



# Breaking Through

The newsletter of the University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research

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November 2011

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

from the desk of **Dr. Zul Merali,**  
**President and CEO of the University of Ottawa**  
**Institute of Mental Health Research and**  
**Director of Research at The Royal**



Once again in 2011, the University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research's story is one of continued growth. We have gained exciting footholds scientifically – in terms of studies carried out, papers published and grant applications submitted, some of which are highlighted herein – and in terms of recognition and media exposure.

The members of our esteemed Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), which held its annual meeting in Ottawa on October 25, oversee the activities and strategic directions of the IMHR. At this meeting, our Research Leaders were afforded the opportunity to discuss with the SAB their research strategies and progress. The students also highlighted their exciting activities (including the enormously successful Young Researchers Forum). As a result, the SAB gained a perspective of the IMHR from the lens of world experts in the field of psychiatry research. Congratulations to our research leaders, staff and students for their excellent work and a very successful meeting. You did us all proud!

The current SAB membership include:

- Dr. Glen Baker, Director of Neurochemical Research, University of Alberta
- Dr. Mark Bisby, past Vice-President Research, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- Dr. John Greden, Executive Director, Michigan Depression Center and Founder, U.S. National Network of Depression Centers
- Dr. Kim Matheson, Vice President Research and International Affairs, Carleton University
- Dr. Tim Moran, Professor and Vice-Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University
- Dr. Stan Kutcher, Sun Life Chair in Adolescent Mental Health
- Dr. Franco Vaccarino, Principal, University of Toronto at Scarborough and past Vice-President Research, Center for Addictions and Mental Health

The second annual retreat of The Royal's Depression Research Centre was held in June. Members of The Royal's clinical, academic, research and administrative leadership attended and exciting next steps were formulated. The Champion's Group is moving forward with some of the implementation plans.

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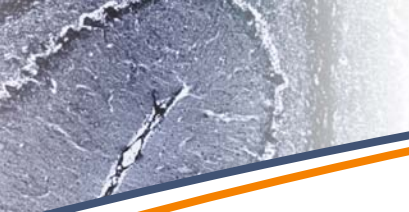
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Mental Health - Care & Research  
Santé mentale - Soins et recherche



## RESEARCH AND CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Clinically Integrated Research on the Schizophrenia Program – How research related to our clinical work enhances CARE

by Drs. Nicola Wright, Owen Kelly,  
Alison Middlebro, Anne Raudoy and Lisa  
Murata, Schizophrenia Program, The Royal

Consistent with the Inspiring CARE (care, research, advocacy and education) strategic plan of The Royal, team members of the Schizophrenia Program have been engaged in a number of clinically-driven and integrated research initiatives and program evaluation.

Dr. Nicola Wright has been leading a randomized controlled trial of a novel protocol of group cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) for psychosis plus treatment as usual versus treatment as usual. This study, which is funded by the University Medical Research Fund and the University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research, has involved the participation of a variety of interdisciplinary professionals including Dr. Sarah Bertrim, Dr. Owen Kelly, Dr. John Telner, Carrie Robertson, Dr. Alison Freeland, Dr. Tom Fogl, Dr. Matthew Kerr, Dr. Ian Weinroth and research assistant Cathie Massel. A group of committed clinical PhD psychology students from the University of Ottawa and many dedicated volunteer research assistants are also key participants. We are now looking at doing a randomized controlled trial with a group for people who hear voices, as well as other research and evaluation of our clinical interventions in the Schizophrenia program.

#### ...Year in Review continued

In November, we attended the National Network of Depression Centers (NNDC) 2011 Annual Conference hosted by Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore. I am delighted to inform you that the NNDC is very enthusiastic about partnering with our Canadian Depression Research and Intervention Network (CDRIN). We have

As a result of the study into CBT for psychosis, numerous internal and external partnerships, and cross-site collaborative working relationships have been developed and continue to thrive (e.g. cross-program and cross-organization implementation of the CBT program, training workshops for CBT for psychosis, and presentations at national and international conferences). In addition, we have signed a contract with New Harbinger (Spring 2013) for a treatment manual called Mindfulness, Compassion, Acceptance and Commitment-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Psychosis by Drs. Nicola Wright, Owen Kelly, David Davies and Andy Jacobs. Dr. Douglas Turkington in the U.K. has recently joined us as a co-author on this book.

