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Message from the Chair

With summer upon us, I hope you have had the time to relax and enjoy a well-deserved break from hectic schedules. This will be my last newsletter as Chair and hoping that the tradition will continue, I will look forward to reading messages from our next Chair very soon.

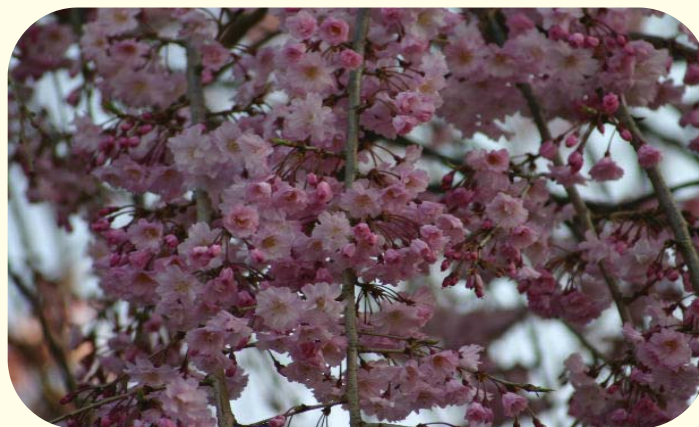
You have become accustomed to reading long lists of congratulations as we highlight accomplishments by members of our department, but in the last few months, you have truly outdone yourselves.

I begin by congratulating Dr. Ashok Malla and his team for being chosen to lead the TRAM Network in Youth and



(Jacques Hendlisz, Ray Dana Boeckh, J. Anthony Boeckh, Dr. Alain Beaudet, Dr. Ashok Malla)

Adolescent Mental Health. The TRAM (Transformational Research in Adolescent Mental Health) is a Canada-wide, five year and \$25 M initiative jointly funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Graham BoeckhFoundation (GBF).



The project's goal is to use research evidence to bring about positive changes to the way we care for youths (age 11 to 25) with mental health problems. The vision of the network proposed by Dr. Malla and his team is encompassed in its name (ACCESS): Adolescent/young adult Connections to Community-driven, Early, Strengths-based and Stigma-free services.

Congratulations to Dr. Brett Thombs who is the recipient of the 2014 Principal's prize for



(Principal Suzanne Fortier and Dr. Brett Thombs (Photo: Owen Egan))

Outstanding Emergent Researchers.

This was the inaugural version of the award which was created to encourage and celebrate McGill's most outstanding researchers within 10 years of their degrees who have distinguished themselves through exceptional contributions to research in their field.

Congratulations to Dr. Brigitte Kieffer, who was the recipient of

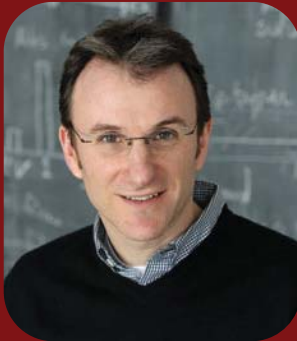


(Dr. Brigitte Kieffer)

the prestigious L'Oreal-UNESCO award for Women in Science. Dr. Kieffer was selected as the winner for Europe

and accepted the award at a ceremony held in Paris.

*Message from the
Chair continued...*



(Dr. Gustavo Turecki)



*(Dr. Karl Looper at his
surprise party at
Pullman's on June 12th,
2014)*

*(Left, Dr. Karl Looper with the
R5 graduating class of 2014)*

*(Right, Dr. Mimi Israël
with Anna Maria Henderson,
Director of the AEC, Psychiatry,
Neurology/Neurosurgery, and
Ophthalmology)*

Congratulations to Dr. Gustavo Turecki who is the 2014 recipient of the Graham Boeckh Foundation's Dr. Samarthji Lal Award. The Dr. Samarthji Lal Award recognizes a Canadian researcher who is mid-career and making an outstanding contribution to the field of psychiatry. Dr. Turecki will also direct the newly created Centre for Translational Research on Mood Disorders and Suicide. The \$9.8 million center was created with contributions from the Ministry and from the Douglas Foundation. The announcement of the \$7.2M contribution from the Ministry for the development of the center was made by the Minister of Health and Social Services at a ceremony held at the Douglas last February.

