

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Spring marks the time for another newsletter to communicate milestones, accomplishments and new developments in our very active and productive department.

The leadership transitions have progressed smoothly. With great enthusiasm, we welcome two new psychiatrists-in-chiefs; Nadia Szkrumelak at the MUHC, and Santokh Singh, at St Mary's. We also warmly thank outgoing chiefs, Warren Steiner and Suzanne Lamarre, for their immeasurable contributions to their hospitals and to the department. By the next newsletter, we hope to be announcing the appointment of the new scientific director of the Douglas Research Centre. We also welcome Hanna Schwartz in her new position as site training director at St. Mary's.

As I reach the end of my first mandate as Chair, I was asked by the faculty of medicine to submit a self-study outlining the current status of our department, its accomplishments, ongoing issues and future challenges. With the help of the departmental executive and our top notch administrative team, I have just put the finishing touches on a very large document with a long list of accomplishments of which we can be proud. Although not recommended as vacation reading, a copy will be available in our office for those who wish to take a look. The document will serve as an important reference

for the upcoming external review of our department.

The overall forecast for our department is very positive. In the last five years, we have flourished against all odds, and gathered strength to face new challenges. Nonetheless, major issues that are not within our control must be acknowledged.

Budgetary constraints represent an immediate threat, and a central theme in the discussion of ongoing issues and challenges. Currently, the organizations we depend on to finance our academic activities, the university and granting agencies, are facing drastic cutbacks. Most of you are aware that McGill is being asked to cut \$19.1 million in the budget

department will be directly affected. In addition to pay freezes that affect some members of our faculty, certain administrative positions will not be filled following departures. We are committed to compensating for these losses to maintain our level of activity and productivity. The situation is no better in the clinical domain, where huge deficits have been announced in several McGill teaching hospitals, and the ministry is targeting Montreal for reduction in mental health care resources.

Last December, you received an appeal letter to support the Department of Psychiatry Academic Fund. Faculty participation is growing, and we have reached over \$4,000 to-date. In these times of budget cuts, we especially appreciate the opportunity to support new and ongoing

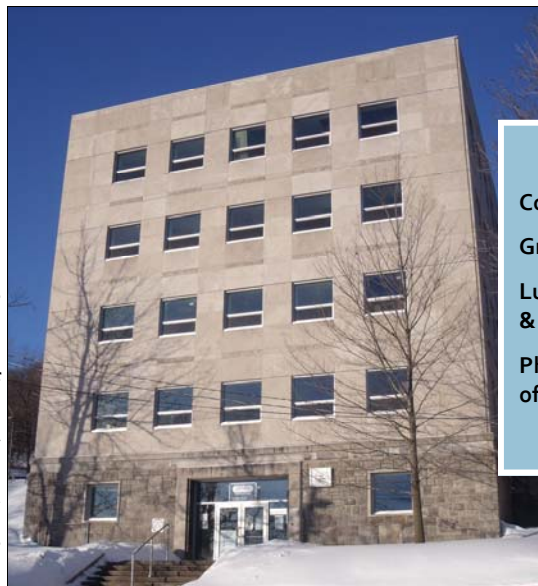
initiatives that promote research and training activities and enhance our academic environment. For those of you who either didn't have time and/or

misplaced the pledge card, do not hesitate to send in your donations. We are also attaching a link to the pledge card for your convenience and to those who have already given, my sincerest thank you for your support.

The battle also continues to rage on the recruitment front. The plan of decreasing the number of psychiatrists in Montreal by 68 between 2015 and 2020 remains in place, and to date we have only had one meeting to discuss how this will be achieved. McGill

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Coming Soon!

Grand reopening:

Ludmer Research & Training Bldg.

Photo courtesy of: Thomas1313

Message from the Chair continued...

was well-represented at this meeting with the Chair, and several Chiefs attending. Our goal is to help the Agence come up with a plan that will satisfy the ministry while protecting academic psychiatry. So far, no clear plan has emerged which we cautiously interpret as leaving room for discussion and negotiation.

