Message from the Department Head, Dr. Beverly Adams

I am excited to report two new recruitments to the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Alex McGirr from UBC will be joining us in November 2017. His area of interest is neurostimulation (rTMS) in animal models as well as clinical trials in human populations. Dr. Daniel Kopala-Sibley is an academic psychologist who studies mechanisms by which parenting and environmental factors interact in the development of personality and psychopathology during adolescence. He is one of the Mathison Centre recruitments and will be starting in October 2017. We look forward to welcoming these great new recruits to Calgary.

Congratulations to Dr. Chris Wilkes who achieved his Distinguished Fellow Life Time award at the APA in San Diego in May. Congratulations to Dr. Zahinoor Ismail who was awarded the University of Calgary Peak Scholars in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Knowledge Engagement award 2016 for development of the Mild Behavioral Impairment Checklist, a rating scale for later life onset of neuropsychiatric symptoms as prodromal dementia symptoms.

A town hall is scheduled for June 20 regarding the Academic Alternate Relationship Plan which is now called the Alberta Academic Medicine and Health Services Program. This is a tremendous opportunity if you are a clinical psychiatrist interested in participating in research, education or leadership. We continue to work on the agreement regarding physician office space and the value exchange arrangement.

I hope you have a wonderful break over the summer and thanks again for all your efforts in providing evidence based care for our patients and for participating in the education of our trainees.
New & Noteworthy

Provincial sex offender treatment capacity transitioned, April 1, 2017, from the Phoenix Program in Edmonton to Calgary. The Rocky Mountain Program (RMP) is the newest division of the Forensic Outpatient services spectrum and functions as the Alberta provincial in-custody sex offender treatment program located at the Calgary Correctional Centre. This is the first undertaking of a collaborative sex offender treatment program between AHS and the Justice and Solicitor General in Alberta.

Program Description

Treatment is provided by an Alberta Health Services multidisciplinary team comprised of psychiatry, psychology, nursing, and social work. Our partners at Alberta Justice and Solicitor General have taken the bold step of hiring dedicated Correctional Officers who see the importance and benefit of providing a milieu geared towards treatment. We are excited by this new team dynamic and what it will mean for healthy client outcomes.

Offenders referred to the RMP will participate in an intake assessment to determine their treatment needs and estimated risk of recidivism. Offenders deemed to be of moderate to high risk will participate in two to three weekly group therapy sessions over a period of four to six months (treatment frequency and duration is dependent on the offender’s estimated level of risk).

Through both process-oriented and psycho-education groups, participants will address their individual treatment needs. Criminogenic factors identified through research will be the primary focus.

The RMP uses a research based “best practices” approach and is not a “one size fits all” program. Concurrent individual therapy will be offered on an as-needed basis. Upon completion of the RMP, post-treatment evaluations will determine whether follow-up treatment is recommended. Follow-up treatment will be offered through forensic outpatient services in Calgary or Edmonton.

Regular attendance, active participation, and completion of homework assignments are essential components of treatment. Absences from sessions and non-completion of homework may lengthen the time in treatment and/or lead to dismissal from the program.

The goals of the program include public safety, continued research, prevention of further sexual offences, and positive client outcomes. When the client acquires the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and beliefs necessary to lead a happier, satisfied, and more fulfilled life, society also benefits.
Who is eligible to participate in RMP?

Adult males convicted of sexual offences:

- Serving a custodial sentence, with minimum incarceration between 4 - 6 months
- Moderate to high risk for sexual offending (Static-99R), and/or significant treatment needs (Stable-2007)
- Mandated to attend Sexual Offender Treatment
- Offenders who prefer to complete treatment in custody as opposed to delaying treatment until community release

Referral Process

Referrals come from the Courts, Provincial Corrections, or a community source anticipating provincial sentencing. Referral forms can be requested from the RMP Intake Coordinator at 403-943-5128, through the Forensic Assessment and Outpatient Services (FAOS).

