Chair’s Report

Spring is here in all its glory. As I write this column, I am able to celebrate the pleasures of a beautiful day in May and the many achievements of our faculty and department.

On May 15, it was announced that Dr. Elizabeth Osuch was awarded a $100,000 grant to improve diagnosis of bipolar disorder in youth, from Pfizer Canada’s first-ever Psychiatry Research Awards Program. (For more information, go to page 14.)

On May 16, 2012 at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Awards of Excellence, Dr. Rob Nicolson received the 2012 Schulich Graduate/Postgraduate Award of Excellence in Education – Educator Award. Also in May, Dr. Jay Rao was selected as a recipient of the NADD-Ontario Chapter Recognition Award from the Board of Directors of the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed, Ontario Chapter.

Dr. Praful Chandarana completed another highly successful London Psychiatry Review Course from January 24 to 29, 2012. As a result of the success of the course, Dr. Chandarana was able to contribute some of the financial
reserves from the course to several departmental activities including supporting the residents' book allowance and providing some infrastructure support to our CPD program.

At the recent Breakfast of Champions event, sponsored by St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation and the Canadian Mental Health Association, our PEPP program was given the Mental Health Champion Award for 2012.

Congratulations to faculty members who will receive promotions and all others mentioned throughout this newsletter for their many achievements. Given the breadth of our department, I may have forgotten to acknowledge someone in this newsletter, but please let me know for the next edition.

As of May 15, we established the new Department Executive Committee and the new Advisory Committee. To facilitate the desired transparency that we were seeking with these changes, we will be posting the minutes of the Department Executive Committee on-line (WebCT OWL) for faculty to review. As part of the changes in the administrative structure, we will now have the SWOMEN and Windsor programs reporting directly to myself and the Executive Committee as another means to enhance communication and decision making.

Finally, we are close to finalizing our plans and agenda for the upcoming Departmental Retreat on Friday June 22, 2012. You will soon be receiving the agenda and request to RSVP. I look forward to a very productive and engaging retreat; in the meantime, enjoy the beautiful spring weather.

Dr. Paul Links, Chair/Chief

Undergraduate Medical Education

On March 26, we held our first, “A Taste of Psychiatry” at Windermere Manor. First, second and third year medical students were invited to join our faculty and residents to learn about the various clinical and research opportunities within our department. It was an entertaining and informative evening attended by 35 medical students. Thanks to Drs. Paul Links, Beth Osuch, James Ross, Leanna Isserlin, Jennifer Barr, Carla Garcia, Ajit Ninan and Mark Watling for presenting.

On April 30, we had a meeting of the Psychiatry Interest Group. After watching Precious, Stephanie Rabenstein and Rita VanMeyel discussed the clinical aspects of childhood sexual trauma. The Psychiatry Interest Group plans to meet again in the fall. If you have an idea for a movie or you would like to join us, please let me know.

Patient Centred Clinical Methods has just recently wrapped up. Second year medical students are provided with three sessions to interview standardized patients. We are always looking for facilitators. It requires a commitment of three mornings over three weeks. A call for volunteers will come out early in the new year. Thanks to Drs. Carla Garcia and Sreelatha Varapravan for coordinating the sessions this year.

Currently we are in the middle of Meds 5207 (Psychiatry and the Behavioural Sciences). The course runs over 5 weeks and includes introductory sessions, child and adolescent psychiatry, anxiety disorders, mood disorders and psychotic disorders. For the medical students it is the last course they receive before
their summer break and the beginning of clerkship. Sessions are provided to students in London and Windsor. Drs. Mark Watling and John Villella have done a wonderful job organizing the material and trying to keep the rest of us on time for the many deadlines!

We are actively trying to engage medical students to consider psychiatry as a career. If you have ideas of how this can be done or are willing to supervise observership or elective students, please let Melanie VandenBorre know at ugepsychiatry@lhsc.on.ca.