In addition to these CBT-based projects, Schizophrenia Program staff and physicians have been busy with diverse research, program evaluation and educational activities. Dr. Carlos Miura presented at Grand Rounds in October on the use of psychopharmacology, dynamic mental imagery and spiritual principles in recovery. Ms. Lisa Murata, Corporate Nursing Education Group, presented at the 'Mental Health Nursing in the 21st Century: Social and Professional Responsibility; National Mental Health Nurses Conference' on Group Therapy for Clients with Schizophrenia and Substance Use. Lisa presented research she had done with Mr. Robert Hickson, addictions counselor; Dr. Anne-Marie Clarkson from the University of Ottawa and Ms. Christine Walter on out-

developed two Memoranda of Understanding – one which applies to The Royal's Depression Research Center and the Michigan Depression Center, and the second which promotes network-to-network linkages between CDRIN and NNDC.

In the next edition of our newsletter, I will elaborate on how The Royal's Depression

comes for people participating in their 'Freedom from Drugs and Alcohol' group. Alison Middlebro, operations director of the Schizophrenia Program; Dr. Marie-Jose Dealberto of Queen's University and Dr. Susan Farrell, Clinical Director of the Community Mental Health Program published their findings about elevated rates of psychosis among immigrants in a sample of homeless people seen by the Community Program's Psychiatric Outreach team. Their article was published in the October issue of Psychiatric Services. Ms. Christine Walter continues to implement program evaluation activities in her role of program evaluation coordinator for the Schizophrenia Program.

Finally, Mary Egan, Lucy-Ann Kubina, Rosemarie Lidstone, Greg Macdougall and Anne Raudoy recently received the Golden Quill Award; an award that recognizes an individual author or a group of authors that has and/or have published an exceptional article in the Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy in the previous year. They received this award for their 2010 article 'A critical reflection on occupational therapy within one Assertive Community Treatment team'. The strong and innovative methodology of this article provides a unique insight into the occupational therapy process from both a therapist and client perspective over time. Findings from their study point to the critical importance of continually pushing to develop our theories and process models in ways that enable occupational therapists in their daily practice with clients.

Research Centre links to the Canadian Depression Research and Intervention Network, as well as on the Canadian Institutes of Health Research new Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR).

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy holiday season and a successful new year!

## RESEARCH AND CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS cont'd

### The IMHR Sleep Research Laboratory

by **Dr. Alan Douglass**,  
Medical Director,  
Sleep Disorders Clinic, The Royal



The IMHR Sleep Research Laboratory is a 4-bed research space that is shared with Dr. Verner Knott's Neurophysiology / EEG laboratory. We also are fortunate to have Dr. Joseph DeKoninck, Professor Emeritus at the University of Ottawa School of Psychology, associated with our Laboratory.

Dr. DeKoninck's presence allows us to host honours students in 4th year undergraduate psychology for thesis projects in sleep research. In some rare cases, Master's and PhD students may work in this area as well.

Our research is largely clinical. We have presented papers on chronic insomnia, the mis-diagnosis of narcolepsy patients as schizophrenic, and heartbeat irregularities in sleep apnea; these studies are in collaboration with the Royal Ottawa Hospital's clinical sleep laboratory.

We are also conducting basic pharmacology research into the control of eye movements (EMs)

in Rapid Eye Movement sleep (REM sleep), where most of the night's dreaming occurs. This is because most depressed patients have a considerable excess of EMs and a too-rapid onset of REM sleep in the night, the exact cause of which is not yet known.

