Psychiatry’s Community Service Involvement

A n educational program becomes richer and more relevant when it grows beyond the bounds of its sponsoring institutes. This is particularly true for our Psychiatry program. Russell E. Scheffer, MD, chair and professor, emphasizes in his welcome note on the KU School of Medicine-Wichita Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences website that ‘Ours is a community-based psychiatric department and is in the “real” world, and is positioned well for shifts in the ever changing medical climate.’

The residents in our program encounter patients at Via Christi Regional Medical Center· Good Shepherd Campus; the V.A. Hospital; Wichita Clinic; KU School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W) Psychiatry Geropsychiatry and Child Psychiatry Clinic, Camelot of Kansas; Clinical Research Institute (CRI); COMCARE; Via Christi Psychiatric Clinic (VCPC) and the third year residents spend a week at Larned State Hospital. Beside the duty assignments you will find Psychiatry faculty members and residents involved with various community service activities. Following is an example of the involvement in the local community:

Donald Brada, MD - American Psychiatric Association (APA)

Michael Burke, MD - Facilitator for National Depression Screening Day in October, collaborates with Wichita State University and the Mental Health Association; President of the Kansas Psychiatric Society; Member, Board of Directors, Kansas Health Policy Authority; Project Management Team, Kansas Behavioral Pharmacy Project (KBPP), Kansas Health Policy Authority

Susan Carr, MD - Member and Chair of the Methodology Committee - Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force; Public Health Liaison Committeemember and Professional Investigations Board Member - Medical Society of Sedgwick County

Ahsan Khan, MD - Board of Directors member - National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI); Psychiatric consultant to the Muslim Community Center

Don Morgan, PhD - Member of the Subcommittee on Behavioral Health for the Wichita Preferred Providers Association (EAP); Continuing Education Committee member for the Kansas Psychological Association

Mercedes Perales, MD - Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Sheldon Preskorn, MD - Breakthrough Club, NAMI

Russell Scheffer, MD - Camelot of Kansas, Riverside Academy, Psychiatry Advocacy Group

Glenn Veenstra, PhD - Continuing Education presentations for the Northwest Kansas Area Health Education Center, Hays, KS and Coping presentation for a grief support group at the Catholic Care Center

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By: Joel Streim, MD, professor, Psychiatry, and director, Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship Training, at the University of Pennsylvania, presented the fourth annual George Dyck Lectureship Feb 26 at Via Christi Medical Center - St. Joseph’s campus. Dr. Streim lectured on “Aging Redefined and the Transformation of Social and Health Care Institutions.” Dr. Streim has extensively published in the area of geriatric psychiatry and has numerous ongoing and past research grants for research on treatment of depression in medically ill nursing home patients, and treatment of cognitive impairment, psychosis, and behavioral disturbances in nursing home residents with dementia. He has testified before Congress on issues related to geriatric mental health and has served in an advisory role to the Senate Special Committee on Aging. He is currently a co-principal investigator on a geriatric interdisciplinary training grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) that supports the development of academic leaders in geriatrics. Dr. Streim is a past president of the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry.

The George Dyck Lectureship was established to honor the outstanding career contributions of Dr. George Dyck, a pioneer at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Dr. Dyck contributed greatly to geriatric psychiatry, as well as to the training of medical students, residents and geriatric psychiatry fellows. His influence dates back to the beginnings of the medical school in Wichita, being named the first Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry in 1973, and subsequently establishing the general psychiatry residency training program. He also established the geriatric psychiatry residency training program. He dedicated his career to patients, families, community development of services, the training of physicians in psychiatric and geriatric psychiatry, and organized state and national efforts to improve the care of psychiatric patients. The George Dyck Lectureship brings prominent researchers and leaders from across the country and around the world to Wichita to present the latest findings in topics of geriatric psychiatry.
Scheffer addresses childhood anxiety symptoms and treatments

Russell Scheffer, MD, chair and professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, presented the Live and Learn Lecture May 13 on “Childhood Anxiety: Symptoms and treatment,” at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. More than 80 people, both patients as well as health professionals, filled the Sunflower Room. Dr. Scheffer answered numerous questions during his presentation and remained after to talk with the many guests.

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Residents are also involved in the above-mentioned activities especially the KPS and NAMI. The educational ‘Doctor Hour’ at NAMI is run by the third and fourth year residents. Medical students and residents are involved in screening for depression and education about suicidality during the suicide prevention campaign. Residents also serve on several different committees of the Kansas Psychiatric Society and are thus actively participating in the grass root efforts of advocacy for our patients and their families. Residents are planning to be more involved with the city’s Crisis Intervention team (CIT), which focuses on education and awareness of officials dealing with the mentally ill in crisis. The residents will be involved in creating the training curriculum and assisting with creating some of the presentations for some aspects of the training.

Under the leadership of Dr. Scheffer, the psychiatry department has started an advocacy group. The focus will be on educating key leaders such as legislators and primary care physicians about the huge socio-economic impact of mental illness. The group will also utilize grass root efforts and networking with other interest groups. Faculty, residents, and medical students are encouraged to actively participate to make the group effective.

In this unfortunate era of budget cuts, many resources gathered together to start an advocacy group. In attendance were psychiatrists, chaplin, family medicine doctor, neurologist, mental health consumer, mother of children with mental illness, psychiatry residents, and other workers in the mental health field. The group’s common thread was their individual desire to improve mental health services and access throughout Wichita and the state of Kansas.

Out of the meeting three identifiable goals emerged: education, building coalitions; and political activism on mental health issues. The group’s common thread was their individual desire to improve mental health services and access throughout Wichita and the state of Kansas.

### Psychiatric Advocacy Group

On Tuesday, April 22, 2008, 12 individuals from different walks of life gathered together to start an advocacy group. In attendance were psychiatrists, chaplin, family medicine doctor, neurologist, mental health consumer, mother of children with mental illness, psychiatry residents, and other workers in the mental health field. The group’s common thread was their individual desire to improve mental health services and access throughout Wichita and the state of Kansas.

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### REVIEW OF PRESENTATION

“Recently attended a conference in Orlando, Florida for the Administrators in Academic Psychiatry (AAP). For the administration, both patients as well as health professionals, filled the Sunflower Room. Dr. Scheffer answered numerous questions during his presentation and remained after to talk with the many guests."

By: Janice McAdam

### “What Exactly Does Scientology Say about Psychiatry and Psychology?”

By: Janice McAdam

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