Recent IMHR Awards & Appointments

Dr. John Bradford, IMHR Researcher and Associate Chief (Forensic) of the ROHCG has received the Seymour Pollack Award for 2007. This award is presented in recognition of distinguished contributions to the teaching and educational functions of forensic psychiatry. The award was presented to Dr. Bradford at the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law meeting, October 18, 2007 in Miami Beach Florida. Dr. Bradford’s research interests include sexual behaviors; impulse control disorders and most aspects of forensic psychiatry. Dr. Bradford is a Past President of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law; Past President and Founder of the Canadian Academy of Psychiatry and the Law. In addition to this honour, he has received numerous awards for his work in the field of Forensic Psychiatry.

In addition, Dr. Robert Millin, IMHR Researcher and Director, Adolescent Day Treatment Unit, Youth Program, Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, has joined the Research Committee of the Ontario Mental Health Foundation (OMHF) for a five-year term. The Research Committee is one of the Foundation’s two Committees that provide scientific advice to the Foundation through the provision of peer reviews of proposals submitted to the Foundation. Congratulations to both Drs. Bradford and Millin!

The 28th Annual Research Day

The 28th Annual Research Day of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Ottawa and 11th Annual Y.D. Lapierre Resident Research and Academic Day will take place conjointly on December 7, 2007, in the Associates in Psychiatry Amphitheatre of the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre (ROHMC). Both scientific papers and poster presentations will be included in the Program. All faculty members, Psychiatry Residents and Fellows of the Department of Psychiatry, as well as all disciplines involved in mental health care and research at all affiliated institutions are encouraged to participate. Graduate students are very welcome. Presentations will encompass a wide variety of topics including research on the biological and psychosocial aspects of mental illness, patient care and services, as well as basic sciences.

Mental Health Commission Committee Appointees

The goal of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, which has offices in the IMHR Research Tower, is to help bring into being an integrated mental health system that places people living with mental illness at its centre. The Commission’s Board, chaired by the Honourable Michael Kirby is made up of 11 non-government directors and six government-appointed directors. In addition, the Board is assisted by eight Advisory Committee Chairs, each experts in their field, who provide advice to the Board as well as to support the Commission in keeping engaged with the broader stakeholder community. The Mental Health Commission of Canada, has appointed two prominent University of Ottawa researchers to Advisory Committee Chair Positions. Dr. Simon Davidson, Executive Director of the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health, Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) & Chief of Psychiatry, will chair the Children and Youth Advisory Committee, while Dr. Marie-France Tourigny-Rivard, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Ottawa, Clinical Director, Integrated Geriatric Psychiatry Program, Royal Ottawa Health Care Group will chair the Seniors Advisory Committee. Congratulations to both Drs. Davidson and Tourigny-Rivard! For more information on the Mental Health Commission of Canada, please visit: mentalhealthcommission.ca
“Untangling the Mind”: Inaugural Symposium Of The IMHR

On September 26-27, 2007, the University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research (IMHR) hosted its first annual Scientific Symposium, Untangling The Mind, in the Associates in Psychiatry Auditorium of the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre. The symposium featured a number of sessions on Depression, Schizophrenia and Anxiety with internationally renowned speakers from the IMHR and abroad, including Dr. Charles Nemeroff, Dr. Wylie Vale, Dr. Pierre Blier, Dr. Erwin Koryani, Dr. John Roder, Dr. Jacques Bradwejn, Dr. Myrna Weissman, Dr. John Forsyth, Dr. Zindel Segal and Dr. Diana Koszycki.

As part of the lead-up to this inaugural symposium, Dr. Zul Merali, President and CEO, recently engaged in a series of public education radio features surrounding mental health services and reducing the stigma associated with mental illness. On September 8, 2007 Dr. Merali and Dr. Pierre Blier, fielded questions on the national agenda on mental health services and research on the popular CFRA program Experts on Call, hosted by Ray Stone. As well, on September 12, 2007, Dr. Merali spoke at length with Heather Bruce, host of the CKCU program, Sound Mind, regarding both the upcoming symposium and the stigma associated with mental illness. As the symposium was on-going at the time of publication, look for a full feature on the IMHR’s inaugural scientific symposium in the November issue of Breaking Through.