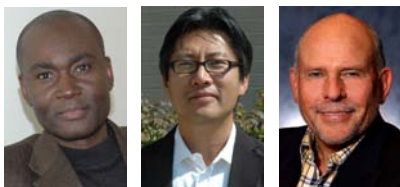
EMs are triggered by the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, and can be reliably suppressed by drugs that augment the neurotransmitters serotonin and / or noradrenaline (norepinephrine). We are using drug probes for these neurotransmitters to explore this complex system -- currently galantamine, buspirone, and placebo in a double-blind human study that has been approved by our local Research Ethics Board and by Health Canada. This study is expected to terminate in 2012.

Depending on the results of the above study, our long-term goal is to create similar tests to predict treatment response in depressed patients, or perhaps even the risk of future depression in family members who are currently not affected.

## GRANTS, AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS – KUDOS!

**Drs. A.G. Ahmed, Michael Seto and John Bradford,**

Integrated Forensic Program, The Royal, along with colleagues C.



Jansman and E. Loza, were awarded a grant (2011-12) from the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Institute for Education and Research for their study on "Assessing the risk posed by forensic clients: Comparing measures and methods".

**Dr. Seto** was also awarded, along with colleagues R.G. Dwyer, E.J. Letourneau, D. DeHart, K.S. Armstrong and T. McKee, a major grant (2011-2013) from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice

Programs, Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention, for his study on "Protecting children online: Using research-based algorithms to prioritize law enforcement internet investigations".

**Dr. Simon Davidson,**

Regional Chief of the Specialized Psychiatric and Mental Health Services for Children and Youth for both CHEO and The Royal, has received the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Certificate of Special Recognition. This certificate is designed to recognize a person or an organization that has made outstanding contributions and provided important leadership in the field of children's mental health.



## Announcements



**Dr. Michael Seto** from The Royal's Integrated Forensic Program will be joining the Editorial Board of Law and

Human Behavior, the top forensic psychology journal, beginning in January 2012.

Dr. Seto also attended and presented at the Attorney General of the United State's Summit on Child Exploitation on October 14, 2011, in Washington, DC. He was part of a panel on deterrence of offenders and had the opportunity to meet the Attorney General, Eric Holder.



The manuscript entitled "Astroglial CB1 receptors mediate in vivo synaptic

depression and working memory impairment by acute cannabinoids" by **Dr. Xia Zhang**, Research Director of the Translational Neuroscience Laboratory, IMHR and colleagues from China, France, Spain and United States, was recently accepted for publication in the prestigious and high impact journal Cell. The co-authors of the article are **Drs. Jing Han** (China and IMHR), **Philip Kesner** (IMHR), Mathilde Metna-Laurent (France), Tingting Duan (China), Lin Xu (China), Francois Georges (France), Muriel Koehl (France), Djoher Nora Abrous (France), Juan Mendizabal-Zubiaga (Spain), Pedro Grandes (Spain), Qingsong Liu (USA), Guang Bai (USA), Lize Xiong (China), Wei Ren (China) and Giovanni Marsicano (France).

*Congratulations to all!*

## GRANTS, AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS – KUDOS! cont'd

**Dr. Davidson** has also received the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 2011 Catchers in the Rye Award, named after J.D. Salinger's classic novel. It is administered by the AACAP's Assembly and honors an individual who shows outstanding advocacy on behalf of children and adolescents.

### **Dr. Martine Flament,**

Director of the Youth Psychiatry Research Unit, IMHR, has received funding from the Paris Descartes University – University of Ottawa Collaborative Initiative in Neurosciences for her project conducted in collaboration with Dr. Philip Gorwood on "Risk factors for eating disorders and obesity in young adults: A collaborative project based on two existing cohort studies in Canada and in France".



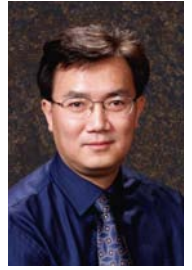
### **Dr. Georg Northoff,**

Research Director of the Mind, Brain Imaging and Neuroethics Unit, IMHR, was awarded a three-year grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) - China-Canada Joint Health Research Initiative for his project entitled "Are there neural differences of the self in Eastern and Western depression? A cross-cultural imaging study". The study will be conducted in collaboration with the team of Dr. Shihui Han from Peking University, China.



