Loyola University Health System is committed to excellence in patient care and the education of health professionals. We believe that our Catholic heritage and Jesuit traditions of ethical behavior, academic distinction, and scientific research lead to new knowledge and advance our healing mission in the communities we serve. We believe that thoughtful stewardship, learning and constant reflection on experience improve all we do as we strive to provide the highest quality health care.

We believe in God's presence in all our work. Through our care, concern, respect and cooperation, we demonstrate this belief to our patients and families, our students and each other. To fulfill our mission we foster an environment that encourages innovation, embraces diversity, respects life, and values human dignity.

We are committed to going beyond the treatment of disease. We also treat the human spirit.

Clinical Rotations Update

This academic year, the PGY-2 residents have 2 weeks of elective time to explore an area of their interest in psychiatry. This is exciting, as our medical centers, Hines, Loyola and Madden, have unique clinical programs to explore.

At Loyola, there are opportunities to explore sleep medicine, neurology, neuroradiology.

With regards to sleep medicine, residents can spend from 2 weeks to one month working in the sleep lab learning how to read polysomnograms. Also, residents can spend time in the outpatient sleep medicine clinics as well.

With regards to Neurology, residents are welcome to spend more time in their area of interest.

With regards to neuroradiology, residents are welcome to rotate from 2 weeks to one month, focusing on areas of imaging of their interest. This is a really important area of education for psychiatrists, as our research is heavily focused on this area.

At Hines VA Medical Center, subspecialty services for substance abuse and traumatic brain injury have welcomed residents to spend clinical with them. Also, we look forward to the development of the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program, which will be an excellent clinical experience for residents.
Accreditation Site Visit Completed

Our department was visited by Dr. Kristen Raines on September 16, 2009. This visit was for our residency accreditation. At the last visit in 2005, we received 4 years of accreditation, and are hoping for the same this time around.

Thanks to all the faculty and residents who participated in the site visit interviews. Special thanks to Vera Will, JD, our new residency coordinator, for all of her help with the process as well.

We learned many things from the site visitor, Dr. Raines. She emphasized that the ACGME is expecting programs to document how resident demonstrate mastery of the core competencies. There are 6 core competencies residents are to achieve by the completion of their residency, which are Medical Knowledge (MK), Patient Care (PC), Systems Based Practice (SBP), Professionalism (P), Interpersonal and Communication Skills (ICS) and Practice Based Learning and Improvement (PBLI). She recommended that we start thinking about documenting resident performance as we would document treatment in a patient’s chart. Our program has implemented new direct observation assessment tools and will be moving toward providing residents more feedback so that their educational experience can be individualized and optimized during the course of their training.

We look forward to hearing from the Residency Review Committee (RRC) about our visit in the Spring of 2010.

Recruitment Season Here

Get ready to meet some really talented applicants this year! Recruitment season is now here and we are getting prepared to host our applicants for a total of 9 interview days. On the Friday interview days, there will be an interview reception from 5—7 pm in the Faculty Dining area in the Stritch School of Medicine Cafeteria. It would be great to see everyone from our department there to enjoy the wine, cheese and slideshow presentation.

Please save the following dates for the Residency Recruitment Receptions:
- Friday November 6, 13
- Friday Dec 11, 18
- Friday Jan 8, 15
Faculty News

Dr. Edwin Meresh was nominated by the Stritch School of Medicine, medical student body, for the Teacher of the Year award. This is a prestigious award and only 5 faculty members hospital wide are nominated per year. Dr. Meresh is the principal author of, *Perceived Stress, Anxiety, and Markers of Endothelial Dysfunction in Major Depression: Effects of Treatment* which was accepted for a poster presentation at the November 2009 Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine Meeting.

Dr. Jennifer Kurth was interviewed live on NBC 5 News Chicago at 4:30 on 10/5/09 to discuss studies that report increases in Autism prevalence rates. Dr. Kurth has also contributed to the book, "Challenging Depression" that will hit the stands this fall.

Dr. Earlene Strayhorn has started a school based mental health program and Proviso East High School.

Dr. Mark Popenhagen has started a Pediatric Palliative Care Service for the Ronald McDonald Children's Hospital at Loyola University Medical Center.

Didactics Update

Thanks to Dr. Valerie Davis for coordinating the new "acute psychiatry and psychopathology course" for the PGY-1’s.

Thanks to Megha Chadha, PGY-3 and Robert Maydell, PGY-2 for coordinating the PRITE Review course and special thanks to Dr. Mary Lou Gutierrez for facilitating the PRITE Review course.

Dr. Syed Ali will be teaching an updated PGY-3 Advanced Psychopharmacology Course. Thanks to Dr. Nutter and Ali for collaborating to enhance our pharmacology curriculum.

Grand Rounds

A new addition to our grand rounds schedule this year is a Quality Improvement Case Conference Series. In this series, faculty and residents are encouraged to present difficult cases. The QI Conference is scheduled for October 15, 2009, January 21, 2010 and March 18, 2010.

Upcoming Grand Rounds

Speakers and Topics:

October 29, 2009; Former Department Chairman, Dr. Frank Fernandez

November 5, 2009; Patricia Boyle, PhD

November 12, 2009; Dr. Patrick Corrigan

December 3, 2009; Rick Guthmann, "Physicians for a National Health Program"

December 10, 2009; Dr. Aye Mu Myint, PhD, "Tryptophan Metabolism: Body-Mind Connection Through Immune-Metabolic Interaction"

“The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change.”

Carl Rogers
 Resident News

Welcome to our new residents for the 2009-2010 academic year!

Nadia Alvi, DO
Adam Brown, MD
Matthew Niedzwiecki, MD
Vidushi Savant, MD
Arvind Yekanath, MD

Robert Maydell, MD, PGY-2, published in the May 2009 issue of African Journal of Psychiatry, the article: “Clinical characteristics and pre-morbid variables in childhood onset schizophrenia: a descriptive study of twelve cases from a schizophrenia founder population”. Robert had a very unique opportunity to examine children with very early onset schizophrenia (VEOS) for this publication, which fits very well with his interest in pursuing a career in child and adolescent psychiatry. Congratulations Robert!

New Faculty

We have an exceptional group of new faculty members who are very interested in resident education.

Dr. Aparna Sharma completed her psychiatry residency at Loyola University and is now heading the Women’s Mental Health Program and an Eating Disorders Program at Loyola University Medical Center.

Dr. Valerie Davis is the new Chief of Psychiatry at Hines VA Medical Center. Dr. Davis is a national expert in Women’s Mental Health, having published many articles and textbooks as well as made appearances on the Oprah Show in Chicago. Dr. Davis plays an integral part in residency education.

Dr. Joshua Nathan completed his residency at Brown University and completed training in psychoanalysis and is now at the Hines VA Medical Center.

Dr. Christina Girgis completed her residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is now at the Hines VA Medical Center.

Dr. Christy McMillin completed her residency at Northwestern University and is an inpatient attending on 2 South at the Hines VA Medical Center.

Dr. Molly Mulligan completed her residency at Northwestern University and is currently an inpatient attending on 2 South at the Hines VA Medical Center.

New Forensics Opportunity

Administration from the Stritch School of Medicine and representatives from the Department of Psychiatry will be meeting with Dr. Arthur Lurigio to discuss educational opportunities in Forensic Psychology for residents and medical students.

Dr. Arthur J. Lurigio is Associate Dean for Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences. He is a psychologist and a Professor of Criminal Justice and Psychology. He is also the Director of the Center for the Advancement of Research, Training and Education (CARTE) at Loyola University Chicago and the Senior Research Advisor to Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities.