



Project GREAT News

- Denise Noseworthy completed training in Mental Health First Aid in March. She is now one of only two Certified Peer Specialists in the state of Georgia who have received this specialized training.
- Gareth Fenley has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Georgia chapter of the U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA).
- Gareth Fenley has been awarded a consumer scholarship from SAMHSA to attend the 2010 USPRA Conference, to be held in Boise, ID in June. She will also be co-presenting a seminar titled "Cultural dialogue: Facilitating cross cultural communication in psychiatric rehabilitation programs" at the conference.
- Gareth Fenley and Dr. Buckley co-presented on Project GREAT and the Behavioral Health Advisory Council at MCG's 2010 Patient- and Family-Centered Care Conference.
- Gareth Fenley is consulting on both of the two arms of the RAISE study, as follows:
 - Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. New York, New York. RAISE – Recovery After Initial Schizophrenia Episode. Jeffrey Lieberman, MD. (2009-2010)
 - Feinstein Institute for Medical Research. Manhasset, New York. RAISE – Recovery After Initial Schizophrenia Episode. John Kane, MD. (2010)
- Gareth Fenley is recruiting and coaching local Certified Peer Specialists to present at trainings around Georgia for Project GREAT.
- Gareth Fenley co-authored the official response to DSMV being issued by USPRA (the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association).
- Gareth Fenley was elected to the Board of Directors of the Georgia chapter of USPRA.



East Central Regional Hospital News

- ECRH is looking forward to a Psychiatry Resident joining us in July of this year for a Community Psychiatry rotation. Dr. Scott Van Sant, former Medical Director at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, has joined MCG-ECRH and will be the on-site Coordinator of the Residency Program.
- ECRH is also looking forward to the Psychotic Disorders Fellow joining us in July for the class of 2011 Community Psychology Track.
- Occupational Therapy students from the MCG School of Allied Health completed their first week-long rotation at ECRH Augusta Campus. Students spent a week on the Mental Health units with consumers and Treatment Teams, accompanied the Forensic Step-Down Consumers to observe Special Olympics games at Fort Gordon, and observed Work Therapy Programs. The students were enthusiastic about their experience and commented it was the "best field placement ever!".
- Telemedicine capabilities are on the horizon for ECRH, with a link with MCG as well as Ogeechee and Rivers
- Edge Communities. Utilization plans include improving evaluation / transition / admission of consumers from referral sources, assistance in community placements and medical consultation of current ECRH consumers.
- ECRH was thrilled to welcome Doug Fine, a former MCGHealth employee as Human Resource Manager. This addition to the Executive Team is seen as key in building systems to better address multiple and critical HR needs, including recruitment, retention, employee relations and staffing to reach budgetary goals.
- Meetings of ECRH Advisory Boards continue with mentoring through MCG. The Boards promote Patient-Family Centered Care and provide feedback and suggestions on ECRH's delivery of care. One of the first suggestions to be embraced from the Advisory Board was the creation of a "canteen" on the north campus of Gracewood to provide a recreation center for those consumers residing there. The "canteen," to be named by the consumers, will provide leisure activities in the evening and on weekends several times a week outside of their living areas.
- Gracewood consumers are benefiting from psychiatric consults through MCG utilizing the Developmental
- Disability Clinic already in existence at their Outpatient Clinic. This provides a much needed service that has been lacking. Dr. Simon Sebastian was instrumental in making this a success.
- ECT services began at ECRH, offering a treatment modality that will be unique to the state system and in Augusta, and positioning ECRH as a leading provider in mental health care.
- The Joint Commission visited ECRH in April in an expected but unannounced survey. The survey process took 5 days and included review under Hospital, Behavioral Health and Long Term Care standards. The surveyors complemented staff on initiatives but also found opportunities for improvement (don't they always!).
- In March, ECRH began a new approach in behavior management with the formation of a positive behavior support team. The team is lead by a psychologist and consists also of a nurse, several behavior specialists, and a HST (MHT). The team does an in-depth analysis of longer term patients who present with behavior management issues. They then make recommendations, teach, and mentor unit staff in behavior management techniques which positively impacts treatment, consumers, and the milieu.



Medical College of Georgia Department of Psychiatry & Health Behavior

March/April

2010



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General Announcements

- Dr. M.J. Albright has accepted the role of Chief Resident for the general psychiatry program in the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior for the academic year 2010-2011.