### **Dr. Xia Zhang,**

Research Director of the Translational Neuroscience Laboratory, IMHR, was awarded a three-year grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) – China-Canada Joint Health Research Initiative for his project entitled "Synaptic LTP and fear memory". The study will be conducted in collaboration with the team of Dr. Lin Xu from the Kunming Institute of Zoology, China.



## The Royal's 2011 Long Service Awards

Three of our superstars were recognized at The Royal's 2011 Long Service Awards on Thursday, October 13.

### **10 Years of Service**

#### **Dr. Keith Busby,**

Scientific Review, Ethics, Quality Assurance and Animal Care Coordinator, IMHR. Keith brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the organization and the many committees to which he contributes including the Research Ethics Board and Animal Care Committee. He has been dedicated to ensuring high research ethical and quality standards through his support, teaching and mentoring, as well as his monitoring role, and is always willing to go above and beyond to help a colleague.



#### **Susan Curry,**

Research Coordinator in the Forensic Psychiatry Clinical Research Unit. Susan has been an integral member of the research arm of the Integrated Forensic Program (IFP) since she first arrived at the "old" Royal Ottawa Hospital. In 2003 she was the natural choice for the newly created job of Research Coordinator for the Forensic Research Unit of the Institute of Mental Health Research. Highly conscientious, a stickler for details, a lover of numbers and statistics, she is known and respected throughout the IFP.



### **5 Years of Service**

#### **Maria DaSilva,**

Secretary to the Mood Disorders Clinical Research Unit and the Translational Neuroscience Laboratory, IMHR. Maria is an essential member of her Unit. Her skills and dedication have been a pivotal support system. While her office is often crowded with people pulling her in different directions, Maria does not get overwhelmed and attempts to find solutions for everyone. She is hard-working, loyal and is always willing to share her knowledge and experience with others to encourage their success.



***Congratulations to all!***

## YOUNG RESEARCHER'S CORNER

'Under Pressure' by Dylan Smith,  
Clinical Neuroelectrophysiology and  
Cognitive Research Laboratory, IMHR and  
Director of Communications and  
Media for the Young Researchers Forum



If you passed through the halls at The Royal lately, you might have noticed something odd about the young researchers. They may have seemed a bit groggy-eyed, a tad sluggish, and

whatever they were doing, it's a safe bet that there was coffee involved. So what made these students so tired? In October, young researchers were faced with submission deadlines for many very important scholarship applications. The Canadian Institute of Health Research doctoral award, for example, is a scholarship that allows a maximum of \$35,000 funding for three years for PhD students pursuing health research. These scholarships can be life-changing for recipients. It may mean a chance to begin paying down crippling student debt loads, an opportunity to quit an evening job bagging groceries, or it very well may mean acceptance into a particular lab. For each of us, graduate scholarships provide an opportunity to focus on career development and follow our dreams.

Needless to say, the stakes are high. The application process itself is arduous; a challenge magnified by research students' already hectic schedules. You may have been approached recently by a hopeful wide-eyed applicant for a letter of reference. Or perhaps you signed off on one of the many forms required for each application package. Maybe you took a moment to proof read someone else's research plan – the entirety of a student's career goals condensed into a couple pages – before they nervously clicked the "submit" button. If you have done any of these things, rest assured that you are the subject of enormous gratitude. Luckily, most distinguished researchers understand their students' predicament. After all, even the most successful scientists likely went through the same process years before and certainly feel similar stress and anticipation throughout their career when submitting research grants. However, unlike research

grants, the evaluation for scholarships is entirely personal. You are being judged and ranked compared to your peers based on personal strengths, achievements and ability to succeed in your field.

Many factors are used to decide which students receive funding: their academic record, thesis project, supervisor, extracurricular activities, the institution at which they work, etc. The allocation of points is given to these areas based on their perceived importance in the overall assessment. However, one trait which receives minimal attention is passion. Perhaps passion is too difficult to evaluate, or maybe it's just too common a trait among these young scientists. Either way, out of the hundreds of young researchers I have encountered over the past few years, they each share motivation, ambition and a passion for research. This passion is what goes on to fuel the important work and discoveries shaping the future of health care in Canada. In a perfect world, every single one of them would be honored with a scholarship. But for now, all they have is hope. When you walk through the halls of The Royal, you might notice a number of young researchers with their fingers crossed. If you have a moment, feel free to wish them the best of luck. And maybe buy them a coffee!

