Message from the Chair

On April 29th, we integrated two very special events into one: the dedication of the Erminio Costa Memorial Library and the Inaugural Erminio Costa Memorial Lecture (see page 5 for photographs). Dr. Costa was a world leader in the area of neuroscience, a passionate advocate for psychiatric neuroscience, and a celebrated mentor of junior scientists including physician scientists. He was creative, indefatigable, and a visionary in his endeavors as a scientist, teacher, writer, and organizer.

‘Mimo,’ as he was known to his friends and colleagues, formed a great team with Dr. Sandro Guidotti and together they built and developed modern molecular neuroscience in our department. This is a rich legacy that a new generation of scientists can build upon and take psychiatric neuroscience to even greater heights in our department and University.

Special Announcements

Save the Date: Graduation of the Psychiatry, Social Work, and Psychology classes of 2015 is planned for Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 6-10pm. This year’s event will be held at the University Club of Chicago (76 East Monroe, Chicago, IL, 60603). Be on the lookout for RSVP and menu information.

Upcoming Events

Grand Rounds (SPH/PI, Room 109)
May 13, 2015: Heather MacPherson, Elizabeth Shelleby, & Angela Walden, UIC, Psychology Intern Presentation
May 20, 2015: Autumn Kujawa & Mitzi Gonzales, UIC, Psychology Intern Presentation
May 27, 2015: Dr. Ian H. Gotlib, Stanford University, “Understanding and Reducing Risk for Depression”
Faculty/Research News

Ebony Allison (sponsored by Dr. Marilyn Griffin) and Amalia Hatcher (sponsored by Dr. Edwin Cook), two first-year medical students, have been awarded AACAP Campaign for America’s Kids Summer Fellowship Awards. These students are also fellows in our Klingenstein Third Generation Foundation Jay G. Hirsch program.

Dr. Carl Bell was recognized by N’DIGO for his work on fetal alcohol syndrome in African Americans.

Dr. Matt Dominguez, PGY-2, was chosen as one of the APA/SAMSHA Minority Fellows for the upcoming academic year. The Minority Fellowship Program is one of the oldest, most respected, and admired resident fellowships in the APA.

Dr. Geri Fox graduated from the Hedwig Van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine.

Dr. Geri Fox gave 2 grand rounds presentations at the University of Pennsylvania Children’s Hospital and Center for Couples and Adult Families (“Gear Shifts and Spirals: Family Development Through the Life Cycle”) and at Drexel University College of Medicine (“How Do We Develop Compassion for Others, and Ourselves?”)

Dr. Marilyn Griffin was recognized with a College of Medicine Team Member Servant Leadership Award for 2015. The fellowship is dedicated to preparing women for senior leadership roles in academic health science institutions.

Drs. Martin Harrow and Tom Jobe were invited to present about their research on the long-term treatment results in schizophrenia at the “New Data & New Hopes Call for New Practices in Clinical Psychiatry” symposium at Yale University. The symposium was sponsored by the Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health, the Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health Care, and the Connecticut Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services.

Dr. Scott Langenecker received the Rising Star Award from the College of Medicine.

Dr. Alessandra Passarotti presented “The potential of cognitive intervention in pediatric bipolar disorder” at the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance—Greater Chicago 16th Annual Symposium.

Dr. Mani Pavuluri gave 5 presentations in the last few months as a keynote speaker (“Childhood bipolar disorder: From diagnosis to treatment) and during a workshop (“Brain function informs intervention by teachers and parents with bipolar disorder”) in Turkey, a plenary speaker around Chicagoland (“Modulating Brain and Environment to Eliminate Suicide Risk,” “Brain and Environmental Dynamics: Embracing our Adolescents and Empowering Mothers”), and as a lecturer in Sacramento (“Brain Functional Model and Modernizing Medicine to Serve Children at Risk”).

Dr. Neil Pliskin gave the keynote address at the recent Midwest Neuropsychology Group meeting in Akron, OH, entitled, “Neuropsychology in the next generation: Of silos and CPT Codes.”

Kristina Stevens presented on “Does Dialectal Behavior Therapy Reduce Suicidality in Patients with Borderline Personality Disorder” at the International Society of Psychiatric Nurses and has been asked to submit her work for their archives journal.

Dr. Reza Tadayon-Nejad received the Young Investigatory Award from the Society of Brain Mapping and Therapeutics.
Clinical News

Our Psychiatry Department obtained the highest overall satisfaction rating (91.1) in the Medical Center in the nationwide Press Ganey Patient Satisfaction Survey for the third quarter of 2015. UIHSS had 23 departments ranked in the survey, including Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, the Cancer Center, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, and more, and we were several points above the others. The UIH overall mean was 84.2.

