



# Department of Psychiatry Newsletter



December 18, 2008 Volume 7 Issue 3

## Update from Department Head **Dr. Trevor Young**

In the last newsletter I provided an update on our Strategic Priorities and our progress in achieving these goals/priorities. I am very happy to report that we continue to make significant progress.

One of the action items in operationalizing the strategic priorities was the review of the Department divisions and programs to ensure that the faculty organizational structure is supportive and aligned with the Department Vision, Mission and Strategic Priorities. We wish to thank Dr. Grady Menielly (Head - UBC Department of Medicine), Dr. Garth Warnock (Head - Department of Surgery) and Dr. Richard Veith (Chair - Department of Psychiatry - University of Washington) in undertaking this review in early June and providing their insight, input and recommendations. Based upon feedback and recommendations from the reviewers, the Department Executive Committee brought forward a proposal to make changes to the division and program structure. This proposal was shared throughout the Department including being reviewed and discussed at the Department Advisory Committee as well as with other individual stakeholders where we have received support to move forward with these changes. These changes were further reviewed and discussed at the Full Department Faculty Meeting on November 4.

The significant changes made to the Department organizational structure include reducing the number of divisions from 8 to 2 (Basic Neuroscience and Clinical & Behavioural Neuroscience) and increasing the number of programs from 10 to 15 with several divisions now becoming programs (Addictions, Forensic and Geriatric)

and the addition of two new programs (Consultation Liaison, Developmental Disabilities, and the merging of several similar programs (Mood and Anxiety; and General and Emergency Psychiatry). The established programs (including those that were previously divisions) continue to be lead as before with Dr. Stephen Fitzpatrick being appointed as the Program Director for Consultation Liaison and Dr. Robin Freidlander being appointed as the Program Director for Developmental Disabilities. In response to discussions in various forums with faculty, draft role descriptions have been developed for the Program Directors and distributed to the Advisory Committee for review and feedback. In addition, there seems to be interest in these roles being term appointments. We hope to have the role descriptions and the term of appointments finalized in the coming months.

We have also started work on the strategic priority to increase our commitment to clinical research. The first step in this process was the recent survey sent out to the clinical faculty to obtain their opinions about barriers and solutions to their participation in clinical research. The summary information from the survey will be shared with everyone and will be used to develop strategies to encourage and support clinical research among the clinical faculty.

Since the last newsletter in June, several notable events have taken place in the department, many of which were organized and supported by the department. Some of these events included the annual Department Research Day and Faculty Appreciation Dinner and Awards, the NARSAD conference (Sept 14), a donor reception for the Townsend family (July 17) and the full faculty Department meeting on November 4, 2008. I

would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and faculty for all their work in organizing, presenting and facilitating these important and very successful events in the Department. A report on several of these events and awards are included in this newsletter.

I would also like to note the official opening of the Translational Research Building on the Children's and Women's hospital site on November 27, 2008. The new BC Mental Health and Addiction Research Institute is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of this building. A number of faculty in the Department of Psychiatry, including Dr.'s Bill Honer, Jehannine Austin, Todd Woodward, Mark Lau, Jun-Feng Wang and myself have been provided with research space in this state of the art facility that will provide more opportunities for research collaboration and will provide an infrastructure to facilitate narrowing the gap between translating what is learned in the lab into clinical practice.

Since the last newsletter, a number of new research funding awards, salary awards and service awards have been made and we have learned of some awards that were missed in the last newsletter. In addition, a number of notable appointments etc. have been made since the last newsletter:

Congratulations to the following Faculty:

- Brian MacVicar** - 5 year research network funding from the Leducq Foundation
- Paul Pavlidis** - CIHR New Investigator Award—CFI/BCKDF Infrastructure grant
- Tonia Nicholls** - MSFHR and BCMHAS establishment grants
- Peter Reiner** - CIHR operating grant
- Jaye Wald** - Worksafe BC funding award
- Rael Lange** - CIHR operating grant
- Josie Geller/Carrie Matteson/Suja Srtikameswaran/JP Chanoine** - BCMSF (Vancouver Foundation) research grant

# Department of Psychiatry Newsletter

## Update from Department Head Con't

Dr. Trevor Young

**Lakshmi Yatham** – Recipient of the 2009 Mogens Shou Award for Education and Advocacy

**Ann Marie Craig** – Election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

**Erin Michalak** – Appointment as Postdoctoral Co-ordinator, Faculty of Medicine

**Masa'il (Muffy) Greenaway** – Appointment as Co-Director – Child and Adolescent Undergraduate Psychiatry

**Ashley Miller** – Appointment as Co-Director – Child and Adolescent Undergraduate Psychiatry

**Paul Dagg** – Appointment as Vice Chair to the Specialty Committee on Psychiatry for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

