

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to continuing renovations at the Ludmer R&T building, the Department of Psychiatry's Administration Office will continue to be located at the Hugessen House until spring 2013.

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## Message from the Chair

We continue to be a vibrant and productive department on every front. Picking up the thread from the last newsletter, our search and selection committees have been active. We enthusiastically welcome Martin Gauthier as Chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Montreal Children's Hospital and as University Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In addition, we are pleased to announce the nomination of Lila Amirali as Clinical Director at the MCH.

We also congratulate Mick Bond on his reappointment as Chief of the Department of Psychiatry at the Jewish General hospital. By the next newsletter, I expect that we will be announcing the new psychiatrists-in-chief at the MUHC and St. Mary's and the new scientific director of the Douglas Research Centre. We will also find out who the new director of the Neuro will be. My sense is that the leadership transitions have brought us together as we have had to reflect on our priorities and the types of leaders we need to move forward in these challenging times.

Speaking of leadership, we are very proud to announce that the new president of the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA) is Suzanne Renaud. Dr. Renaud is an associate professor in our Department and on staff at the Douglas. She has significant leadership experience and has served in provincial, national and North-American organizations. We

invite you to check our website ([www.mcgill.ca/psychiatry](http://www.mcgill.ca/psychiatry)) to learn more.

On the education front, we welcome Naguib Mechawar as the first Associate Program Director for our Graduate Program. Dr. Mechawar will work closely with Marco Leyton whose leadership and commitment have led to the immense success of our graduate program.

ta, Trent Semeniuk, Hani Iskandar, Enrique Lizondo, Toby Measham) have the challenging task of ensuring that psychiatry maintains an important place in the clerkship so that medical students are sufficiently prepared to address mental-health problems in their practices. A retreat is being held this fall, and our department will be well represented.



**The Hugessen House  
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In postgraduate education, we are preparing for the Royal College accreditation visit in the spring of 2013. Karl Looper and hospital site directors (Nick Casacalendra, Joanne Joly, Santokh Singh, Lara Stern, Kia Faridi, and Eugenia Zikos) are on target and have been putting together a strong dossier in support of our residency program.

This July, we have also submitted our application to the Royal College for a new residency program in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. Kudos to Ruth Russell for her dedication and hard work, and for putting together an excellent dossier.

Undergraduate education is also undergoing a major overhaul as the faculty prepares to introduce the "Transition of Clinical Practice and Clerkship" components of the new curriculum. Gregg Meterissian and his undergraduate leadership team (Marc Lapor-

Finally, I want to congratulate Gustavo Turecki and Fabrice Jollant for the successful launch of the resident research track. Several activities took place including a stimulating Research Half-day on May 25th with numerous

presentations by residents, and a symposium at this year's CPA meeting. A special thanks to Venkat Bhat, the MPRA resident representative on the research committee, for his outstanding contributions to the organization of key events.

Our department's contributions to research remain outstanding and we have an impressive number of grants and awards to report. Despite the competition, our department stands out by being above the benchmarks for success rates in garnering awards. It is also a challenge to keep up with the number of high impact publications, prizes and recognitions. We urge members of the department to keep us informed of your accomplishments, so we can share the good news on our website and in the newsletters.

At the RUIS level, we would have hoped to have signed the agree-

## Message from the Chair continued...

ment with Nunavik by now, but we have encountered several bureaucratic delays. We are optimistic that the contract will be signed within the next few weeks, and that we will be able to proceed with the recruitment of the first McGill psychiatrist dedicated to the Nunavik project. We are also pursuing our goal to create a Great North Mental Health Program that will provide comprehensive mental health services to the Cree and Inuit populations within a clinical-research framework. We hope to capitalize on our Department's strength in transcultural and social psychiatry, to develop, implement and evaluate innovative and culturally-informed mental health care to these vulnerable and culturally-distinct populations.