There will be leadership transitions this fall as Dr. Karl Looper takes on his new role as Chief at the Jewish General Hospital and steps down as the Residency Program Director. Dr. Looper has done an outstanding job as Program Director. During his tenure, he expanded the program to encompass a resident research track, rural training rotations in northern Quebec and aboriginal communities, and created new subspecialty training opportunities in our department. The Program integrated new Royal College requirements for level-based clinical training and underwent a successful Royal College accreditation. The

surprise party organized by the residents on June 12th (and he was definitely surprised!) is perhaps the best tribute to Dr. Looper's positive impact on our residency program and the learning environment. The search to fill the Program Director position is ongoing, and we hope to make an announcement soon.

We also welcome new leaders to our education mission: Dr. Emmanuelle Levy has been appointed as the new Undergraduate Site Director at the Douglas replacing Dr. Hani Iskandar; Dr. Toby Measham as Training Director at the MCH replacing Dr. Lara Stern; and Dr. Daniel Zigman

has been appointed as Chair of the newly created Evaluations and Promotions Committee for the Postgraduate Education Program. We extend our thanks to Hani and Lara for their very valuable contributions to their respective programs.

Our application for recognition of subspecialty training in Geriatric Psychiatry has just been submitted. We extend our deepest thanks to Dr. Jess Friedland for spearheading the effort, and look forward to a positive response from the Royal College in the fall.



Resident graduation was, once again, a huge success this year. Held at the McGill Faculty Club, nine residents recounted their residency experience and were roasted and toasted by their favorite teachers in a celebration attended by family, friends and faculty. Those present were also honored by Dr. Looper's daughters, who enriched the evening with their graceful rendition of "You are the New Day" by John David.

The 2014 Student Research Day was held on June 6th with 23 presentations reflecting the range and quality of the research that is carried out in our Department and the excellence of our students. Congratulations to award recipients and their supervisors



(Dr. Joseph Rochford, with graduate students in the Department of Psychiatry on Student Research Day)

The Department also held the 3rd Annual Resident Research Day held on July 8th. This event not only gave us a wonderful opportunity to discover the research work of our dynamic residents but also to meet the seven new residents who applied to our research-track program this

year and are looking for research supervisors in various fields. Our guest speaker this year was Dr. Laurence Kirmayer, who gave an interactive talk about his career as a clinician-scientist in transcultural psychiatry.



(Resident Research Day)



(Drs. Guzder and Rousseau with Students from the Working with Culture Seminar, May 2014)

This summer marked the 20th anniversary of our annual Summer Program in Social and Cultural Psychiatry. The program has expanded to 12 courses, workshops and conferences and this year we inaugurated new courses on *Social and Community Psychiatry* and *The Use of Film in Cultural Psychiatry*.

The Advanced Study Institute this year was on "The Politics of Diversity: Pluralism Multiculturalism and Mental Health." The theme was especially timely because of the recent debates over the Charter of Quebec Values and we were glad to have staff from the office of our new Minister of Immigration,

Diversity and Inclusiveness in attendance.

The Summer Program is an exciting time when we feel a strong sense of our own community of colleagues and students and enjoy the recognition by visitors that we have a unique program. Over the years, more than 600 participants have taken the graduate course in Cultural Psychiatry.

Message from the Chair continued...