**Heather Robertson** – Elected Clinical Faculty Affairs Representative for the Department

**Stephen Fitzpatrick** – Appointed as Program Director (new program), Consultation Liaison

**Robin Friedlander** - Appointed as Program Director (new program), Developmental Disabilities

**Kerry Jang** – Faculty of Medicine, Distinguished Achievement Award for Service to the University and community; Elected to Vancouver City Council

**Janette MacMillan** – Elected to the Faculty of Medicine Nominating Committee

**Steve Taylor** – Appointed as Beck Institute Scholar, Beck Institute for Cognitive Therapy and Research for 2008-2009

**Trevor Hurwitz** – Awarded the C.A. Roberts Award from the Canadian Psychiatric Association

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to the Department:

### New Postdoctoral Fellow Appointments:

Ferguson, Kyle

Huang, Kun

Wang, Liang

Zhang, Xiaozhu



*Wishing you all  
a very  
Happy Holiday Season!*

### New Visiting Scholars

Guo, Hong Ling

### New Staff Appointments:

Aquino, Rowena

Frimer, Rachel

Javor, Andrea

Laliberte, Nancy

Lockhart, Am

McCallum, Janie

Natovitch, Joy

Rhodes, Katherine

Song, Kristy

Sun, Shuqiang

Wong, Angela

Donnison, Louise

Hoshino, Lisa

Kalkat, Kiranpreet Kiran

Li, Qian

Lu, Li Ying

Moore, Natalie

O'Neill, Megan Anne

Ringrose, Andrea

Stewart, Alison

Van Unen, Jakobus

Woo, Cindy

### New Student Appointments:

#### Graduate Students:

Adamas, Elylsia

Choi, Fiona

Fingas, Matthew

Kaufman, Alexandra

Mistry, Meeta

Scott, Nadia

Tse, Joyce

Zhang, Ming Ming

Barker, Lisa

Dobie, Frederick

Harrison, Thomas

Li, Qian (Jenny)

Rizak, Joshua

Tran, Sherri

Yu, Deng

#### Undergraduate Academic Assistants

Ko, Rebecca Wai Yin

Sinova, Anna

Wen, Wen Maggie

#### Work Study Students

Bouzanis, Angela

Chan, Mavis Sin Hang

Editor - Colleen Tinline

Managing Editor - Michelle Purcell

This newsletter is published as a vehicle to promote communication within the UBC Dept. of Psychiatry as well as with its wider community. Feedback and suggestions for invited submissions can be forwarded to the Editor at: [colleen.tinline@ubc.ca](mailto:colleen.tinline@ubc.ca)

# Department of Psychiatry Newsletter

## Events Calendar

The Department website (<http://www.psychiatry.ubc.ca/Events.htm>) has been updated to include links to various events of interest to members of the department, including:

- Department Events Calendar
- Department Events Listing (major event brochures)
- Department CME Events
- Brain Research Centre Events
- UBC, Faculty of Medicine Events
- UBC Events Calendar

In addition, we continue to have links on the events page specifically for "Frames of Mind" and the IMH Colloquium Series.

### Upcoming Events:

January 5, 2009

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Education Day (Vancouver)  
Chan Centre, C&W site  
More information contact: 604-875-2345  
Ext.: 7392

January 26, 2009

Women's Mental Health & Addictions  
UBC Robson Square Theatre – C300  
More information available at: <http://www.whri.org/newsandevents/events.htm>

April 1-3, 2009

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Forensic Psychiatry Conference (Vancouver) Renaissance Vancouver Hotel Harbourside  
For more information contact: Barb Bell, Conference Planning Coordinator  
[bbell@bcmhs.bc.ca](mailto:bbell@bcmhs.bc.ca) Tel: 604-524-7509

## Rounds

**January 7, 2009**

***CanMEDS competencies: opportunities for Geriatrics programs***

Gordon & Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre  
2775 Laurel Street, 9th Floor, Room 9229 Van.BC

**January 12, 2009**

***Multiple Sclerosis***

855 W 12th Ave, Centennial Pavilion, 5th Floor D  
Conference Room, Van. BC

**January 21, 2009**

***Postpartum Depression: Its impact on infant development***

Richmond Hospital Ralph Fisher Auditorium  
Main Floor-New building,  
7000 Westminster Hwy, Richmond BC