The issue of psychiatric recruitment also remains unsettled. In the spring, I participated in three meetings of the work group struck by the ministry to address psychiatric manpower in Quebec. Karine Igartua, Suzanne Renaud and Richard Montoro, all members of our department, were also present at the meetings as representatives of the AMPQ. At the last meeting, the ministry announced its intention to decrease the number of psychiatrists practicing in institutions in Montreal by 44 by 2015 and by 107 by 2020. We, therefore, expect to go from the current number of 434 psychiatrists to 327 by 2020. The decrease will be achieved by adjusting the number of psychiatrists allowed per institution (PEM). The ministry also confirmed the elimination of the closed envelopes, and a transfer of the control over recruitment to each institution.

Although the Chair will still play a role in vetting recruits based on academic requirements, henceforth, the hospital chiefs will have the mandate of recruiting new psychiatrists and replacing attrition. The situation at McGill will depend on how many positions we will lose (or, less likely, gain) when the new PEMs are announced. The figures are due to be released in the next few weeks and hospital directors of professional services will be expected to validate the new PEMs.

In light of the above, last year's graduates and the current cohort of R5s have had to face particularly trying times.

To their credit, they have shown exceptional resilience and patience in the face of unacceptable uncertainty. We hope that the new rules and figures will be finalized soon, so that we can get back to the task of helping our residents plan their careers within a transparent and predictable framework.

This fall, there have been significant changes in the administrative structure that supports our department. The Faculty of Medicine has launched an administrative excellence project and our department is the first to take part. The project is designed to increase efficiency by centralizing financial and human resources (academic and non-academic) processing. Psychiatry has been paired up with Neurology/Neurosurgery as a centre to implement this new model. Each centre will consist of a team of experts to perform and execute the work in finance and human resources.

I am, therefore, very pleased to announce the recruitment of Anna-Maria Henderson as the Administrative Centre Director, Mélanie Pépin as Finance Manager and Manon Trudeau as Human Resources Administrator. We also welcome Kazué Narita as our new Administrative Coordinator to the Associate Chair of Research. I extend a special thank you to Christine Dolden who provided invaluable administrative and moral support over the past year.

Finally, as I will be reaching the end of my first mandate in the fall of 2013, we have been asked by the Faculty of Medicine to conduct a self-study of the department over the next six months. This is an opportunity for us to review our progress and reflect on our priorities for the future. We look forward to soliciting your input in the process.

As always, it remains a privilege and a pleasure to be part of our department, and I am very appreciative of your support and collegiality.

Mimi Israël  
Chair, Department of Psychiatry

## Student Graduates

*Congratulations to the graduating students of 2011-2012!*

- Dr. Bandar Al-Aqeel
- Dr. Marisa Derman
- Dr. Silvia Irina Lepadatu
- Dr. Ammar Al-Banna
- Dr. Simon Ducharme
- Dr. Arash Nakhost
- Dr. Paulina Bajsarowicz
- Dr. Rachel Kronik
- Dr. Tuong-Vi Nguyen
- Dr. Michel St-Hilaire

## Special Events in 2012...

### Student Research Day

On June 4, the 2012 edition of our annual Student Research Day was held with great success. In front of a large and inquisitive audience, 23 excellent talks were given. Seven prizes were awarded.

