

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2012

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE...

Welcome!

This is the second of three seasonal (Fall, Winter, and Spring) newsletters for AY 2011-12 that our Department will be publishing each year. These newsletters are designed to inform faculty, trainees, and staff of current news in the Department and to let others outside the Department know about us and our activities. Our Department is dedicated to its three missions: Education, Clinical Service, and Research and is structured accordingly. Currently, we are implementing a strategic roadmap so that we will be more robust in each of these areas in the coming years.

Emil F. Coccaro, M.D.

E.C. Manning Professor & Chair

Department of Psychiatry



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Grand Rounds: L 168 (12-1:30 PM)
M. Pato, M.D., U S. California (1/12)
E. Cook, M.D., UIC (2/9)
T. Robinson, Ph.D., U Michigan (3/8)
- Case Conferences: H103 (12-1:30 PM)
L. Silva (Psychology Intern: 1/19)
E. Tuskenis (Resident Case 2/16)
L. Jacola (Psychology Intern: 2/23)
J. Randhawa (Resident Case 3/15)
S. Memon (Resident Case 3/22)

"TOP STORY"

NEW FACULTY TO JOIN DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE



Nearly every year, new members of our department faculty are appointed. As of the fall, two new faculty have been appointed as Assistant Professors. First, Megan Scott, Ph.D. and second, Andrea Goldschmidt, Ph.D. Dr. Scott is our new Pediatric Neuropsychologist for our Section on Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Dr. Goldschmidt is a new clinical research-oriented Clinical Psychologist working in our Eating Disorders Program, directed by Daniel Le Grange, Ph.D. Joining our department in February, is another research-oriented Clinical Psychologist, Sarah Keedy, Ph.D. Dr. Keedy, funded by an NIMH K23 Award, will also be coming on as the Assistant Director of the Cognition and Emotions Neuroscience Laboratory (CENSL), directed by Emil Coccaro, M.D. More information about of these three new members of faculty can be found in this Newsletter on page 2. In addition, the department is in the process of recruiting two new psychiatrists. One will be a senior psychiatrist for our Addictions Program (Andrea King, Ph.D. is the Chair of this Search Committee) and another will be for a mid-level psychiatrist to be the Medical Director of the Inpatient Unit at Mercy (Dan Yohanna, M.D. is Chair of this Search Committee). The department is hoping that both of these new recruits will be on board by this summer.

NEW FACULTY



Megan Scott, Ph.D., has joined the Faculty this fall as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Scott received her B.A. in Biology and Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at George Mason University. Dr. Scott completed her predoctoral psychology internship in the Child Development and Rehabilitation Center at Oregon Health & Science University. She then went on to complete her Postdoctoral Training in Pediatric Neuropsychology in the Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. During that time Dr. Scott collaborated with Dr. Gerry H. Taylor on research examining the behavioral outcomes of extreme prematurity in a cohort of kindergarteners. Clinically, Dr. Scott provides neuropsychological assessments to children and adolescents with neurological compromises or medical conditions (e.g., extreme prematurity, genetic and metabolic disorders, epilepsy, brain tumors, hematological diseases, and autism spectrum disorders) to determine appropriate diagnoses, educational interventions and accommodations, and therapy services. Her research focus continues to be on the behavioral and neuropsychological sequelae of extreme prematurity and extremely low birth weight as well as on the neurocognitive and neurobehavioral phenotypes of genetic and metabolic disorders.

NEW FACULTY



Sarah Keedy, Ph.D., My enduring professional interest is in uncovering neural mechanisms of psychosis via the tools of cognitive neuroscience. My immediate research plans involve fMRI, EEG, cognitive testing, and symptom assessment with schizophrenic and bipolar patients to assess how sensory

information processing is regulated abnormally. I hope to link these measures sensitively to symptom expression and severity, particularly hallucinations. Further, I am interested in how antipsychotic treatment impacts on these processes, making a contribution toward treatment development efforts. My research is supported by an NIMH Career Development Award, and a Brain and Behavior Research Foundation Young Investigator Award. I am a licensed clinical psychologist with a neuropsychology emphasis. My bachelor's degree is from Oklahoma State University, and my Ph.D. from Rosalind Franklin University. Interestingly, I spent a few of my graduate school years in various part-time roles at UC Psychiatry, including as a research assistant within the CNPRU, and as a neuropsychology extern primarily supervised by Dr. Lacy and went on to work as a part time neuropsychology technician. I am the mother of two girls: Capri (age 4) and Paxton (2), and my husband Blake is a drummer and partner in a cover band business. We recently adopted a pug-beagle called Monet, because one life change (this new job that I am VERY excited about) somehow just wasn't enough.

