The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

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Special Announcements and New Appointments

CS Faculty Member DeWitt C. “Bud” Baldwin, MD, who is Scholar in Residence at the ACGME, was honored by the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science with the dedication of a special center for the study of interprofessional education. On May 15th, RFUMS opened the DeWitt C. Baldwin Institute for Interprofessional Education. Dr. Baldwin is a pediatrician, family physician, and psychiatrist with an academic career spanning 60 years; he has written and lectured on medical ethics, rural health, behavioral sciences, child development as well as interdisciplinary health professions education.

Dr. Rachel Ballard joined the Ann and Robert Lurie Children’s Hospital in June, and is working as an attending child and adolescent psychiatrist in the Lurie Children’s outpatient psychiatry programs. Dr. Ballard completed her residency training in Pediatrics, primary care track, at Children’s National Medical Center/George Washington University Medical School. She shares in Lurie Children’s child and adolescent psychiatry attending physician on-call activities and clinical programs, and will participate in departmental teaching efforts.

Dr. Bonnie Essner will be joining the Ann and Robert Lurie Children’s Hospital in July and will be working between the Lurie Children’s Palliative Care Program and Lurie Children’s Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Program. Dr. Essner will participate in the clinical care of children, adolescents and families seen by the Palliative Care Program and outpatient evaluation and treatment of children and adolescents referred to the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Essner earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University of Chicago.

Aileen Hartzell, PhD (Lecturer) – Neuropsychologist, Evanston

Philip Janicak, MD (Lecturer) – Psychiatrist, Linden Oaks, Edward Hospital, Naperville

Kathleen Nugent, PhD (Lecturer) – Neuropsychologist, Compass Health Center, Northbrook

Education News

The Department Graduation was held on Friday, June 20th in Prentice Womens Hospital. Proud faculty members, staff members, families and friends congratulated the graduating psychology PhD students, psychology interns and post-docs, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellows from Lurie Childrens Hospital, our geriatric, addictions and psychosomatic psychiatry fellows, and psychiatry residents. A 5:00 pm reception was followed by the ceremony at 6:00 pm.

Eight new PGy1 psychiatry residents arrived for their orientation to McGaw and NMH on Monday, June 23rd. They are: Alison Greenfeder, M.D, Gabe Heiber, M.D, Mark Halperin, M.D, Chandon Kandai, M.D, Penelope Libeu, M.D, Lauren Schumacher, M.D, Elizabeth Sita, M.D, Adrienne Taylor, M.D. They will be rotating on medicine, neurology, and pediatrics for the next six months and will start their psychiatry rotations in January 2015. Please welcome them!

We will greatly miss Dr. Kara Driscoll, who is leaving her full-time faculty position in the Department at the end of August. Dr. Driscoll has made wonderful contributions to the residency program as the Associate Program Director for the past two years, and as an Attending Team Leader in the SMHC. Dr. Brett Lloyd will be stepping into the Associate Program Director role in September.

We are welcoming a new Fellow in Psychosomatic Medicine in July. Dr Sheila Lahijani, who is a graduate of Brown medical school and completed her combined internal medicine and psychiatry residency at Rush.

Welcome to our new Forensics Fellows:

- Dr. Willie Mae Jackson, MD completed her psychiatry residency at University of Louisville.
- Dr. Maxwell Rovner, MD, JD completed his psychiatry residency at University of Chicago.

Welcome to our incoming class of fellows in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:

- Poonamdeep Gill, MD will be joining us from the University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY.
- John Lindo, MD will be joining us from Western Michigan University School of Medicine/Michigan State University KUMS, Kalamazoo, MI.
- Colleen McGuire, MD will be joining us from Northwestern University, Chicago, IL.
- Syed Sarosh Nizami, MD will be joining us from the University of Maryland, Sheppard-Pratt, Baltimore, MD.

Research News

The Asher Center was featured on the Women’s Health Research Institute’s Blog: Depression During Pregnancy
Research News

Colleen Cicchetti, PhD, director of the Advocacy and Community-Linked Mental Health Services Program at the Lurie Children’s Hospital Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry appeared on WTTW’s Chicago Tonight on June 24th with State Rep. Kelly Cassidy, sponsor of a new anti-bullying law that is being signed into law, to discuss issues related to bullying.

Dr. Crystal Clark was a guest on NPR’s On Point, discussing Why Are New Parents Depressed. Link to show http://onpoint.wbur.org/2014/07/07/new-parents-infants-postpartum-depression

Placentophagy: Perspectives, Practices, Perceptions and Postpartum: Cynthia Coyle, PhD and medical student, Danielle Cuthbert, with the mentorship of Crystal T. Clark, MD, MSc and the input of Asher Center director, Katherine L. Wisner, MD, MS, are investigating the attitudes, perceptions and practice of placentophagy, the consumption of one’s placenta (raw, cooked or in pill form) after childbirth for perceived health benefits including treatment of postpartum depression, pain, and increasing lactation. Little is known about why some women choose this practice and others don’t. Less is known about how healthcare professionals view this professed therapy. Furthermore, research is required to inform risks and benefits of human placenta consumption. The research team is eager to analyze the content of placenta capsules as it relates to hormones, nutrients, and metals that may offer therapeutic benefits or increase risk to the patient. Overall, the research aims to: (1) examine attitudes and experiences of placental consumption among postpartum women locally and attitudes among health care professionals internationally (2) investigate the composition of placenta capsules, including hormones, nutrients and heavy metals.

Katherine Wisner, MD, MS, was a featured television guest on WCIU’s May 12th episode of You & Me This Morning. Dr. Wisner discussed sex differences in mental health, especially in depression, where women are twice as likely to develop depression or anxiety than men. Dr. Wisner's feature also offered advice to viewers to identify mental health warning signs for children and women at all ages. Watch the entire feature here!


Presentations

May 2014 – Society for Biological Psychiatry Meeting - Dr. Kara Driscoll and Dr. Katherine Wisner conducted a symposium entitled The Last Therapeutic (and Translational) Orphan: The Pregnant Woman.

May 2014 - Society for Biological Psychiatry Meeting – Dr. Katherine Wisner gave a plenary lecture, Treatment for Pregnant Women with Depression: Are We Asking the Right Questions?.


Awards


Publications


