



School of Medicine  
Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior

## DEPARTMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 2007

- ❖ The move to the Stoney building will take place October 15, 2007. "Open House" celebrations will take place on 11/14. We will have two events - one for patients and family members and one for the campus and the public. A tremendous amount of details will be following soon. The new address for the Department of Psychiatry is **997 St. Sebastian Way, Augusta, GA 30912**. Address changes should be submitted to the GA Board within 30 days, therefore you will want to notify them as soon as possible. For faculty members that need new business cards, please contact Rebekah at 1-6720.
- ❖ [Gareth Fenley](#), Certified Peer Specialist has received an Achievement Award in the Lilly Reintegration Awards program. The award recognizes achievements of people living with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder who give hope to others facing similar challenges.
- ❖ Updates to the general psychiatry seminar schedules have begun. One major change includes removing the weekly drug rep sponsored lunches for the general residents on the 2nd and 4th Thursday, in FG-2201 and replacing them with a grant sponsored lunch meeting for **Journal Club** and **Case Conferences** as an attendance required educational event. Medical Students and Child Psychiatry residents are invited to attend.
- ❖ [Dr. Alex Mabe](#) and [Gareth Fenley](#) presented a workshop titled "Project GREAT: Bringing consumerism to mental health education and services" to the 3rd International Conference on Patient- and Family-Centered Care on July 31 in Seattle, WA.
- ❖ [Dr. Donna Londino](#) has been accepted for the Mid-Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar funded by the Dean's office. Dr. Londino was recommended by Chris White, Associate Dean for Faculty Development & Educational Achievement Director, Career Development & Education Center and Rhee Fincher, Vice Dean of Academic Affairs. The seminar will be held December 15-18 in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- ❖ [Dr. Donna Londino](#) is accepting referrals for social skills group - children, adolescents & young adults (no older than 28) to be held on alternating Thursdays from 4:30 - 5:30 PM. The groups are primarily for individuals with Asperger's disorder, however, participation may be helpful for others with social skills deficits.
- ❖ [Dr. Christian Lemmon's](#) two book chapters were published:
  - Lemmon, C. R. Eating Disorders (Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, Binge Eating Disorder). In C. D. Berdanier, J. Dwyer, and E. B. Feldman (Eds.), Handbook of Nutrition and Food, 2nd edition. (pp. 955-974), New York, NY: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.
  - Lemmon, C. R. & Barbeau, P. Bariatric Surgery for Obese Patients: Important Psychological Considerations. In C. D. Berdanier, J. Dwyer, and E. B. Feldman (Eds.), Handbook of Nutrition and Food, 2nd edition. (pp. 903-914), New York, NY: CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, LLC.

- ❖ Drs. Anilkumar Pillai and Sahebarao Mahadik have a research article, entitled "Erythropoietin prevents Haloperidol Treatment-induced Neuronal Apoptosis through Regulation of BDNF" that has been accepted for publication in *Neuropsychopharmacology*.
- ❖ Dr. Lara Stepleman was a presenting author on three posters at the American Psychological Association in San Francisco in August. Work presented included that of co-authors Dr. Amy House and past psychology residents Rachael Rose, Kristen Lester, and Melissa Santos.
  - Santos & Stepleman, L. (2007, August). Secondary stigma in parents of gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals. American Psychological Association, San Francisco, California.
  - Rose, R. C., House, A. S., & Stepleman, L. M. (2007, August). Intimate partner violence and its effects on the health of African American HIV-positive women. American Psychological Association, San Francisco, California.
  - Lester, K. & Stepleman, L. M., & Hughes, M. (2007, August). Anxiety in an MS clinic population. American Psychological Association, San Francisco, California.
- ❖ The Medical College of Georgia - Veterans Affairs Medical Center of Augusta Psychology Residency Consortium was again awarded the **HRSA (Bureau of Health Professionals) grant** through the Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) program. This grant award represents the third grant cycle in which we have been funded to continue our mission of producing outstanding professional psychologists. Thus we have been placed among an elite group of psychology residency (internship) programs in the nation to have achieved continuous funding from HRSA since the inauguration of the program in 2002.
- ❖ Dr. Bernard Davidson had the following article published as a hard copy in June 2007.
  - C.L. Caldwell, A.M. Horne, **B. Davidson**, & W.H. Quinn. (2007). Effectiveness of a multiple family group intervention for juvenile first offenders in reducing parental stress. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 16(3), 443-459.
- ❖ Dr. Christian Lemmon presented a workshop "Eating Disorders: Recognition, Assessment & Treatment" at the 35th Annual Behavioral Health Institute for the Arkansas Division of Behavioral Health Services in Hot Springs, AR.
- ❖ Chris Bell was awarded the 2007 APA Division 17 Prevention Section Outstanding Graduate Research Award, which was based on his dissertation. He also co-presented two research posters at the conference.
- ❖ Below is the current Grand Rounds schedule for the month of October:
  - 10/4 **No Grand Rounds**
  - 10/11 **Resident Case Conference** – Javed Haque, M.D., Child Psychiatry Resident, Medical College of Georgia
  - 10/18 **Joint with Neurology**  
Speaker TBA
  - 10/25 **Philip D. Harvey, Ph.D.**, Professor of Psychiatry, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine New York, NY  
*"Psychotic Illness, Cognition and Functional Operations"*
- ❖ 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 Bifeprunox 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 Bifeprunox. 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 bifeprunox 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.