**February 4, 2009**

***Scientology and Psychiatry***

Gordon & Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre  
2775 Laurel Street, 9th Floor, Room 9229 Van.BC

**March 4, 2009**

***TBA***

Gordon & Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre  
2775 Laurel Street, 9th Floor, Room 9229 Van.BC

**April 1, 2009**

***HIV Dementia***

Gordon & Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre  
2775 Laurel Street, 9th Floor, Room 9229 Van.BC

To obtain updated information on rounds and other CME scheduled events, please see our website

<http://www.psychiatry.ubc.ca/teaching/CME.htm>

## 2010 Olympics and Paralympic Games

2010 is fast approaching and soon the Olympics and Paralympics will be here and UBC is a venue site for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The newly renovated Thunderbird Arena will host ice hockey and sledge hockey.

For more information on UBC and the 2010 Games see: <http://www.hr.ubc.ca/volunteer2010.html>

# Department of Psychiatry

## Newsletter

### Deadlines

#### Funding Deadlines:

#### NIH

**Application Submission Period: Dec. 29, 2008 - Jan. 29, 2009**

The NIH's new Transformative R01 Program (T-R01s) will allow highly creative, "out-of-the-box" projects to be supported. The T-R01 Program represents a High Risk/High Reward Demonstration Project in which novel approaches to peer review and program management are to be piloted.

The application submission period is from December 29, 2008 to January 29, 2009. See <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/T-R01/> for more information. Send questions to T\_R01@mail.nih.gov.

The NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, launched in 2004, is a series of initiatives designed to address fundamental knowledge gaps, develop transformative tools and technologies, and/or foster innovative approaches to complex problems. Funded through the NIH Common Fund. Additional information about the NIH Roadmap and Common Fund can be found at [www.nihroadmap.nih.gov](http://www.nihroadmap.nih.gov).

For more information about NIH and its programs, visit <http://www.nih.gov/>.

#### CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR)

##### a) Randomized Controlled Trials

LOI Deadline: January 15, 2009

Application Deadline: February 16, 2009

A Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) is an experiment in which investigators randomly assign eligible subjects (or other units of study, e.g. classrooms, clinics, playgrounds) into groups to receive or not receive one or more interventions that are being compared. The results are analyzed by comparing outcomes in the groups. Applications will be examined for the relevance of the question posed, and the appropriateness of the methodology and of gender representation in the study design and selection of research subjects.

##### b) Chair: GlaxoSmithKline Partnered (2008-2009)

LOI Deadline: February 2, 2009

Application Deadline: March 2, 2009

GlaxoSmithKline Inc. (GSK), with an investment totaling over \$30M, intends to establish endowed Research Chairs at many of Canada's medical schools (or affiliated research institutes) in

disciplines where specific universities are particularly strong, and where GSK and CIHR both have clear scientific interest. The maximum salary for a single award is \$150,000 (including fringe benefits) per annum, for up to five years.

Salary contribution: \$70,000 to \$150,000 per annum, including fringe benefits, commensurate with the candidate's experience and with institutional policies. Operating grant component: typically \$100,000 per annum. This award is renewable once.

For more details please visit:

<http://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/search.do?fodAgency=CIHR&fodLanguage=E&all=1&search=true&org=CIHR&sort=program&masterList=true&view=currentOpps>

#### CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION (CWF)

2009 - Annual Violence Prevention Grants (attached)

Application Deadline: February 13, 2009

Approximately 50 grants of up to \$25,000 will be allocated. Priority will be given in these grants to work with women, children and teens facing multiple challenges.

CWF funds innovative, effective programs that work to develop skills that will lead to behaviour change aimed at preventing violence against women. We look for programs that validate a women's desire to rebuild her life and her family, establishing physical, emotional and financial security and creating a durable support network. In addition, teen-focused programs that offer healthy relationship training with gender awareness are of particular interest in order to respond to increasing levels of "high-risk" activity in the middle school years, and to address early sexual activity, substance use, violence between peers, and other risk behaviours.

For more information please see attached and / or visit their website:

[http://www.canadianwomen.org/EN/section07/2\\_7\\_3-Apply\\_for\\_VP\\_Grant.html](http://www.canadianwomen.org/EN/section07/2_7_3-Apply_for_VP_Grant.html)

Please see

<http://www.med.ubc.ca/research.htm>  
on the Faculty of Medicine website for more opportunities and other important research related information.