NEW FACULTY



Andrea Goldschmidt, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience. She received her B.A. in psychology and English from Rutgers University in 2002, and her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Washington University in St. Louis in 2010.

After completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago, she joined the faculty as a member of the Eating and Weight Disorders Program team. Dr. Goldschmidt's research program focuses on the etiology, classification, and correlates of pediatric loss of control and binge eating, an area that lies at the intersection of eating disorders and obesity. She has authored or co-authored 19 peer-reviewed publications and 3 book chapters. She has been involved with several empirical projects demonstrating the clinical significance of loss of control eating among youth, and her work has helped highlight the importance of early identification and treatment of such behavior. Current projects include an extension of her dissertation, which examined the relation between negative affect and loss of control eating in children using a laboratory feeding paradigm. The current project involves utilizing an interpersonal stressor to elicit disinhibited eating in overweight children. Her clinical responsibilities include overseeing the psychology team at the University's Center for Surgical Treatment of Obesity as well as administering evidence-based treatment to adolescents and young adults with eating and weight disorders.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- *Grand Rounds: L 168 (12-1:30 PM)*
 - M. Pato, M.D., U S. California (1/12)
 - E. Cook, M.D., UIC (2/9)
 - T. Robinson, Ph.D., U Michigan (3/8)
- *Case Conferences H 103 (12-1:30 PM)*
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 - J. Randhawa (Resident Case (3/15)
 - S. Memon (Resident Case 3/22)

CLINICAL MISSION: ADULT PSYCHIATRY



Daniel Yohanna, M.D., Vice-Chair and Director of Clinical Affairs & Section Chief of Adult Psychiatry.

In the adult section report for the Winter edition (as I write this it has just snowed 5 inches), I would like to report on a community programs we are providing to families in our area with loved ones with severe mental illness. Starting March 6, 2012 and going through May 22, 2012, the DPBN will sponsor a National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Family-to-Family education course. This is for all caregivers and will provide information and insights to help families cope with the realities of serious mental illness. The course will be held in the Department on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:30 pm and will be taught by trained NAMI members. It is free of charge and will include a large binder of information. To register for the course or for more information call Pat at (773) 874-5531 or Charlotte at (773) 324-6996. Advanced registration is required. This type of training could not come at a better time as resources in our community are becoming increasingly scarce due to State and City budget cuts to an already under-funded system. The City of Chicago's 2012 budget has in it the closure of 6 of 12 City mental health clinics; 5 of the 6 closures are south of downtown Chicago. The remaining programs run by the city and programs funded by the State, will be scrambling to assist people with serious mental illness. This is a difficult time for people. Our programs unfortunately do not have the services for the most seriously ill in our community as they need much more than a psychiatrist, i.e., they need psychosocial treatments, housing, vocational and social interventions. These are the responsibility of the State. We will help where we can.

EDUCATION MISSION



Deborah Spitz, M.D., Director of Education.

How does the U of C residency program define itself? At this time of recruitment, I thought it would be of interest to share what I tell applicants. We are a small, intimate program—every resident gets to know a number of faculty very well, faculty want to know residents well, and there is weekly communication about training among faculty, residents and me. We are strongly academic, part of the University in identity and collaborative work, and we have a strong research presence. We offer excellent clinical training based on educational need, many subspecialty clinics, and substantial elective time in PGY-4. We emphasize teaching, focusing on quality and the sequential relationship between classes in one year and the next in all domains of learning including neuroscience and psychotherapy, and we train residents to be excellent teachers themselves. Residents who thrive here are those who value autonomy and want to learn by doing. We provide mentorship, opportunities for observation, and back-up, but residents learn best by being the first doctors to see the patient, and trying figure out what is happening: then they are engaged learners. We nominate residents for many awards to foster involvement in organizations at a local, national and international level. After training, the majority of our trainees enter fellowships. After that, some stay in academia while most combine an academic affiliation and teaching with clinical practice.