M.J. has demonstrated the interest, capabilities, and strength that are necessary to manage this difficult and critically important role. She is positive, proactive, constructive, and extremely capable. She also has the respect of faculty, staff, and students who know her and have worked with her. As is the tradition, she will be phasing into these duties gradually over the next few weeks. I look forward to working with her during the coming year and am grateful for her willingness to accept these responsibilities.
- Dr. Donna Londino was accepted into the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine Academy of Medical Educators established to recognize faculty who have made outstanding contributions to medical education through excellence in teaching, innovation, and scholarship.
- Dr. Brian Miller was named Resident of the year at the Medical College of Georgia Faculty Senate awards ceremony. This is a great distinction and honor for Brian and for the Department.

Dr. Miller contributes to the community in many ways while at the same time maintains his pivotal role as father of a growing and exuberant family. We are delighted that he will be joining us as an Assistant Professor in the Department effective July 1, and look forward to continuing our long and productive relationship with him over the coming years.

Please congratulate Brian when you see him on his recognition as Medical College of Georgia Resident of the Year.

AWARDS

- Josepha Iluonakhamhe, MCG class of 2011, has been awarded the Minority Medical Student Travel scholarship to attend the American Psychiatric Association (APA) 2010 Annual Meeting in New Orleans.
- Dr. Dale Peeples has been selected to receive an Exemplary Teaching Award of \$1,000. The award is presented based upon substantial outstanding contributions to medical student teaching during academic year 2008-09.
- Nick Culpepper, a first-year MCG medical student, was one of 20 students awarded a 2010 Dean's Summer Research Fellowship for his project "Clinical Features of Advanced Paternal Age-Associated Schizophrenia." In addition to the opportunity to design and participate in cutting-edge clinical research, the fellowship includes a \$4,000 stipend. Mr. Culpepper's faculty mentors for the project will be Dr. Peter Buckley and Dr. Brian Miller.
- Dr. Adriana Foster received the Nancy C.A. Roeske, M.D., Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Medical Student Education from the American Psychiatric Association (APA). The certificate is awarded annually to APA members and fellows who have made outstanding and sustaining contributions to medical student education.
- Dr. Brian Miller and Dr. Andrew Mellor's proposal, "Inflammation, The Kynurenine pathway and Cognition in Schizophrenia", was one of five projects receiving a \$25,000 Translational and Clinical Award from the MCG Brain and Behavior Discovery Institute. They will investigate relationships between blood cytokine levels and kynurenine pathway activity as potential biomarkers and therapeutic targets for acute psychotic relapse and cognitive impairment in schizophrenia.
- Dr. Dale Peeples was selected to receive an Exemplary Teaching Award based upon his substantial outstanding contributions to medical student teaching during academic year 2008-9. All awardees were recognized and honored at the School of Medicine Faculty Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 21.

Presentations and Publications

- Dr. Rizwan Khan will be presenting research poster at the APA annual meeting titled " Ethnic Self-Identity and Suicide".
- Taryn Myers presented a lecture at Augusta state University and at Paine College on Sexual Trauma and PTSD as part of area colleges' "Take Back the Night" events this month.
- Drs. Dale Peeples, Anil Saini, Manzoor Usman and Erick Messias had a paper titled "Sadness, Suicide, and Video game: Results from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2007" that was accepted for publication in the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.
- Dr. Christian Lemmon presented a Continuing Education Workshop along with Rebecca Rogers, Ph.D. (faculty member from Augusta State University) titled "Eating Disorders: From Diagnosis to Treatment" to the 56th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, in Chattanooga, TN.
- Angie Kelley was a co-presenter of a workshop titled "YOU...Can Learn the 7 Habits of a Successful Coordinator" at the 2010 AADPRT Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The workshop was based on Dr. Stephen Covey's book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People."
- Dr. Davidson and Dr. Saini presented a poster session at the 21st Annual National Youth-at-Risk Conference in Savannah, GA on March 2, entitled "Video Game Addiction: A 21st Century Problem."
- PGY-2 Resident Dr. Miranda Harris and certified peer specialist Gareth Fenley have been invited to present at the Michigan Peer Specialists Second Annual Conference in Lansing, Michigan, on June 23, 2010. The conference is co-sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health and Michigan Peer Specialists United. About 250-300 attendees are expected for their plenary entitled "Peer Specialists and Psychiatrists Building Our Future Together." They will also jointly present a 90-minute workshop.
- Dr. Pillai has a research article "An inverse relationship between cortisol and BDNF levels in schizophrenia: Data from human postmortem and animal studies" accepted for publication in Neurobiology of Disease.
- Dr. Saini and Dr. Davidson presented a Grand Rounds at USC Dept. of Psychiatry on April 23. The title was "Video Game Addiction: Review of the Literature, Discussion about Current Treatment Options, and a Case Study Presentation".
- Mabe, P.A. & Fenley, G. (2010) Project GREAT: Bringing Psychologists into the Revolution of the Recovery Model of Mental Health Care. Presented to the 2010 Joint Conference of Training Councils in Psychology. Orlando, FL. February 13, 2010.
- Pernell-Arnold, A., Mueller, L., Rogers, E.N., & Fenley, G. (2010). Cultural dialogue: Facilitating cross cultural communication in psychiatric rehabilitation programs. Accepted for presentation at the 35th Annual U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association Conference. Boise, Idaho.
- Fenley, G. & Mabe, P.A. (2010) Patients as practice partners: Catalyzing recovery through collaboration. Accepted for presentation at the 163rd Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. New Orleans, Louisiana.