#### **Douglas Mental Health University Institute Prizes**

- **FRSQ Prize** for the best talk given by a graduate student located at Douglas Hospital: **Benoit Labonte** (PhD-6) "Genome-wide epigenetic regulation by early-life trauma." (Supervisor: Gustavo Turecki)
- **Birmingham-Dennis Prize** for best talk given by a graduate student registered in the Department of Psychiatry program: **Elizabeth Kmiotek** (MSc-2) "The role of the *Dcc* gene in cocaine related behaviours." (Supervisor: Kathryn Gill)
- **Douglas Foundation Prize** for the 2nd best talk given by a graduate student located at Douglas Hospital: **Ian Mahar** (PhD-4) "Neuroregulin-ErbB signaling in hippocampal neurogenesis and affective regulation." (Supervisor: Naguib Mechawar)
- **Child & Youth Psychiatry Prize** for best talk on research about problems that affect young people by a graduate student supervised by a Department of Psychiatry faculty member: **Benoit Labonte** (PhD-6) "Genome-wide epigenetic regulation by early-life trauma." (Supervisor: Gustavo Turecki)
- **Douglas Research Center Prize** for the 3rd best talk given by a graduate student located at Douglas Hospital: **Sabine Dhir** (PhD-4) "Estrogen receptor alpha expression mediates the transgenerational transmission of individual differences in maternal behavior." (Supervisor: Michael Meaney)
- **RI-MUHC Prize** for the best talk by a graduate student doing research at the RI-MUHC: **Elizabeth Kmiotek** (MSc-2) "The role of the *Dcc* gene in cocaine-related behaviours." (Supervisor: Kathryn Gill)
- **Leyton Addiction Research Prize** for the best addictions related paper published each year by a trainee in the Department of Psychiatry: **Leora Yetnikoff** (PhD-7) "Abolition of the behavioral phenotype of adult netrin-1 receptor deficient mice by exposure to amphetamine during the juvenile period." (Supervisor: Cecilia Flores)

### Québec Inuit Mental Health Retreat

The first Quebec Inuit Mental Health Retreat was held in Montreal on April 13, 2012 at the McGill New Residence Hall. It was made possible by the unrestricted grant of *Prends Soins de Toi* and partnership with the Office of Senator Charlie Watt, *Makivik Corporation*, *Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada*, *Qualaxia*, *WHO Montreal Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health*, *RUIS McGill Telehealth*, and the *Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research*.

The event was covered by McGill Events, Aboriginal Private Television Network (APTN), Nunatsiq News, CBC News, the Gazette and others (for more details please visit: <http://www.qcimhr.ca/en/docs&media>). It was also made available up North (in local CLSCs from fourteen communities of Nunavik) with the assistance of RUIS McGill Telehealth.

The total number of participants was 110 people. The retreat was approved for six hours of Accredited Group Learning Activities (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

### Conference: Evidence Based Community Interventions

The Division of Child Psychiatry organized a successful conference on April 20, 2012 on the topic of reducing child mental health problems. Dr. John D. McLennan and Dr. Ellen Lipman discussed their extensive clinical and research interests in the development of community interventions.

### 2012 Dept. of Psychiatry Research Awards

The competition was excellent and selecting a single research project was extremely difficult. We wish to convey our congratulations to all of the worthy applicants for the high quality of their research and we encourage all members of our department to apply in the future.

- **Psychiatry Graduate Students Research Award**  
Emily Young, MSc candidate
- **Early Career Psychiatrists Research Award**  
Frederique Van den Eynde, MD, PhD

## CIHR OPERATING GRANT COMPETITION MARCH 2012 RESULTS

- **Dr. Veronique Bohbot**  
Virtual reality based spatial memory intervention for patients with mild cognitive impairment
- **Dr. Thomas Brown**  
Effects of sleep deprivation with low blood alcohol levels on executive functions in young drivers
- **Dr. Lilian Hechtman, Dr. Natalie Grizenko, Dr. William Harvey, Dr. Ridha Joobar**  
Efficacy of careful medication and tailored case management follow up treatment for children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
- **Dr. Stephanie Lloyd**  
Neurosciences and the afterlife of death: Re-imagining notions of suicidal risk
- **Dr. Michael Meaney**  
BDNF - Dopamine interactions and maternal behaviour
- **Dr. Phyllis Zelkowitz**  
Hormonal, genetic, and psychosocial factors in the developing parent-child relationship: A follow up study of parents and their toddlers

## Awards and Prizes

### FRSQ

- **Dr. Jorge Armony**  
FRSQ Chercheur-Boursier (Senior)
- **Dr. Mathieu Brodeur**  
FRSQ Chercheur-Boursier (Junior I)
- **Dr. Reut Gruber**  
FRSQ Chercheur Boursier (Junior II)
- **Dr. Ridha Joober**  
FRSQ Chercheur-Boursier Clinicien (Senior)
- **Dr. Sherif Karama**  
FRSQ Chercheur-Boursier Clinicien (Junior I)
- **Dr. Naguib Mechawar**  
FRSQ Chercheur-Boursier (Junior II)
- **Dr. Cécile Rousseau**  
FRSQ Subvention – Recherches en Santé Mentale
- **Dr. Gustavo Turecki**  
FRSQ Chercheur National

