Supporting the future of our profession

Invest in the next generation of nationally recognized psychiatrist clinicians, educators and researchers right here in Wichita. While there are many steps on the path to a career in psychiatry, one of the most memorable is attending professional conferences, like the one held by the American Psychiatric Association. Psychiatry resident Selia Ybon Whitney, M.D., recollects on her experience, “Having the ability to attend educational meetings to learn new ideas, different perspectives, cutting edge treatments or new methods of delivering care will not only continue to help me with my career goals, but will also help keep Wichita current and, in turn, be beneficial for our physicians, patients and community.”

On Feb. 20, 2019, KU Endowment will be hosting its annual One Day, One KU 24-hour fundraising event for all schools and departments at the University of Kansas. Last year, more than $730,000 was raised for all of KU and KU School of Medicine-Wichita raised the third highest amount with $53,000. On this day, all KU alumni are asked to invest in their passion at the school, and we hope you will consider the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at KU School of Medicine-Wichita. Your investment in our talented residents will nurture their development, for example, by sending them to the APA conference which, for many, will accelerate them to future success. There will be specific giving information sent out in early 2019 for the One Day, One KU day of giving, but if you’re interested in making a gift now you can go to wichita.kumc.edu/psychgiving and select the area that matches your passion. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Selia Ybon Whitney, M.D.

Born and raised: Johnson City, Kansas

Undergraduate education: B.A., Pittsburg State University

Medical education: The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita

Prior to medical school: Worked as a medical secretary at Via Christi Hospitals. Also worked as a secretary for an agriculture company, a preschool teacher’s assistant, a waitress, a hostess, a telemarketer and a temp for Koch.

Dr. Whitney’s vision: To deliver the best quality of care to patients and create a financially sustainable outpatient business model where psychiatrists, social workers and counseling psychologists all work together to help patients.
Why additional travel funding would benefit residents like Dr. Whitney: To learn from thought leaders in the field and bring new ideas and innovations to Wichita.

How KU Wichita has helped Dr. Whitney achieve her professional goals: KU School of Medicine-Wichita has a reputation of giving medical students more “hands-on learning” than other medical school programs. My experience supported the reputation, however, the benefits of this approach far exceeded my expectations. Not only did I get a chance to learn more advanced medical procedures, but the exposure to these experiences really boosted confidence in my medical knowledge and how that transitioned into patient care. I liked what KU Wichita offered in medical school and was confident that the residency program would also be a great fit. Now in my third year of residency, I can see how the KU Wichita residency program has also exceeded my expectations. I have learned from exposure to different psychiatrists, different fields, different perspectives and different styles. KU Wichita has a wonderful balance of teaching both psychopharmacology and psychotherapeutic treatment. There is intentional exposure to different styles of maintaining physician well-being emotionally, physically and mentally.

There is exposure to future treatments and discoveries in psychiatry with Grand Rounds and the research projects being done at the school. The residency program highlights the importance of lifelong learning and how natural interest in helping understand patient’s problems can energize and sustain the passion for psychiatry and continued learning. In particular, it has cultivated in me an interest about how to deliver quality care to more patients while being financially sustaining. Most importantly, I have learned that every opportunity to learn from someone with a different perspective or different idea is crucial to physician growth and quality of care, whether it be from people in the same field or people with other areas of expertise. KU has helped me achieve my professional goals due to all the aforementioned experiences. Lastly, having the ability to attend educational meetings to learn new ideas, different perspectives, cutting edge treatments or new methods of delivering care will not only continue to help me with my career goals, but will also help keep Wichita current and, in turn, be beneficial for our physicians, patients and community.