

### Georgetown's Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Program

Georgetown's Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Program (PPHP) provides outpatient treatment for individuals with acute psychiatric illness. Residing at home and commuting to Georgetown University Hospital Monday through Friday, patients participate in a personalized treatment plan that is designed to promote the skills necessary for a return to the highest level of function within a two to four week period. This program is the only one of its kind in the District of Columbia.

John Little, M.D., the program's medical director, leads an interdisciplinary team of clinicians who collaborate with the patient in setting realistic, therapeutic and individualized treatment goals. Program elements include symptom assessment, medication education and a variety of therapeutic groups that assist individuals in dealing with family relationships, communication, problems in daily living, coping with stress and understanding mental illness. The 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM, Monday through Friday schedule, also affords a group opportunity that helps patients structure their weekend time productively. When enrolled, medication management and regular visits to one's psychiatrist or therapist may continue.

An Alumni group of participants meets twice a month to continue support as patients face the stress of transitioning back to their jobs, families and daily activities. A highlight of the year is a Thanksgiving luncheon when alumni, current patients, and staff come together to share the healing of the PPHP community.

#### Forensic Conference—Fifth in a Series

### Saint Elizabeths Hospital and Presidential Assassinations in Washington, DC

Atop a hill overlooking the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, Saint Elizabeths Hospital, during its more than 150 years of operation, has played a unique role



(Left to Right) Tyler G. Jones, MD, KyleeAnn Stevens, MD, Alan Newman, MD, Stephen Baron, Patrick J. Canavan, PsyD, Steven Epstein, MD.  
Photo credit: Paul Davis

throughout the course of many historic sagas in the Nation's Capital. On April 22, 2009, the Department of Psychiatry and the DC Department of Mental Health (DMH) hosted their fifth in a series of forensic conferences entitled, *Saint Elizabeths Hospital and Presidential Assassinations in Washington, DC*. Dr. Steven Epstein, GUH Department of Psychiatry Professor and Chair, Stephen Baron, DMH Director and Patrick J. Canavan, Psy.D., Saint Elizabeths CEO, delivered opening remarks to conference participants.

Presenters examined the legal debate and treatment for two individuals who made an attempt on the lives of two US Presidents. Program moderator Alan Newman, M.D., Director, Psychiatry Residency Training Program at GUH and Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Georgetown University, discussed the personal history and circumstances that led to the attempted assassination of President Andrew Jackson in January 1835 by Richard Lawrence in the US Capitol Building. The Government Hospital for the Insane (later named Saint Elizabeths) committed Mr. Lawrence in 1855. Saint Elizabeths staff psychiatrist KyleeAnn Stevens, M.D., presented the surroundings and conditions under which Charles Guiteau killed the 20<sup>th</sup> US President, James Garfield in 1881. Guiteau was housed at Saint Elizabeths throughout his trial and up to his execution.

Tyler G. Jones, M.D., Saint Elizabeths staff psychiatrist and Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Georgetown University, discussed the status of functional neuroimaging in criminal responsibility evaluations and its relevance in the trials of Lawrence and Guiteau. Dr. Newman concluded the program with a presentation that included: a discussion of Judge David Bazelon's opinion on *Durham vs United States*; President Richard M. Nixon's call for the abolition of the insanity defense for federal crimes; and the recent history of the insanity defense in Washington DC, including assassination attempts against Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Reagan.

The Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Program, under the direction of Dr. Newman, is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and is the only non-military Forensic Psychiatry fellowship in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

### **Congratulations!**

*The Department of  
Psychiatry  
extends its sincere  
congratulations  
to the 2009 graduating class of  
residents and fellows*

#### Residents and Medical Students

### Research Poster Session

A long-standing tradition of the Department of Psychiatry has been its annual research poster session where 4<sup>th</sup> year residents and fellows present their scholarly projects on a topic of their choice in collaboration with a research mentor. This year, the session has been opened up to include medical students at Georgetown who have completed an independent study project associated with the Department of Psychiatry. The poster session is scheduled for Thursday, June 11th at 4:00 PM in the Program Room of the Leavey Center (next to the University Bookstore). Refreshments will be served.

Each medical student and psychiatry resident works to complete a project in partnership with a faculty mentor. The Residency Research Curriculum Committee, chaired by Joyce Chung, MD, oversees this process. "Research projects have been a requirement of the residency program in the Department of Psychiatry for many years," Chung said, "This year, I am pleased we will be able to include students from the Georgetown University School of Medicine, which now requires an independent study project for all medical students in order to graduate."

Dr. Chung expressed her gratitude to this year's Georgetown mentors and external mentors from the National Institute of Mental Health. Students or faculty seeking research opportunities and mentors for projects should contact Dr. Chung at [chungjy@georgetown.edu](mailto:chungjy@georgetown.edu).

#### Department News

- In April, the Department of Psychiatry's Research Division submitted nine grant applications of various types (new projects, supplements) many in response to new monies available from the stimulus package. Grant applications went to the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Center for Mental Health and Health Disparities, and the National Institute of Justice. Results on funding should be available in June or July.

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

- \* June 11, Student and Resident Poster Session  
Program Room, Leavey Center, GU

**Our newsletter now reaches you in our  
new online format. Please feel free to  
forward to friends and colleagues.**