

December, 2009

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Greetings from the Chair

With the end-of-year holidays fast approaching, I want to take a moment to mention what a wonderful time was had by all at the department holiday party. Thanks to those who had a hand in pulling it together! And our amazing performers—the entertainment was second to none. I also thank those of you who came to the party! Thank you for sharing some fun and warm moments. For those of you who didn't make it, you were in our thoughts. Wishing all of you a very happy and healthy holiday season!

Doug

Calendar

Jan 6, 2010: Next department meeting. Noon-1 p.m., Amphitheater 1, University campus. See you there!

Jan 11, 2010: Open house of the Depression Specialty Clinic. 4-5 p.m., Ambulatory Psychiatry Services Building (361 Plantation Street)

Mar 1, 2010: DMH Centers for Excellence Research Conference – UMMS Campus

Headlines

WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC opened last month. Services are provided to women with mental health concerns related to the premenstrual, pregnancy, postpartum or menopausal phases of life. The program was officially introduced at standing room only Ob/Gyn Grand Rounds November 18. Attendees met the staff and learned more about the wide range of services offered to women whose needs intersect psychiatry and obstetrics/gynecology.

Community Healthlink recently received a \$437,000 grant from the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts to administer the collaborative Home Again program and serve more chronically homeless individuals. Home Again helps these individuals move from shelter-based services to permanent housing and services in and near Worcester.

Recognitions



JOANNE NICHOLSON PhD as guest editor for the Fall 2009 special international issue of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal. With a focus on parents with psychiatric disabilities and their families, this issue brings together unique policy, practice, legal, and lived experience perspectives, and represents work from the U.S., Australia, and The Netherlands. The research of our faculty and staff—including **Kathleen Biebel PhD, Valerie Williams MA, MS, Karen Albert MS, Bernice Gershenson MPH, and Dr. Nicholson**—is highlighted along with contributions from their community partners from Employment Options, Inc. in Marlborough, MA. The special issue is the first compilation of international papers on this topic in a

scientific journal, and is an important contribution to the psychiatric rehabilitation field. Dr. Nicholson is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the journal, a publication of the U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association and the Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Boston University. She worked with William Deveney PhD, another guest editor, on this issue.

FERNANDO DETORRIJOS TTS MBSRS presented a stress management workshop at the “Our Bodies, Ourselves” health event held at Worcester State College, Nov. 21. The goal of the event was to promote increased self-esteem among young Latinas through creative educational workshops and activities. It was exceptionally well attended by girls in grades 5-8 and their mothers.

GREG SEWARD MSHCA LSW quoted in [Telegram & Gazette](#) in an article about the annual Great American Smokeout of the American Cancer Society. The UMass Memorial Medical Center’s tobacco-free initiatives were highlighted. Greg explains that the programs help patients and employees quit their use of tobacco products. He also describes the types of services that would benefit Worcester residents who smoke. Worcester has a high rate of smoking among its residents. Greg is director of our Tobacco Consultation Services.

Announcements

December

The next **LAW & PSYCHIATRY SEMINAR** to be held **Dec. 14**, 9-10:30 a.m., Worcester State Hospital, 2C, Conference Room 205 (BNRI). The presentation is on **Imaging the Brain: Possibilities and Limitations in the context of Psychiatry and the Law** and will be given by **Jean King PhD, Carl Fulwiler MD PhD, and Gina Vincent PhD**.

The new **MENTAL HEALTH & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AIG** to have its first meeting, Dec. 17, noon, S7-106 at the School.

Registration is now open for APA Members for the 2010 American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting being held May 22–26, 2010, in New Orleans, LA. Speaking on *Advances in the Use of Antipsychotic Medications* will be Co-Chairpersons **Anthony Rothschild MD, and Kristina Deligiannidis MD. Jayendra Patel MD** will be speaking on *Advances in the Use of Antipsychotic Medications in Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective Disorder*. Follow this [link](#) for more information and to register.

February

Lasker Award nominations are currently being sought by the Dean's Office. Please notify [Denise Barrett](#) if you would like to suggest a nominee for this award. Completed nominations are due from the Dean's Office **Feb.1, 2010**. More information on the award can be found [here](#).

Global

Last month, health care professionals, educators and a television journalist from Russia joined **Marie Hobart, MD**, chief medical officer at Community Healthlink (CHL), to discuss health care issues as part of three-week visit to the United States sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development and coordinated by the International Center of Worcester at Clark University. Dr. Hobart acquainted her guests with many CHL programs, including healthy lifestyle initiatives as smoking cessation and the use of yoga to alleviate stress and anxiety in clients suffering from these and other disorders.

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