

May, 2009

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

We had a busy month with a lot of accomplishments that we should be proud of, as you will read soon. Other than the excellent research and clinical services, we continue to reach out to the community. For example, we will be a Gold Sponsor for the Asian Festival this year. Thank you all for the excellent work!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your great enthusiasm and participation in the strategic planning. I'm happy to report that with your contributions, the first 100 days have been both exciting and fruitful! We have finished the environmental assessment, set the organizational direction, formulated strategy, and moved onto the implementation phase. An implementation team led by Jane Coken Ryan has been set up to help each unit. It is very gratifying to see the willingness and energy in everyone to accomplish our vision of becoming the best integrated department of psychiatry in the nation! Let's keep up the momentum and continue to move forward!

Doug

Thank You for the Feedback!

We have received some very helpful and constructive feedback on the April issue, mostly on font and color. We take your feedback seriously and have incorporated some of the suggestions in the May issue, such as taking out the drop cap (the large capital letter at the beginning of a paragraph) and using a darker color for the texts for better readability. We are still working on some other issues raised. Please continue to send your suggestions to us. Thank you for taking the time to read, share, and care.

Calendar

May is Mental Health Month and Older Americans Month.

May 25: Memorial Day. Holiday for Medical School and Hospital employees.

Jun 3: Next department meeting. See you there!

Headlines

DAVID KENNEDY PhD and **CHRISTIAN HASELGROVE** honored for their **Neuroimaging Informatics Tools and Resources Clearinghouse (NITRC)** website, Apr. 14. This is part of their outstanding research in collaboration with Turner Consulting Group (TCG). The American Council for Technology selected NITRC as the "Best Overall" winner from their "Top 21" finalists for the 2009 Excellence.Gov award. NITRC helps the government avoid waste by encouraging research laboratories to share their NIH-funded neuroimaging tools and resources. More information is available: [List of awards](#), [Federal News Radio on the winners](#), and [TCG press release](#).

THE DESIGN OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL in central Massachusetts was unveiled at the groundbreaking ceremony on the Worcester State Hospital campus, May 14 (see photo, right). Mental Health Commissioner Barbara Leadholm opened up the program, followed by remarks by Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Murray and other state officials. Treating mental health patients with dignity and respect was highlighted. The heart of the crowd of more than 300 people was touched by **Colleen Reed's** account of the numerous hospitalizations of her daughter, who spent two years in Westborough State Hospital (WSH) before returning to school. **Raylena Loiselle** ended the formal program with her brief but powerful story of determination and hope, and her plea for help for other mental health patients. Raylena is a graduate of WSH's adolescent programs. She recently completed classes to become a peer mentor and will be working with the programs to increase youth voice. Several other youths from the same program also helped out at the ceremony. Read more in the [T&G article](#) on this event.

Recognitions

JEFFREY GELLER MD MPH delivered a keynote address at the **1st International Congress on Organization of Psychiatric Care in Prague, Czech Republic**, Apr. 20. The conference was held at the Psychiatric Hospital Bohnice, a 1,300 bed facility within the city of Prague. Jeffrey serves on the Honorary Advisory Board. Jeffrey was elected to the **American Psychiatric Association** Vice President position.

MARIE HOBART MD, on a related note, is now the president elect of the **Massachusetts Psychiatric Society!**

GERARDO GONZALEZ MD and **WILLIAM MEEHAN MD PhD** gave a **Buprenorphine Training Course** to 17 UMass residents, Apr. 24. Among the many departments attending, participants included four Family Medicine, one internal medicine and 12 psychiatry residents. All will be certified as "Qualifying Physicians" to prescribe Buprenorphine for the treatment of Opioid Dependence. Gerardo is the course director and William is the chief resident in clinical research. Gerardo will be giving the course **Office-based Buprenorphine Treatment of Opioid-Dependent Patients** at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, San Francisco, May 20.

TATYANA SHTEINLUKHT MD PhD chaired "Innovations in Geriatric Psychiatry Teaching Curriculum for Residents and Fellows," a teaching & training committee symposium at the **American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry** Annual Meeting, Mar. 5-8, Honolulu, Hawaii. She also presented and participated in the poster session. Other representatives from the department are: **Lina Cassandra Vawter MD** (presentation), **Rosalie Torres Stone PhD**, **Usha Sambamoorthi PhD**, **Ulrike Berth MD**, and **Rana Badr MD** (posters). Abstracts of the presentations were published in American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.

