As spring sets in, we are excited by new initiatives, transitions and opportunities for collaboration.

As many of you know, we have been working to recruit a director for the Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research and Education. This is a landmark recruitment for child and adolescent psychiatry in Alberta, as we strive to enhance evidence-based care for our kids. We look forward to formally announcing the director in September.

The Department of Psychiatry is working collaboratively with colleagues at the University of Calgary on two new mental health strategies. The university-wide Brain and Mental Health Strategy, launching on May 27, will be led by the Hotchkiss Brain Institute. Dr. Anne Duffy and Dr. Andy Bulloch will lead the Mental Health Neuro Team as part of this important endeavour. The department is also involved in developing a mental health strategy for students at the University of Calgary. Early detection and intervention are critical for students who are vulnerable to emerging mental health issues. This initiative is being led by the provost, Dr. Dru Marshall, and Dr. Glenda MacQueen.

I’d like to highlight some transitions within the Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN). Congratulations to Dr. Frank MacMaster, who was chosen as the successful candidate for the position of scientific director. We also say goodbye to Cathy Pryce, the senior provincial director of the SCN, and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement. Cathy has made significant contributions to the field of mental health over the past 22 years.

Finally, thank you to all of our front-line staff for continuing to provide excellent patient care, despite tremendous capacity pressures. Also, thank you to Dr. Lisa Gagnon for studying the increase in aggression on our inpatient units; her work helps mitigate these issues and improve the milieu for our patients.
The research surrounding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the impact on health and social well-being is compelling; strong evidence shows that as the number of ACEs increases, the odds of poor health outcomes increase substantially, resulting in a greater likelihood of health difficulties in mental health, addictions, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and many other conditions.

Over the next year all clinicians working in the Child and Adolescent Addiction and Mental Health Program (CAAMHP) will begin asking children, adolescents and/or their families about adverse childhood experiences and recording their number of ACEs.

On March 17, 2015 a professional development day was held for 216 people to introduce the concept of ACE to staff in CAAMHP, as well as to other partner organizations such as Child and Family Services, Child Development Centre, Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre and some adult addiction and mental health services. Discussions about how to use this information and what supports are needed took place throughout the day. Coincidentally, on March 12, 2015 a separate conference, “ACEs and Adult Health: Building Trauma-informed Practice for Adults in Primary Care”, was also held with representatives from adult addiction and mental health services and primary care.

ACE INFORMATION FROM PATIENTS AND FAMILIES WILL BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- to clinically better understand a child’s experience and risk factors;
- to clinically inform treatment;
- to better understand the profile of addiction and mental health users;
- to help identify those most at risk of the cumulative harm associated with these events; and
- to align with many other initiatives underway or in development across CAAMHP, such as the Brain Health Initiative, the use of collaborative problem solving, and trauma-informed care.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACEs, PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING LINKS:

- www.acestudy.org
- www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/
- www.albertafamilywellness.org/
- www.acestoohigh.com/

For more information relating to the use of ACEs in child and adolescent addiction and mental health, please contact Aleta Ambrose, Senior Project Manager, Child and Adolescent Addiction and Mental Health.
The Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) is thrilled to announce that Drs. Nicholas Mitchell and Frank MacMaster have joined the SCN in its mission to improve care and outcomes for addiction and mental health in Alberta. Dr. Mitchell joined the SCN as senior medical director in October 2014 and Dr. MacMaster as the scientific director in February of this year.

Dr. Mitchell is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Alberta. His residency in psychiatry was completed at the University of Alberta in 2010, and he obtained a Master of Science in Psychiatry with research focusing on the neurobiology of depression in the postpartum. Dr. Mitchell is also the director of continuing professional development in the Department of Psychiatry and coordinator for adult psychiatry grand rounds at the University of Alberta. He sits on a number of national committees, including the Council of Psychiatric Continuing Education at the Canadian Psychiatric Association.

Currently, Dr. Mitchell maintains an active clinical practice with the consultation-liaison psychiatry service at the University of Alberta Hospital. Particular clinical interests include mental health issues in individuals with neurological conditions and related to solid organ transplantation.

