What Can We Do to Make Things Better?

It is my belief that the overarching mission of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is to improve the psychiatric health of the citizens of the state of Kansas. As a university we are in a unique position to assist with this mission. Education is a key component for this mission. We educate medical students, nursing students, psychology interns, neuropsychology fellows and general psychiatric residents at present. It is my hope and plan that we will be even more involved in training at all levels.

In the near future we plan on reinitiating the Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship. We anticipate training one or two fellows per year. In an era of aging population in the state these services are increasingly in demand. We hope to accept a class in July 2009. In the coming years I hope to initiate a Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. There are a very limited number of child psychiatrists in the state. Wichita is likely the most underserved city in the U.S. No other metropolitan area of over 250,000 people has fewer child psychiatrists. My hope is to start this fellowship in three to four years. We also hope to participate in a program that trains pediatricians to be board eligible in child psychiatry in three years.

These efforts take time, energy, and money. Dean S. Edwards Dismuke, MD, MSPH, and the leadership team at Via Christi have been very supportive of these initiatives. The truth is it will take significant additional support to conduct these programs in an exceptional way.

The department also is increasingly involved in a variety of research that can serve to improve the care of patients. Involvement with the community is also important.

Many of our faculty are involved in community organizations, and adult learning programs focused on psychiatric illness.

With a strategic plan, we can become more efficient in treating more patients. Currently, we have plans to expand our clinical care and provide more outpatient services. Additionally, we are looking for space for our teaching, education, and research programs. Interim and long-term plans are being developed for our growth.

These efforts require money and must be done in an economically viable way.

One effort is to begin a Psychiatric Advocacy Committee. The objective of this committee will be to analyze our entire psychiatry operation. We plan in the future to establish a membership, which is voluntary with the level of commitment up to the participant. This committee will serve multiple functions. First, it will provide information to help in identifying needs in the community. Many of these are readily apparent and some may not be as clear. Secondly, it is the issue of specific advocacy where we will discuss topics related to psychiatric care and public policy. The goal is to help inform those that can make changes in the system.
**Psychiatry implementing EMR**

By: Glenn Veenstra, Ph.D

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences will be taking another step into the electronic age with the implementation of an electronic medical records (EMR) system this spring. This is a major undertaking involving considerable time and expense, but it has many advantages. Most obvious is eliminating paper charts, making it easier for clinicians to enter data on patients by clicking on common descriptors and by having repeated data automatically pulled up. It also makes it possible to do a quick search of a patient’s entire medical record and create a list of all the meds that have been prescribed for the patient. The data can be quickly and efficiently shared with other clinicians even at remote sites and not be limited to a few drug charts if any of the drug-drug interactions with the patient’s existing prescriptions.

Among the decisions of Russell Scheffer, MD, chair and Behavioral and Biophysical Sciences, was to make the implementation of an EMR system a major priority. Last year the Medical Practice Association purchased and began using billing software from Allscripts one of the major providers of electronic software for the healthcare industry. The department will be using their HealthMatics EMR program, which is the first in the nation to have been certified by the Certification Committee for Healthcare Information Technology (CHCIT).

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Rhanda Magalini, MD, PGY 2, and Jeremy Handy, MD, PGY 2, for being winners of $25 Simon mall gift certificates from Via Christi for consistently documenting History and Physicals (H&P) according to appropriate criteria.

Jeremy Handy, MD, PGY 2, and Rhanda Magsalin, MD, winners of $25 Simon mall gift certificates from Via Christi for consistently documenting History and Physicals (H&P) according to appropriate criteria.

**FACULTY, STAFF, RESIDENT AND STUDENT NOTES...**

By: M Rafique Shaikh, MD

We are pleased to announce that Forest Kirkpatrick and Tara Schulz have joined the department. They will be working on research projects with faculty. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that Tony Alderson, LPN, has joined the department as the nurse for the Faculty Outpatient Clinic.

