

Educational Program

## Senator Jack Reed Discusses the Mental Health Needs of the Military Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan

On Tuesday evening, February 12, 2008, US Senator Jack Reed (RI), a former Vietnam veteran and Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, joined the Department of Psychiatry as its featured guest speaker for an educational program on *Mental Health Needs of the Military Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan*. Hosted by the Department's Center for Mental Health Outreach, Georgetown's Center for Trauma and the Community (CTC) and the Department's Community Outreach Advisory Council, the event brought together clinicians, administrators, faculty, leaders of nonprofit organizations and veterans for a timely conversation. Held at the historic Army and Navy Club on Farragut Square, the Senator shared: personal stories as a member of the armed forces during the Vietnam War, conversations and perspective from service men and women he met during his 11 trips to Iraq, and examples of how communities are seeking to better serve veterans' long and short term mental health needs. Bonnie Green, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the CTC, briefly discussed the Center's research in trauma and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Stacey Pollack, PhD, Director of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center's (VAMC) Trauma Services Program described the VAMC's program and problems of veterans being seen there. Audience members participated in the ensuing question and answer session with Senator Reed.



(Left to Right) Steven A. Epstein, MD, Paul Mason (Advisory Council Member) and Senator Jack Reed

Forensic Conference

## Forensic Evaluations: A Focus on Cultural Considerations



(Left to Right) Dr. Epstein, Alan Newman, MD, Patrick Canavan, Steven Steury, MD (DMH Chief Medical Officer), Paul Montalbano, PhD and Raymond Patterson, MD (not pictured: Stephen Baron)

On December 12, 2007, the Department of Psychiatry at Georgetown University Hospital (GUH), in partnership with the DC Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Saint Elizabeths Hospital, hosted the second in a series of Forensic Conferences as part of a broader partnership that began in April 2005. The conference topic was, *Forensic Evaluations: A Focus on Cultural Considerations*. Stephen T. Baron, Director of the DMH, welcomed conference participants. In addition to the conference, the day served to recognize John F. Marr, a Psychiatric Nursing Assistant at Saint Elizabeths Hospital who was shot and killed by a minimum-security patient on his ward in the John Howard Pavilion on January 28,

1976. Patrick Canavan, Saint Elizabeths Chief Executive Officer, remembered Mr. Marr and introduced members of his family who were present.

The conference program broadly examined the importance of culture and ethnicity in the criminal justice process, with a particular focus on the case of Zacarias Moussaoui, who was convicted of conspiring to kill Americans as a part of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Alan Newman, MD, Co-Director of the Forensic Fellowship and Director of Residency Training at GUH, was the panel's first speaker, giving an overview of *Cultural Considerations in Forensic Evaluations*. Paul Montalbano, PhD, Pre-Trial Chief, Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Forensic Services Division, DMH, presented *Cultural Belief or Delusion: The Case of Zacarias Moussaoui*. Forensic Psychiatrist Raymond Patterson, MD, discussed *Psychiatric Evaluation and Court Related Issues in the Case of United States vs. Zacarias Moussaou*. Steven A. Epstein, MD, Professor and Chair of GUH's Department of Psychiatry, served as panel moderator.

The conference was held at the Public Welfare Foundation's True Reformer Building. The more than 125 attendees included organizational leaders, clinicians, faculty, students, attorneys, consumers and staff members from the DMH and other DC government agencies.

Photo credits: Rebecca Sandler and Paul Davis

## SAVE THE DATE Forensic Conference

Third In a Series

Hosted by:

Department of Psychiatry,  
Georgetown University Hospital  
In partnership with  
DC Department of Mental Health's  
Saint Elizabeths Hospital

**Monday, April 21**  
**1:00pm- 4:30pm**

**202.687.8985**

Contact: psy@gunet.georgetown.edu  
Location: True Reformer Building

## Department News

•Aimee Danielson, PhD, joined GUH's Department of Psychiatry in January. She will be directing the Women's Mental Health Program that provides evaluation and treatment of psychiatric disorders and problems of adjustment to women in their child-bearing years. Dr. Danielson received her doctorate in Clinical Health Psychology from the University of Miami and completed her predoctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship at Rush University Medical Center where she specialized in health psychology and women's health. Before coming to Georgetown, she was a member of a multidisciplinary private practice in Chicago where she specialized in treating mood and anxiety disorders in pregnancy and postpartum.

•Mary Ann Dutton, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry and Associate Director of the Center for Trauma and the Community, received a R-34 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health in October 2007. The three-year study, *A First-Line Community-Based Mindfulness Trauma Intervention: Healing the Whole Person*, will focus on mental health care for low-income, minority women exposed to intimate partner violence. The study will develop and test an accessible, tailored, and culturally appropriate mindfulness-based intervention suitable as a first-line intervention for delivery in non-mental health community settings.

## Psychiatry Grand Rounds and Other Programs

(\*open to the public)

- March 13, Catherine Roca, MD, Perinatal Depression \*
- March 20, Babette Wise, LICSW, Case Conference
- March 27, Fred Berlin, MD, PhD, Treatment of Sexually Violent Offenders \*
- April 10, Annelie Primm, MD, Cultural Competence in Psychiatry \*