As Senior Medical Director, Dr. Mitchell hopes to have the opportunity to bring the perspective of a physician and frontline staff member to the table in discussions about local, regional and systems-level changes grounding the SCN in the reality of providing day-to-day mental health care in an Alberta context. A large part of his role will be to engage frontline staff, including physicians, in order to empower them to bring their ideas and concerns forward.

Dr. MacMaster is an assistant professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Paediatrics at the University of Calgary and the inaugural holder of the Cuthbertson and Fischer Chair in Paediatric Mental Health.

His research interest focuses on developing an understanding of the underlying neurobiology of mental illness in children and adolescents, and using that knowledge to develop and better target novel interventions. Currently, his work is focused on the application of brain stimulation methods in major depressive disorder and Tourette syndrome. Reward processing (an aspect of emotional regulation) in addictions is a developing interest as well.

The larger goal is to have outcome-focused research that impacts clinical practice positively and usefully to better the lives of children affected by mental illness.

Dr. MacMaster maintains an interest in other psychiatric disorders found in young people, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, schizophrenia and obsessive compulsive disorder.

As Scientific Director, Dr. MacMaster sees the role of scientific director as facilitating research that directly impacts Albertans. He also sees the potential for bringing the substantial strength in neuroscience that Alberta has to bear on mental health problems.

Get in touch with the SCN to learn more about how you can be involved at addictionmentalhealth.clinicalnetwork@albertahealthservices.ca.
This year’s Youth Mental Health Day (Adolescent Cannabis Use and Psychosis: Where Does the Evidence Stand?) attracted a diverse group of participants. The day included presentations from four excellent speakers and a panel discussion. The Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research and Education wishes to thank everyone involved for helping to make this year’s event such a great success!

“A key finding presented by Sir Robin Murray is that 25% of psychosis cases are attributable to overuse of cannabis. This highlights the important public health implications of the excellent research at preclinical, clinical and population levels that was presented by the four speakers today.”

- Dr. Andrew Bulloch, Interim Director, Mathison Centre

This Year’s Event:
- Record-breaking crowds asking thought-provoking questions
- World-class speakers sharing the latest research findings
- Challenging panel discussion

Our Speakers

Dr. Steven Laviolette, Western University, London, ON
“The Role of the Cannabinoid System in Emotional Regulation: Implications for Mental Health”

Dr. Yasmin Hurd, Mount Sinai Hospital, NY
“Adolescent Cannabis: Neurobiological Risk for Psychiatric Disorder? The Role of the Cannabinoid System in Emotional Regulation: Implications for Mental Health”

Dr. Lisa Buchy, Mathison, Centre Postdoctoral Fellow
“Associations among cannabis use patterns, thalamic functional connectivity and conversion to psychosis in clinically high risk youth”

Sir Robin Murray, King’s College, London UK
“Too much drugs and tobacco, and not enough sex and rock and roll”
Congratulations

Dr. Lloyd Maybaum chosen by the Calgary Medical Society as Physician of the Year

Congratulations to the following department members who received recognition from the Class of 2016 medical students for outstanding teaching.

**Faculty Honour Roll Awards**
- Dr. Cindy Baxter
- Dr. Jordan Cohen
- Dr. Jason Taggart
- Dr. Kathy Finch
- Dr. Kanwal Mohan
- Dr. Lisa Gagnon
- Dr. Monique Jericho
- Dr. Randall Krall (resident)
- Dr. Tim Ayas

**Gold Star Awards**
- Dr. Aaron Mackie
- Dr. Lauren Zanussi
- Dr. Philip Stokes

**Narwards**
*Tongue-in-cheek awards from the Class of 2016 “Narwards”*
- Dr. Aaron Mackie
  “Not an Orthopod award”

**Class of 2016 Jersey Awards**
*Outstanding teacher in each area of undergraduate medical education*
- Dr. Lauren Zanussi

Who’s New?

Dr. Vidya Raj

Vidya Raj MB ChB graduated from the University of Manchester (UK) Medical School and was completing her general practice training in the Midlands when she got married and moved to Nashville, Tennessee. Upon arriving in Nashville, she began a research fellowship in psychiatry and led efforts to assess psychiatric phenotypes in Postural Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). While at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, she completed her residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in consultation-liaison psychiatry. Her clinical focus at Vanderbilt was on inpatient consultation-liaison work in the main teaching hospital and in growing the Neurostimulation program (electroconvulsive therapy and transcranial magnetic stimulation). She ran a Hearts and Minds clinic that was embedded in the Vanderbilt Heart and Vascular Institute. Her specific cardiac focuses included congestive heart failure, recurrent syncope and POTS.