Dr. Sandra Northcott, UGE Program Director

Postgraduate Education

The PGE psychiatry office began the year with CaRMS 2012 well underway. Again this year, we received tremendous support from the faculty and resident group, and without them our CaRMS days would not have been as efficient and effective. After a successful first round, we are pleased to announce our incoming residents for July 2012 will be: Rebecca Barnett, Nolan Hop Wo, Julie Hughes, Pramudith Maldeniya, Lauren Mussen, Priya Sharma and Craig Stewart. We look forwarding to welcoming them to the program in July!

With the incoming PGY 1 group on the horizon, it is also almost time to bid farewell to our wonderful PGY5 group! We wish all the best to Aziz Haque, Juliana Li, Michelle Ngo and Joel Shapiro in their future careers in psychiatry.

The Department of Psychiatry Award night is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12. We will present certificates to the PGY5s, as well as awards to faculty and residents for their achievements over the past year. Please watch your email for details about the event, and we hope to see you there!

Dr. Volker Hocke, PGE Program Director

Resident’s Report

We have many things to celebrate as this academic year ends, and the new academic year begins on July 1. Thanks to the amazing effort by everyone who helped with CaRMS and resident recruitment, we filled all of our PGY1 residency positions this year, and we look forward to meeting our new colleagues soon.

Of course, we will also be saying goodbye to four important members of our resident body as our PGY5s move forward with their careers as fully licensed psychiatrists. Congratulations again to Aziz Haque, Juliana Li, Michelle Ngo, and Joel Shapiro, who all passed their Royal College exams this spring! We were thrilled to learn of their success on the same day as our Spring Resident Retreat, which involved cooking classes and a friendly cooking competition at Aroma restaurant on May 18. Their success was inspiring for all of us on that wonderful day! We look forward to celebrating with them further at the department’s award night in June.

As this academic year comes to an end, so does my time in the chief resident role. While the year has been very rewarding for me personally, I look forward to returning to be a full-time resident next year, as the position is taken over by my colleague Arany Shanmugalingam. I would like to conclude by thanking all my fellow
residents and supervising staff for their support during this very busy year.

*Dr. Rachana Bodani, PGY3, Chief Resident*

**Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**

The Child and Adolescent Division has been a “hive” of activity this spring, with lots to “buzz” about. Our news is focused on our local divisional activities, as well as our participation at a provincial and national level. Most particularly, we would like to congratulate Dr. Rob Nicolson, who received a Schulich Postgraduate Educator Award at the Dean’s Celebration of Excellence Dinner & Awards Banquet on May 16, and Dr. Michelle Ngo who has completed all of the requirements for the Western University Diploma in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

On the research front, a number of clinical research projects are underway. At LHSC, Children’s Health Foundation is supporting several initiatives including “Teaching Child and Adolescent Mental Health to Family Physicians” (led by Dr. Margaret Steele), “Reducing Wait Times for Children’s Mental Health Services” (led by Drs. Kerry Collins and Julie Eichstedt), “Child and Adolescent Eating Disorders” (led by Dr. Leanna Isserlin) and “A Survey of the Management of Childhood Anxiety Disorders in Publicly Funded Mental Health Centres across Ontario” (Dr. Julie Eichstedt, Dr. Kerry Collins, Liz Phoenix, Dr. Heidi Haensel, and Dr. David Dozois).

Dr. Shannon Stewart at CPRI is the lead for the development of the Child and Youth Mental Health Instrument for the international InterRAI Organization. She is currently developing a manual for Clinical Assessment Protocols (CAPs) that will be linked to the assessment instrument. Dr. Sandra Fisman is a member of the CAP working group on Self-Harm. Dr. Shannon Stewart and Laura Theall-Honey are examining differences in the use of intrusive measures between children with developmental disabilities and children with mental health issues. In parallel, Dr. Toni Swart, Emilian Simon and Dr. Shannon Stewart have examined the timing of restraints and have an upcoming publication on self-harm and suicidal behaviour.

Vanier Children’s Services is a participating agency in a five-year multi-agency project examining patterns of service utilization in children’s mental health agencies, and both Vanier and RMHC Adolescent Unit are participants in the InterRAI project. Vanier is also partnering with Wilfred Laurier University on the outcomes of children receiving intensive services; with IWK in Halifax on a waiting list study also associated with telephone counseling; and with CAMH on a longitudinal study in the development of drug use among youth (“CIHR Emerging Team in Innovations in Youth and Concurrent Disorders”).