Three new groups have been added to UIHHSS: the Peer Support Group for individuals living with mental illness (contact Cheryl Farney, CRSS: 312-355-3593, cfarney@psych.uic.edu); the Tobacco Cessation Support Group for individuals interested in tobacco cessation (contact Shiyun Kim, PharmD, CDE: 312-996-6110 ext.7, shiyunk@uic.edu); and the Symptom Management and Recovery Therapy (SMART) Group for individuals within the first 5 years of onset of psychosis (contact Clare Tessman, PMHNP: 312-996-6664, dtessman@psych.uic.edu)

March was National Social Workers’ Month. We would like to thank all of our social workers for their hard work and dedication to UIHHSS:

- Cara Bonwell
- Emily Close
- Mary Cozzens
- Kristina Erland
- Jamie Haley
- Maricarmen Herrerra
- Christina James
- Rhapsody Mason
- Sally Mason
- Denika McMillen
- Helen Montgomery
- Bea Nauelleau
- Colleen Reese
- Debbie Riseman
- David Simpson
- Eric Tobin
- Leslie Walsh

Educational News

Congratulations to the Psychology Interns of 2014-2015 on their job placements for next year!

- Mitzi Gonzales—Clinical Neuropsychology Fellow at the VA Northern California Health Care System
- Autumn Kujawa—Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry at UIC
- Heather MacPherson—Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University
- Elizabeth Shelleby—Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Northern Illinois University
- Angela Walden—Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry at UIC

Drs. Marc Atkins and Amy West partook in a meeting with training directors of doctoral and internship programs at the Institute for Juvenile Research sponsored by the Academy of Psychological Clinical Science. The meeting took place following a paper published by Dr. Atkins last fall (click here to read the article) and included 15 training directors. Click here to read about the meeting.
Recent Publications

Dr. Carl Bell and colleagues published “An internet-based adolescent depression preventive intervention: study protocol for a randomized control trial” in Trials. Click here to read more.

Drs. Judith Cook, Lisa Razzano, and colleagues published an article in PLOS ONE entitled, “Health Risks and Changes in Self-Efficacy Following Community Health Screening of Adults with Serious Mental Illnesses.” Click here to read more.

Drs. Scott Langenecker, Sara Weisenbach, and their colleagues at the University of Michigan published an article in Brain entitled, “Shared dimensions of performance and activation dysfunction in cognitive control in females with mood disorders.” Click here to read more.

Dr. Subhash Pandey and colleagues published “Potential Role of adolescent alcohol exposure-induced amygdaloid histone modifications in anxiety and alcohol intake during adulthood” in Neurobiology of Disease. Click here to read more. The paper has received widespread media coverage from the NIH, UIC, TIME, eWallstreet, WTOP, Courier-Post, Huffington Post, The Telegraph, The Mirror, Daily Mail, The Economic Times, Business Standard, Psych Central, and MSN.

Dr. Lisa Sanchez-Johnsen and colleagues published an article in the Journal of General Internal Medicine entitled, “Picture Good Health: A Church-Based Self-Management Intervention Among Latino Adults with Diabetes.” Click here to read more.

Dr. Monsheel Sodhi and colleagues published “The brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) Val66Met polymorphism is associated with increased body mass index and insulin resistance measures in bipolar disorder and schizophrenia” in Bipolar Disorder. Click here to read more.

Dr. Monsheel Sodhi and colleagues published a paper in Schizophrenia Research entitled, “Sex differences in GABAergic gene expression occur in the anterior cingulate cortex in schizophrenia.” Click here to read more.
Erminio Costa Memorial Lecture Series and Library Dedication

On Tuesday, April 29, the Erminio Costa Memorial Library was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony completed by Dr. Costa’s wife, Ingeborg. On the same day, the Inaugural Costa Memorial Lecture Series began with a presentation by Dr. Eric Nestler. Below are some pictures from the events.

- Ingeborg Costa cuts the ribbon to dedicate the Erminio Costa Memorial Library

- UIC faculty gather for the dedication of the Erminio Costa Memorial Library

- Dr. Eric Nestler presents the Inaugural Costa Memorial Lecture on "Transcriptional and Epigenetic Mechanisms of Depression"

- Dr. Kumar presents Dr. Nestler with an award to commemorate his inaugural Costa Memorial Lecture