**Identifying a network of brain regions involved in aversion-related processing: a cross-species translational investigation**  
by Dave J. Hayes and Georg Northoff, Mind, Brain Imaging and Neuroethics Research Unit, IMHR



The ability to detect and respond appropriately to aversive stimuli is essential for all organisms, from fruit flies to humans. This suggests the existence of a core neural network that mediates

aversion-related processing. Human imaging studies on aversion have highlighted the involvement of various cortical regions, such as the prefrontal cortex, while animal studies have focused largely on subcortical regions like the periaqueductal gray and hypothalamus. However, whether and how these

## Young Researchers' Committee Update

by Lisa Batten  
Mood Disorders  
Research Unit,  
IMHR



In order to ensure that the initiatives of the Young Researchers Forum are able to expand and carry forward, we have officially created director positions to oversee the activities of the Young Researchers' Committee. These positions have been filled by both experienced and new members that exhibit excellent capacity for leadership and a passion for research. Our directors will oversee the planning, organizing and running of our annual conference. They will work with the scientific and organizing committee members, as well as the campus representatives, who are instrumental in the success of our conference.

**Congratulations to the 2011-2012 Young Researchers' Directors!**

**Chair:** Lisa Batten

**Director of Communications:**  
Jean-Christian Maillet

**Director of Communications and Media:** Dylan Smith

**Scientific Program Director:**  
Joelle Choueiry

**Organizing Program Director:**  
Rebekah Ranger

**Assistant Program Directors:**  
Danielle Impey and Hayley Bowers

**Scientific and Organizing Committee Members:**  
Jennifer Phillips, David Hayes, Natalia Jaworska, Derek Fisher, Dhraști Shah, and Gregory Addicks.

**Neuroscience Liaisons:**  
Delphie Dugal-Tessier (University of Ottawa), Rob Gabrys (Carleton University)

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### Interesting e-Links

by **Dr. David Armstrong, IMHR**

#### ➤ Free e-Books / Mental Health

So, you now have an e-book reader and your credit card is registered with the traditional book distributors – well, here is a link to some free e-books written by variety of authors including the National Institute of Mental Health – enjoy!

• <http://www.e-booksdirectory.com/listing.php?category=317>

#### ➤ AppBrain App Market Search Tool for Android Devices

If there's one area where the iPhone excels over the Android platform, it's app discovery and acquisition. The iTunes App Store is better organized and easier to navigate, especially given the option to browse on the desktop in addition to the device. This useful third-party app can help you find the best Android apps via search, rankings and categories (download.com/CNET website):

• [http://download.cnet.com/AppBrain-App-Market-Android/3000-20418\\_4-75329964.html?tag=rb\\_content;main](http://download.cnet.com/AppBrain-App-Market-Android/3000-20418_4-75329964.html?tag=rb_content;main)

regions form a core neural network of aversion remains unclear. To help determine this, a translational cross-species investigation in humans (i.e., meta-analysis) and other animals (i.e., systematic review of functional neuroanatomy) was performed. Our results highlighted the recruitment of the anterior cingulate cortex, the anterior insula and the amygdala as well as other subcortical (e.g., thalamus, midbrain) and cortical (e.g., orbitofrontal) regions in both animals and humans. Importantly, involvement of these regions remained independent of sensory modality. This study provides evidence for a core neural network mediating aversion in both animals and humans. This not only contributes to our understanding of the trans-species neural correlates of aversion but may also carry important implications for psychiatric disorders where abnormal aversive behavior can often be observed.

➤ To read the entire article, which is open access, visit:  
[http://www.frontiersin.org/integrative\\_neuroscience/10.3389/fnint.2011.00049/abstract](http://www.frontiersin.org/integrative_neuroscience/10.3389/fnint.2011.00049/abstract).