When making a referral, please ensure the following information is included:

- Basic demographics (e.g., age, education, marital status, offence, sentence)
- Psychiatric/Psychological Assessments (if available)
- Probation Sentencing Reports
- Index Offence, Offense Description
- Official Criminal Record
- Agreed Statement of Facts (if available)

We are pleased to be embarking on this new chapter of sex offender treatment provision for the province of Alberta. For further information about the treatment program feel free to contact Dr. Cynthia Baxter, Medical Lead at Cynthia.baxter@ahs.ca; or Dr. Kate Hamilton, Clinical Lead at Kate.hamilton@ahs.ca; or Arlene Hunte, Program Manager at Arlene.hunte@ahs.ca.
A Thousand Calgary Doctors Attend an AA Meeting

It’s in a church basement, it’s after normal working hours, and it begins with the ritual introductions – ‘My name is ___ and I’m an alcoholic”. But the normal appearance of a circle of chairs in an AA meeting is altered by rows of seats for observers, who are clinical clerks doing their psychiatry rotation. This is what AA calls their ‘Doctors’ Meeting’ and it is a mandatory experience for each block of clerks to attend. It starts with an introduction to those in the bleachers, and then proceeds with a standard AA ‘Discussion Meeting’. After a break for coffee the students then sit down in pairs with a couple of AA members and talk about how they might work with alcoholics in their future medical practice.

It started in 2009 when we were looking to involve AA in our clerkship, and at exactly the same time the AA Cooperation with the Professional Community committee (or CPC) was seeking to engage more with doctors. They (correctly) decided that students were easier to get access to than doctors (particularly if we made it mandatory for students), and so with both sides seeking the same thing, the meetings were born, and have run 8 times a year since then.

The students give very positive reviews of the meetings, and the CPC is delighted with their engagement. Since alcohol is an etiological factor in so many diseases, and these students are going into all the different medical specialties, it’s relevant to the future orthopedic surgeon (fractures) as much as the internist (GI bleeds) as much as future psychiatrists. And if they can treat the presenting illness and then encourage an alcoholic patient into AA, maybe by saying “I observed an AA meeting when I was in medical school, and it was good”, then so much the better.

What prompts this article now after 8 years of meetings? Well, the Doctors’ Meeting just saw its thousandth participant, and the Calgary CPC has received enquiries from AA in other cities in Canada and the States, and has put together a manual on ‘how to do it’. As the two clerkship directors who have been responsible for initiating and maintaining this process we are delighted that it has been successful and long-lasting. We feel that we do far less of the work than the AA members who run the evenings, but the anonymous nature of AA prevents us from naming their leaders and giving them the credit they deserve. The meetings look set to continue indefinitely, and we hope that other cities and other medical schools may benefit in the same way we have.

Dr. Phil Stokes and Dr. Thomas Raedler
Dr. Sterling Sparshu was born in Calgary and has never strayed far. After moving to various small towns around Alberta, he completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at the University of Alberta. He then returned to Calgary for medical school, residency and subspecialty training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. During his time in training Sterling has been involved in many administrative and academic pursuits but most enjoys teaching and finding innovative ways to integrate pop culture into education and advocacy. He is thrilled to be joining the team at the Northwest Community Clinic. Of course all of this is secondary to his true passion of embarrassing his daughter and long-suffering wife with an endless array of pointless trivia and terrible dad-jokes.

Dr. Pamela Weatherbee was born and raised in Calgary, AB, and was recruited to play basketball with the University of Calgary where she completed an undergraduate degree in Zoology. After completing her degree, she worked with the University of Calgary Students’ Union as Vice President Academic for one year, and then Pam pursued her medical degree. She was thrilled to match to the University of Calgary Psychiatry program after debating a career in family medicine or psychiatry. During residency, Pam took her love for sport literally, and married her husband Andrew, who was captain of the Calgary Roughnecks lacrosse team following residency. Pam will be initiating a DBT-informed inpatient Skills Group at the Rockyview Hospital, while working at the Psychiatric Consult Clinic and pursuing a side interest in sport psychiatry. In her spare time, Pam continues to play basketball in a women’s league, attends music festivals with her husband and spends time chasing after her energetic 18-month old daughter.
Department of Psychiatry
Residency Training Program

June in the residency program should really be subtitled Turnover. We say good-bye to our PGY-5s with certificates, preparing-for-practice sessions and last free meals as a resident. In almost the same breath, we say hello to our PGY-1s with pagers, orientations and their first free meals as a resident. This year, half of our graduating class-Alex Di Ninno, Randall Krall and Brett Sawchuk- move onto a sixth year of residency under the watchful guidance of Dr. Waheed in their pursuit of the subspecialty qualification in Child and Adolescent. Our remaining three graduates- Leanne Foust, Gina Vaz and Pam Weatherbee- will practice in Calgary at various sites across the city. We wish all of them well in their pursuits and are proud of the successes they have attained during residency.