On a more optimistic note, we were thrilled to learn that both our Postgraduate Education Programs received full accreditation status from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada following their visit on March 18 & 19, 2013. The surveyors were impressed with the overall quality of our residency program, the dedicated faculty members, the high caliber of residents, and the positive atmosphere of collaboration and commitment to educational excellence. The surveyors also praised our Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology Program. We are proud of our programs and extend congratulations to Karl Looper and Howard Margolese and their teams for a job well-done.

We are also proud to announce that the department was successful in its application for recognition of subspecialty training in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry this fall. We extend our deepest thanks to Ruth Russell and her team for their work in preparing the submission, and congratulate Ruth, who will begin her mandate as program director. The program will be ready to accept fellows next July.

To top off the list of accomplishments in postgraduate education, we are pleased to announce that we once again filled all our CaRMS positions. We will be welcoming 11 new residents to our program in July 2013.

On March 1st, 2013, our graduate program welcomed Naguib Mechawar as the newly appointed Program Director. The growth and success of our graduate program are largely due to the leadership and dedication Marco Leyton, who held the position for 10 years. Thank you, Marco, for an outstanding job!



Cocktail dînatoire

Undergraduate education is preparing to transition to a new curriculum in September 2013, and some of the proposed changes will have a significant impact on psychiatric clerkship. Gregg Meterissian and his undergraduate leadership team have been working hard to ensure that psychiatry maintains an important place in the clerkship so that medical students are sufficiently prepared to address mental-health problems in their practices.

We have received an impressive show of numbers of grants and awards to report in the recent competition. Congratulations goes to Ridha Joobar, Natalie Grizenko, Sarojini Sengupta, Michael Meany, Zeev Rosberger, Jens Pruessner, and Natasha Rajah. We also have two new CRC Tier 2 holders in our department. Congratulations to Frank Elgar, and to Carl Ernst, new Canada Research Chair in Psychiatric Genetics.

We also congratulate all the members of our department who were recipients of honours and awards. Of note that 6 members of our department, Ellen Corin, Jaswant Gunder, Michael Meaney, Rémi Quirion, Serge Gauthier and Theodore Lionel Sourkes were recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

At the RUIS level, our work in the Cree territories and Nunavik has been progressing well. A major step was the hiring of two liaison nurses, Helene Denoncourt for Nunavik and Maude Paquet for the Cree Territories. They will play an essential role in helping us develop a program that responds to the mental health needs of the Cree and Inuit people. Our progress in this area also led to the creation of a RUIS Great North Program that will be dedicated to the promotion of mental health in the regions via the delivery of culturally-informed care, teaching, and research. We are pleased to announce the nominations of Eduardo Chachamovich and Charles-Edouard Carrier as co-leaders of the program.



Bal des lumières

Photo courtesy of: lebabillart.com

Message from the Chair continued...



Cocktail dînatoire

As a follow-up to last year's retreat, a mental health symposium was held in Kuujuaq on March 23-25, 2013. Many members of our department attended, and we are looking forward to a detailed report of events. Special thanks to Tewfik Said for his ongoing efforts to strengthen our links with Nunavik.

The promotion of public awareness and advocacy to fight the culture of stigma is making strides. The creation of the Mental Health Commission of Canada and the formation of new partnerships with corporate sponsors such as Bell Canada will allow us to focus society's attention on educating the public on mental illness. A definite milestone in this arena was the Bal des Lumieres, a fundraiser co-sponsored by the Douglas Mental Health University Institute, Hôpital Louis-H Lafontaine, and la Fondation des Maladies Mentales that took place March 20th, 2013. The event drew 800 people, including several philanthropists, business leaders, and prominent members of the McGill community, and raised 1.1 million dollars! We were also honored by the presence of Quebec's premier, Pauline Marois, who gave an impassioned speech in support of our cause. Never before have we seen a fundraiser of this magnitude targeting mental illness and mental health in our province.

