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In the program, I found several opportunities to grow. One of the opportunities was being involved with the psychopharmacology fellowship, which we have the chance to participate in during the 4th year. I started working with Dr. Preskorn, our chairman and the director of the fellowship, in my first year on some projects that I added to my clinical workload. My work with Dr. Preskorn is one of the most rewarding educational experiences I have had.

My interest in publishing has been fulfilled this past year. I have worked with several psychiatrists and have published several interesting case reports. I have honed my basic writing skills by doing these case reports and other articles.

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As chief resident, I encourage residents to be proactive with their career planning.

I believe teamwork is a desirable goal as it increases cohesion between residents and between the residents and physicians to increase productivity. I worked with Dr. Bober and Dr. Preskorn on outside activities for the residents. The activities have included the department picnic, after hours monthly dinners and meetings. These activities have helped the residents bond with each other and have facilitated the residents and faculty working together.

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I feel the Psychiatry Department faculty and staff recognize the residents’ hard work and when they go beyond their regular job duties. This year, several of the residents received the department’s Psych Star Award for going beyond the call of duty. I find the attendings to be approachable and available to foster our intellectual and emotional growth.

I always try to have a reasonable work-life balance with my family and personal responsibilities. I found the workload to be manageable and the number of calls was not excessive. Thank you for four wonderful years.
A report on the American Psychiatric Association Assembly of District Branches meeting By Donald R. Brada, MD

May 20-22 found the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Assembly of District Branches meeting before the American Psychiatric Association annual meeting in Atlanta, GA. The members present heard from President-Elect Steven Sharfstein, MD and Treasurer Carolyn Robinowitz, MD. Dr. Robinowitz described the continuing increase in APA membership and the positive financial balance held by the association. Medical Director James (Jay) Scully, Jr., MD, gave his report underlying the federal and state legislative activities of the Association and emphasizing the fact that the APA is the voice for psychiatry and for our patients.

The Assembly then focused on the debate and adoption or non-adoption of action papers previously submitted by various representatives and/or state psychiatric societies. The action papers had been assigned to one of the committees for discussion prior to being brought to the Assembly. Some of the papers that were discussed included: Independent Appeal Mechanisms for Disputed Managed Care Denials of Treatment - approved; Initial Psychiatric Evaluation of Children and Adolescents Before the Prescription of Medication - not approved (referred); Public Education About Medical Treatments for Psychiatric Disorders - approved; Psychotherapy by Psychiatrists (to make it possible for psychiatrists participating in managed care plans to practice psychotherapy) - approved. Forming an APA Directed Network of U.S. and Canadian Medical School Psychiatry Interest Groups - approved; and Educating Our Patients and Our Profession Regarding Privacy and Confidentiality - approved.

The final action of the Assembly was to elect Joseph E.V. Rubin, MD to the office of speaker and to elect Michael Blumenfeld, MD as the speaker-elect. The Assembly will reconvene in November 2005.

So many places, so little resources By Janice McAdam, MPA

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To end on an upbeat note, the Psychiatry Department impacts the community positively by its presence. Our service provides much needed mental health care in the area shown. Many of our graduates remain in the community to continue to help meet the growing needs, but that is another article.
presentations abound . . .

Sheldon Preskorn, MD, presented three posters “Multiple Medication Use and Cytochrome P-450-Based Drug Interaction Patterns in Patients on Antidepressants in a Regional Veterans Affairs Health Care Network” along with Beryl Silkev, ScM, Rozina Shah, MD and Melissa Neff, PharmD; “A Multi-Study Site of Outpatient Multiple Medication Use in Aging and Age-Appropriate Drug Use” along with Beryl Silkev, ScM, Anna Golbeck, PhD, and Rozina Shah, MD; and “Effect of Escitalopram Versus Sertraline on Cognitive Functioning, Driving Performance, and CVP 2D6 Function” along with Steven Werder, MD, Sara Friesen, Kathy Stieft, Alex Chaparro and Keith Wesnes.

Susan Carr, MD, clinical assistant professor, presented “Trying to Remember-Memory Loss and Personality Change” at the 2005 Governor’s Conference on Aging Services, May 4, in Topeka, Kan.

Sheldon Preskorn, MD, presented the plenary lecture at the Fifth Annual Neuropsychiatry Conference in Turkey sponsored by the Turkish equivalent of our professional associations for neurology and psychiatry, March 18-20. Dr. Preskorn presented on his research and those of others in a lecture titled: “Antidepressants: 50 years of progress.”

Glenn Veenstra, PhD, associate professor, presented a workshop titled: “When the heart seeks to the head: Neuroscience insights on emotion,” April 9, at the American Association for Psychological Studies National Convention in Dallas.

Brian Schmidt, medical student education coordinator, attended the Association of American Medical Colleges Central Group on Educational Affairs Spring 2005 conference, April 7-10. Brian presented the results of a curriculum assessment project in completion of the Coordinator Career Enhancement Program, April 8. He was one of five presenters in Innovations in Medical Education Small Group Discussion, “Ensuring Compliance with LCME Accreditation Standards ED-1 and ED-2,” April 9. The presentation covered KU’s process for meeting LCME accreditation standards ED-1 and ED-2.

Connie Marsh, MD, clinical associate professor, presented “The Aging Brain” to the community seniors group at Central Church of Christ, May 2 in Wichita, Kan.

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The graduation ceremony for Mohamed Ramadan, MD, and Kevin Sterk, DO, was Saturday, June 25. Dr. Ramadan and his family will be leaving Wichita and moving to Arizona as Dr. Ramadan begins his career as an outpatient general psychiatrist at the Mohave Mental Health Clinic. Dr. Sterk will be leaving Wichita and going into a Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship at the University Hospital/University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio.

We also say goodbye to Kaleem Syed, MD, a 3rd year resident who is going into child and adolescent psychiatry at University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri.

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