**P**ractical residents consider many factors before they choose a residency program. One of the important considerations is the availability of the electives at a given program. As current senior residents in the psychiatry program at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W), the five of us have enjoyed a variety of interesting and useful elective choices. Here is the rich and exotic menu; just for you to keep in mind in!

1. Psychopharmacology Research Fellowship: Under the supervision and guidance of Sheldon Preskorn, MD, Ahsan Khan, MD, and Inna D’Empare, MD, the fellows have the opportunity to work as study physicians and sub-investigators in research studies at the Clinical Research Institute. These are NIMH as well as pharmaceutical industry sponsored inpatient and/or outpatient studies. The experience is not only in the observed research areas but also adds to one’s clinical insight and acumen. I strongly recommend it!

2. P.T.S.D. Clinic at the VA under Gary Fast, MD. One can’t overemphasize the importance and utility of this experience when we are aspiring to practice psychiatry in today’s world full of natural disasters and terrorism.

3. There are two new opportunities in child and adolescent psychiatry. Camelot of Kansas is a 40 (room to 60) bed residential treatment facility along the riverfront. Residents evaluate and treat patients in the facility over the length of their stay. Other 4th year weeks in the child and adolescent clinic at KUSM-W.

4. STEP Clinic of Via Christi for children with ADHD under Chris Stone, MD. An interesting program involving medications, families and schools in helping children with ADHD.

5. Preventive Medicine and Public Health at KUSM-W under Elizabeth Ashik, PHD, MPH. An opportunity to explore different mental health issues with preventive and public health perspectives. Also, there is a hands-on exercise in dealing with data collection and statistics in health if you are inclined!

6. Diagnostic Neuro-Radiology with Suryakumar Reddy, MD, offers exposure to various interventions that are becoming more and more relevant and available to practicing psychiatrists of the 21st century!

7. Pain Clinic at the Wichita Clinic. Rotation with Aminah Gnel, MD complements our training in dealing with this complex and challenging symptom with newer understanding of pain and its relief.

8. Sleep Clinic with Thomas Blessman, MD, provides hands-on experience in sleep studies and in dealing with some challenging sleep related problems.

9. A rotation in Psychotherapy with Glenn Veenstra, PhD, and Don Morgan, Ph.D., is a treat in hands on learning of various therapy techniques. It is strongly recommended for those of us who didn’t get enough of it in the 3rd year!

10. Rotation in chemical dependency treatment can be scheduled under Ralph Bharati, MD, at his ‘STOP’ program and/or with Timothy Scanlan, MD, at his ‘Positive Adjustments’ program. This experience in addiction treatment is in addition to what we get at Good Shepherd, CPC and COMCARE ATS.

We are available for the residents rotations in Inpatient Psychiatry with Michael Burke, MD, and Jana Lincoln, MD. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry with Mercedes Perales, MD, Gero-Psychiatry with Connie March, MD, and Susan Carr, MD, Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry with Inna D’Empare, MD, and Neurology with Dhawan Abbas, MD, Bhumrao Oxfordmen, MD, or Korei Low, MD. One can also spike up the 4th year by becoming the chief resident or APA/KPS representative or becoming involved in local activities with NAMI, COMCARE, CMHC, Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force, and Crisis Intervention Services. In the fourth year you will be seeing patients at the Via Christi Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic with Ahsan Khan, MD, at the Gero Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic at KUSM-W with Susan Carr, MD, at the Children’s Psychiatric Clinic at KUSM-W and at the children’s residential facility Cametol with Russell Scheffer, MD.

The department has been very open to our creative suggestions in this matter. You can ask for creating a meaningful rotation important to your education if that is not included in the list above. Last year, we had given our “wish list” for the 4th year electives to our then program director John Bobier, MD, who acquainted our aspirations into our rotation schedule for the year. So think before you ask for it is very likely that you will get the rotation you asked for! Hope you will enjoy your senior year the way I am digging it!!