**Dr. Susan Farrell**, Clinical Director of the Community Mental Health Program, The Royal; **Dr. Alison Freeland**, Associate Chief of Psychiatry, The Royal; and **Robin Pow**, Program Director of the community mental health teams, hosted a Visiting Churchill Scholar, **Dr. Gavin Davidson**, on July 26-28, 2011.



**Dr. Davidson**, a lecturer in the school of sociology, social policy and social work at Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, received funding from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust to study mental health consent and capacity laws in practice.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (<http://www.wcmt.org.uk/>) was established in 1965 to honour the memory of Sir Winston Churchill by awarding overseas research fellowships.

The main aim of Dr. Davidson's visit to Canada in July and August was to learn more about how the legal framework for people whose decision making capacity is impaired works in Ontario and Saskatchewan. This learning will be applied to the development and implementation of a new legal framework in Northern Ireland.

In Northern Ireland it is proposed that there will no longer be a separate law for people with mental health problems and the Mental Capacity Bill will apply to everyone who has impaired decision making capacity. This approach would be unique and some provinces in Canada have elements of it.

Under the Ontario Mental Health Act, a person who has capacity to make treatment decisions can be hospitalized against his or her will (involuntarily). However, the Health Care Consent Act requires their consent prior to treatment commencing. The assessment of capacity can be reviewed by an independent tribunal, called the Consent and Capacity Board.

In Saskatchewan, mental capacity is one of several gateway criteria for compulsory admission. In Northern Ireland the proposed use of capacity as the gateway criterion for all compulsory intervention, including detention for mental health care, is a world-first and therefore the importance in learning from other jurisdictions that have aspects of this approach.

The specific objectives of Dr. Davidson's visit were to:

- Observe and learn how professionals in Ontario and Saskatchewan assess mental capacity;
- Explore any issues raised by having mental capacity as a criterion for compulsory intervention;
- Learn how professionals are trained to assess mental capacity and identify any standardized tools used to support these assessments;
- Experience how assessments of capacity are considered by an independent body and identify any practice issues with the review process;

*Continued on page 7...*

## AROUND THE WORLD cont'd

- Meet with a range of organizations, including those representing the views of service users and carers, to discuss their views on the strengths and any difficulties with the assessment of mental capacity; and
- Identify strategies for evaluating the implementation of capacity-based law.

In his subsequent report, Dr. Davidson indicated that there were useful lessons from the legal frameworks in Ontario and Saskatchewan to consider for the development and implementation of the proposed law in Northern Ireland. It was concluded that:

- Mental capacity can be used as a gateway criterion for intervention across a range of decision making, as demonstrated by the Health Care Consent Act in Ontario and by the inclusion of a capacity criterion in the Mental Health Services Act in Saskatchewan. The concerns identified in discussion with practitioners were more in relation to the interpretation of the threshold for capacity or incapacity which reinforce the importance of extensive training and clear guidance for the how the law should be implemented.
- The definitions of capacity used in Canada are similar to what is proposed for Northern Ireland. There is some concern in Northern Ireland that this definition is too wide and could greatly increase the scope of compulsion but this has not been the case in the Canadian jurisdictions.
- The legal frameworks in Ontario and Saskatchewan have developed over time and so there are a range of laws covering different aspects of decision making. The legal frameworks may therefore be somewhat difficult to understand. Providing a comprehensive framework in one law for Northern Ireland may avoid some of these difficulties but there will still be a need to make the new law as clear, simple and accessible as possible.

- In Ontario there is specific training and guidance for those who assess capacity under the Substitute Decisions Act which could be a useful model. The use of structured forms also ensures that the assessment of capacity consistently addresses all aspects of the definition. Standardized tests do not appear to be routinely used, but should still be considered to assist in this assessment process.
- There are very strict Canadian criteria for the equivalent of advance decisions and, perhaps partly as a result, they do not seem to be widely used in either Ontario or Saskatchewan.
- The application of the Ontarian Health Care Consent Act across settings, including the criminal justice system, suggests that the proposed law for Northern Ireland could apply to the criminal justice system without the public safety set aside that is being considered.
- The application of the Ontarian Health Care Consent Act to children also suggests that the Northern Ireland law could apply to children.
- The Consent and Capacity Board in Ontario provides an excellent model for how the review and appeal processes under the new law could be provided.

