92 percent of all psychiatric physicians in Sedgwick County are KU graduates

The figures are startling but true:

• 92 percent of all psychiatric physicians in Sedgwick County are either graduates of the University of Kansas School of Medicine (KUSM) and/or graduates of the KU School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W) psychiatry residency program.
• 44 percent of psychiatric physicians in Sedgwick County are medical graduates of KUSM, and 75 percent are graduates of the KUSM-W psychiatry residency program.

I believe that most, if not all teachers, take pride in the accomplishment of their trainees, and that is certainly true for our faculty. We also take pride in the fact that our graduates are essential to the provision of needed psychiatric services for citizens of central Kansas suffering from serious psychiatric illnesses such as, but not limited to, bipolar disorder, major depression, and schizophrenia.

While the 92 percent figure by itself underscores the important role that the educational mission of the department plays in the welfare of the citizens of central Kansas, it is further underscored by the following facts:

All of the psychiatrists at the Wichita Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (WVAMC) are graduates of the KUSM-W Medical School and the KUSM-W psychiatry residency program. These psychiatrists provide needed psychiatric services to veterans in 51 counties of Kansas.

All but one of the psychiatrists at COMCARE, the community mental health center for Sedgwick County, are graduates of the KUSM-W psychiatry residency program. COMCARE is the mental health safety net for all of the citizens of Sedgwick County in need of psychiatric services.

Finally, the busiest private psychiatrists in Sedgwick County are all graduates of the KUSM-W psychiatry residency program.

Based on these numbers, any citizen of Sedgwick County suffering from a psychiatric illness and receiving the services of a psychiatric physician is likely to be receiving those services from a KU graduate of either the medical school and/or the KUSM-W psychiatry residency program.

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results for Level-I STAR*D are out: An update ….

Ahsan Y Khan, MD, Assistant Professor

Psychoeducation of Medical Students

As the director of undergraduate psychiatry education in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Michael Burke is pleased to announce that results of the USMLE Part II exam for the Class of 2004-2005 have been received and students at KU School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W) have performed above the national mean in the subject areas of mental disorders and psychiatry. These results reflect the quality of our students and, hopefully, also reflect positively on ongoing efforts to strengthen our educational programs.

Also notable is the recent Independent LCME Survey, the Neuropsychiatry and Pediatrics clerkships on the Wichita campus received the highest overall evaluations of all clerkships at KU. Over the last decade, KU has developed and launched numerous pilot projects and implemented programmatic changes to increase the effectiveness of learning in the psychiatry clerkship.

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Table 1: Number of psychiatric physicians per 100,000 citizens

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<th>SG County</th>
<th>Kansas</th>
<th>US as a whole</th>
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<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
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The figures in Table 1 came from Josh Wilk, PhD, who is the Director of Workforce Studies for the American Psychiatric Association. For the purposes of the above table, I have rounded the numbers to the nearest whole number. Based on this data, the state of Kansas as a whole has approximately 1/3 fewer psychiatric physicians per 100,000 citizens compared to the country as a whole and the number in Sedgwick County is 35% lower than that of the state of Kansas as a whole and less than half that for the nation as a whole. Keep in mind that the number of psychiatric physicians per 100,000 citizens is an overestimation of the true ratio for citizens in central Kansas for the reasons outlined earlier in this story.

The fact that Kansas and particularly central Kansas is underserved in terms of psychiatric physicians is probably not a surprise to most readers of this newsletter, but it underscores the importance of our residency program to the citizens of Kansas, particularly central Kansas. It is probably also not a surprise that the heaviest concentration of psychiatric physicians per 100,000 citizens is in the Topeka-Lawrence-Kansas City corridor.

One of the reasons for this heavy concentration in this corridor is that there use to be two psychiatry residency program in this corridor: one at the KUSM-KC and the other at the Menninger Foundation. The latter recently closed when the Menninger Foundation closed. That leaves the state with only two psychiatric residency programs: one at KUSM-KC and one at KUSM-W.

The closure of the Menninger Foundation program means that there will now be fewer Kansas trained psychiatric physicians graduating every year to keep pace with the growth of the population and with the loss of psychiatric physicians through retirement. It will take time to fill the many gaps left by the loss of replacements. What has been the pattern for dealing with psychiatric health needs in this country in general for most of the last 100 or more years. This problem is further amplified by the aging population and the increased incidence of Alzheimer’s disease. The reason is that these patients, when they develop behavioral problems - as they inevitably do - are treated by psychiatric physicians and particularly those with subspecialty training in geropsychiatry.

Taken together, these facts illustrate that the decision by the state legislature 30 years ago to establish the KUSM-W Department of Psychiatry was a sound one. The educational objectives for this program include mastery of advanced interviewing skills and performance of mental status exam. More recently, a Clinical Skills Portfolio has been piloted on the Wichita campus to emphasize and document acquisition of skills during the clerkship. In addition to performance of comprehensive and focused patient examinations, data interpretation, and documentation, the Clinical Skills Portfolio also guides the student through a process of continuous self-assessment and self-directed learning and systems-based practice (i.e., utilization and integration of multidisciplinary resources in medical practice) experiences.

In the 2004-2005 academic year, Dr. Burke completed the Physician-Educator Fellowship at Harvard School of Medicine. He currently chairs the national task force for Clerkship Learning Objectives in Psychiatry for the Association of Directors of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry (ADMSEP) and has recently completed a comparative analysis of nationally endorsed specialty clerkship learning objectives. This comparative analysis has been accepted for publication in Academic Medicine.

Dr. Burke has now turned his attention to the issue of the doctor-patient relationship and special compensations for service. He is leading an ongoing research project on the Wichita campus in collaboration with faculty from Wright State School of Medicine examining student perceptions of interpersonal boundaries in the doctor-patient relationship and the impact of the third year clinical curriculum on these perceptions. Preliminary results of the study will be presented this year in Annals of Plenary session at the annual ACPD meeting.

Under the direction of Dr. Burke, three years ago, a Psychiatry Interest Group (PsyIG) was initiated for medical students on the Wichita campus. The mission for this group is to provide a venue for 3rd and 4th year medical students with an interest in psychiatry, mental illness and neuroscience to expand their knowledge, explore career opportunities and perform relevant service activities. PsyIG has been successful with more KU graduates choosing postgraduate psychiatry residencies. In addition, the group participating in national programs for suicide prevention, depression screening, and mental illness awareness. Last year, members of the PsyIG provided a presentation on the risk assessment and suicide prevention for all KU medical students on the Wichita campus as part of the “Issues in Medicine” series.

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Psychiatric physicians continued from page 1

growth in the population in central Kansas and with the retirement of psychiatric physicians over the past 30 years. In 1975, there were 345,224 citizens in Sedgwick County and 25 psychiatrists in the Sedgwick County Medical Society, or 7.24 psychiatric physicians per 100,000 citizens. Today, there are 463,802 residents in Sedgwick County and 33 psychiatric physicians in the Sedgwick County Medical Society, or 7.11 psychiatric physicians for every 100,000 citizens.

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