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## Department Members Recently in the News

### **Dr. Laird Birmingham**

*National Post, July 18, 2008 Pg.A1: Tom Blackwell*

#### **Life expectancy much shorter for anorexics**

A group of Canadian doctors have calculated that women with anorexia die on average about a quarter of a century earlier than other women.

"Anorexia nervosa is basically not recognized as a serious disease by society and government, in my opinion, certainly not compared to heart disease and cancer," said **Dr. Laird Birmingham**, UBC psychiatry professor who led the research.

The B.C. specialists who published the research this month say they hope the dramatic life-expectancy statistics will both motivate anorexia patients to get better, and spur governments to more generously fund work on the condition.

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### **Dr. Adele Diamond**

*The New York Times, September 15, 2008, Page: 4, Benedict Carey*

#### **Training young brains to behave**

UBC developmental cognitive scientist **Adele Diamond** says mental exercises can teach children to become more self-possessed at earlier ages, reducing stress levels at home and improving their experience in school.

The three areas Diamond is exploring are: the ability to resist distractions or delay gratification to finish a job, working memory and cognitive flexibility, the presence of mind to adapt when demands change.

"Some people will ask, 'Why are you trying to improve prefrontal abilities when the [prefrontal cortex is not fully developed until the 20s]?' " said Diamond. "I tell them that 2-year-olds have legs, too, which will not reach full length for 10 years or more -- but they can still walk and run and benefit from exercise."

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### **Dr. Kerry Jang**

*The Vancouver Sun, Aug 21, 2008, Page: A15, Kerry Jang*

#### **Does 'housing first' model make sense?: A 'common-sense' solution that doesn't deal with the other problems of the homeless will only perpetuate the cycle.**

**Dr. Kerry Jang**, a UBC psychiatrist, comments on the recent announcement that people living in the tent city at Vancouver's Oppenheimer Park will be offered housing in single-room occupancy (SRO) hotels.

Jang urges that the SROs have support staff that can work with residents. "[Trust] is the single most powerful agent of change that can be used to facilitate the accessing of services and provide the support going into, during, and after treatment."

### **Dr. Erin Michalak**

*Seattlepi.com*

#### **Living Well: Don't be SAD: Keep a chart of your symptoms to help you cope**

UBC Psychiatry professor gives advice for SAD sufferers: Dr. Erin Michalak, an assistant professor in the UBC Psychiatry Department, was featured in an article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer about seasonal affective disorder. "The best thing you can do is be clear about your seasonal history," said Michalak, who spoke at a meeting of the Society for Light Treatment and Biological Rhythms.

Read more at: [http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/health/384911\\_condor27.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/health/384911_condor27.html)

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### **Dr. Weihong Song**

*Vancouver Sun, October 2008*

#### **Drug may aid in treating Alzheimer's**

Researchers at the University of B.C. have discovered that a drug commonly used to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorder significantly reduces brain plaque in mice with Alzheimer's disease.

Please see The UBC Public Affairs Media Release dated October 26, 2008 for more information on these research findings.

<http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/media/releases/2008/mr-08-139.html>

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### **Dr. Allan Young**

*Vancouver Sun, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation Community Report Insert October 24, 2008*

#### **Breaking the silence: Donors advance depression research and awareness**

Donors are making UBC Hospital a world-leading centre for depression research and care by helping to fund the recruitment of Dr. Allan Young, the BC Leadership Chair in Depression Research.

In this article Dr. Young commented " We have been very fortunate to have representatives from our patient's families involved in all aspects of our work. If we can work together to raise the agenda, combat stigma and foster new research, the end result can only be better care".

# Department of Psychiatry

## Newsletter

### UBC Institute of Mental Health– established April 2005

#### Update

The Executive Advisory Board of the UBC Institute of Mental Health met for the second time in October 2008. This was an exciting meeting with several key strategic decisions being accomplished. Mrs. Heather Craig was appointed Chair of the Board and Mr. Rennie Hoffman, Vice-Chair.

Other leadership changes include Dr. Allan Young taking on the position of Director of the UBC IMH and Dr. Anthony Phillips becoming Founding Director.

The UBC IMH continues to work on recruitment in the following three areas: Psychotherapy, Geriatric Psychiatry, and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. Due to the challenges in attracting Senior Chairs to Vancouver (i.e. candidates who are well established both professionally and personally in other cities and countries) the Board was asked to consider investigating the options of promoting research and services (using available resources) by looking to ‘rising stars’ in these fields. The Board unanimously endorsed this new additional direction and options will be explored in the coming months.