## Interesting e-Links cont'd

### ➤ Statistics Online Reference

An online statistics textbook geared for medical researchers (BMJ website). Lots of examples:

- <http://resources.bmj.com/bmj/readers/statistics-at-square-one>

... if you still need some backup (and someone to share your frustrations with), go to 'Stats Make Me Cry' - A statistics blog and stats video tutorial page that focuses on data analysis, statistical concepts, analysis help, and tutorials on how to use SPSS (PASW) ... bring your own facial tissues!

- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stats-Make-Me-Cry/114593075232241>

# SYMPOSIA, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, FORUMS, LECTURES AND EVENTS

## Conferences

### Women in Mind – A Conference on Women’s Mental Health Friday, October 21, 2011 at the Ottawa Convention Centre

Women in Mind brought together leading researchers and practitioners for the first Ottawa’s academic conference devoted to women’s mental health. Speakers and panelists presented and discussed leading-edge research and best practices for mental health care that reflect women’s physiological and social needs. All presentations can be found at [www.theroyal.ca/womeninmind](http://www.theroyal.ca/womeninmind).



**Dr. Pauline M. Maki**, professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Illinois, Chicago, was the keynote speaker and

addressed the effects of estrogen on cognition and dementia.



**Dr. Valerie Taylor**, assistant professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences at McMaster University and head of its Mood Disorders Somatic Health Program, discussed

mental illness and medical comorbidity in women.



**Dr. Catherine Shea**, chair of the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry and associate professor at the University of Ottawa, geriatric psychiatrist at The Royal and Director of the Day Hospital and

Rural Outreach for the geriatric psychiatry program, spoke on women, aging and mental illness.



**Dr. Claudio Soares**, associate professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, and Obstetrics and Gynecology at McMaster University,

presented research on mood and perimenopause.



**Dr. Alison Freeland**, associate chief of psychiatry, The Royal, talked about the results of the Royal’s needs assessment survey in regards to the development of a women’s men-

tal health program for Champlain.



**Dr. Jasmine Ghandi**, clinical lead and psychiatrist for the Ottawa Regional Perinatal Mental Health Program at The Ottawa Hospital, head of Interpersonal

Psychotherapy training and assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Ottawa, talked about mental illness in the pregnant and postpartum woman.



**Dr. Dennis Raphael**, professor of health policy at York University’s School of Health Policy and Management, spoke on the social determinants of women’s mental health.



**Dr. Charmaine Williams**, associate dean Academic of Social Work and the Factor-Inwentash Chair in Health and Mental Health at the University of Toronto, talked

about women’s caring: psychological and social issues.

# RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

## Publications

**Ahmed, A. G., Kingston, D. A., DiGuiseppe, R., Bradford, J. M., Seto, M. C. (in press)** Developing a clinical typology of dysfunctional anger. *Journal of Affective Disorders*.

**Côté, G., Crocker, A. G., Nicholls, T. L., Seto, M. C. (in press)** Risk assessment instruments in clinical practice. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*.

**Fisher, D. J., Daniels, R., Jaworska, N., Knobelsdorf, A., Knott, V. J. (2011)** Effects of acute nicotine administration on resting EEG in nonsmokers. *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology* [Epub ahead of print].

**Fisher, D.J., Grant, B., Smith, D.M., Borracci, G., Labelle, A., Knott, V.J. (2011)** Effects of auditory hallucinations on the mismatch negativity (MMN) in schizophrenia as measured by a modified 'optimal' multi-feature paradigm. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, 81, 245-51.

**Fisher, D. J., Knobelsdorf, A., Jaworska, N., Daniels, R., Knott, V. J. (in press)** Effects of acute nicotine administration on behavioral and neural (EEG) correlates of working memory in non-smokers. *Brain Research*.

