

Specialty Programs  
(first in a series)

Volume Five

March/April  
2007

## A Focus on Geriatrics

The Department of Psychiatry has a long standing tradition of offering specialty programs as a part of its clinical practice. Georgetown University Hospital's Geriatric Psychiatry Program, staffed with experienced, board certified geriatric psychiatrists, serves patients 65 and older, suffering from depression, dementia or other psychiatric disorders. Program director Giovanna Morena, M.D., cares for patients at Georgetown and in nursing homes throughout Montgomery County, MD. Late last year, Dr. Morena was interviewed on *The Voice*, a cable television program on the Retirement Living Channel (Comcast Channel 8). She answered questions about Seasonal Affective Disorder and the increased risk for depression for those who may be less active and socially isolated during the cold winter months. John R. Siberski, SJ, M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Assistant Dean for Student Life, has been a member of the Department of Psychiatry's faculty since 2002. He recently returned to Georgetown following a year's leave, continuing to work both on and off campus. Last Fall, Dr. Siberski provided two training seminars at St. Elizabeths Hospital for community support, residential home and social workers, psychologists and students. The two topics: *Depression and the Dementias* and *Psychoactive Medication and Aging* were a part of a broader program on aging issues offered by the DC Department of Mental Health's Training Institute. John Little, M.D. joined the Department in 2006 as Medical Director of the Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Program and faculty psychiatrist in the outpatient clinic. Working with Paul S. Aisen, M.D., director of Georgetown University Medical Center Memory Disorders Program, Dr. Little, a co-investigator, sees cognitively normal and cognitively impaired geriatric patients who have psychiatric problems. In addition, Dr. Little is a consultant to the Washington Home, an institution that provides "long-term care to people with chronic disease or disability, regardless of sex, creed, race or national origin."

## Intelligent Sisters Improving Selves (I.S.I.S.): HIV Substance Abuse Prevention Program

Department of Psychiatry faculty member, Tiffany G. Townsend, Ph.D., is the Principal Investigator on a four year grant (2004—2008) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration designed to reduce the risk of HIV infection and substance use among African-American adolescent girls (using a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention evidence-based curriculum). Currently in four Southwest, Philadelphia middle schools, the I.S.I.S. project is open to girls between the ages of 11-14. Participants meet twice a week, learning about the prevention of risky behaviors and gaining new skills through a series of empowering workshops with positive role models. Critiquing "pop culture" videos and producing a version that reflects more affirming images of African American girls and women adds to the project's innovative spirit. Dr. Townsend works in collaboration with the Progressive Life Center, Inc., a Washington, DC based, nonprofit organization providing psychological services to individuals in minority communities. Her focus is to decrease health/mental health disparities among ethnic minority women, children, families.

## Dr. Stacey Kaltman Honored by Georgetown Women in Medicine

On December 5, 2006, Stacey Kaltman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Georgetown University, was presented with the John Eisenberg Memorial Career Development Award by the Georgetown Women in Medicine. Dr. Kaltman, who joined the faculty in 2002, also serves as Evaluation Director for the Montgomery Cares Behavioral Health Pilot (a partnership initiative with Montgomery County, Maryland's Department of Health and Human Services, the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, and the Center for Mental Health Outreach). The Award is a competitive honor that affords a junior faculty member the opportunity to attend the Association of American Medical College's Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar in Washington, DC. The seminar provides training in leadership and professional development. The award is named in memory of the late John M. Eisenberg, M.D., MBA, who was a former Chairman of the Department of Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at Georgetown University.

*The Center For Mental Health Outreach is dedicated to improving mental health care for the underserved in the Nation's Capital*

Please contact for additional information and donations.

3800 Reservoir Road, NW, 520 Kober-Cogan Bldg., Washington, DC 20007 phone 202.687.0949 fax 202.687.8577 spp3@gunet.georgetown.edu

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Forensic Conference**  
**Friday, April 27, 1:00-4:30 pm**  
True Reformer Bldg., 1200 U Street, NW  
**Current State of Involuntary  
Mental Health Treatment in  
the District of Columbia**

Hosted by:  
Department of Psychiatry  
Georgetown University Hospital  
DC Department of Mental Health  
Speakers include:  
Ann O' Regan Keary, Associate Judge  
DC Superior Court of the District of Columbia  
Marvin S. Swartz, M.D., Duke Medical Center  
Suzanne Fenzel, Office of the Attorney General  
Registration 202.687.8985  
Open to the Public

## Department News

Dr. Mayada Akil joins the faculty in March. She will be assuming a new departmental position, Medical Director of Outpatient Programs. Dr. Akil will be responsible for developing the Neuroscience curriculum for residents and teaching the Psychiatric Disorders course for second year medical students. In addition, Dr. Akil will direct the Mood and Anxiety Disorders Specialty Program. Dr. Akil obtained her M.D. from the Damascus University School of Medicine and completed her Psychiatry residency at the University of Michigan in 1989. Since 2003, Dr. Akil has been Senior Advisor to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Director. Her responsibilities for that position included serving as the NIMH representative to the NIH Blueprint on Neuroscience Research, the NIH Roadmap Liaison, and the NIMH representative to the National Psychiatry Training Council. She's published over 25 peer-reviewed papers in major journals.

## Psychiatry Grand Rounds and Other Programs (\*open to the public)

- March 15, Ellen Minerva, M.D., Clinical Case Presentation
- \*March 22, Laura Marsh, M.D.  
Topic: Longitudinal Neuropsychiatric Aspects of Parkinson's Disease
- \*April 12, Ned Cassem, SJ, M.D.,  
Topic: Psychiatric Care of the Dying Patient
- April 19, Kim Davis, PhD, Clinical Case Presentation

For more information about  
the department:  
[www.georgetownuniversityho  
spital.org/body.cfm?id=512](http://www.georgetownuniversityhospital.org/body.cfm?id=512)  
Georgetown Center for  
Trauma in the Community:  
<http://ctc.georgetown.edu>