The division continues to have a very active and vibrant education program. The Journal Club runs monthly under the research umbrella, and recent presentations include Dr. Michelle Ngo’s presentation in February on her diploma research dissertation “Body weight as a prognostic factor for day hospital success;” Dr. Pamela Horne in March on “Diagnosis in Early Years - Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health Disorders of Infancy and Early
Childhood, Revised Edition;” Dr. Julie Eichstedt in April on “The Management of Childhood Anxiety Disorders in Publicly Funded Children’s Mental Health Centres Across Ontario: The Development of a Survey Tool Assessing Usual Care” and “The management of childhood anxiety disorders in Publicly Funding Institutions – The Development of a Survey Tool Assessing Usual Care.” Liz Phoenix presented “Core Beliefs, Self-Perception and Cognitive Organization in Depressed Adolescents” which is a recently published paper by Dr. David Dozois, Elizabeth Phoenix and Kimberley Harris, based on a study of depressed adolescents aged 13-17 and healthy controls, completed at LHSC. The final Journal Club of the season will feature Dr. Shannon Stewart on June 13 (title to be announced).

Western University is one of the first centres to receive Royal College approval for Subspecialty Training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Patricia Hall is the Subspecialty Program Director and residents interested in pursuing the program can apply for July 2012 by contacting Dr. Hall. Residents interested in applying for July 2013 will refer to our department website for application instructions, and these applications will be due September 15, 2012. The two year program, starting in PGY5, has an innovative curriculum and a large selection of learning and clinical opportunities for trainees.

Our residents continue to provide excellent presentations for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Resident Rounds. These rounds are held the third Thursday of each month, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., in B2-119 at London Health Sciences Centre, and all are welcome.

We are very appreciative of the way in which Dr. Ajit Ninan has stepped so seamlessly into the Undergraduate Coordination role while Dr. Ben Loveday has been on parental leave. This has been the first academic year where there has been selective, rather than mandatory, clerkship rotations in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Developmental Disabilities. The uptake for our students in selecting this experience has been good, but we hope to more formally evaluate this at the end of June.

A highlight of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry CPD program in this last quarter was the Annual Conference on April 20 on “Transcultural Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.” The main speakers were Dr. Cécile Rousseau, Dr. Mohammed Baobaid and Dr. Bhooma Bhayana. Dr. Rousseau, who is a professor at McGill University and a prolific clinical researcher in the field, presented two keynotes: “Rethinking migrant and refugee children mental health” and “Shared Care for children and youth in multi-ethnic neighbourhoods.” Dr. Bhayana, a family physician and faculty member at Schulich, talked about “Concepts of health and wellness in the context of cultural diversity,” and Mohammed Baobaid, PhD, faculty member at Western University and Executive Director of the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration in London, presented on “Culturally informed services in the community of London.” The day concluded with an informed panel, including the speakers and local community partners representing educators / settlement, child welfare, culturally informed services, and community outreach and development for newcomers. Future directions for developing collaboration of mental health care providers, educators and child protection in working with
culturally diverse populations were a focus of the panel. Thank you to Dr. Naveed Rizvi, Debra Martin, and the planning committee – Dr. Brooke Noftle, Liz Phoenix, Stephanie Rabenstein and Rita Van Meyel, for their planning and organization of a very successful day.

Beginning in September 2012, a new rounds series will be held on the second Wednesday of alternating months. “Complex Case Rounds” will give division members across the south west region and community partners an opportunity to present a challenging clinical case. Videoconferencing will be used to facilitate participation for those off-site from LHSC. The format will be 30-minute case presentations, with 30 minutes discussion and group problem solving.

