Psychosomatic Medicine Service

The diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders in patients with complex medical conditions is the principal intent of psychosomatic medicine (“PM”). Under the leadership of Carol L. Alter, MD, the Psychosomatic Medicine service in the GUH Department of Psychiatry provides psychosomatic consultation to patients receiving physical care services at GUH. The inpatient PM consultation service works with medical and surgical teams to address a number of issues including management of psychiatric complications related to medical care and assistance with patients with acute or chronic psychiatric symptoms or disorders who require inpatient physical health treatment. The team, which includes faculty from the Department, residents and medical students, provides consultation to all inpatient services within hours of the request. In addition, the service provides ongoing monitoring, recommendations and brief psychotherapeutic, behavioral or pharmacologic interventions throughout the patient's hospital stay. In addition to inpatient services, the Department also provides psychosomatic medicine services through a number of specialty programs including a weekly outpatient medical illness clinic, neuropsychiatric, psycho-oncology and organ transplantation services. These services are delivered by Department faculty and trainees who work closely with physicians throughout the GUH community. The PM service is fortunate to have active participation from a number of nationally recognized leaders in psychosomatic medicine including Drs. Steve Epstein, Dan Hicks, Tom Cummings and Kim Davis. In collaboration with the GUH Department of Pediatrics, the Department's Child Section provides pediatric oncology and consultative services delivered by Drs. Matthew Bieil, Paul Jones and Avram Mack.

Research Update

• Dionne Smith Coker-Apiah, Ph.D. and Georgetown University (GU) Assistant Professor, is Principal Investigator (PI) of a Disparities Research and Education Advancing Mission (DREAM) Career Transition Award from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Project LOVE: Preventing Adolescent Dating Violence (ADV) among Rural African Americans will allow Dr. Coker-Apiah to gain additional training as an independent investigator and provide needed consultation to the Department's Child Section and GUH community. The PI is also fortunate to have active participation from a number of nationally recognized leaders in psychosomatic medicine including Drs. Steve Epstein, Dan Hicks, Tom Cummings and Kim Davis. In collaboration with the GUH Department of Pediatrics, the Department's Child Section provides pediatric oncology and consultative services delivered by Drs. Matthew Bieil, Paul Jones and Avram Mack.

• Jan Krupnick, Ph.D. and GU Professor, is PI of a Department of Defense funded grant. The goals of Online Writing Intervention for Veterans: A Pilot Study, are to adapt an online writing intervention focused on trauma for veterans who have PTSD subsequent to service in Iraq, and to determine the acceptability, feasibility and safety of the interview. Bonnie Green, Ph.D., and MaryAnn Dutton, Ph.D., are co-investigators.

• Ayman Fanous, MD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at GU, is Site PI for three Veteran's Administration (VA) Programs: Genetics Disability in Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder, a Cooperative Studies Program collecting genetic samples from schizophrenic and bipolar patients in the VA system, which collects genetic data on approximately one million veterans nationwide for future genomic studies and longitudinal follow-up of multiple diseases affecting US veterans; and, Convergent Genetic and Genomic Analysis of Schizophrenia, a Merit Review Program award uncovering genetic risk factors for schizophrenia in a geographically isolated Portuguese island population.

• Dr. Fanous is also an Independent Investigator of a National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD) grant. The project’s goal is to collect information (750 cases and 750 controls) on patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, depressed type I, in Cairo, Egypt, in collaboration with the Ain Shams University Hospitals in Cairo.

Observing Mental Health Month

The Department of Psychiatry of Georgetown University Hospital and School of Medicine is dedicated to providing outstanding patient care, teaching of residents and medical students, and psychiatric research. The Department recognized National Mental Health Month by supporting the important projects and activities that impact our community and consumers. Thank you for helping us support these important initiatives.

Donations may also be sent, in care of, Center for Mental Health Outreach (CMHO)

Department News

• *Steve Epstein, MD was elected to the GU School of Medicine's MAGIS Society of Master Teachers and was honored at the 5th Annual Induction Ceremony on May 19, 2011. MAGIS recognizes physicians and biomedical scientists dedicated to the care of others and the health needs of our society.

• *Ted Liao, MD, was recognized by Georgetown University medical students as the Department of Psychiatry's best resident teacher receiving a 2010 "String of Pearls" nomination on May 19. Dr. Liao is also the recipient of the "Mother of Pearls," award chosen from the "String of Pearls" nominees. This distinguished honor recognizes the best resident teacher for all of Georgetown University's School of Medicine.

• Avram Macc, MD, Associate Professor and Director of Medical Student Education, has been elected to serve as President of the Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) from, May 2012 to May 2013. The WPS is the branch of the American Psychiatric Association that includes DC and the surrounding metropolitan counties in Virginia and Maryland. Dr. Macc will serve as President-Elect for one year prior to the commencement of his term.

• *Liza Gold, MD, Professor of Psychiatry, has been awarded the 2011 Manfred S. Guttmacher Elect for one year prior to the commencement of his term.

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