**Harris, G. T., Lalumière, M. L., Seto, M. C., Rice, M. E., Chaplin, T. C. (in press)** The sexual arousal of rapists to rape stories: The contributions of sex, nonconsent, and injury. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

**Jaworska, N., Thompson, A., Shah, D., Fisher, F., Ilivitsky, V., Fisher, D., Knott, V. (in press)** Acute tryptophan depletion effects on the VPP and LPP to emotive faces in individuals with a family history of depression. *Neuropsychobiology*.

**Knott, V. J., Millar, A. M., McIntosh, J. F., Shah, D. K., Fisher, D. J., Blais, C. M., Ilivitsky, V., Horn, E. (2011)** Separate and combined effects of low dose ketamine and nicotine on behavioural and neural correlates of sustained attention. *Biological Psychology*, 88, 83-93.

**O'Brien, A-M. (2011)** Do community treatment orders work? *Crosscurrents, The Journal of Addiction and Mental Health*, 14(4).

**Seto, M. C. (in press)** Is pedophilia a sexual orientation? *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

**Seto, M. C., Wood, J. M., Babchishin, K. M., Flynn, S. (in press)** Online solicitation offenders are different from child pornography offenders and lower risk contact sexual offenders. *Law and Human Behavior*.

**Shah, D., Impey, D., Chique-Alfonzo, M., Fisher, D., Lorenzo-Lopez, L., Knott, V. (2011)** Neural effects of acute nicotinic treatment of visual spatial attention in non-smokers. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*, 100, 228-236.

**Zhang, X., Han, J., Kesner, P., Metna-Laurent, M., Duan, T., Xu, L., Georges, F., Koehl, M., Abrous, D-N., Mendizabal-Zubiaga, J., Grandes, P., Liu, Q., Bai, G., Xiong, L., Ren, W., Marsicano, G. (in press)** Astroglial CB1 receptors mediate in vivo synaptic depression and working memory impairment by acute cannabinoids. *Cell*.

## Conference Presentations

**Choueiry, J., Parks, A., El-Marj, N., Impey, M. D., Fisher, D., Knott, V. (2011, September)** Sensory gating impairment in cannabis users and its alteration with acute nicotine: A brain event-related potential (ERP) study. 51st Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

**Harvey, A., Davies, D.R.T., MacLean, A.W. (2011, September)** Effects of perceived driving simulator performance and prolonged wakefulness on self-rated sleepiness. 4th International Congress of the Association of Sleep Medicine & 5th Conference of the Canadian Sleep Society, Quebec City, Quebec.

**Impey, D., Chouier, J., El Marj, N., Parks, A., Fisher, D., Knott, V. (2011, September)** Sensory memory impairment in cannabis users and their alteration with acute nicotine: a brain event-related potential (ERP) study. 51st Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

**Seto, Michael (2011)** Podcast for the journal *Sexual Abuse*, on online pedophile subculture. <http://sax.sagepub.com/content/22/1/3/suppl/DC1>.

**Shah, D., Cameron, C., Smith, D., Jaworska, N., Villeneuve, C., Fisher, D., Knott, V. (2011, September)** An electrophysiological investigation of attentional bias in a forensic PTSD population: An avoidance to threat. 51st Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS cont'd

**Shlik, J., Davies, D. (2011, October)** Functional impairment in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. 61th Annual Conference of the Canadian Psychiatric Association, Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Smith, D., Grant, B., Fisher, D., Borracci, J., Labelle, A., Knott, V. (2011, September)** Auditory verbal hallucinations in schizophrenia and auditory sensory gating. 51st Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

**Villeneuve, C., Smith, D., Grant, B., Fisher, D., Borracci, J., Labelle, A., Knott, V. (2011, September)** Trait- and state-dependent changes in nicotine-altered electrophysiological arousal in hallucinating patients with schizophrenia. 51st Annual Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

### Media Publications

**Northoff, Georg (October 20, 2011)** New study looks at preventing suicide. Metro Ottawa (metronews.ca)

Happy  
Holiday  
Season!

All the best  
for 2012



### Comments & Suggestions

The IMHR  
welcomes your feedback  
about the newsletter.

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