson](#) was interviewed by the Augusta Chronicle regarding typical fears that children and adolescents have at different ages.
- ❖ [Project GREAT](#) hosted an international site visit by Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada. Members of the psychiatry staff at Mt. Sinai were attracted to MCG as a role model because they saw the presentation at the Third International Conference on Patient and Family Centered Care last year in Seattle by [Dr. Alex Mabe](#) and [Gareth Fenley](#).
- ❖ [Dr. Anilkumar Pillai](#) has a research article, entitled "Decreased Expression of Sprouty2 in the Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex in Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder: A Correlation with BDNF Expression" that has been accepted for publication in PLoS ONE.
- ❖ [Dr. Sandra Sexson](#) was named one of the Top Doctors of America.
- ❖ [Journal Club](#) will be held on March 13th at 12N in EC-2230. [Drs. Dan Bahmiller](#) and [Masood Zafar](#) will be presenting.
- ❖ [Case conference](#) will be held on March 27th at 12N in EC-2230. Dr. Shah will present and the discussant will be Dr. Mark Frost.
- ❖ Below is the current Grand Rounds schedule for the month of December:

3/13 M. Lynn Crismon, PharmD, FCCP, BCPP
Centennial Professor in Pharmacy and Associate Dean for Clinical Programs, The University of Texas College of Pharmacy; Director of the Psychiatric Pharmacy Program, University of Texas

3/20 Neuroscience John T. Walkup, M.D.
Associate Professor, Deputy Director, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Johns Hopkins Medical Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland
"Diagnosing and Treating Tourette Syndrome"

3/27 William T. Carpenter, M.D.
Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Maryland
"A Paradigm Shift for Therapeutic Discovery in Schizophrenia"

❖ **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.

❖ **Depression Trial:** Referrals of adult 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 **Jennie Westbrook** at x6585 or patients may call 721-7835.

❖ **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.