Research News



Clinical Research Manager
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- **Dr. Buckley** is currently conducting a study on "**High-Dose Ziprasidone in Schizophrenia Patients**" for persons between the ages of 18-65, concomitant or PRN medications at a stable dose for 6 weeks. The study will last for 3 months and excludes persons with alcohol or substance dependence within the past 12 months or abuse within the past 3 months. For more information, please call: **Dawn or Rebecca at (706)721-0409 or (706)721-4605.**
- **Dr. Buckley** and his research team are looking for healthy participants (Control) as well as Active patients for a one-visit study, entitled, "**NIH Genomic Psychiatry Cohort**" (GPC). Participants might qualify if: age 18 or older, are able to give informed consent, and are able to provide us with reliable information. Participants will receive payment. For more information or to make a referral, contact: **Dawn Montoya, 706-721-0409, Rebecca Nichols, 706-721-4605, or Edna Stirewalt, 706-721-7968.**
- **Dr. Londino** is currently conducting a Lexicor study on "**Examination of EEG in a normal population**" for healthy children age 6-17 with no history of mental illness, seizure or chronic illness. Participants are needed for a one-visit study, which will take approximately two hours, using painless, non-invasive EEG to measure electrical activity produced by the brain. Participants will be paid. **Contact Christy Wise: 706-721-6585.**
- **Dr. Foster, Jessica Michelle Lee, B.S., Diana Murro, B.S., James Gable, PharmD, Luke Smith, B.S. and Gareth Fenley, M.S.W., CPS** are conducting a study to evaluate MCG medical student's attitudes towards the homeless. MCG medical students from the classes of 2013 and 2014 will be asked to complete an online questionnaire presented by Survey Monkey.
- **Dr. Lemmon and Josepha Iluonakhamhe** are currently conducting a study titled "**Barriers Associated with Seeking Treatment for Eating Disorders: The Parental Perspective.**" The study involves asking current or former patients who have been diagnosed with an eating disorder if their parents can be contacted to complete a questionnaire regarding their experience in seeking treatment for their child. The survey will be conducted face to face, via "remote consent" or by accessing the questionnaire on Survey Monkey.
- **Dr. M.J. Albright, Dr. Foster, Dr. Mabe, Dr. House, Joshua Rothstein, Gareth Fenley, M.S.W., CPS, and Denise Noseworthy, CPS** are conducting a study titled "**Medical Student Attitudes Towards Consumers with Mental Illness Before and After a Recovery-Based Intervention.**" The study is offered to all medical students completing their 3rd year psychiatry clerkship. The study will analyze the impact of an intervention program versus a non-intervention program on ones attitude towards mental illness.
- **Dr. Sebastian** is currently conducting a study on "**Analysis of Bipolar Disorder Diagnostic Accuracy Using Mood Disorder Questionnaire**" (MDQ) with 15 questions which will take about 15 minutes of the participant's time. To participate in this study one must be between the ages of 18-65 with Major Depressive Disorder. The questionnaire can be done during their regular clinic visit. **Please contact Christy Wise at 706- 721-6585.**