The Coast Capital Depression Research Fund competition was announced in October 2008. Full applications will be reviewed in December, 2008.

A partnership with the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS) allows the Institute to use the PWIAS social suite several times during the year to host events and lectures. We have used this space for a lunch and lecture for the Founding Fellows of the UBC IMH on Wednesday, November 19, 2008. Dr. Allan Young presented his lecture titled “What is Psychiatry?”

We will be holding a “Master Class” in Bipolar Disorder on January 16, 2009 at the PWIAS. It is hoped that this will be the first of a series of such “Master Classes” hosted by the IMH and parties interested in organizing future events should contact Diane Parsons at [diane.parsons@ubc.ca](mailto:diane.parsons@ubc.ca).

Our Colloquium Series continues with lunch time lectures that take place in the Detwiller Pavilion at the UBC

Hospital. Dr. Adele Diamond has put together an excellent series of lecturers.

The UBC IMH has helped sponsor several other initiatives over the past year, including:

- ♦ the Department of Psychiatry Frames of Mind Series;
- ♦ the Department of Psychiatry Research Day in June 2008;
- ♦ a one month visit in June/08 by Dr. Robert Post, Professor of Psychiatry at George Washington University School of Medicine and Penn State College of Medicine and Head of the Bipolar Collaborative Network in Bethesda, Maryland;
- ♦ visits in the Spring and Summer 2008 by Dr. Graham Collingridge, Professor of Neuroscience and Director, MRC Centre for Synaptic Plasticity, University of Bristol;
- ♦ the 12th International Conference on In Vivo Methods in August 2008; and,
- ♦ the Canadian Society for Addiction Medicine Conference in October 2008.

For more information, visit  
[www.psychiatry.ubc.ca/IMH](http://www.psychiatry.ubc.ca/IMH)



Dr. Anthony Phillips, Founding Director,  
 UBC Institute of Mental Health.

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## Department of Psychiatry - UBC Research Day 2008

The 23rd Annual Department of Psychiatry Research Day was held at the Sutton Place Hotel on June 19<sup>th</sup>. This year's Research Day was attended by over 100 members from diverse backgrounds within the Department. In addition to holding the Research Day at a location away from the University site, this year's Research Day had a number of new features. In order to ensure that the departmental members have familiarity with the research being done by the faculty of the Department, this year's research day included presentations by three faculty members within the department who gave an overview of their research program. These included Dr. Adele Diamond, Dr. Kerry Jang and Dr. Paul Pavlidis. As well to ensure that all the attendees have a good grasp of significance of the research projects carried out by the trainee presenters, the mentor of each trainee gave a 2-3 minute overview of the significance of the research project his or her trainee was presenting and this overview helped to put things in perspective for the attendees.

After opening remarks by Dr. Trevor Young, Head of the Department of Psychiatry, the day began with a presentation from Dr. Robert Post, a visiting Professor from the George Washington University in the United States. Dr. Post provided an excellent overview of the role of Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor in the etiology, course, and outcome of bipolar disorder. There were five clinical oral presentations and four basic science oral presentations by the trainees. Dr. David Miklowitz, a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado in Boulder Colorado gave a presentation on the psychosocial treatments for bipolar disorder. A poster presentation session with a wine and cheese reception was held in the evening. Several basic and clinical science research studies were presented as posters by the trainee members of the department.

The Faculty dinner was held on the conclusion of the poster presentations at Sutton Place Hotel. At the Faculty Dinner, awards for excellence in Research and Education were presented. The Tsung-Yi Li Award for Clinical Research was awarded to Dr. Mauricio Kunz for his presentation "Does childhood trauma alter brain morphometry in first-episode patients with bipolar disorder?". The McGeer Award for Basic Science was given to Carri-Lyn Meed for her presentation "Investigating

protein interactions for potential schizophrenia candidate genes: dysbindin and neuregulin". The Zeldowicz Clinical Science Poster Award went to Dr. Paul Metzack for his poster on "Hallucinations are Associated with Aberrant Activation in Parietal Cortex During Source Monitoring", while the Zeldowicz Basic Science Poster Award went to Dr. Rujun Kang for her presentation on "Neuronal palmitoyl-proteomics: dynamic modulation of palmitoylation at the synapse". The Zeldowicz Award was also given for a clinical oral presentation by a visiting psychiatry Resident from Seoul National University in Korea and it was awarded to Dr. GeumSook Shim who presented on "Social functioning deficits in young people at risk for schizophrenia".