In other news from the division, the Western Hub of the Ontario Child and Youth Telepsychiatry Program (OCYTP) celebrates five years and the completion of 896 consultations to children and youth with complex mental health needs in rural, remote and underserved communities, using teleconferencing technology. The division is a signatory to the OCYTP, and the Hub provides program consultations and education, in addition to clinical consultations, supporting knowledge transfer and community capacity building, as well as direct clinical consultation. All of our postgraduate trainees are required to participate in at least one of these consultations during their core rotation in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

At a national level, Dr. Barrie Evans is 1 of 40 people to receive a fellowship to attend SPARK (Supporting the Promotion of Activated Research and Knowledge) which is a part of the Commission’s Knowledge Exchange Centre’s strategy and commences with a two day workshop in St. John’s, Newfoundland this July. We are represented on several important provincial bodies and initiatives by Dr. Sandra Fisman, including the Provincial Council Advisory for Children and Youth, the Child and Adolescent Mental health Collaborative (sponsored by the Ministry of Health as part of the 10 year strategy for Mental Health in Ontario) and the Provincial Management Committee for the Phoenix Project (an initiative of the Association of Medical Services [AMS]) to move forward a vision for the reintroduction of Humanity in the provision of medical care.

Our initiative to develop a collaborative model for Maternal Infant Mental Health has progressed to the point where we discussed a straw model for this collaboration on May 17, with implementation to follow as the final step. Merrymount Children’s Service hosted this meeting. This process has been very positive, and we have had the participation of multiple community sectors, hospital representation, and participation across Clinical Academic and Basic Science Departments, particularly: Psychiatry, Obstetrics, Pediatrics and Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

The Annual Meeting of the Division took place on May 17, and we were delighted to have our department Chair/Chief join us as our speaker to talk about the origins of borderline personality in childhood.

Dr. Sandra Fisman, Interim Chair
Developmental Disabilities Division and the Autism Centre of Excellence

Once again, congratulations to Dr. Rob Nicolson on receiving a 2012 Schulich Excellence in Education Award (Graduate/Postgraduate)!

Congratulations to Dr. Jay Rao who received a National Association for the Dually Diagnosed - Ontario Chapter Recognition Award in Toronto on May 25! In her nomination, Liz Froese, Community Networks of Specialized Care – Southern Region Coordinator, stated: “Since the first day he came onboard, Dr. Rao has played – and certainly continues to play an instrumental role in assisting our Network in fulfilling one of our core goals – to promote research that will increase the knowledge and skills of the many community-based partner groups we serve across the southern region of Ontario.”

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Susan Morris thanked Dr. Rao for his “commitment to the mental wellness of persons with developmental disabilities and the promotion of excellence in mental health care.”

Education and Service Rounds are a collaboration of the Autism Centre of Excellence, Western; the Developmental Disabilities Division, Western; and the Autism Spectrum Disorder clinic at CPRI. Rounds will be held next on June 27 from 4:00-5:00 pm at the Child & Parent Resource Institute (CPRI) in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Crombie Building, 600 Sanatorium Road, London, Ontario

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Judy McLarty at: judy.mclarty@lhsc.on.ca.

The Autism Centre of Excellence through Western’s Faculty of Education is offering a two-year Master’s of Education in Educational Psychology/Special Education - Applied Behavior (ABA), part-time, online. Applications are open until June 30. All program inquiries may be sent to Linda Kulak at graded@uwo.ca. For more information, please visit: http://www.edu.uwo.ca/programs/graduate-education/masters-edpsych-specialed-aba.html

Division of Geriatric Psychiatry

Subspecialization Application

The Division of Geriatric Psychiatry is very pleased to announce that an application has been submitted to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for approval of a two year subspecialization in Geriatric Psychiatry here at Western University. This application was sent in March 2012, and we wait eagerly to hear about the outcome from the accreditation committee proceedings, which we understand will be available in late May 2012.

The Geriatric Psychiatry Application Planning Group was exceptionally helpful in assembling the necessary reams of paperwork for this application. Dr. Akshya Vasudev would like to thank Drs. Lisa Van Bussel, Jennifer Oates and Vadim Beletsky; and Tony 'O Regan and Debra Martin for their immense support in the application process. In particular, we thank Dr. Patty Hall, from Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, for very generously sharing her considerable experience in preparing their successful application.
The division is proud to have been able to plan a number of innovative training experiences for future geriatric psychiatry residents. All subspecialty residents will have the option of choosing up to six blocks in one of these mandatory placements: Geriatric Medicine Clinics, Day Hospital and Inpatient unit, Acute Care of the Elderly Inpatient Medicine unit (ACE); Movement Disorders, Stroke Prevention, Behavioural Neurology, General Neurology; Neuroimaging; Palliative Care; Medical Care in Long-Term Care.

