Continued Funding Success!!!

The uOttawa IMHR is delighted to announce that the COE-Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at CHEO has awarded to Co-principal Investigators: Dr. M. Flament & Dr. R. Flewelling and Collaborators: Dr. A. Buchholz, Dr. K. Henderson, Dr. G. Goldfield, Dr. K. Matheson, and Dr. G. McVey, an award of $150,000 for their grant, "Examining a Biopsychosocial Model of the Development of Body Image, Eating Behaviours and Weight Control in Adolescence: an Ontario school-based study.

This funding will facilitate investigation of the mechanisms that shape adolescents' body image, eating behaviour and weight, and the risk factors for eating disorders and obesity. This study has 2 objectives; to investigate the biological, environmental, and individual factors contributing to body image, eating behaviours, and body weight in adolescent girls and boys; to test a biopsychosocial model integrating these factors to prospectively predict healthy or unhealthy eating and weight in adolescent girls and boys.

Dr. Xia Zhang Awarded CFI Funding

Congratulations to Dr. Xia Zhang who was recently awarded a Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Leaders Opportunity Fund that will be used to procure equipment to further his investigation into the brain mechanisms contributing to drug abuse, and how they may relate to mental illness. In addition, Dr. Zhang holds a prestigious CIHR New Investigator award and is the Principal Investigator on three peer reviewed grants from NSERC, CIHR, and the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada.

uOttawa IMHR Mission, Vision and Values

Over the past year, the uOttawa Institute of Mental Health Research, in collaboration with its Board of Directors, Research Unit Directors and Scientific Advisory Board have set about defining mission, vision and values statements. These statements encompass both the broad mandate of the uOttawa IMHR, as well as its shared goal with the ROHCG of becoming a centre of excellence in the treatment and research of mental-illness and the promotion of mental-health.

**Mission** - Create scientific knowledge to improve mental health and well-being locally and globally.

**Vision** - To be a premier research institute with national and international centre of excellence status that continuously improves mental health and well-being through leadership, collaborative discoveries and innovation in research, patient care and education.

**Values** - The core values of the IMHR are excellence, collaboration, integrity, respect, compassion, wellness and equity.
First Friday Lecture

The uOttawa Institute of Mental Health Research (IMHR) held a research lecture on Friday, June 2, 2006 in the Royal Ottawa Hospital Auditorium featuring Dr. Donald Goff, Director of the Schizophrenia Clinical and Research Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School. His talk, "Glutamatergic Treatments in Schizophrenia" focused on a number of topics including an introduction to glutamatergic model of schizophrenia, a discussion of various therapeutic agents that target the glycine site of the NMDA receptor and finally, results of studies using lamotrigine and "ampakines" in the treatment of symptoms associated with schizophrenia.

Gambling Research

A unique partnership of consumers, patients and families (Mood Disorders Society of Canada - MDSC) and mental health researchers (Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments - CANMAT) has been established to investigate gambling in patients seeking treatment for mood disorders.

Dr. Jean-Claude Bisserbe, Clinical Director of the Mood Disorders Unit at the Royal Ottawa Hospital, consecutively with six other outpatient Mood Disorder Clinics across Canada and the United States will participate. This study provides an opportunity to assess the prevalence of problem gambling and pathological gambling in Mood Disorder populations and to highlight the comorbidities that are associated with gambling in men and women.

IMHR Students Win Awards

For the last 26 years, the Roger Stretch Award has been presented by the uOttawa School of Psychology in recognition of excellence for an Honours Thesis. This year’s nominees included Meaghan Cosgrove (winner), who was supervised by Dr. Verner Knott, Director of the Clinical Neuroelectrophysiology Laboratory and Andrée-Anne Ledoux, who is supervised by Dr. Patrice Boyer, Director of the Schizophrenia Research Unit.

Meaghan Cosgrove plans to participate in volunteer work for the next year as well as write the MCAT, and then hopes to attend Guelph University to study Veterinary Medicine. Andrée-Anne Ledoux will be starting her MA/PhD in Psychology at uOttawa this September under the continued supervision of Dr. Boyer.

Also among Dr. Knott’s students, Anne Millar, has been awarded the PD McCormack Memorial Scholarship for 2006-2007. It is valued at $10,000 and is awarded to graduate students in the Department of Psychology at Carleton University who hold a scholarship from NSERC, CIHR, or OGS. Anne was also awarded an OGS Scholarship worth $15,000. In addition, Crystal Villeneuve has been awarded a CIHR Scholarship valued at $17,500. Crystal will begin her M.Sc. in Cognitive Science at Carleton University in September.

Those who wish to contribute to the Roger Stretch Memorial Fund may send donations to The Director, The School of Psychology, University of Ottawa, Canada, K1N 6N5.