The Awards for Education were presented by Drs Fleming, Gosselin and Trevor Young. There were five Resident Awards; the CanMEDS Award (nominated by the Residents) for the Resident best exemplifying the CanMEDS roles (Dr. Trudy Adam); The Resident Undergraduate Teaching Award, awarded for the best Resident teacher of undergraduates based on their evaluations (Dr. Muzumel Chaudhary); The Psychotherapy Award, awarded by the Psychotherapy Program for outstanding Resident performance in the practice of psychotherapy (Dr. George Hadjipavlou) and the Dr. George Davidson Research Award, awarded for Resident scholarly activity (Dr. George Hadjipavlou). Dr. Michael Shabbits received The UBC Psychiatry Residents Association Annual Award for Teaching Excellence and the Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development Award was given to the Reproductive Mental Health Program (Drs Misri, Carter, Corral, Duke, Kang, Hui, Patton, Pollack, Ryan, Sadrhashemi, Shulman, and Sivertz.)

In the Undergraduate Program, there are two Faculty Awards for Teaching Excellence. Dr. Wei Yi Song won the Year 3 Award and Dr. Peter Chan the Year 4 Award. There are two awards for students: The Jay C. Cheng Memorial Prize awarded to the student who has demonstrated academic excellence in Psychiatry (Dr. Gloria Wong, class of 2008) and The Annette Hacking Memorial Award awarded to a medical student, interested in a psychiatric career and who has demonstrated leadership skills, commitment to community service and social awareness (Dr. Alan Bates, class of 2008.)

# Department of Psychiatry Newsletter

## NARSAD Event

In mid-September, faculty members from the Department of Psychiatry co-hosted a free public forum with NARSAD, an American consortium also known as the world's leading charity dedicated to mental health research. Launching its worldwide campaign to boost research and awareness on mental health disorders, the private foundation organized simultaneous lectures at more than 45 universities across Canada and the United States.

Billed as "Healthy Minds Across North America," about 100 people attended the forum in the Life Science Centre on a sunny Sunday afternoon to hear about some of the latest research being conducted at UBC. Lakshmi Yatham, Jeremy Seamans, and Liisa Galea made presentations about their current work. Dr. Yatham spoke about bipolar disorder; Dr. Seamans presented insights into the neurobiology of schizophrenia; and Dr. Galea lectured on the role of hormones, stress and their impact on mental health. Dr. Allan Young introduced NARSAD and moderated the session.

Each of the speakers has received funding from NARSAD to assist them in their research. Another 18 fac-

ulty members at UBC have also been awarded grant money in the past.

Dr. Herbert Pardes, NARSAD's Scientific Council President, said in a letter to the department, "We believe that broader philanthropic aid in the field is urgent, with mental health research philanthropy now far behind that of other disorders which affect far fewer people." Additionally, he said increased funding would be used to increase the number of grants awarded each year, as well as to improve compensation for the recipients, to young investigators, independent investigators, and distinguished investigators.

The National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD) was formed by three leading U.S. mental health organizations: the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the National Mental Health Association and the National Depressive and Manic Depressive Association. Originally incorporated in 1981 as the American Schizophrenia Foundation, the organization has more than 1 million members.

## Townsend Reception—July 17, 2008

The Townsend family reception was held on July 17, 2008 in the Detwiller Pavilion to recognize the significant donation made by Mr. David Townsend and Family in support of Dr. Weihong Song's Alzheimer research.

This event was organized by the Faculty of Medicine Development Office and UBC External Affairs. Photography by Eugene Lin for UBC Public Affairs.



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## Departmental Strategic Direction Meeting– Focus on Research

A meeting was held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the UBC Golf Club to discuss strategic directions for research within the Department. Dr. Lakshmi Yatham, Vice Chair for Research opened the meeting by emphasizing that the Department of Psychiatry has world class basic neuroscience division, excellent clinician scientists and clinical trial experts with international reputation, experts in genetics and bioinformatics as well as outstanding resources and facilities including state of the art brain imaging and basic science laboratories. He suggested that the department is in an ideal position to promote translational research which would facilitate the discovery of biomarkers for disease, the role of genetic factors, and development of new treatments and the predictors of treatment response for various psychiatric conditions.