In the last newsletter, we noted the high number of CaRMS applicants, surpassing the past record of 119 by 36 to a new total of 155 students. In looking at Psychiatry data from across Canada, the national numbers of applicants also reached new heights, moving from 278 applications Canada-wide in 2016 (and 272 in 2015) to 323 in 2017 and a national fill rate of 96% after the first round of CaRMS. For us, this meant a fantastic pool to choose our short list of interviewees and a full match of all eight positions. We have a great mix of PGY-1s for July; half are from medical schools across Canada (with most of them doing electives here) and half were ‘cultivated’ here. Joining us on July 1 are: JayLynn Arcand (UofS), Sheila Acharya (UofC), Parker Dahl (UofC), Jonathan Dornian (UofC), Jamil Jivraj (UofC), Tom Seredynski (UofA), Joey Prisnie (UofA) and Harry Zhou (UofT).

In terms of activities, Dr. Sellmer was extremely pleased with the inaugural OSCE Day on April 7 in the Health Sciences Centre. We had 13 eager and dedicated faculty manning their clipboards at the individual OSCE stations or helping to oversee the operation that had 24 residents move through 4 OSCE stations. A very big thank you to those who

This upcoming fall, residents will have their fall overnight retreat September 21-22 and the PRITE exams on the afternoons of Sept 29 and Oct 13. Dr. Hines will continue to work with residents just beginning PGY-2 in a series of Wednesday afternoons in August, which means moving their academic half day for August to Wednesdays. PGY-4s will begin their STACER preparation in September, with half of the group using Friday mornings spanning September to December and the other half January to April.

Rotation memos have been distributed to the faculty who will be precepting July to December and the roster for all resident rotations will go out in mid-June. The resident composite photo will hopefully be ready and mailed out by mid-July; please contact the program office (944-1271) if you do not usually get this composite and would like receive it.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have already begun the process of modifying some our rotations and looking for ways to expand capacity. To that end, we are piloting an alternate Emergency Psychiatry rotation for the PGY-1s, which translates into half of the PGY-1s continuing with the traditional model of training at RVH this upcoming academic year and half joining Dr. Rachel Grimminck at FMC. Many thanks to Dr. Grimminck for the work she has put into planning this pilot rotation.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Pauline Burgess
Department of Psychiatry, Residency Training Program Coordinator
The 30th Annual Sebastian K. Littmann Research Day

The 30th annual Sebastian K. Littmann Research Day took place on March 3rd, 2017 at the Village Park Inn. The research day is an annual event named in honour of one of the Department’s past Heads, Dr. Sebastian K. Littmann.

The event had several new features. One was a “methods boot camp” – a series of brief methodologically-oriented presentations on research methods. Dr. Frank MacMaster spoke on “How to read a brain imaging study”, Dr. Thomas Raedler on “How to read a Clinical Trial”, Dr. Kirsten Fiest on “Statistics 101” and Dr. Cynthia Beck teamed up with one of the University of Calgary’s reference librarians, Heather Ganshorn, to cover the topic of “How to Find Evidence.”

The event had two keynote speakers, Dr. Russell Schachar from the University of Toronto, who spoke on the Cognitive Neuroscience of ADHD and Dr. Wallace Smart from the University of Lethbridge, who spoke on the topic of ADHD in Post-Secondary Students. The award for Best Presentation by a Resident went to Dr. Sterling Sparshu (co-author, Dr. John D. McLennan) whose presentation was entitled Returning to Stimulants in Children with Treatment Resistant ADHD.

However, as usual, the Research Day included a diversity of presentation on a diverse set of topics. Most Innovative Project by a Resident was awarded to Dr. Faisal Sheikh’s: Prevalence of Mild Behavioral Impairment in Mild Cognitive Impairment and Subjective Cognitive Decline & its association with caregiver burden. The award for best presentation by a graduate student went to Ruth Diaz, a recent graduate of the MSc program through the Mathison Centre. She presented on The Healthy Immigrant Effect on Major Depression in Canada and her finding that the healthy immigrant effect seems to disappear with age.
I am a newly-appointed Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work. Since my undergraduate years at the University of Calgary, I have been interested in understanding the prevalence, correlates and outcomes of interpersonal violence. As I moved through my doctoral and postdoctoral training, I also became increasingly engaged with the field of prevention science, and efforts to prevent violence before it starts.