(Dr. Laurence Kirmayer, guest speaker for Resident Research Day, July 8th 2014)

*Message from the
Chair continued...*

At the RUIS level, we have almost completed a Directory of Services that will list all specialized services offered by our teaching hospitals. Once finalized, the directory will be translated and uploaded to our website and will allow our partners to obtain detailed information on the type of services offered and how to access them. The list will be organized by programs, sites, diagnoses and age groups for easy navigation. My personal thanks to our RUIS committee and the site chiefs for the time and effort they gave to the project. Representatives from our RUIS Mental Health Committee also presented a workshop on the use of telehealth in service delivery in the great north at the McGill RUIS symposium held in Rouyn-Noranda in May. The workshop was attended by several of our partners who praised our efforts to provide culturally-sensitive services adapted to the mental health needs of the Cree and Inuit people. My thanks to Michele Larose, Janique Harvey and Charles-Edouard Carrier who helped me develop and present the workshop.

I am pleased to note increasing interest of our faculty to apply for promotion. This past spring, seven promotions dossiers were submitted for review at the Spring Promotions Committee meeting and we've already received news that they have been approved by the Faculty of Medicine. Although official announcements can only be made after final approval by the Provost, we look forward to announcing two promotions to Full Professor and five to Associate Professor soon. For those interested in applying for promotion, please note that the next deadline for dossier submission is August 15th.

On the administrative front, we introduced benchmarks which were used as a guideline for the performance evaluation exercise this year. The Annual

Activities Report was also revamped and designed in such a way that it will provide backup for the self-report and evaluation exercise, and can be used to keep track of activities for eventual promotion, reappointment and other academic reporting.

In closing, as I reflect on my seven years as Chair, I emerge positive and optimistic about our future. It has been a privilege to lead this vibrant, eclectic, multitalented department. Throughout my mandate, I have been touched by the support and trust of my colleagues; we faced many challenges together, and did so with creativity, humor and resilience.

I am indebted to many, but want to express profound gratitude to those who shared leadership with me and supported me in fulfilling our mission. To Dara, Gustavo, Mick, Nadia, Warren, Susanne, Santokh, Lila, and Martin, Karl, Gregg,

Trent, Tewfik, Marco, and Naguib; you were an amazing team to work with! To our administrative team; many thanks for your competence and unwavering support. To Anna Maria, and Kazué; your devotion and commitment to excellence have made an incredible difference to me and you will be a great asset to the next Chair.

Although I will no longer be the Chair, I am proud to remain an active member of our department and am inspired to continue to contribute to its growth and development.

Mimi Israël

Chair, Department of Psychiatry



Grants, Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Silvia Monti De Flores

Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association

Dr. Allan Fielding

2014 Clinical Excellence in Daily Practice, AMPQ Award

Dr. Bruno Giros

Canada Research Chair Award

Dr. Brigitte Kieffer

L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Award
CFI Leaders Opportunity Award

Dr. Joel Paris

2014 Heinz Lehmann Excellence in Psychiatry, AMPQ Award

Dr. Warren Steiner

Undergraduate Teacher of the Year in Psychiatry Award
McGill University Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Brett Thombs

McGill University Principal's Prize for Outstanding Emerging Researcher (2014)



(Dr. Warren Steiner)

2014 FRSQ Awards and Grants

Chercheurs-boursiers -

Fondamental

Dr. Cecilia Flores

Chercheurs-boursiers -

Santé et Société

Dr. Reut Gruber

Formation de doctorat

Gerald Jordan (PhD)

Artin Abolfazi Mahdanian (MSc)

Jennifer Lissemore (MSc)

Stephanie Coronado Montoya (MSc)

Megan Pope (MSc)

Afiqah Yusuf (PhD)

March 2014 CIHR Operating Grant Competition

Dr. Diane B Boivin

Pharmacological interventions to treat circadian disruption.

Dr. Thomas G Brown

Dynamic decision making in the trajectory to driving while impaired behaviour: a virtual reality, randomized controlled experiment.

Dr. Rob Whitley

Stopping the Stigma: Creating and Assessing an Anti-Stigma and Pro-Recovery Educational Intervention using Participatory Video with People with Mental Illness.