Despite living in Nashville, she could not develop a love of country music. She encouraged her husband to get recruited to the Department of Cardiac Sciences at the University of Calgary to be closer to the music that she loves (Sara and Tegan).

In Calgary she splits her time between the Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre psychiatry clinic and the Rockyview General Hospital psychiatry consultation clinic, as well as weekly teaching in the Family Medicine Residents Case-based Lab (FMCL). She continues to collaborate with her husband in clinical research projects in patients with autonomic dysfunction.

ALSO NEW TO OUR DEPARTMENT

Dr. Rohanne Robertson Moore
Outpatient (Shared Care)
I am a neuropsychiatrist whose clinical and research interests explore the interface between neurology and psychiatry, fields that I feel are converging once again. Much of what I explore from a research perspective is informed by clinical experience and the interesting questions that arise in my day-to-day practice. With a greater understanding of the neurobiology of mental illness, we have a better ability to link thought, perception, mood and behaviour to underlying neurological processes. Further, in neurological patients there is a greater appreciation of what were once considered psychiatric symptoms as part of the larger neurological picture.

As a clear example of this, I have ongoing research into early diagnosis of neurodegenerative illness using psychiatric symptomatology. Historically, the diagnosis of dementia has been predicated on the presence of cognitive impairment. In collaboration with an international group of colleagues, I have recently developed diagnostic criteria for a syndrome called Mild Behavioural Impairment (MBI), which describes later onset neuropsychiatric symptoms as a possible index manifestation of neurodegeneration, in advance of cognitive impairment. These neuropsychiatric symptoms fall broadly into the categories of motivation, affective regulation, impulse control, social cognition and perception/thought content. The next several years will be spent validating the construct of MBI from an epidemiological perspective, developing and validating an MBI rating scale, and determining the neural signatures of the various psychiatric endophenotypes of early neurodegeneration using functional and structural neuroimaging, biomarkers and prospective cohort observation.

We have also completed a protocol addressing the role of N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antibodies in the manifestation of psychosis, both first episode and chronic. This newly discovered phenomenon of a neurological illness masquerading as a psychiatric one is an exciting direction toward greater understanding of neurological underpinning of psychiatric phenotypes. We hope to start recruiting this year.

I am also interested in the measurement and quantification of both behaviour and cognition across the neuropsychiatric spectrum. Specifically, I have interest in cognitive rating scales that are not biased by language, education or culture that can be used in psychiatric populations. Further, I am interested in optimizing the measurement of neuropsychiatric symptoms in neurological illness. We have demonstrated different psychometric properties for three commonly used behavioural rating scales—all of which capture symptoms and response to treatment differently. Ideally, in clinical trials the rating scale would be matched to the anticipated effect size of the intervention.

Finally, we have started a program of systematic reviews and meta-analyses of neuropsychiatric symptoms and interventions. We have just completed the study of depressive symptoms in mild cognitive impairment, with ongoing studies assessing the prevalence of psychosis and efficacy of interventions in cognitive impairment.

Recent publications


Dr. Lisa Buchy

Postdoctoral Fellow

I am a neuroscientist with a primary interest in understanding the neurocognitive and brain systems that underlie clinical insight (i.e., awareness of illness, symptom attribution) and cognitive insight (self-reflectiveness, overconfidence) in schizophrenia and its risk states.

I am currently a second-year postdoctoral fellow at the Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research and Education. During the first year of my postdoctoral work, I worked on three studies on substance use patterns and one study on meta-cognition in youth at clinical high risk (CHR) of psychosis. Under the supervision of Dr. Jean Addington, we recently reported in 165 CHR youth that a younger age of onset of cannabis use is associated with dysconnectivity in thalamic neural circuits. We also published in two prospective studies of independent cohorts of 170 and 735 CHR youth that cannabis use does not predict psychosis onset. Recently we reported in 29 CHR that one’s metacognitive ability impacts brain changes that occur prior to the onset of psychosis.