### SSHRC

- **Dr. Jennifer Coelho**
- **Dr. David Dunkley**

### NSERC Grants

- **Dr. Nicolas Cermakian**
- **Dr. Bruno Giros**
- **Dr. Salah El Mestikawy**

### CIHR New Investigator Awards

- **Dr. Naguib Mechawar**

### Other Awards, Recognitions and Prizes

- **Dr. Venkataramana Bhat**  
AMPQ Research prize
- **Dr. Marcelo T. Berlim**  
2012 NARSAD Young Investigator Grant
- **Dr. John Breitner**  
Grant from Joint Program in Neurodegenerative Diseases
- **Dr. Ronald Brown**  
AMPQ Prix d'humanisme Jacques Voyer
- **Dr. Brett D. Thombs**  
William Dawson Scholar Award
- **Dr. Simon Ducharme**, a recent graduate from our residency program was selected for the 2012 ACPC Annual Research Award
- **Dr. Carl Ernst**  
Canada Research Chair Tier 2
- **Dr. Gabriella Gobbi**  
Young Investigator Award 2012  
Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology
- **Dr. Reut Gruber**  
Welcome Trust Grant  
ASMF 2012 Educational Projects Award
- **Dr. Floriana Ianni**  
The Henry Kravitz Award for Best Teacher 2012
- **Dr. G. Eric Jarvis**  
Training & Retention of Health Professionals Grant,  
McGill University
- **Dr. Myrna Lashley**  
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal
- **Dr. Michael Meaney**  
2012 Fondation IPSEN International Prize in Neuronal Plasticity.
- **Dr. Michel Perreault**  
Mental Health and Addictions Cross-Training Program renewed by Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF).
- **Dr. John C. Perry**  
Grant from Int. Psychogeriatric Association
- **Dr. Maria N. Rajah**  
John R. & Clara M. Fraser Memorial Award
- **Dr. Amir Raz**  
2012 Scientific Chair of the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis  
Canada Research Chair Tier 2 renewal  
2012 Scientific Chair of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis  
Editor in Chief of Mind-Body Regulation Journal
- **Dr. Johanne Renaud**  
2012 Klerman Prize Honorable Mention
- **Dr. Suzane Renaud**  
Inaugurated as President of the Canadian Psychiatric Association
- **Dr. Zeev Rosberger**  
Vice-Chair, Advisory Council on Research (ACOR) and Chair  
End 3 (Quality of Life) Research Program Development Committee, Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute.
- **Ms. Rosemary Short (Head Nurse, Child Psychiatry)**  
Prix Florence – Excellence des Soins by the Ordre des Infirmières et Infirmiers du Québec, May 2011
- **Dr. Lalit Srivastava**  
MITACS Grant (Accelerate Graduate Research Internship Program)
- **Dr. Gustavo Turecki**  
Heinz Lehmann Award  
Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology
- **Dr. Ashley Wazana**  
McGill Chair of Psychiatry Early Career Psychiatrist Research Award  
March of Dimes Grant

## New Hires in Department

### Assistant Professor

- Dr. Frederique Van den Eynde  
Douglas Mental Health University Institute
- Dr. Hannah Schwartz  
St. Mary's Hospital
- Dr. Helene Héту  
Montreal Children's Hospital
- Dr. Jamie Near  
Douglas Mental Health University Institute
- Dr. Jess Friedland  
Douglas Mental Health University Institute
- Dr. Karim Tabane  
Douglas Mental Health University Institute
- Dr. Katherine Steger  
Douglas Mental Health University Institute
- Dr. Pierre-Olivier Harvey  
Douglas Mental Health University Institute
- Dr. Robert Biskin  
Jewish General
- Dr. Sarojini Sengupta  
Douglas Mental Health University Institute