The Departments of Family Medicine, Neurology and Geriatric Medicine have not only provided letters of support, but also assisted in designing goals and objectives for these placements, matching the requirements of the new curriculum. In addition to the above mandatory training requirements, inpatient, outpatient and ambulatory geriatric psychiatry goals and objectives have been drawn up. The resident may wish to choose electives, which will also be available in a number of branches of psychiatry.

The application details innovative methods of ensuring that the residents are able to secure the necessary knowledge and skills to practice as Consultant Geriatric Psychiatrists at the end of their training. We look forward to receiving approval this year and to subsequent funding to allow us to accept residents commencing September 2013.

Congratulations to division members and colleagues for all of their accomplishments, as listed below!

**Grants**

**Title:** Understanding Long Term Care Homes as Communal Living Environments: Facilitating the Transition to Long-Term Care  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Maggie Gibson  
Funding Source: St. Joseph’s President’s Innovation Fund  
Amount: $10,000  
Term: 2012

**Title:** Research-based Theatre as a Knowledge Exchange Vehicle for Home-based Dementia Care  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Iris Gutmanis  
Co-Investigators: Dr. Mark Speechley, Dr. Lisa Van Bussel, Dr. Cathy Ward-Griffin, Ryan DeForge  
Funding Source: The Canadian Dementia Knowledge Translation Network and the Alzheimer Society of Canada  
Amount: $12,420  
Term: April 16, 2012 to March 31, 2013

**Publications**

**Peer-Reviewed**


Presentations at Professional Meetings and Workshops


O’Regan, T. (2011, Oct.). Envisioning the Model of Care for a Geriatric Psychiatry Day Treatment Program. Round table at the Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses’ Conference, Toronto, ON.


O’Regan, T. (2011, Sept. & 2012, May). Using Guided Reflection to Promote the RNAO BPG on Establishing Therapeutic Relationships. RNAO Excellent Care for All Conference and through OTN (nursing week celebrations), Toronto, ON.

Poster Presentations


Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses’ Conference, Toronto, ON.


Student’s Corner

David McCabe is a doctoral student at The Graduate Center and Queens College of the City University of New York. As a pre-doctoral resident within the London Clinical Psychology Internship Consortium, he is working with Dr. Maggie Gibson on an update of the Canadian Coalition for Seniors’ Mental Health (CCSMH) National Guideline Project. Their contribution to the update focuses on mental health care for older adults living in long-term care settings.

Notable Accomplishments/Honours/ Awards

Dr. Maggie Gibson was one of a small number of professionals invited to participate in the "Round Table on Health Promotion Framework" hosted by the Public Health Agency of Canada in Ottawa on March 2, 2012.

Mr. Tony O’Regan continues in his role as an affiliate member of the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry. He is the Allied Health Care Representative on the Geriatric Psychiatry Subspecialty Committee and Division of Geriatric Psychiatry representative on the Developmental Disabilities Division’s Advisory Board.

In July 2011, Tony was appointed as Adjunct Clinical Professor in the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, Western University, for a five year term.

Past CPD Event

On April 12, 2012, the Department of Psychiatry Continuing Professional Development forum spotlighted Geriatric Psychiatry. Dr. Akshya Vasudev moderated the session. Psychiatry resident Dr. Mohamad Elfakhani (PGY2) presented the case study: "Non-Pharmacological Treatment of Behaviours in Dementia: A Case Report and Review of Literature." Dr. Lisa Van Bussel then provided an update: "The Provincial BSO Strategy: Exciting Times for the Region." The final talk was "Responding to the Need: Enhancing Services in London and Middlesex. Where We Are and Where We Are Going" with guest speakers Lori Hassall, Coordinator with the Geriatric Mental Health Program and PEPP Programs, and Lynn Mellows, Executive Director, McGarrell Place, and Co-Chair of the Geriatric Cooperative.
Upcoming Events


November 7, 2012. Tenth Annual Geriatric Psychiatry Symposium. This full day event will feature keynote speakers and twelve concurrent workshops, and is of interest to geriatric psychiatrists and nurses, family medicine physicians and nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers, pharmacists, dieticians, healthcare administrators - anyone involved in elder care.