Over the next two years I will be collecting cognitive insight and neuroimaging data at the Calgary site of the North American Prodrome Longitudinal Study (NAPLS 3), which I will use to model structural imaging predictors of changes in cognitive insight and relation to conversion to psychosis in clinical high risk youth. I am also working on a study funded by the Hotchkiss Brain Institute on the brain effects of social cognition training in first-episode psychosis. I believe this research has the potential to inform the development of new social skills training interventions for people with psychosis and to model treatment response in the brain.

My research has been supported by scholarships from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and McGill and Simon Fraser Universities. I have ten years of clinical experience, including working as a neuropsychological evaluator and clinical case manager for people with serious mental illnesses. I enjoy participating in community events led by the Schizophrenia Society of Alberta, including the annual Open Minds Walk and Run.

Recent Publications


**Update on the Psychopharmacology Research Unit**

**Thomas J Raedler, MD**

The Psychopharmacology Research Unit (PRU) focuses on conducting clinical trials as a way of finding new medications that will be more effective and better tolerated than the currently available treatments. We also participate in studies looking at new indications for established medications. Over the past three months we have been participating in four clinical trials.

- **PRC-063 in adolescent ADHD** (sponsor Purdue Pharma Canada; NCT02139111): this Phase III study examined the safety and efficacy of a new stimulant medication in adolescents with ADHD. Recruitment was completed in January 2015.

- **Study of EVP-6124 (Alpha-7 nAChR) as an adjunctive pro-cognitive treatment in schizophrenia subjects on chronic stable atypical antipsychotic therapy** (sponsor FORUM Pharmaceuticals; NCT01714661): the purpose of this Phase III study is to determine if EVP-6124 (an alpha-7 nAChR agonist) enhances the cognitive abilities of subjects with schizophrenia who are also taking stable antipsychotic therapy. Recruitment for this clinical trial is scheduled to end in mid-May 2015.

- **A study to investigate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of four different doses of BI 409306 compared to placebo given for 12 weeks in patients with schizophrenia on stable antipsychotic treatment** (sponsor Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd.; NCT02281773): the objective of this 12-week Phase II study is to investigate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of BI 409306 on cognitive dysfunction in schizophrenia. Recruitment is ongoing.

- **Real Life Assessment of Abilify Maintena™ (ReLIAM)** (sponsor Lundbeck Canada; NCT02131415)

The main objective of this non-interventional, Canadian Phase IV study is to describe the impact of treatment with Abilify Maintena™ on global functional status. Recruitment is ongoing.

Please feel free to contact either me (Thomas.Raedler@albertahealthservices.ca) or our clinical trials coordinators, Geri Anderson (Geri.Anderson@albertahealthservices.ca) and Tara Morash (Tara.Morash@albertahealthservices.ca), by email or at 403-210-6903 if you wish to receive further information about current studies. You can also find us on the internet at www.ucalgary.ca/pru.
The 28th annual Sebastian K. Littmann Research Day took place on March 13, 2015, with Paul Grof as the keynote speaker (“Bipolar Disorders, the Curse of Heterogeneity”). Dr. Grof was a pioneer in the use of lithium for bipolar disorders and continues to be an important thought leader in issues surrounding the classification and treatment of these disorders. An interesting presentation by Dr. Frank Stahnisch and Stephen Pow also provided a fascinating historical perspective on the life of Dr. Sebastian K. Littmann—the second head of the Department of Psychiatry.

The abstracts for both oral and poster presentations are archived in the University of Calgary’s digital repository www.prism.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/50399, which means that they will also be indexed in Google Scholar for referencing purposes. Congratulations to the award winners (see below), as well as to everyone who presented their research ideas, methods and results at the research day:

- Best presentation by a resident: Dr. Kimberly Williams (“Fatigue risk management amongst University of Calgary resident physicians”),
- Most innovative project by a resident: Dr. Brooke Duncan (“Developing a feasibility study of online resiliency training for adolescents in an acute care psychiatric inpatient unit”), and
- Best presentation by a graduate student: Isabelle Vallerand (“Increased mortality associated with depression: a cohort study using The Health Improvement Network (THIN) database”).