CLINICAL MISSION: C&A PSYCHIATRY



Sharon Hirsch, M.D., Section Chief, C&A Psychiatry.

This winter's newsletter heralds the announcement of further growth in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Section. Dr. Megan Scott, PhD, has joined us from Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, a part of Case Western Reserve, where she completed a 2-year neuropsychology postdoctoral fellowship. She completed her undergraduate from UNC and is an avowed tarheel, then completed her masters and doctoral degrees at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Dr. Scott's interests are in understanding the developing brain. Her clinical training and research has focused on developmental disorders, sleep and prematurity. Dr. Scott has already joined in research collaboration with Pediatrics, and is submitting her first Psychiatry study in March. She is actively involved in our clinical mission, seeing outpatients for therapy and neuropsychological testing. She participates in the Neurodevelopmental clinic, along with DBP and psychiatry. Our primary goal in Child Psychiatry is to provide care for these complex patients seen by our colleagues in the Medical Center, and Dr. Scott along with all of our talented psychiatrists and psychologists specialize in working with medically ill patients. To hear more about Dr. Scott's research, please make sure to attend Pediatric Grand Rounds March 29. For an appointment with Dr. Scott or any of our clinicians in the outpatient program, please call our intake number at 773-702-3858.

RESEARCH MISSION



Paul Vezina, Ph.D., Research Section Chief and Mission Director for Research.

As many of you are aware, the last quarter of 2011 saw the much anticipated completion of the Account Cleanup Project in our Section. What does this mean for you? It means that all your accounts are now up-to-date and managed in a real-time manner, affording much more ease and accuracy in the forward planning of your research programs. This required a herculean effort - spanning over 15 months - on the part of Kai Jackson and her staff, Janet Nelson and Jessica Chen. I know I speak for all of us when I convey my utmost appreciation to them. The next manifestation of this accomplishment should be operational in the next few weeks and will consist of up-to-date shared drive access to account balance and projection information. You should soon be hearing from Kai about this. The last quarter also saw the awarding of more research grants to our faculty. Kudos to Dr. Emma Childs for her award to study the impact of environment on alcohol drinking, to Dr. Kristen Jacobson for her grant assessing the long-term benefits of dog ownership, and to Dr. Niranjana Karnik for his K award focusing on homeless youth social networks of substance use and psychiatric disorders. Faculty recruitment in the areas of addictions and imaging research continues to be on track. Dr. Sarah Keedy will soon be joining us this February. Dr. Keedy will conduct fMRI and EEG research in psychotic patients. Announcements regarding the addictions search should be forthcoming soon.

CLINICIAN SPOTLIGHT



Amy Siston, Ph.D. is a Clinical Associate in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience. She received her B.Sc. in psychology from Loyola University and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the Illinois Institute of Technology. She completed her pre-doctoral internship at the University of Chicago Medical Center, specializing in behavioral medicine and post-doctoral fellowship at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, specializing in psychosocial oncology. Prior to joining the University of Chicago in 2009, Dr. Siston worked in cancer and health services research focusing on quality of life among patients with cancer and their family members. She then began teaching advanced psychology courses for the University of Maryland University College as a collegiate associate professor in Germany. She continues to teach for them today via distance education learning. At the University of Chicago, Dr. Siston provides individual therapy/treatment to cancer patients, individuals at genetic risk for cancer, and family members of individuals with cancer through the Psychooncology Service. Her research interests involve quality of life and cancer, psychological issues related to the cancer experience, and cancer survivorship.

CLINICIAN SPOTLIGHT



Leoneen Woodard-Faust, M.D. has been a Clinical Associate in the Section of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Chicago since July 2005. A native Chicagoan, Dr. Woodard-Faust received an interdepartmental B.A. in Biology and Psychology from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, and her M.D. at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. She completed her General Psychiatry residency at the Illinois State Psychiatric Institute, and her Child and Adolescent training at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center. She is Board Certified in General Psychiatry as well as Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Choosing a clinically oriented career that includes teaching and training medical students and resident psychiatrists, Dr. Woodard-Faust has treated patients across the spectrum of care in multiple settings. She currently sees patients in the general psychopharmacology clinic for psychiatric evaluations, medication assessments, and medication monitoring, and is a member of the pediatric consultation/liaison team. She also supervises trainees in her Mood and Anxiety Clinic, and on the pediatric consultation/liaison service. In addition to her work at the U of C, Dr. Woodard-Faust is the Medical Director of the Child and Adolescent Program in the Mercy Mental Health Center at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center.