Division of Social and Rural Psychiatry

Research samples

Systematic review protocols of Dr. Giuseppe Guaiana et al. have been accepted by The Cochrane Collaboration (congratulations Giuseppe).

Education Highlights

The Division of SRP’s annual Thursday CPD event occurred on May 10, 2012 and focused on systems and mental health. The event was organized and moderated by Dr. Iouri Rybak, the division’s education coordinator (thanks Iouri).

Mini-library and Web Page

The Division of SRP has a mini-library (a kindle, books and manuals), focused primarily on mental health related fiction and research methods in social sciences and humanities that are relevant to psychiatry. Items can be loaned at the division’s office, Regional Mental Health Care London (contact Patti at 519-455-5110, ext. 47036 or in her absence Hanna at ext. 47225). The list of items can be viewed on the webpage of the Division of Social and Rural Psychiatry (http://www.psychiatry.med.uwo.ca/dsrp.asp) which is kept up to date with the assistance of Sibi Samivel (thanks Sibi).

Regional Mental Health Care (RMHC)

RMHC’s research day occurred on May 16, 2012, at RMHC St Thomas. Dr. Richard O’Reilly, RMHC’s Research Director, organized and moderated the event (congratulations Dick).

In this issue, I will highlight the Concurrent Disorders Program (CDP) at RMHC (thanks to Dr. Gregory McCarthy, the Physician Clinical Leader of CDP, for submitting this report).

The model of outreach for CDP has reached a new milestone of development. Indirect consultations take place monthly via televideo. CDP staff members use the opportunity to build capacity in mental health care workers from CMHA and Addiction Services (ambulatory and residential). Treatment recommendations are made, or the CDP physician arranges an on-site visit where the patient is seen with his/her worker - a further opportunity for capacity development.

A resident clinic (part of the collaborative care rotation) has been established at Addiction Services of Thames Valley (ASTV). This arrangement will be formalized through a memorandum of understanding, currently under development by Janice Vandeooren (Director of CDP). Dr. McCarthy provides on-site
consultations in Sarnia (including Petrolia), Chatham, Woodstock and London (ASTV, Quintin Warner House, etc). We are in the process of establishing a similar service in Owen Sound (including Hanover).

In January 1, 2012, a pilot project with the London Police department was initiated. CDP now offers rapid psychiatric assessments to street sex workers with severe addiction problems in collaboration with Sergeant Lorna Bruce from the Persons-at-Risk Program. This project is proceeding very well and has the endorsement of Dr. Jarmain and Chief Duncan.

**Dr. Viraj Mehta** continues to provide excellent service to LHSC, whence the number of consultations has grown greatly in the past six months. Community physicians’ consults to CDP also continue to increase, as does the caseload of patients taken into intensive case management by the CDP team.

**Extended Campus Program (ECP)**

ECP-affiliated faculty continued to attend and contribute to our department’s educational events (thanks to ECP faculty).

**North of Superior Program (NOSP)**

Dr. José Mejia joined NOSP (welcome José).

**South Western Ontario Medical Education Network (SWOMEN) Rural and Windsor**

SWOMEN Rural and Windsor are changing some of their reporting relations and, hence, will no longer be reported as part of the Division of SRP (thanks to SWOMEN Rural and Windsor faculty).

*Dr. Abraham (Rami) Rudnick, Chair*

**Bioethics Program**

**Education highlights**

The department’s bioethics PGE seminar occurred again in March 2012.

**Recognition**

Dr. Abraham Rudnick has been recognized as a resource expert by Bioethics Beyond Borders.