Successful Participation of the IMHR at a Pan-Canadian Symposium on Child and Youth Mental Health

On September 17-18, 2007, over 100 child and youth mental health stakeholders from across Canada gathered in Toronto to participate in a National Invitational Symposium on Child and Youth Mental Health. This event was co-hosted by the Child Welfare League of Canada, the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres, the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at CHEO and the Alberta Centre for Child, Family & Community Research. The objective of the symposium was to develop a national perspective and strategy on the key issues pertaining to child and youth mental health - a priority of the recently appointed Mental Health Commissioner of Canada. The Honourable Michael Kirby, Chair of the Commission was a guest speaker.

The IMHR was a partner at this national event. Dr. Natacha Joubert, Researcher and Policy Advisor in Population Mental Health Promotion at the IMHR and Dr. Martine Flament, Director of the Youth Psychiatry Research Unit as well as various Researchers at the IMHR took part in the symposium. Dr. Joubert, a member of the planning committee, was also a presenter on a panel entitled Developing an Action Plan for Child and Youth Mental Health. Her successful presentation will be published in the next edition of Canada’s Children, the premier publication by the Child Welfare League of Canada.

Continued Funding Success

Congratulations to Dr. Pierre Blier, Endowed Chair in Mood Disorders Research and colleagues who have received a prestigious grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) worth over $800,000 over 4 years. Their grant, “Combining Antidepressants to Hasten Remission from Depression”, was ranked in the first percentile and seeks to examine the effectiveness of combining various antidepressants to attenuate symptoms of depression more quickly. Importantly, positive outcomes from this study would argue for a major change in clinical practice with resultant marked decrease in depression’s morbidity. As well, recently a companion study by Dr. Myrna Weissman, Chief, Division of Epidemiology, Columbia University and colleagues including Dr. Pierre Blier and Dr. Martine Flament, titled “Parental Remission from Depression and Child Psychopathology”, was also funded by the NIMH.

Congratulations to Anne Raudoy, Occupational Therapist with the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre and colleagues (Mary Egan, Laura Grunder, Lucy-Ann Kubina, Rosemarie Lidstone and Greg MacDougall) who were awarded a grant from the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation for their study “Enabling Occupation in Mental Health”. This pilot study represents the first step in a research program designed to describe and refine methods of occupational therapy in mental health. The primary goal of the project are to try out the proposed methods and establish the viability of the research team.
Recent Publications, Presentations, Workshops & Awards


**Merali, Z & Anisman, H.. (2007).** Symposium on Translational Animal Models or Stress Related-Disorders. 6th World Congress on Stress. Vienna, Austria.


The Forensic Research unit participated in production of two new books dealing with the diagnostic criteria used for psychiatric disorders in people with intellectual delay. Dr. Fedoroff and collaborators authored the section on sexual and gender disorders. Since publication the book has received acclaimed reviews including a recent one in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). To read this and other reviews go to www.dmid.org and click on "In the News".

Grant Opportunities & Deadlines

Canadian Psychiatric Research Foundation (CPRF)
CPRF Awards Up to $40,000 per year for 2 years Deadline: November, 2007

Neurobiology of Psychiatric Disorders and Addictions Program: Up to $100,000 per year for 2 years - Letter of Intent Deadline: October, 2007, Full CIHR Application Deadline: November, 2007

Ontario Mental Health Foundation (OMHF)
Fellowships and Studentships: Application Deadline: Friday, November 2, 2007

National Institute of Mental Health Research (NIMH)
For a full list of NIMH Neuroscience Funding opportunities go to: http://neuroscienceblueprint.nih.gov/funding.html.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Standard Research Grants: Up to $100,000 per annum, but not totaling more than $250,000 in a three-year period. Application Deadline: October 15th, 2007

Young Minds in Psychiatry: International Awards Program
The APA/AstraZeneca Young Minds in Psychiatry International Awards Program is a commitment by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and AstraZeneca to recognize and support promising international young psychiatrists within 5 years of completing a psychiatric residency. The Young Minds in Psychiatry Awards addresses this issue through incentives encouraging young physicians to select a career path in research. Visit http://youngminds.astrazeneca.com for details.

Comments & Suggestions
The University of Ottawa IMHR welcomes any suggestions on improving our newsletter and making it more informative. To submit suggestions or material to appear in future editions of Breaking Through, please contact Dr. Owen Kelly, Research Associate, at 613.722.6521, ext. 6727, or by email at okelly@rohcg.on.ca.