Greetings from the Chair

We are clearly moving ahead in all areas of the department’s strategic initiatives, as what I have shared at the department meeting. We have established the Inpatient Planning Group and have been successfully managing the DMH funding reductions. Research Day was a resounding success with Dr. Josephine Briggs, director of NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, as the Keynote Speaker. Three new specialty clinics will be opening soon! We continue to promote faculty and staff mentoring in our effort to develop a workforce of the future. There are many more areas of success too numerous to mention which we will continue to keep you updated on in future department meetings. Thank you and best to everyone on continued successes!

Doug

Calendar

Nov 11: Veterans Day. Holiday for Medical School and Hospital employees.
Nov 18: Open house of the new Women’s Mental Health Clinic
Nov 26-27: Thanksgiving – Holiday for Medical School and Hospital employees. Day after – Holiday for Medical School only.
Dec 2: Department Holiday Party
Jan 11, 2010: Open house of the Depression Specialty Clinic
Mar 1, 2010: DMH Centers for Excellence Research Conference – UMMS Campus

Headlines
PATRICIA BAZEMORE MD, associate professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine, has recently had an article published in the July/August 2009 issue of Behavioral Healthcare regarding the history of the old Worcester State Hospital entitled "Marking the passage of time."

TOM GRISSO PhD recently interviewed by Boston Globe on juvenile murderers. "It is difficult to categorize youthful murderers. They range from the impulsive to the cold-blooded." Tom is director of Psychology and director of Law and Psychiatry. Read the full article.

EVGENY ROGAEV PhD, Dr.Sci., recently had an article published in ScienceNOW regarding the "Royal disease" of Queen Victoria’s descendants. Read the article.

TATYANA SHTEINLUKHT MD, PhD quoted in FDA Devices & Diagnostics Letter Sep. 21, 2009, Vol. 36 No. 37, “ECT Makers Seeking Class II for Pre-Amendment Devices”. Read the article.

"WOMEN IN WORLD NEUROSCIENCE" symposium on Sep. 23 a success. It attracted over 30 young women in or have an interest in neuroscience from UMMS and other campuses in this area. The event offered opportunities to network and discuss career development and mentoring needs in a supportive learning community. Resulting from Dr. Jean King's active involvement in the International Brain Research Organization, the symposium was sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry and co-sponsored with International Students and Scholars’ Office and UMMS Program in Neuroscience with Dr. David Weaver, professor in neurobiology, as the lead.

RESEARCH DAY’s Health and Wellness was recently highlighted in the DMH Connections online newsletter. Read the article.

Recognitions

JEAN FRAZIER MD, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics, Robert M. and Shirley S. Siff Chair in Autism, and vice chair of child and adolescent psychiatry, serves as a member of the Neural Basis of Psychopathology, Addictions and Sleep Disorders Study Section, Center for Scientific Review. Members are selected by the Department of Health and Human Services on the basis of their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors.

CHARLES LIDZ PhD, former director of CMHSR, to become president of Genesis Club for 2010. The mission of Genesis Club is to assist individuals with a mental illness to attain employment, housing, wellness, and friendships.

LAURA SIMON MA and LISA SMITH BA attended the 27th Annual NAMI Massachusetts Conference on Oct. 24 at the MassMutual Center, Springfield, MA. Approximately 375 NAMI family, friends, peers, DMH personnel, educators and vendors attended the event.
AMY WACHHOLTZ PhD, MDiv gave an expert address at the Contemplative Practices Conference in San Jose, CA, Oct. 30 on “Shaking the Blues Away: Energizing Practices for the Treatment of Chronic Pain.”

The 59th Annual AACAP (American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry) Meeting was held Oct. 26-31 in Honolulu, HI. AACAP promotes mentally healthy children, adolescents and families through research, training, advocacy, prevention, comprehensive diagnosis and treatment, peer support and collaboration. Attending the conference were Mary Ahn MD, Mathieu Beringham MD, Negar Beheshti MD, Frank Gatti MD, David Cochran MD, Joseph Cocozella MD, John Diggins MD, Yael Dvir MD**, Daniel Fallon MD, Lisa Fortuna MD*, Gerardo Gonzalez MD*, Andrea Glassman, Shirley Liu MD, Boris Lorberg MD*, Anne Lutz MD, Peter Metz MD*, Nawras Shukair MD, and Robyn Treadwell MD. Drs. Liu, Treadwell, and Cochran received the Systems of Care Special Program Scholarship. Dr. Fallon and Joseph O’Garr MD (who was unable to attend) received the Educational Outreach Program travel grant. Four out of four fellows applied and received an award. Dr. Cochran received the scholarship as an adult resident! (Note: *presenter; **poster presenter).