**Webpage highlights**

The webpage of the bioethics program can be found on the webpage of the Department of Psychiatry, in the Programs section.

**The Canadian Unit of the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics**

The unit’s advisory board convened again in early 2012 and provided helpful input, such as exploring joint venturing with a PGE ethics initiative of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

*Dr. Abraham (Rami) Rudnick, Director*
Research

The Spring 2012 seed funding competition has been completed. Two applications were received. An application by Drs. Akshya Vasudev, Kevin Shoemaker and Derek Mitchell on “Quantifying the ventro medial pre frontal cortex (vMPFC) responsiveness to parasympathetic nervous system (PNS) modifiers in late life depression (LLD),” was recommended for funding.

In response to a request from the Residents’ Training Committee, several of the seminars for residents on research methodology have been moved to the PGY2 year, while others will remain in the PGY3/4 years. Given that residents are now required to participate in a chart review, a quality assurance or research project, it was considered appropriate to introduce them to aspects of proposal writing and research methodology at an earlier stage of their training.

The Director of Research and Dr. Kamini Vasudev have been collaborating in the development of specific guidelines for psychiatry residents’ research training and experience. Dr. Vasudev will be sending a request to faculty in the department for a description of potential projects for resident involvement.

The 2012 Department of Psychiatry Academic Day will be held on Thursday, June 21 at the Lamplighter Inn on Wellington Road. Dr. Ashok Malla from the Douglas Research Institute and McGill University will be giving the guest lecture on the topic of “Integrating Research and Clinical Service: Benefits and Challenges.” We have received many abstracts for the day, reflecting the diversity of research being carried out by faculty and students. All members of the department are urged to attend this informative and stimulating day, which is considered a highlight of our academic year!

Dr. Ross Norman, Director
Faculty News

Dr. Elizabeth Osuch

The following Media Release (May 15, 2012) has been reprinted with permission of Sonya Gilpin, Communications & Public Relations, Lawson Health Research Institute.

Lawson Researcher Receives One of First-Ever Pfizer Psychiatry Research Awards

Dr. Elizabeth Osuch is One of Two Researchers Honored with $100,000 Grant

LONDON, ON – A scientist at Lawson Health Research Institute has been honored in Pfizer Canada’s first-ever Psychiatry Research Awards Program. Dr. Elizabeth Osuch, Scientist and Research Chair of Affective and Anxiety Disorders at Lawson, is one of two researchers to receive $100,000 to support their research.

Dr. Osuch’s winning proposal aims to improve diagnosis of bipolar disorder in youth. In young people, the depressive symptoms associated with bipolar disorder are often misdiagnosed as “unipolar” major depressive disorder. The average misdiagnosis often lasts 6-10 years. In the meantime, if the patient is treated with antidepressants, their condition declines.

Through the Psychiatry Research Awards Program, Dr. Osuch will use functional brain imaging in an effort to distinguish patients with bipolar disorder from those with unipolar depression. By observing different networks within the brain, she hopes to improve diagnostic accuracy and patient quality of life.

“I am very pleased to have been recognized by Pfizer for my research, which I truly do believe...
will have an impact on Canadians living with mental illness,” Dr. Osuch says. “This award will help further my research efforts and advance the translation of medical research into patient care.”

The Psychiatry Research Awards Program is a competitive research grant program open to all researchers interested in psychiatric diseases including physicians and academics. It was launched in May 2011 to advance clinical research and patient care in psychiatry by supporting Canadian investigators in their research efforts.

Dr. Elizabeth Osuch is a Scientist and the Rea Research Chair of Affective and Anxiety Disorders at Lawson Health Research Institute. She is also a Psychiatrist at London Health Sciences Centre’s First Episode Mood & Anxiety Program (FEMAP), and an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Western University’s Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Lawson Health Research Institute. As the research institute of London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph’s Health Care, London, and working in partnership with The University of Western Ontario, Lawson Health Research Institute is committed to furthering scientific knowledge to advance health care around the world. www.lawsonresearch.com

More Faculty News....