Dr. Tak Pan Wong

Dynamic regulation of NMDA receptor function in the adult hippocampus.

Dr. Phyllis Zelkowitz

Developing informational and emotional supports for couples undergoing

CIHR Team Grant

Dr. Eduardo Chachamovich

The Evidence-Base for Promoting Mental Wellness and Resilience to Address Suicide in Circumpolar Communities program.

Elections

Dr Richard Montoro, has been elected Secretary of the *Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec* (FMSQ)

Promotions, New Hires and New Appointments

Promoted to Full Professor

Dr. Suzanne King

Promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure

Dr. Kai-Florian Storch

New Appointments

Dr. Michaela Barbarosie (Assistant Professor)

Dr. Megha Chakravarty (Assistant Professor)

Dr. Layla Dabby (Assistant Professor)

Dr. Emmanuel Darcq (Academic Associate)

Dr. Simon Ducharme (Assistant Professor)

Ms. Lynne McVey (Associate Member)

Dr. Tuon Vi Nguyen (Assistant Professor)

Dr. Jai Shah (Assistant Professor)

Dr. Sarah Sultan (Adjunct Professor)

Dr. Leon Tourian (Assistant Professor)

2014 Student Research Day Awards

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Ian Blum, FRSQ Top Presentation Prize, Douglas
(supervisor: Dr. Kai-Florian Storch)

A novel neurological mechanism driving rhythms of dopamine release

Lauren Reynolds, Douglas Institute Second Prize, Douglas
(supervisor: Dr. Cecilia Flores)

Adolescent amphetamine exposure disrupts the development of medial prefrontal cortex dopamine connectivity

Sonia Jego, Douglas Institute Third Prize, Douglas
(supervisor: Dr. Antoine R. Adamantidis)

Optogenetic dissection of the MCH system: implications for sleep-state modulation

Ian Mahar, Douglas Institute Third Prize, Douglas
(supervisor: Dr. Naguib Mechawar)

Neurogenic and affective regulation by hippocampal neuregulin-1/ErbB signalling

Emily Yung, MUHC Prize
(supervisor: Dr. Nancy C.P. Low)

Peer support, depressive symptoms, and suicidality among young adults

Alexandra Blair, Birmingham-Denis Prize
(supervisor: Dr. Norbert Schmitz)

The longitudinal effects of neighborhood social and material deprivation change on psychological distress in urban, community-dwelling Canadian adults

Kevin Francis Casey, Marco Leyton Addiction Award
(supervisor: Dr. Marco Leyton)

Reduced Dopamine Response to Amphetamine in Subjects at Ultra-High Risk for Addiction



(Alexandra Blair with Dr. Naguib Mechawar, Graduate Program Director)

Psychiatry Awards

Kenneth Huang
Psychiatry Residents Research Award

Leon Tourian
Psychiatry Fellowship Award

Danyael Lutgens
Graduate Student Research Award

Welcome New Residents 2014

Nada Al Balushi
Sultan Qaboos University

Nicolas Beaulieu
Université de Montréal

Melanie Bilbul
McGill University

Ghenwah Dakhallah
Université de Montréal

Vasilka Natacha Deleva
Université de Montréal

Andrew Gonsalves
University of Ottawa

Aristides Hadjinicolaou
Université de Montréal

Sawssan Kalache
University of Balamand

François-Samuel Lahaie
Université de Montréal

Jeanne Sansfaçon
Université Laval

Réda Sarhani
McGill University

Zhunping Xue
McGill University

Taline Zourikian
Université de Montréal

2014 Residency Graduation

Dr. Jason Bond

Dr. Simon Dufour-Turbis

Dr. Ferid Fathalli

Dr. Nisrine Masrouha

Dr. Laura Pacione

Dr. Soham Rej

Dr. Malika Robichaud

Dr. Alexandru Traicu

Dr. Yaël Wolf

*Credits for all visual submissions