Dr. Brian MacVicar provided an overview of research within the Basic Neuroscience Division and Dr. Lakshmi Yatham summarized clinical research within the department. This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Graham Colingridge, a visiting professor from Bristol, who gave an overview of his research on glutamate transmission but also talked about how collaborative efforts might increase research productivity.

Subsequent discussion focused on developing strategies to increase

translational research within the department and promote collaborations between clinician scientists and basic science division members. It was suggested that a departmental website should include the list of various members with their expertise and interests and this might provide more information for members looking for collaborative opportunities. There was a consensus that establishing groups that are based on a particular disorder, a research tool, or a research focus area, may facilitate collaborative efforts. An example might be that an imaging group might include clinicians with an interest in schizophrenia, mood disorders, other psychiatric disorders as well as those from basic science with an interest in imaging. Similarly, a group consisting of clinicians and basic scientist with an interest in synaptic plasticity or neurogenesis, might work together to determine if neurogenesis is a mechanism by which psychotropic treatments achieve symptom resolution or long term symptom stability.

There was also a lengthy discussion about how clinical research could be promoted amongst the clinical faculty and also what strategies could be put in place to increase interest in research amongst psychiatry residents. Strategies to increase funding opportunities for the clinical faculty to access research funds and also providing small amounts of honoraria for clinical faculty might in-

crease their interest in research. As to residents, there was a debate about whether research should be mandatory for residents. Most suggested that it should be, although there were some that did not agree with this. On the whole, there was consensus that we need to make efforts to increase interest in research amongst residents and several strategies were suggested including looking at selecting residents into the program that have research track records or interest in research and providing opportunities for research exposure during clinical rotations and addressing various structural issues that might be barriers for conducting research by residents.

The meeting concluded with a summary and overview by visiting professor Dr. Robert Post who suggested that the department has outstanding scientists and researchers and has the potential to be one of the top places in North America if not in the world. He felt that the departmental faculty are already leaders in a number of areas and by pooling our resources we have the potential to make major contributions to our understanding of various psychiatric disorders.

Dear Clinical Faculty: There is still time to submit your responses to the Clinical Faculty research survey. Please submit your responses to Eniko Wilkie (eniko.wilkie@ubc.ca) or contact her if you haven't received the e-mail with details about this survey.

# Department of Psychiatry Newsletter

## Undergraduate Education Activities

### Undergraduate Education Annual Retreat, June 13, 2008, Harrison Hot Springs

This year the annual retreat focused on review of the Year 4 Electives. Representatives included: Dr. J. McMillan, Dr. P. Chan, Dr. S. Kelleher, Dr. C.V. Manjunath, Dr. W.Y. Song, Dr. L. Brandt, Dr. A. Koczapski, Dr. R. White, Dr. Lomax, Dr. A. Koo and Dr. L. Patrick. We were fortunate to have special guest, Dr. Cindy-Ann Lucky, the Year 4 Committee Chair. We also valued the participation of Dr. K. Burns, Dr. E. Ellingsen and Dr. A. Bates as Resident representatives.

The Retreat was a full-day of three workshops on Review of Assessment, Developing Innovative Electives and Engagement of Medical Students.

The task groups were able to submit several recommendations to Year 4 Committee, which are being implemented for Year 4 and may be able to be modified for use in other Years.



### Annual Retreat: Child, Adolescent and Family Review September 18, 2008, Vancouver

A half-day retreat was held at the Gordon Leslie Diamond Heather Care Centre to review Child, Adolescent and Family curriculum and to introduce Dr. A. Miller and Dr. M. Greenaway as newly appointed CAF Co-Directors. The meeting was represented by all CAF site supervisors; Dr. L. Brandt for Richmond, Dr. R. Jones for Royal Columbian, Dr. R. Boulding for NMP, Dr. R. Bouffard for IMP, Dr. A. Hall for Surrey Memorial, Dr. C. Froese for Terrace and Dr. B. Tang for Chilliwack Integrated Programs.

The committee focused on planning for delivery for all sites for both academic learning as well as clinical exposure. The challenges of geographically-separated teaching were identified and several outcomes were proposed and will be implemented during this year. The review of CAF seminar topics was especially useful and productive and will enable us to provide more comparable experiences across our sites.