CLINICAL PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Khalid Afzal, M.D. Chronically ill pediatric patients suffer from a variety of psychiatric conditions like adjustment, anxiety & depressive d/o. These children need a very specialized multidisciplinary treatment approach that focuses on evaluating & treating the children, working with the families and collaborating with the primary teams to provide the best clinical care. Khalid I Afzal, M.D. (Assistant Professor and the Director of the Pediatric Psychiatry C/L Service) along with his team members consisting of Child Psychiatrists (Woodard-Faust & Karnik); Psychologist (Drossos); Neuropsychologists (Hunter and Scott), and Child Psych Fellows, are highly proficient in providing these services at the Comer & Mitchell hospitals. Many of these medically complex pts/families are then followed in the Outpt Psychosomatic clinic. The liaison work in collaboration with other teams such as child protection, SW & palliative care delivers a comprehensive care to the patient. Neuro-psychological testing is a part of the pre & post stem cell transplant protocol. A research program has recently been initiated in collaboration with Peds Hem-Onc to examine predictors of stress, trauma and quality of life among cancer pts/families as a means of developing new strategies for intervention and treatment.

RESEARCH PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Judith Badner, M.D., Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in our department. Dr. Badner graduated from the University of Pittsburgh M.D.—Ph.D program and received her Ph.D in statistical genetics in 1988 and her M.D. in 1990. She completed her psychiatric residency at McLean Hospital in 1994 and a fellowship in psychiatric genetics at NIMH in 1998. She came to the University of Chicago in December, 1998. Her research involves analyzing data to identify genes that are contributing to the development of complex genetic disorders, i.e. genetic disorders that are not due to a single gene. Recently, she was part of a multicenter collaboration and performed genetic linkage analysis on almost 1000 families with bipolar disorder and found strong evidence for genes on the long arms of chromosomes 6 and 9. She also was able to identify families that may be carrying a single gene with a high probability of causing bipolar disorder. These families will be followed-up for sequencing to identify the specific variants that lead to bipolar disorder. Dr. Badner has also been involved in identifying genetic variants that regulate gene methylation and gene expression in the brain. This work was used to demonstrate that locally acting variants regulating methylation and/or expression are enriched among bipolar susceptibility variants, and demonstrate association of the inositol polyphosphate-4-phosphatase, type I gene with bipolar disorder.

SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINEES



Elena Tuskenis, MD. is a current PGY-4 in our Adult Psychiatry Residency Program; she is one of the Chief Residents who also serves as the Chief of the Consult-Liaison Service. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Linguistics from the University of Chicago, during which time she completed a Bachelor's Thesis on the prelinguistic vocalizations of children with autism, in addition to performing with the undergraduate improvisational comedy troupe. She went on to complete a Master's in Education at Harvard University. She attended medical school at the University of Utah after several years of research experience investigating autism's etiology, and continued to pursue her interest in theater by performing in and co-writing an independent film. During residency, she has developed a particular interest in psychosomatic medicine, especially as it relates to chronic medical conditions. As a PGY-3, she was a recipient of the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Excellence in Humanism and Teaching Award. She is also interested in psychodynamic psychotherapy, group therapy, and the therapeutic technique of psychodrama. After graduation, she plans to practice outpatient psychiatry in rural Wisconsin.

SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINEES



Maxwell Rovner, M.D., J.D. is a current PGY-2 in our psychiatry residency program. He received his undergraduate degree in government from Harvard College, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Political Review*, and his law degree from Harvard Law School, where he was co-chair of the Harvard Law School Democrats. In the years between law school and medical school, he worked as, among other things, a law clerk to a U.S. district judge, a policy assistant and later the chief speechwriter to Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, and the chief speechwriter to U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun. His interests include forensic psychiatry and the treatment of mood and anxiety disorders.

SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINEES

Our Clinical Psychology Interns:



Lynette Silva, M.S., our Adult Neuropsychology intern comes from the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program at the University of New Mexico. She received her Bachelor's degree at Stanford University and her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of New Mexico. She has presented papers and posters at several conferences and will be presenting at the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society in Montreal in February, 2012. Lynette will also be interviewing for postdoctoral fellowships in neuropsychology in the next few weeks. She is currently working on the Neuropsychology Service at St. Mary's Hospital in Hobart, IN and in the Adult Anxiety clinic at the U of C.



Janani Sivasithamparam (Jenn Siva), M.S., our Adult Psychology/Behavioral Medicine intern is a graduate student in the Clinical Psychology doctoral program at the University of Central Florida. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences with Honors at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario and her Master's degree at the University of Central Florida. Jenn has already defended her dissertation and her research interests lie in examining expectancies and decreasing alcohol use in high school students. After internship, Jenn hopes to return to Canada for a postdoctoral fellowship. She is currently working in the Addictions and Smoking Cessation program and the Psychosocial Oncology Clinic.

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



Jessica Chen, Grant and Contract Administrator. Jessica is a Research Administrator for the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience. She is responsible for the daily management of restricted grants and contracts proposals/funding within the Department. In her role, she manages pre- and post-award administration, including grants, contracts, subcontracts, material transfer agreements, patents, gifts, and protocols. She oversees the entire life cycle of an award including setting up new accounts, creating progress reports, monitoring spending patterns and salary recovery, and processing account closing procedures. Jessica holds an M.B.A. degree in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Prior to joining the department, she has worked for Ernst and Young LLP and University of Illinois at Chicago. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, reading, shopping, and trying out different restaurants around Chicago!

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Adult Psychiatry Programs:

Mood Disorder Program*
Anxiety Disorder Program*
Personality Disorder Program*
Aggression Disorder Program*
Obesity Program*
Psychotic Disorder Program*

Inpatient Psychiatry
Consultation- Liaison Psychiatry
Adult Clinical Neuropsychology

Child & Adolescent Programs:

Mood & Anxiety Disorder Program*
ADHD and Disruptive Disorder Program*
Developmental Disorder Program*
Eating Disorder Program*

Inpatient Psychiatry
Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry
C&A Clinical Neuropsychology

***Call Intake @ (773) 702-3858**

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Behavioral Genetic Studies of Aggression and Antisocial Behavior (Dr. Jacobson)

Behavioral Neuroscience Research Laboratory (Dr. Vezina)

Biologic & Pharmacologic Treatment Studies of Impulsive Aggression (Dr. Coccaro)

Biological and Treatment Studies of Nicotine and Alcohol Addiction (Dr. King)

Biological Studies of Stress and Personality (Dr. Lee)

Eating Disorder Treatment Studies (Dr. le Grange)

Human Neuropsychopharmacology (Dr. de Wit)

Molecular Genetics of Mood & Psychotic Disorders (Drs. Gershon, Badner, and Liu)

Molecular Psychopharmacology (Dr. Dulawa)

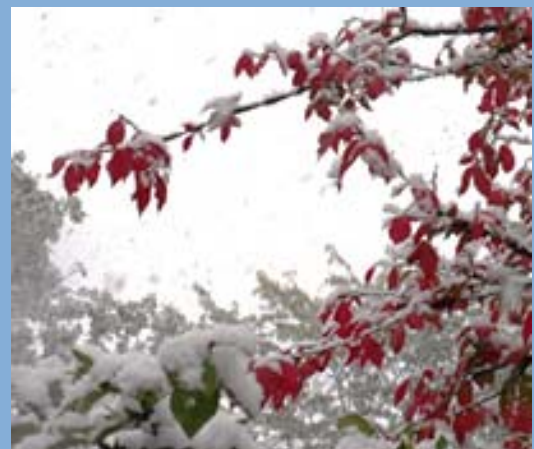
Multi-Cultural Health Research Program (Dr. Sanchez-Johnsen)

Obesity Research Treatment Studies (Dr. Chen)

Neuroscience of Psychosis (Dr. Keedy)

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