International Visitor to IMHR Forensic Research Unit

The Forensic Research Unit of the IMHR in conjunction with the Integrated Forensic Program, hosted a week long visit by Dr. Romero-Urcelay. The purpose of his visit was to obtain advise and possible collaboration concerning research into the assessment and treatment of men with severe and dangerous personality disorders at one of the most famous forensic psychiatric hospitals in the world, Broadmoor, located in England. Dr. Romero-Urcelay commented during his visit that when he and his staff began to do literature searches on assessment and treatment of difficult cases, one place kept coming up in the literature: the Royal Ottawa Hospital Sexual Behaviors Clinic (affiliated with the IMHR).
The IMHR Youth Research Unit was initiated in January 2003. The main areas of research are eating disorders (ED), obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), other anxiety disorders, and mood disorders in children and adolescents. The program of research aims at identifying the risk and resilience factors involved in the onset and maintenance of these disorders, and investigating the mechanisms of action of effective treatments. Research is community-based (e.g., study of risk and protective factors for eating and weight disorders in high school students), or based on the assessment and treatment of referred patients (e.g., biological and psychological correlates of anxiety disorders in adolescents; effects of anti-obsessional medication on executive functions, metacognition and regional brain activations). Through collaboration with international agencies (World Psychiatric Association (WPA), World Health Organization (WHO), French National Institute for Health and Medical Research - the program also investigates and promotes evidence-based treatment and prevention strategies for mental disorders in children and adolescents).

Within the University of Ottawa Department of Psychiatry, the Youth Research Unit has developed links with the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, which includes both the ROH Clinical Youth Program and the Psychiatric Services at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). The Youth Research Unit tutors graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Ottawa and Carleton University Schools of Psychology.

On June 14, 2006, commentary by Dr. Zul Merali, President and CEO of the uOttawa IMHR was featured in a story in the Ottawa Sun concerning elevated levels of stress reported by residents of the Outaouais. Dr. Merali elaborated on the negative implications of chronic stress for health outcomes, mental-illness.

As well, a variety of clinicians, researchers and others from the IMHR and ROHCG including Dr. Diana Koszycki, Research Unit Director of the uOttawa IMHR Stress and Anxiety Clinical Research Unit were featured in the Ottawa Citizen as part of a series of articles accompanying a recent Public Lecture Series presented by the Royal Ottawa Hospital designed to diversify the image associated with the ROHCG and mental illness and to appeal to a wider audience.

Dr. Koszycki’s lecture, "Stress and the 21st Century Woman" included a discussion of stress and mental health, how women’s response to stress differs from that of men and finally, an overview of findings from her own research that pertain to women’s mental health, including the impact of infertility on psychological well-being.

Other speakers in this well-attended lecture series included Dr. Marie-France Rivard, Grace McBide, Dr. Smitta Thatte, Dr. Elliot Lee and Dr. John Telner.

After 14 years with the IMHR, Dr. Luc Boulay, Research Associate and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Ottawa has departed to pursue other opportunities and challenges. Most recently, Dr. Boulay had collaborated extensively with Dr. Patrice Boyer, Research Director of the Schizophrenia Research Unit, on a number of projects examining cognitive deficits in Schizophrenia using a combination of virtual reality technology and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). The IMHR would like to thank Dr. Boulay for his contribution to the IMHR and ROHCG, as well as wish him well in his future endeavors.
Recent Publications, Presentations & Workshops


Tidal Model of Mental Health Recovery Consultations & Presentations

Grant Opportunities & Deadlines

A reminder that anyone wanting to improve their chances of having a successful review of their grant/funding application is invited to submit their protocol for review to the scientific review committee. Interested applicants must allow 3-4 weeks for the review to be completed. Please submit 6 copies of your proposal to the attention of Dr. Keith Busby, Research Ethics Coordinator, in room 2055C of the Lady Grey Building if you are interested in this service.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Operating Grants in Neurosciences, Addiction and Mental Health: Registration packages are due August 15th, 2006. Full applications are due September 15th, 2006
Research Synthesis Grant: Registration packages are due September 15th, 2006. Full applications are due December 15th, 2006
Team Grant - Emerging: Knowledge Translation in Mental Health and Addiction: Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) Outline is due October 1st, Letter of intent is due November 1st

Ontario Mental Health Foundation

Research Project Grants: Applications are due September 22, 2006
Fellowships & Studentships: Applications are due November 3, 2006

National Alliance for Research of Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD)

2007 Young Investigator Award: Applications are due July 25, 2006
2007 Staglin Award: Applications are due September, 2006.

The Physician’s Services Incorporated (PSI) Foundation

All Clinical Research, Medical Education Research & Development at the post M.D. level, Health Systems Research, Community-Based Research and Resident Research applications are due August 31st, 2006.

The Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre

Applications for Level III research awards are now being accepted. Applications are due August 11th, 2006. Visit www.gamblingresearch.org for more details.

National Institutes of Mental Health Research (NIMH)

For a full list of NIMH Neuroscience Funding opportunities go to: http://neuroscienceblueprint.nih.gov/funding.html.

Comments & Suggestions

The uOttawa Institute of Mental Health Research (IMHR) welcomes any suggestions as to how to make our newsletter better and more informative. To submit suggestions, please contact:

Dr. Owen Kelly
Phone: 613.722.6521 ext. 6727
Email: okelly@rohcg.on.ca

The Brain Brief
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/27129.html