### “Meet and Greet” with PsychSIGN students By Cristina Aydin, Class of 2009 PsychSIGN Coordinator 2008/2009

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the Department of Psychiatry hosted a “Meet and Greet” dinner at Le Bodega. The event offered a venue in which medical students interested in a career in psychiatry could meet and socialize

with Staff and Resident Psychiatrists over Spanish style tapas and sangria. The Psychiatry Student Interest Group (PsychSIGN) helped promote the event, and over 40 medical students were in attendance. Dr McMillan, Dr Kelleher, Dr Chan, Dr Karlinsky, along with many other faculty and residents, were present to answer questions about their training, careers, and the UBC Psychiatry program.

Following the dinner, Faculty and students were invited to a “Frames of Mind” mental health film at Pacific Cinematique. A special thanks to Dr Fleming for sponsoring the event, and for everyone who came out and helped make the evening such a success.

### Awards – Class of 2009 Congratulations

**Sarah Hodgson**, recipient of Dennis Harris Memorial Prize

**Lindsay Taylor**, recipient of Andrew Neil McTaggart Memorial Prize

**Lisa Bondy**, recipient of Cynthia J. Horner Memorial Prize



**Dr. Peter McLean**

*It is with great sadness that the family of Dr. Peter Donald McLean announces his passing after a hard-fought battle with cancer, on Tuesday, November 4, 2008.*

*Peter's wit, wisdom, and gentle nature touched the lives of all who knew him. His talents and hard work contributed enormously to the profession of psychology.*

*Born in Barrie, Ontario in 1940, Peter was an adventurer at heart, obtaining his pilot's license in his teens and traveling to London, England, to attend university on a scholarship. He shared his sense of adventure with his children, fostering their involvement in skiing, sailing, and travel.*

*Throughout his 35-year academic career, Peter taught, conducted research, mentored graduate students, and published extensively. Peter was particularly involved in establishing the Anxiety Disorders Clinic at the University of British Columbia.*

*Peter will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Lynn, his children Sarah (Ross), Brennen (Louise), Ryan (Barbara), and Carmen, and his stepchildren, Cole and Lane. Peter will also be dearly missed by his four grandchildren, five siblings, and numerous friends, colleagues, and extended family members.*

*A Service in Memory of Peter was held on Monday, Nov. 10, 2008, at UBC Golf Club, 5185 University Boulevard, Vancouver, BC at 1:00 p.m.*

*In lieu of flowers, those who so desire may make memorial donations in memory of Peter to Anxiety Disorders Association of B.C., an organization he helped pioneer, at AnxietyBC, 103-237 East Columbia St., New Westminster, B.C., Canada V3L 3W4 ([www.anxietybc.com](http://www.anxietybc.com)).*

**Interdisciplinary Colloquium Series for 2008-2009**

**Sponsored by the UBC INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH**

- Feb.5 Joseph Henrich: Dual Inheritance: The Evolution of Human Cultural Capacities and Cultural Evolution**  
Canada Research Chair in Culture, Cognition and Coevolution, Dept. of Psychiatry & Dept. of Economics, UBC
- Feb.19 Susan Amara: TBA**  
Thomas Detre Professor and Chair, Dept. of Neurobiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Co-Director, Center for Neuroscience, University of Pittsburgh  
*Co-sponsored by the Brain Research Centre. 2nd talk Fri., Feb.20, 11 am, BRC: tba*
- Mar.12 Elizabeth Brannon: The Foundation of Human Numerical Thinking: Implications for Understanding Dyscalculia**  
Associate Professor, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Dept. of Psychology and Neuroscience, Duke University  
*Co-sponsored by the Brain Research Centre, 2nd talk Fri. March 13, 11 am, BRC: Behavioral and Neural Underpinnings of the Human Mathematical Mind.*
- Apr.30 Alcino Silva: Mechanisms of Memory: From the Laboratory to the Clinic**  
Professor, Departments of Neurobiology, Psychiatry, Psychology, Brain Research Institute, & Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity, UCLA  
*Co-sponsored by the Brain Research Centre, 2nd talk Fri. May 1, 11 am, BRC: Unravelling the Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Memory Allocation in Neuro-networks*

*Every IMH Colloquium is being simultaneously webcast.*

*No pre-registration needed. [http://142.103.164.35/launcher.cgi?room=UBC\\_Institute\\_for\\_Mental\\_Health](http://142.103.164.35/launcher.cgi?room=UBC_Institute_for_Mental_Health)  
All IMH talks are at 12 noon in Room 2Na/b in Detwiller at UBC (2255 Wesbrook Mall) and all (except Sept.10) are on Thursdays.*

*Organized by A. Diamond. For more information contact Diane Parsons –[diparson@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:diparson@interchange.ubc.ca) 604-822-0379*