Congratulations to Dr. M.L.D. Fernando, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, for receiving a life membership with the Ontario Medication Association on May 12, 2012; and for the honor of the distinguished member award from the American Psychiatric Association in Philadelphia on May 7, 2012.

Congratulations to Dr. Amresh Srivastava on his achievements that include his appointment to the American Psychiatric Association’s Scientific Program Committee for three years from 2012 to 2015; his Academic Certification in the Teaching Assessment Program of the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Canada; his re-election as Secretary, Section of Psychoneuro-endocrinology with the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) at the World Congress of Psychiatry held in September 2011 in Argentina; and his WPA memberships in the Network of Consultants to the Committee on Education and the Section on Suicidology.

Dr. Srivastava is a co-editor of the textbook Suicide from a Global Perspective in five volumes that are available in both electronic and hard cover publications. They are as follows: 1) Psychiatric Approaches; 2) Psychosocial Approaches; 3) Public Health Approaches; 4) Risk Assessment and Management and 5) Vulnerable Populations and Controversies. For more details, visit: https://www.novapublishers.com/catalog/advanced_search_result.php?keywords=amresh&osCsid=3528b5ba178c872784016b6302d731de

Promotions

Congratulations to the following faculty members on their promotions!

Dr. Amresh Srivastava was promoted to Associate Professor of Psychiatry with a continuing appointment, effective July 1, 2011.
Dr. Varinder Dua will be promoted to Associate Professor with a continuing appointment, effective July 1, 2012.

Dr. Ruth Lanius will be promoted to Full Professor, effective July 1, 2012.

Family

Congratulations to both Dr. Hertzman and Dr. Isserlin on the birth of their babies in May.

Continuing Professional Development in Psychiatry

Second Thursday of the month, from 8:30-10:30 am, throughout the academic year, unless otherwise notified.

June 14: “Children presenting with Suspiciousness, Odd beliefs, Irrational Behaviour and Social Withdrawal: Assessment, Differential Diagnosis and Management”

Moderator: Dr. Naveed Rizvi

Resident Presenter: Dr. Joy Abramson, PGY2 Psychiatry Resident

Presenter: Dr. Rob Nicolson, Associate Professor, Chair, Developmental Disabilities Division and Chair, Autism Centre of Excellence, Western University

Objectives: Over the course of this educational session, participants will be able to:

1. recognize the influence of developmental factors on clinical presentation of psychotic-like symptoms manifested in early childhood,
2. discuss the differential diagnosis of suspiciousness, odd beliefs, irrational thinking and behavior in children,
3. review the essential features of assessments of children presenting with psychotic symptoms,
4. briefly review long-term risk associated with psychotic symptoms in children.

Location: Zone B, 2nd floor, Auditorium Room No. 119 (B2-119), London Health Sciences Centre, Victoria Hospital; teleconferenced to the Extended Campus Program and SWOMEN plus their affiliates via the Division of Social and Rural Psychiatry.

Continuing Professional Development Rounds are a self-accredited group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (2).

Upcoming Dates:

Sept. 13: Developmental Disabilities Division and the Autism Centre of Excellence

Presenter: Professor Thomas Bouchard, PhD, Director of the Minnesota Center for Twin and Adoption Research

Topic: Genes, Evolution and Intelligence

Oct. 11: Educational Scholarship - Dr. M. Steele

Nov. 8: Forensic

Dec. 13: Neuropsychiatry - Dr. P. Williamson

Contact: Suzena Mendes, Acting Administrative Assistant for Psychiatry CPD, Victoria Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre; phone: 519-
Submissions for the Fall Newsletter

Please submit any newsworthy items for the Fall 2012 issue by August 15 to: Colleen Chryssoulakis at cchryso@uwo.ca.

Fifth Annual Awards Night and Social

On Tuesday, June 12, from 5:00-8:00 pm, there will be an evening of celebration as the department recognizes the achievements of our faculty and residents and acknowledges the PGY5s who have successfully completed their resident training. The event will be held at Windermere Manor. Contact Suzena Mendes, by phone: 519-685-8500, ext. 75151 or email at: suzena.mendes@lhsc.on.ca.