I would also like to thank the award adjudicators (Drs. Jordan Cohen, Emilie Magaud, Andrew Bulloch) and session moderators (Drs. Jian Li Wang, Thomas Raedler, Frank MacMaster), as well as Yvette Kosidowski and Pauline Burgess for their organizational support of the event.
Recent Publications

Dr. Allan Donsky

Dr. Anne Duffy

Dr. Zahinoor Ismail


Dr. Frank MacMaster


Research Participants Needed

Boehringer Ingelheim Study in Patients with Cognitive Impairment Associated with Schizophrenia

The Psychopharmacology Research Unit is currently recruiting patients for a clinical trial sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim. The objective of the study is to investigate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of four different doses of the study drug once daily compared to placebo given for 12 weeks in patients with schizophrenia on stable antipsychotic treatment. The study will focus on the patient’s cognition and everyday living skills.

Additional information on this clinical trial can be found at www.clinicaltrials.gov (NCT 02281773).

ELIGIBLE PATIENTS MUST HAVE/BUILD:

- Established diagnosis of schizophrenia (per DSM-5), clinically stable and in the residual (non-acute) phase of their illness for at least 8 weeks
- Stable on current antipsychotic (clozapine excluded) and concomitant psychotropic medications
- No significant history of drug dependence or abuse (including alcohol, and marijuana)
- Male or female patients age 18 to 55 years
- Willing and able to provide written informed consent
- An identified informant who will be consistent throughout the study and must interact with the patient at least 2 times a week

Patients on more than two antipsychotic medications, or taking long-acting hypnotics and anxiolytics, are not eligible for the trial.

We welcome referrals for potential patients that meet the above criteria.

For more information about this study, please contact Dr. Thomas Raedler at Thomas.raedler@albertahealthservices.ca or the clinical trials coordinator, Geri Anderson, at 403-210-6903 or geri.anderson@albertahealthservices.ca
Events

**Women’s Mental Health Day Conference: Focusing on Perinatal Mental Health**
MAY 22, 2015
Grant MacEwan Conference Centre, Main Campus, University of Calgary

The annual conference focuses on identification, prevention and intervention of mental health disorders in pregnancy and postpartum. This year’s event focuses on mental health of immigrant mothers, the risks in peripartum for traumatized women, infanticide, women with addictions, the safety of psychotropics in the perinatal period and community resources for vulnerable patients.


**Think Big: A Night Out with Your Brain**
FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2015

The Amazing Brain & its Juggling Act

Light Refreshments: 5:30 pm
Talk: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Reception: 7:00 pm
Main Floor, Central Library, 616 Macleod Trail S.E.

Life’s a juggling act & the brain’s on the ball. Jay Ingram and experts from the University of Calgary’s Hotchkiss Brain Institute will dive into the amazing brain to uncover the science behind memory. Join us at 5:30 pm for light refreshments before the 6:00 pm start to a truly memorable evening, including a lively (and interactive) reception!

Think Big is free; however, seating is limited.
Register online at calgarylibrary.ca or call 403.260.2620

**Shoppers Drug Mart: Run for Women**
MAY 24, 2015

Proceeds will go to the Women’s Mental Health Clinic at Foothills Medical Centre

www.runforwomen.ca

**HBI Research Day**
JUNE 4, 2015

Keynote: Dr. Martin Lauritzen, University of Copenhagen

**13th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament**
Department of Psychiatry
JUNE 22, 2015

The Hamptons Golf Club, 69 Hamptons Drive NW

Registrations received by April 15, 2015, will be entered in an early bird draw.

Final registration deadline: May 15, 2015

For more information or to register, please contact Mary McRae at (403) 944-1297 or mary.mcrae@albertahealthservices.ca.

The following members of the Class of 2017 (Humuhumunukunukuapua’a) will take over the leadership of the PMIG this coming year:

MARIUM ARAIN
ROBYN-LEE BURTON
KAROLINA KOWALEWSKI
EMILY MACPHAIL
VERONIQUE RAM

The 2016 Executive (Audrey Nguyen, Grace Wang, Tamanna Chibber, Jennifer Avery) wish the incoming class well, and indicated the psychiatry team has been a pleasure to work with.

Mind Matters is distributed to psychiatry medical staff and faculty, psychiatry residents, program directors and section chiefs, Alberta Health Services executives, and psychiatry support staff.

Submissions & Inquiries:
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tammy.nelson@albertahealthservices.ca
Phone (403) 944-8913 Fax (403) 270-3451

www.ucalgary.ca/psychiatry