PETER METZ MD received the AACAP Norbert and Charlotte Rieger Service Program Award for Excellence. The award honors Dr. Metz’s initiation and continuous leadership over the past 10 years of Communities of Care.

Awards

MEDICAL SCHOOL TEACHING AWARDS (nominated by the medical students) for the month of October:
Anastasia Rizos DO – Assistant professor at Psychiatric Treatment Center. Precepts medical students at Worcester State Hospital. “Always very supportive and encouraging. Great role model because she had a great knowledge of both psychiatry and medicine,” said one nominator.
Kerry Wilkins MD – First year resident. As her nominator commented, she is an “(e)xremely kind and caring physician and teacher. Always tried to develop my insight as a clinician, gave me lots of information and encouraged me in the right direction in terms of learning.”

RESEARCH DAY POSTER WINNERS:
Mario Chen MD – Memantine-enhanced Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid-dependent Young Adults
Wei Chen MD MS – Exploring aging emotion with multi-modality Magnetic Resonance Imaging techniques
Nate Cook – Regional differences and race effects in mental health symptoms among juvenile offenders
Yael Dvir MD – Survey of Threats and Assaults by Patients on Psychiatry Residents
Greg Seward MSHCA LSW LADC1 - Addressing Tobacco Through Organizational Change

MENTORING AWARD RECIPIENTS:
Anthony Rothschild MD - 2nd Annual Steven Banks Award for Outstanding Research Mentoring
Linda Cavallero PhD - Douglas Ziedonis Award for Outstanding Career Development Mentoring

Announcements
November

Women’s Mental Health Clinic Open House and Ribbon Cutting ceremony will take place Nov. 18, 7:30-8:30 a.m., at the Memorial Campus Amphitheater.

Ellen S. More PhD, author of Personal Stories, Political Change: Women Physicians and the Cultures of Medicine, to talk about her work and participate in a book signing on Nov. 18, 5 p.m., in the Rare Book Room. Dr. More is professor of psychiatry and head of the Lamar Soutter Library’s Office of Medical History and Archives. More information on Dr. More in October’s Focus.

The next CONTENT MANAGER DISCUSSION GROUP FORUM meeting to be held on Nov. 19, 3-4 p.m. in S3-402. The topic for this meeting, Google Search: How to make your pages more easily searched/found, is very important for the department and we are fortunate that UMMS IS Content Manager trainer, Christine Worden, will be the presenter. It will be a great opportunity to ask questions specific to your own pages. Please let Sharon Kershaw know if you are interested in attending.

December

The Department of Psychiatry Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 4-6 p.m., in the Faculty Conference Room, in lieu of the regularly-scheduled 12-1 p.m. department meeting. All of you with hidden (and known) entertainment abilities, please allow us to marvel at your talents! Contact Jane Coken-Ryan if you would like to perform!

Global

On Oct. 8, Jeffrey Geller MD, MPH met with the Minister of Health of Albania to share with him what we do at UMMS Department of Psychiatry in public sector psychiatry.

The Department met with a delegation from China’s Wuhan Tongji Hospital and Medical Center, Oct. 23. Led by Dr. CHEN Anmin, president of Tongji Hospital, the delegation was here to explore possibilities of long-term collaborations with UMMS, such as exchange programs in resident training and faculty development. Other members of the delegation include Dr. WANG Wei, vice president; Dr. HU Junbo, HR director; Dr. LIAO Jiazhi, director of the President's Office; Mr. DU Guang, director of the Department of Pharmacy; Mrs. ZHOU Peiwen, director of the International Exchange Office.
(Note about Chinese names: We print an individual’s name according to the custom of the place where they live, e.g., family name first for a person who lives in China).