GREG SEWARD MSHCA LSW outreached to the community and gave a series of presentations: "Tobacco and Nicotine Dependence" at Tewkesbury State Hospital in-service

training, Feb. 12; "Tobacco and Mental Health: Addressing Tobacco, Why Should I care?" at the City of Lawrence Mayor's Health Task Force Annual Health Summit, Apr. 24; "Non-Pharmacologic Therapies to Support Addressing Tobacco and Smoking Cessation" at Westborough State Hospital's addiction grand rounds, Apr. 28. Greg is the director of Tobacco-Free Initiative, Tobacco Consultation Service, and coordinator for ATTOC Tobacco Research.

KRISTINA M. DELIGIANNIDIS MD was one of 20 recipients nationally of the 2009 NCDEU **National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) New Investigator Award**. She is chief resident in psychopharmacology. She will present a poster at the NCDEU (stands for New Clinical Drug Evaluation Unit) meeting at the end of June. Congrats, Kristina!

JEAN FRAZIER MD is the recipient of a **Life Science Moment Award**. The award-winning project will establish a training program within the medical school to provide pre-employment training for young adults with Asperger's Disorder. Currently there are no employment support models described in the literature for this population. Thus, the goal of this grant is to establish such a program, develop the materials needed for grant submission to NIMH for clinical research, and submitting a grant application. More information can be found on the [April Focus](#) (p. 2).

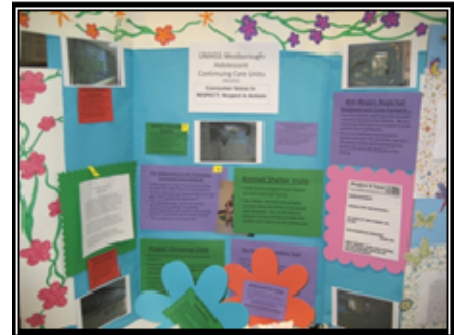


THE TOBACCO CONSULTATION SERVICE TEAM honored with the **Champion of Excellence for Patient Experience award**, Apr. 30. The team has aided more than 500 employees and hundreds of patients in quitting smoking since the start of the **Tobacco Free Initiative**. Its important contributions improved individual and public health.

*Pictured right: Team members **Fernando Detorrijos TTS MBSRS** (2nd left) and **Greg Seward MSHCA LSW** (2nd right) celebrating with **Doug Ziedonis MD MPH** and **Alan Brown MD**.*

Reviews

MASS. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH presented its 8th annual Provider Forum for the Child and Adolescent Restraint/Seclusion Prevention Initiative, May 7. Titled "**Respect: Making it Real**," this year's theme continued with last year's on the importance of respect in recovery. **UMass Westborough Adolescent Continuing Care Units** at the Westborough State Hospital presented a poster (see photo, right). During the break, four youths from the Westborough program led a fun dance on stage and among the audience. The Forum highlighted the importance of respect and the inclusion of consumers' perspective. As the key note speaker Joel Slack put it, "respect has been, is today, and will always be the most important ingredient of recovery."



BRIAN SZETELA MD as featured speaker at **Schwartz Center Rounds**, May 8. The talk focused on providing compassionate medical care for patients with psychiatric and substance abuse problems. **Julia Gallagher MD** from the Division of Hospital Medicine was the other feature speaker.

LISA FORTUNA MD MPH conducted a 2-day symposium—**Learning Collaborative for Addressing Health and Well-Being of Refugee Youth and Families in NH**—regarding the mental health and well-being of refugee youth and families in NH, May 13-14. The symposium brought together refugee mental health providers and researchers from Boston, Vermont, New Hampshire and Minnesota in planning trauma informed services for refugee youth, along with

leaders from the African refugee community, school system representatives, Manchester NH police department, child and family services and policy makers.

Announcements

May

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY ART EXHIBIT to be held in the Medical School lobby **May 18-22**. Hosted by Communities of Care, the exhibit showcase paintings that express the hopes of youth with complex social and emotional needs, their parents' hopes for their children and the providers' hopes for the children with whom they work.