The Ludmer Research and Training building renovations are almost completed, and we are all looking forward to moving back. In addition, Guy Rouleau, the new Director of the Neuro, will be moving part of his research laboratories to the Ludmer. The opportunity to work side-by-side, coupled with Guy's longstanding interest in mental health research, will surely lead to the development of meaningful collaborations between psychiatry and neurology.

To kick-start the New Year, a departmental cocktail was held on February 20th, 2013. Winter weather did not deter and it was a pleasure to note a great turnout from all sites. Please check out the photos from this very enjoyable event.

If some of the content of this newsletter is already familiar, it must mean that you have been reading our spotlight series, and/or visiting our website regularly. We count on you to keep us informed of newsworthy items, and really appreciate it when you share your accomplishments or those of your colleagues with us.

I want to thank you for making this department such a pleasure to lead, and wish you a great spring and summer.

Mimi Israel



Cocktail dînatoire

Promotions, New Hires and New Appointments

Promotions:

Dr. Casacalenda Nicola - Promoted to Associate Professor

New Hires in Department

Dr. Taline Bedrossian – Faculty Lecturer

Dr. Isabelle Blais – Faculty Lecturer

Dr. Lea Thaler – Assistant Professor

New Appointments:

Dr. Naguib Mechawar: Graduate Program Director (McGill University)

Dr. Nadia Szkrumelak: Chief of the Dept of Psychiatry (MUHC)

Dr. Santokh Singh: Chief of the Dept of Psychiatry (St. Mary's Hospital)

Dr. Hannah Schwartz: Training Director (St. Mary's Hospital)

Dr. Ruth Russell – New Child & Adolescent Subspecialty Program (Montreal Children's Hospital)

Dr. Eduardo Chachamovitch: Co-Director, RUIS Great North Mental Health Program

Dr. Robert Biskin Coordinator, Unit 8 Psychiatric Component

Residents Award Night



The Resident Awards Night took place at the Thomson House on November 21st. This night is hosted annually in honor of Faculty and Resident achievements.

Faculty Awards

Best Teacher Award: Dr. Nicola Casacalenda

Best Supervisor Award: Dr. Eugenia Zikos

Best Training Director Award: Dr. Nicola Casacalenda

Resident Awards for the Best Scholarly Paper:

Geriatric Psychiatry Prize: Dr. Soham Rej

Chronic Renal Failure in Lithium-using Geriatric Patients: Effects of Lithium Continuation vs. Discontinuation – a 60-Month Retrospective Study

Gabrielle Weiss Prize for Child Psychiatry: Dr. Venkat Bhat

Do Gender Differences Between Students with ADHD and their Teachers Impact Evaluation of ADHD Symptomatology?

Innovative Publication Prize: Dr. Soham Rej

The Effects of Lithium on Renal Function in Older Adults – A Systematic Review

Saul Wilner Prize: Dr. Ammar Albanna

TCF4 Gene Polymorphism and Cognitive Performance in Patients with First Episode Psychosis

Serge Bikadoroff Prize: Dr. Tuong Vi Nguyen

Comorbidity of Migraine and Mood Episodes in a Nationally-Representative Population-Based Sample

Chairman's Prize: Dr. Laura Pacione

The Mental Health of Children Facing Collective Adversity

Resident Awards for Clinical and Educational Excellence:

Dennis Engels Award for Excellence in Psychotherapy: Dr. Elise Martineau-Corbeil

Most Promising Teacher: Dr. Rachel Kronick

Most Promising Clinician: Dr. Valérie Falardeau

New Residents

Please join us in welcoming our new residents!

Arian Behzadi

Anabel Carmel

Carmen Chen

Dominique Elie

Maria Fajardo La Torre

Isa Jetté-Coté

Maria Raluca Tuineag

Kevin Kaveh Rohani

Isabelle Silverstone-Simard

Ralph Tacheji

Chantal Tellier

Graduates

Congratulations to our R5 Graduates!