My training journey was completely interdisciplinary – in fact, I’ve never completed more than one degree in the same discipline! I truly value how my interdisciplinary training allows me to draw on the different knowledge bases of each of these areas. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Cellular, Molecular and Microbial Biology from the University of Calgary in 2007. During this degree, I was fortunate to be selected to participate in the World University Service of Canada’s International Seminar in Botswana. While in Botswana, I observed how intimate partner violence shapes physical and mental health outcomes for women, and this experience completely changed my intended career plans. When I returned to UCalgary for my final undergraduate semester, I worked with Dr. Wilfreda Thurston, Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, who provided great training and support for this new area of interest. I then completed my Master of Public Health at Boston University in 2009, which piqued my interest in prevention.

Wanting to better understand violence prevention, I completed my doctoral training in developmental psychology under the supervision of Dr. John Eckenrode at the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, Cornell University, where I focused on adolescent dating violence prevention, measurement and outcomes. This training opportunity allowed me to deepen my understanding of the developmental implications of interpersonal violence, and to think holistically about prevention. I also worked with survivors of violence during this time, in my role as a rape crisis counselor. The ability to engage with this topic through both research and practice was not only important for shaping my current research program, but also for deepening my passion to continue to work in this area.

While I enjoyed my time in the United States, a desire to return to Canada and to continue to receive training in prevention led me to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health’s Centre for Prevention Science, London, Ontario for my postdoc, where I worked with Dr. David Wolfe and Dr. Claire Crooks, both leaders in the field of adolescent dating violence prevention. While in London, I was able to work on two evaluations of violence prevention programming, one of a healthy relationships and mental health promotion program for adolescents and the other a positive mental promotion and violence prevention study.
prevention program for First Nations youth. During my postdoc training, I also wanted to understand how to work on prevention initiatives within larger systems, and so I finished my postdoc at the Faculty of Social Work at UCalgary, working with Professor Lana Wells on her province-wide dating violence prevention initiative.

I feel very fortunate that following my postdoc I got to stay in Calgary. This is a university and a city that I love, and I feel very at home within the Faculty of Social Work. Increasingly, my work has focused on creating social change to prevent adolescent dating violence and advance social justice, and so the Faculty of Social Work has been a wonderful fit for my interdisciplinary self!

My current projects focus primarily on school- and community-based adolescent dating violence prevention. As I study it, adolescent dating violence includes the physically, sexually and psychologically abusive actions that are experienced by a substantial minority of youth aged 11-18 in their dating and sexual relationships. Since dating violence is linked to poor mental health both concurrently and into young adulthood, dating violence prevention is also an important mental health promotion strategy.

My research program is based on collaboration, and I currently collaborate with Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence, the Calgary Sexual Health Centre and Western University’s Centre for School Mental Health in this work. I have also started working with the school mental health team at The Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research & Education, and look forward to continuing to collaborate with this group in the future.

Sample of Recent Publications:


Grants & Publications

Publications


Dr. Sara Binder recently had an article published in an online peer to peer magazine. The article was on ADHD and Addictive Disorders.

Grants

$20,000 Calgary Centre for Clinical Research. Fiest KM, Ely EW, Ismail Z, Stelfox HT. Validating Screening Tools for Delirium Subtypes in the Critically Ill. Pilot funding to validate current delirium screening tools to identify subtypes of delirium in the critically ill. These funds allowed preliminary data gathering to inform the larger CIHR grants for detection of delirium in ICU patients. I contributed to the grant writing and protocol for this study.

$20,000 HBI Pilot Funds competition. Goodarzi Z, Holroyd Leduc, Ismail Z, Smith E. Improving the detection of depression and anxiety for those experiencing dementia or PD (May 30 2017-April 30 2018).


