

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Volume 2, Issue 1
January 17, 2014

Special Announcements

Welcome New Faculty

Ronald Salomon, M.D., joined our Department on January 1st. Dr. Salomon comes to us from Vanderbilt University where he served recently as the Medical Director of the Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders Clinic, in addition to inpatient and outpatient responsibilities. Dr. Salomon is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received his medical education from Faculté de Médecine de l'Université de l'État à Liège in Belgium. He completed his residency in psychiatry at the University of Connecticut in Farmington, where he served as Chief Resident. Dr. Salomon will lead an inpatient team at SIP and will also have a small outpatient practice in NMG. His research interests include clinical neuroscience and psychopharmacology and he will also engage in collaborative research with Dr. Herbert Meltzer's group.

Educational News

Residency Updates:

Recruitment season has been very busy, with over 350 American medical school graduate applicants to our training program. We will interview approximately 65 applicants and submit our "Match List" in mid-February. Thank you to all faculty members who have helped with interviews!

This spring 2014, our program will begin to submit our resident ACGME Milestones data online, where it will become part of a national database of psychiatry resident performance in training. Six core faculty members will comprise the Clinical Competency Committee, which will evaluate residents on all 23 Milestones every six months of training. Many thanks to **Dr. Mark Walker**, Contributing Services faculty member, for his generous contribution to the residency training program!

Please welcome our PGY 1 residents, who start their psychiatry rotations this month: **Alexandra Regenbogen, Christopher Guerrero, Anthony "AJ" Cannon, Alexandra Aaronson, Sara Ashurst, Amy Curtis, Molly Lubin, and Eleanor Annan!**

Medical Student Update:

The department will be hosting a "Career Night" on January 29th for those 3rd year medical students from Northwestern who are interested in pursuing a career in Psychiatry. **Doctors Agarwal, Anzia, Csernansky, and Lloyd** will be leading the event.

Research News

Publications:

Matthew J. Smith, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, recently published a study providing evidence that a past history of daily marijuana use during adolescence may be related to brain abnormalities and poor memory performance after two years of abstinence (during early adulthood). The marijuana-related brain abnormalities appear to be consistent across both individuals with a past history of daily marijuana use and individuals with schizophrenia with a similar marijuana use history. The study findings also suggest that a younger age of onset of daily marijuana use was associated with more severe brain abnormalities for both groups of subjects. The study was recently covered by several news outlets, including the New York Times, Time Magazine, and NBC News.

NU Press Release

New Research Studies:

MOSAIC Registry (NU-CRP)

Study Title: *Mosaic: The Management of Schizophrenia in Clinical Practice*

A Prospective, Non-Interventional Registry of Diverse Patients with Schizophrenia Across the Disease Spectrum in Usual Care Settings: Course of Disease, Treatments, and Burden of Illness

Principal Investigator: **John Csernansky, M.D.**

Sub-Investigator: **Morris Goldman, M.D.**

The study sponsor: Genentech, Inc.

This is a disease-based registry designed to follow patients with a DSM-IV-TR diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or schizophreniform disorder treated in usual care settings for up to 5 years. The registry seeks to describe the course of disease, its treatment, and its burden of disease for participants, caregivers, clinicians, and society as a whole. The study will recruit approximately 15 Participant Assessment Centers (PACs) and up to 150 clinician sites throughout the United States. Treating clinicians will treat their participants per standard of care, and treatment decisions will be at the discretion of the clinician for the entire time the participant is in the registry. Approximately 2500 participants (we are looking for 170 study subjects) will be enrolled in the registry.

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Research News (continued)

Asher Center

The Asher Center at Northwestern University is seeking women 18 to 45 years of age who had a baby in the last three months and are having feelings of sadness. One in seven women experience depression in the three months following the birth of a baby. Researchers are studying whether depression after childbirth can be treated with a skin patch containing the hormone estrogen.

Participants will receive:

- Sertraline, estrogen, or placebo at no cost.
- Depression monitoring at no cost.
- Consultation with pediatric development specialists

Compensation:

- Up to \$100 plus items for your baby
- Cost for on-site parking or public transportation

Participants will meet with study team in-person and over the phone for 8 weeks. Each visit includes an evaluation with a psychiatrist to assess and treat symptoms of depression following childbirth.

For more information: (855) 99-ASHER IRB STU#00065455

Other News



Photograph taken by Debra Walker

Seniors Breana Sepulveda and Alexandra Martel, students at Lane Tech College Prep High School in Chicago, interviewed **Dr. John Csemansky** for a project in their Introductory Neuroscience Class. For the project, the class was asked to interview a neuroscientist of their choosing in a discipline that was of interest to them. Breana and Alexandra chose to interview Dr. Csemansky due to his research regarding the neurobiology of disease.