BOUREANU, OCTAVIAN

BUCATEL, ANGELA

CRAWFORD, ANNE

DABBY, LAYLA

FALARDEAU, VALERIE

GAGNE, MARIE-MICHELE

IONCU, COSMIN

LACHANCE, DAVID

MARTINEAU CORBEIL, ELISE

ORENMAN, RIMMA

SECULIN, ANCA

TOURIAN, LEON

YOUNG, LORIN

IORDACHE, IOANA

Grants, Awards and Recognitions

- Dr. Carl Ernst** - Canada Research Chair Tier II
- Dr. Cecile Rousseau** - Paul Steinhauer Advocacy Award from the Canadian Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry
- Dr. Ellen Corin** - Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal
- Dr. Frank Elgar** - Canada Research Chair Tier II
- Dr. Jaswant Guzder**
- ◆ Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal
 - ◆ Haile T. Debas Prize
- This prize is given to a Faculty member of any gender or ethnicity who helps promote diversity by acting as role model, mentor, or by implementing new policies to increase underrepresented minorities in undergraduate or postgraduate training, faculty recruitment, retention and/or promotion.
- Dr. Marie-Josée Brouillette** - CIHR Team Grant in HIV and Cognition.
- Dr. Michael Meaney** - Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal
- Dr. Michael Meaney & Dr. Gustavo Turecki**
Brain Canada MIRI (Multi-Investigator Research Initiative) Grant : *Epigenetics & Mental Health*
- Dr. Naguib Mechawar & team:**
NEURON-ERANET grant. This was ranked in the top 10 projects and Naguib is the only Canadian grantee.

- Dr. Salah El Mestikawy** - Brain Canada MIRI (Multi-Investigator Research Initiative) Grant
Dissecting acetylcholine/glutamate co-transmission in the striatum: importance of individual neurotransmitter in addiction and movement disorders
- Dr. Rémi Quirion** - Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal
- Dr. Serge Gautier** - Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal
- William Affleck**, PhD student (Dr. Whitley's lab) received a McGill MedStar Award for his publication "*Caregivers' responses to an intervention to improve young child feeding behaviors in rural Bangladesh: A mixed method study of the facilitators and barriers to change*"
- Dr. Venkataramana Bhat (R3)**
- ◆ Research Grant from the Indo American Psychiatry Association
 - ◆ American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology Award
 - ◆ GAP (Group for Advancement of Psychiatry) Ginsberg Fellowship 2012
 - ◆ APA Jansen Scholar Award 2013

September 2012 CIHR Operating Grant Competition Results

Dr. Jooper, Dr. Grizenko, Dr. Sengupta

Pharmaco-behavioural study of genetic & environmental risk factors in children with ADHD: using brain imaging phenotypes to further dissect etiological pathways

Dr. Pruessner, Jens C

Systematic Investigations into psychological, physiological and

endocrinological effects of stress in the brain

Dr. Pruessner, Jens C

Systematic Investigations into psychological, physiological and endocrinological effects of stress (Renewal)

Dr. Rajah, Natasha M.

Structural and functional neuro-anatomical correlates of memory for context across the adult lifespan

Dr. Meany, Michael

Estrogen receptor expression and individual differences in maternal behavior

Dr. Rosberger, Zeev

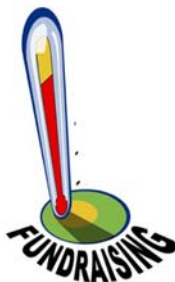
Parents, Sons and the HPV Vaccine: What Factors Influence Decision-Making Over Time?

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

Thank you!

Other

- Renovations at the Ludmer Research & Training building are nearing completion. Please stay tuned for the grand re-opening notice coming soon!
- **Departmental Academic Fund:** Please visit <https://www.alumni.mcgill.ca/aoc/online-giving> to contribute to our department's academic fund!



En erratum (fall & winter 2012 issue)

Page 2: Richard Montoro was representing the FMSQ, not the AMPQ

Page 5: Should have read Dr. Philippe-Olivier Harvey (Assistant Professor) **not** Dr. Pierre-Olivier Harvey

Awards and Grants: Dr. Ashok Malla's NIH Grant Early Psychosis in India and Canada: Investigating outcomes and family factors should have been included in the last newsletter