

In TOUCH with the

Department of Psychiatry

Specialty Programs
(second in a series)

A Focus on Children

Under the leadership of Caroline Sehon, M.D., the Department of Psychiatry's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Program provides outpatient diagnostic evaluations and treatment for children, adolescents and their families through individual psychotherapy, family therapy and pharmacotherapy. Currently staffed by two Board certified child psychiatrists and one child psychologist (see Jennifer Babcock, Psy.D. Department News), the program will expand this summer with the addition of Dr. Matthew Biel, a child psychiatrist, who will provide consultation and liaison services to the hospital's inpatient pediatric units. In addition to caring for patients at Georgetown, Dr. Sehon maintains a private practice and serves as President-elect of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Society of Greater Washington. This past winter, Dr. Sehon testified before the Council of the District of Columbia's Committee on Health regarding the delivery of mental health services to children and adolescents in the District of Columbia. Avram Mack, M.D., a child and forensic psychiatrist and Associate Director of Medical Student Education, spends two days a week supervising residents at the Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents in Southern Maryland, provides court ordered juvenile competency evaluations for Juvenile Courts in six Maryland Counties, and sees patients at Georgetown several hours each week. Both Drs. Sehon and Mack teach and supervise medical students and psychiatry residents. Over the past few years, the clinical and didactic teaching component of the resident's curriculum has been expanded so that general psychiatry residents now receive exposure to child psychiatry throughout their residency. The Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Program continues to be strengthened by the invaluable assistance of its volunteer faculty, for which it is deeply grateful.

Comprehensive Assessment Services Now Being Provided for Children and Adolescents

Last month, the Department of Psychiatry's Child & Adolescent Program began collaborating with schools in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area to address the need for comprehensive assessment of children's emotional, academic, and cognitive functioning. "Through the provision of services," Dr. Sehon explained, "Our mission is to understand all aspects of a child's development so that we can provide a clear and comprehensive assessment of the range of their needs." Jennifer Babcock, Psy.D. can be reached at 202.687.2161, regarding the following menu of services:

- Cognitive Testing: Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-IV)
- Achievement Testing: Woodcock-Johnson Third Edition (WJ-III)
- Test of Nonverbal Visual and Auditory Processing issues: Test of Variables of Attention (TOVA)
- Emotional Assessments: Rorschach (ink blot), Children's Apperception Test (CAT), Thematic Apperception Test (TAT), House-Tree-Person test
- The Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration (VMI) and the Bender Gestalt Test of Visual/Motor Integration (BGVMT)

Department of Psychiatry and DC Department of Mental Health Host Forensic Conference

On April 27, 2007, the DC Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department of Psychiatry hosted the "first in a series" of forensic conferences as a part of a broader partnership that began in April 2005. The conference topic, *Current State of Involuntary Mental Health Treatment in the District of Columbia*, was presented by a panel of experts who shared a local and national perspective on an issue that is fraught with ongoing questions and controversy.

Presenters included: Marvin S. Swartz, M.D., Professor and Head, Division of Social and Community Psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center; Suzanne Fenzel, Chief of the Mental Health Section in the Office of the Attorney General; and The Honorable Joan Goldfrank, Magistrate Judge Superior Court of the District of Columbia and Chair of the Court's Commission on Mental Health. Steven A. Epstein, M.D., Professor and Chair of GUH's Department of Psychiatry, served as panel moderator. The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Councilmember At-Large and Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary for the Council of the District of Columbia, and Stephen Baron, Director of the DC DMH, welcomed conference participants.

The conference was held at the Public Welfare Foundation's True Reformer Building. The more than 200 attendees included organizational leaders, clinicians, faculty, students, attorneys, consumers and staff members from the DMH and other DC Government agencies.



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Department News

- Jennifer Babcock, Psy.D. joined the Department of Psychiatry in January. Dr. Babcock will be providing: projective, cognitive and educational assessment for children and adolescents; psychotherapy for children, adolescents, and adults; and family psychotherapy. She earned her MA in Organizational Psychology and EdM in Counseling Psychology, both from Teachers College of Columbia University. Dr. Babcock received her Psy.D. from George Washington University in Clinical Psychology and prior to joining the Department was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. Most recently, she served as Staff Psychologist in the Healthy Weight Initiative Program at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Babcock's specialized experience includes Psycho-Oncology and Child/Adolescent Obesity.
- Matthew Ellis, Assistant Administrator for Academic Affairs, joined the Department in February. In addition to a variety of departmental tasks, Mr. Ellis facilitates residency training and medical student education, working with the Office of Graduate Medical Education and the School of Medicine. Mr. Ellis received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming where he majored in English/Journalism/Education. After graduating, he worked as an educator, teaching high school English and Journalism. Most recently he worked as a corporate representative for a development company. He looks forward to applying his background in education, in combination with his knowledge of the business world, to facilitate the training for the Department.

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

- *June 14, Resident Poster Session
- June 21, Maheen Patel, M.D. Psychiatrist, Faculty Case Conference
- *June 28, Kenneth Tercyak, Assistant Professor, Lombardi Cancer Center Georgetown University

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

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

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