## Departmental Promotions

### To Assistant Professor

- Dr. Eric Davis
- Dr. Zorana Prelevic

### To Associate Professor with tenure

- Dr. Cecilia Flores
- Dr. Amir Raz
- Dr. Tak Pan Wong

## New Heads & Directors

### McGill University

- Associate Graduate Program Director:  
Dr. Naguib Mechawar

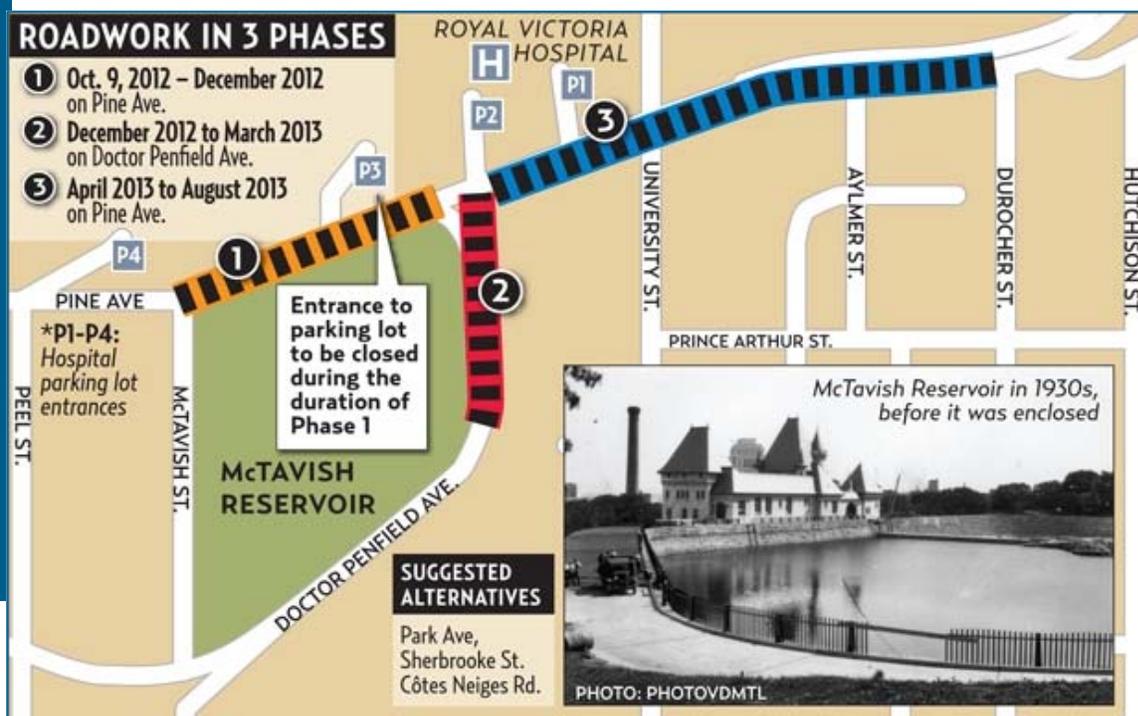
### McGill University Health Centre

- Chief and Head of Child Psychiatry:  
Dr. Martin Gauthier
- New Clinical Director (MCH):  
Dr. Lila Amirali

## Other News...

### Major construction near McTavish Reservoir

- **Oct. – Dec. 2012:** Pine Ave. will be closed between Docteur-Penfield Ave. and McTavish Rd. Detour via Docteur-Penfield Ave., which is open in both directions.
- **Dec. 2012 - March 2013:** Dr Penfield Ave. will be closed between McTavish Rd. and Pins Ave. Detour via Pins Ave., which is open to two-way traffic.
- **April – Aug. 2013:** Partial closure of Pine Ave., between Docteur-Penfield Ave. and Durocher St. Maintaining one lane westbound.



To contribute articles to the Newsletter or the Department Website, please send an email to:  
communications.  
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@mcgill.ca

Thank you!