Mental Health Needs of Returning Soldiers and Their Families

I
ev had the pleasure of knowing and associating with Dr. Arshad Husain through the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Area IV Council and the Assembly of District Branches for a number of years. Dr. Husain is a professor and chief, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the director, University of Missouri International Center for Psychosocial Trauma in Columbia, Mo.

Knowing of my previous experience as a military (Air Force) psychiatrist during the Viet Nam era, Dr. Husain approached me last fall, asking if I would be willing to be a member of a planning committee, to put together a conference on the mental health needs of returning soldiers, to be held in Columbia, Mo in the spring. I responded that I was more than happy to assist, and it turned out to be a very rewarding experience.

The planning committee included a wide array of clinicians and administrators, mostly from the Columbia area. There were representatives from the area community mental health departments, the Missouri equivalent of our State Department of SRS, the Columbia Veterans Hospital, the Missouri Institute of Mental Health in St. Louis and a representative of the Conflict Management Section of the World Psychiatric Association in Washington, D.C.

One particularly moving presentation was by Major Geoffrey Grammer, Chief of Inpatient Psychiatric Services at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Major Grammer was deployed to Iraq and had a wonderfully insightful slide presentation showing his life before deployment (in the Washington area), preparing for deployment, arriving in Iraq, surviving in Iraq, and then, returning to Washington, D.C.

Other presentations were by psychiatrists at the Columbia Veterans Hospital on working with returnees, a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist on working with traumatic brain injury (TBI) victims, a teacher/administrator on working with children in families where one, and sometimes, both, parents are or have been deployed, a clinical psychologist and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) Clinical Team Leader at the Columbia Veterans Hospital, presenting some new thoughts about a new model of PTSD and some intriguing outcome data on Cognitive Processing Therapy.

On the first full day of the conference there were approximately 300 attendees and about 200 returned for the second (half) day. Dr. Husain plans to have a multimediacompilation of the conference presentations available for wide dissemination.

By: Don Brada, MD
Interim chair and professor
director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress at the Uniformed Services University, who said, “…the question is how, not whether; these conditions are affecting children and spouses.”

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Fall Semester in Review for the Psychiatry Interest Group (PsyIG)

By: Jessica Veeh, MS3, Kari Hamlin, MS3, Allen Davied, MS3

The PsyIG group met Aug. 24, 2006 where a Board of Directors was formed for the 2006-07 Academic year. The Board of Directors are:

Jessica Veeh, MS3 - Co-chair
Kari Hamlin, MS3 - Co-chair
Allen Davied, MS3 - National Depression Screening Day
Casey Cords, MS3 - Suicide Task Force
Seth Vernon, MS3 - Liaison with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
Francisco Chacon, MS3 - Link for Life Run

Allen Davied, MS3 - Film Festival Series

Michael Burke, MD, PhD, - Faculty Advisor

For more information, visit our website at http://psychiatry.ksu.edu/psyig

PsyIG Film Festival

By: Allen Davied, MS3

The PsyIG held their second “Psychiatry Film Festival” in Feb. 2007. The film festival showed the 2004 documentary movie “What The Bleep Do We Know!?” starring Marlee Matlin. Originally released in Feb. 2004 in one theater in Yelm, Washington, “What The Bleep Do We Know!” went on to become the fifth highest grossing documentary in the United States. Although rejected by every major film festival (Sundance, Berlin, Toronto, Cannes, etc...), the film went on to become the fifth highest grossing documentary in the United States.  Although rejected by every major film festival (Sundance, Berlin, Toronto, Cannes, etc...), the film went on to become the fifth highest grossing documentary in the United States.

The PsyIG Film Festival was launched with a screening of the 1948 movie “THE BAD SEED” produced and directed by Mervyn LeRoy, who also produced “The Wizard of Oz.” The Bad Seed provided a dramatic presentation of the fundamental controversy of nature versus nurture relevant to antisocial behavior and sociopathy. Dr. Jana Lincoln, PGY 4, psychiatry resident, along with assistance from Allen Davied, MS3, organized the film festival. The film festival was free of industry sponsorship and paired with a pot-luck buffet dinner provided by PsyIG board members. The event was well attended by medical students and faculty. Afterward Dr. Susan Brewer from COMCARE, and Dr. Sheldon Prekorn from KU, led an analysis of the film highlighting the biology, psychodynamics and cultural history. The outstanding Dr. Michael J. Burke entertained the crowd with intriguing questions concerning the film and the history of medicine and western culture. Prizes were awarded for correct answers. To quote one of the student attendees, the launch of the film festival was a “rousing success.”

3rd Annual George Dyck Lectureship

By: Connie Marsh, MD, Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Soo Borson, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and director of the Memory Disorders Clinic, at the University of Washington School of Medicine, presented the third annual George Dyck Lectureship to a capacity crowd Jan. 9 at Via Christi Medical Center - St. Joseph’s campus. Dr. Borson lectured on “Learning to Be Old,” and discussed her ongoing research into integrating medical and psychosocial care of the patient with Alzheimer’s dementia. Dr. Borson has extensively published in the area of geriatric psychiatry, and has numerous ongoing and past research grants in the field, including research into improving the detection and treatment of dementia in the primary care setting. She has also been extensively involved in the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry, serving as president from 1999 - 2000. 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.

National Doctors’ Day Celebration

By: Mary Spachek

The history of Doctors’ Day dates back to 1933 when the anniversary of the first use of general anesthetic in surgery, (March 30, 1842) was observed on March 30, 1933. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed a resolution designating March 30 as National Doctors’ Day and the first day was celebrated in 1991. The Psychiatry faculty and residents were treated to an early National Doctors’ Day celebration Wednesday, March 28. Afterward the group participated in an analysis of the film highlighting the biology, psychodynamics and cultural history.