KENSUKE FUTAI PhD, a BNRI Faculty Candidate, to present seminar "**The Roles of Trans-Synaptic Adhesion Molecules on Functional Synapse Formation**, **May 19**, 12:15-1:15 p.m., LRB 4th Floor Conference Room. Kensuke is from the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory in MIT's Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

"RECOVERING OUR DREAMS: REHABILITATION THROUGH ART" on display at Doric Hall at the State House until **May 22**. The exhibit is presented by the Massachusetts **Department of Mental Health** (DMH) and **Vinfen**, a DMH provider. The artwork was created by artists living with psychiatric disabilities and working at Vinfen's Gateway Arts and Webster House. Vinfen's Gateway Arts is an internationally recognized prevocational arts service for talented adults with disabilities.

THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH OFFICE to present a **statistics workshop**, **May 27**, 1-2:30 p.m., University Campus, Room S2-352. Associate Professor **Mark Hallahan, PhD** from College of the Holy Cross is to conduct the workshop. Topics to be covered include the concept of power and why it is important for researchers to consider, strategies to increase powers, and advice on how to carry out a power analysis. Contact Paula Nims to register.

Deadline: May 20.

DAVID MCGARRY MD as guest lecturer at **Case Conference Grand Rounds**, **May 28**. David is Chief Resident, Inpatient Psychiatry. Details to follow.

UMMS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP seeking nominations and recommendations. Contact Denise Barrett (denise.barrett@umassmemorial.org) for nominations. **Deadline: May 29.**

NAMI Walk needs you! Walk is on Sunday, **May 31**. Please contact your team leaders to support!

June

DAVID R. RUBINOW MD to guest speak at **Grand Rounds**, **Jun. 4**. David is Assad Meymandi Professor and Chair of Psychiatry at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Details to follow.

BRYAN H. KING MD as guest lecturer at the **Shriver Center Grand Rounds**, **Jun. 11**. Bryan is Professor and Vice Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Director of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital. Details to follow.

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SECTOR PSYCHIATRY CONFERENCE to be held **Jun. 17**. This year's theme is **Health & Wellness for Persons with Serious Mental Illness: Challenges & Opportunities**. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

UMASS PSYCHIATRY RESIDENT GRADUATION to be held Thursday, **Jun. 18**, 5:30 p.m. at the Cyprian Keyes Golf Club. Details to follow.

ELLEN MORE PhD to speak at **PIONEERING WOMEN PHYSICIANS CONFERENCE**, **Jun. 24**. This conference is sponsored by the Massachusetts Medical Society and its Committee on

Women in Medicine. Ellen will speak on the *Struggles for Equality and Professional Development of Women over the Past 150 Years*. For more information, click [here](#).

July

SHARON INOUE MD MPH to present a combined family medicine/psychiatry Grand Rounds on **Hospital Delirium in the Elderly, Jul. 14, noon**, Memorial Campus. This is a great opportunity to support combined departmental efforts and highlight quality improvement opportunities in this key area. Come and learn about Sharon's outstanding work! **Q&A** with the program director of the Hospital Elder Life Program Sharon developed: **1-2 p.m.** Details to follow.

People

CAROL DECOURCEY, our new Academic Administrator for the Medical Group, joined us May 11. Carol is not a stranger to the department—she worked as the Office Manager and then Division Manager of Ambulatory Psychiatry Services from 1992-2001. Since leaving UMass, Carol has worked at Spectrum Health Systems, and her most recent position was VP of Administration and Finance at New England Eye Institute. Carol is located on the 7th floor of the Medical School, and can be reached at extension 4-0990 or Carol.Decourcey@umassmemorial.org. We are very happy to have her back.

CASEY SHARPE, one of our current UMass psychology interns, has accepted our offer to be a Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow beginning Sep. 1.

Did U Know?

WE ARE GOING GLOBAL! The department is expanding its global initiative as part of the strategic plan. We welcome international connections and ideas of collaborations. Contact [Jennifer Wu](#) if interested.

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UMass Psychiatry Connections is published by the [Department of Psychiatry](#) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

To submit an item for publication or to be added to the distribution list, e-mail Jennifer.Wu@umassmed.edu.