Dr. Badri Rickhi’s charity, CINIM, was recently awarded two grants to advance youth mental health in Alberta:

1) Alberta Provincial Government, Minister’s Office, Alberta Culture & Tourism, $75,000 (2017-2018)

2) Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta (CFSEA), $5,250 (2017-2018)
Recognitions

Congratulations to the following individuals!

Dr. Chris Wilkes received his Distinguished Fellow Life time AWARD at the APA in San Diego on May 19th, 2017.

Dr. Sterling Sparshu was awarded the President’s Award by the Alberta Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Mike Szymczakowski & Dr. Alex Di Ninno were awarded the Lundbeck Resident Research Award by the Alberta Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Nicole Letourneau, recently received a UCalgary 2017 Faculty of Nursing Pursuit of Excellence Award for Research.

Dr. Zahinoor Ismail was awarded the University of Calgary Peak Scholars in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Knowledge Engagement award 2016 for development of the Mild Behavioral Impairment Checklist (www.MBItest.org), a rating scale for later life onset of neuropsychiatric symptoms as prodromal dementia symptoms.

Ruth Diaz was awarded Best Grad Student Presentation at Littman Research Day.

Dr. Sterling Sparshu was awarded the Most Innovative Presentation at Littman Research Day.

Dr. Faisal Sheikh was awarded the Best Presentation at Littman Research Day.

Dr. Paul Arnold was one of five funded health scholars by the Canada Foundation for Innovation funds for his work in population neurogenetics for child and youth mental health.

BreathingRoom™, Canada’s first clinically proven, e-mental health program was selected as a Finalist for the 2017 Classy Awards. CIIM, Dr. Badri Rickhi’s charity which developed the BreathingRoom program, was named as one of the most innovative non-profits in the world. Following a rigorous and intensive application process, 100 social enterprises are recognized annually for their global social innovation.

CINIM was featured on CTV News in January 2017 for their ‘Blue Monday’ special. http://calgary.ctvnews.ca/feeling-down-there-s-an-app-for-that-1.3243837

Dr. Sterling Sparshu and a colleague from Edmonton, held a talk linking pop culture (Batman) to mental health and stigma reduction at the Calgary Comic Expo. The room was filled to capacity with people needing to be turned away (very well received).

Dr. Tim Yates will be retiring from faculty (June 30th, 2017) after 39 years of clinical service and 28 of them at the Alberta Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Marie Claire Bourque has been appointed as the Early Career Psychiatrist (ECP) Board Representative & Chair, Working Group by the Canadian Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Samuel Oluwadairo was appointed as a Chief in Africa.

Cynthia Kahl, MSc student did the Mathison Centre proud at the Three Minute Thesis competition at the University of Calgary. She won the People’s Choice and came in Third overall. Her topic was the Tourette’s TMS project.

https://www.classy.org/collaborative/awards-ceremony-finalists-2017
Marijuana Day
Sept 29, 2017
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
The Marijuana Day conference will provide an evidence-based approach to enable health care providers to make informed decisions of how medical cannabis may negatively affect, benefit, or improve the quality of life for the patients that we manage.

Speakers at the conference include:
Dr Wiplove Lamba MD FRCP, Dip ABAM
Ms. Leeza Friedman-Prokopishyn MSW, RSW, Clinical Social Worker
Dr. John Pereira MD CCFP
Dr. Robert Tanguay MD FRCPC, ISAM (c)

For more information visit www.Marijuanaday.ca

CSAM-SMCA Conference
October 19-21st, 2017
Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada
As the only national voice, The Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine, founded in 1989, strives to bring together the spectrum of health professionals, such as Physicians, Pharmacists, Nurses, Social Workers and Therapists treating Substance Use Disorders and Process Addictions to achieve their Vision Goals of advancing the education of health professionals in the field of addiction medicine.

9th Canadian Conference on Dementia (CCD)
November 2-4 2017
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
The Canadian Conference on Dementia is a biennial national conference dedicated to advance knowledge on dementia in scientific research and clinical care. Over 2 and half days you will engage with eminent researchers and renowned scholars on cutting edge topics in dementia.

For more information: http://www.canadianconferenceondementia.com

Issues of Substance Conference 2017: Addiction Matters
November 13, 2017 - November 15, 2017 Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Please visit the conference website for registration, program and updated information: http://www.cclt.ca/Eng/news/events/Issues-of-Substance-Conference/pages/d...