DEAN APPOINTS DR. ROBERT ARCHER AS INTERIM CHAIR

Dr. Pepe, EVMS Dean and Provost, announced in September 2006 that Dr. Robert P. Archer would assume the duties of Interim Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Archer has been a member of the department faculty for 25 years and served as a highly effective Interim Chair of the Department from 1994 to 1997. During this period, the department eliminated long standing financial problems and dramatically improved relationships with several important affiliated institutions. As the founding Associate Dean for Health Professions, Dr. Archer was instrumental in organizing a variety of important educational programs at EVMS into their current organizational and administrative structure which helped to establish the future directions for these programs. Dean Pepe expressed confidence in Dr. Archer’s ability to lead the department during this interim period, and named Francis L. Counselman, M.D. as Search Committee Chair. Other Search Committee members include Thomas R. Grant, M.D., Joseph P. San Clemente, M.D., Leonard Weireter, M.D., James G. Dixon, M.D., C. W. Gowen, M.D., and Patricia Williams, Ph.D.

RECENT RECOGNITION & AWARDS

J.D. Ball, Ph.D., ABPP, Professor and Vice Chair, received the 2006 Award for Distinguished Contributions to Professional Practice in Clinical Psychology from the Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychologists.

Jerome Blackman, M.D., Clinical Professor, was elected as a Fellow in the American College of Psychoanalysis.

Barbara Cubic, Ph.D., Associate Professor, was named Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings.

Richard Handel, Ph.D., Associate Professor, received the 2006 Samuel and Anne Beck Award from the Society of Personality Assessment in recognition of early career research accomplishments in personality research.

Michael L. Stutts, Ph.D., Professor, has been made a Fellow within the Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychologists.

J. Catesby Ware, Ph.D., Professor, received the 2006 EVMS Dean’s Outstanding Faculty Award.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

See page 2 for more details

- April workshop on Cognitive Therapy with Dr. Mary Anne Layden
- May Grand Rounds with Dr. Liana Hategan
- June Grand Rounds with Dr. Serina Neumann
- October Grand Rounds with Dr. Eric Zillmer

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Friday, April 27, 2007
LECTURE - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Hofheimer Hall, Room 753
Psychiatry-Sponsored Workshop with:
Mary Anne Layden, Ph.D.
Director and Assistant Professor, Sexual Trauma and Psychopathology Program in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Cognitive Therapy of Sexual and Cybersexual Addiction

UPCOMING GRAND ROUNDS

Wednesday, May 16, 2007
LECTURE - 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Hofheimer Hall Room 757
PSYCHIATRY GRAND ROUNDS with:
Liana F. Hategan, M.D.
EVMS Resident in the Department of Psychiatry
Psychiatric Co-morbidities in memory assessment clinic

Wednesday, June 13, 2007
LECTURE - 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Hofheimer Hall Auditorium
PSYCHIATRY GRAND ROUNDS with:
Serina Neumann, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Eastern Virginia Medical School
Depression and Cardiovascular Disease: Autonomic-cholinergic Mechanisms

Wednesday, October 10, 2007
LECTURE - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Location TBA
PSYCHIATRY GRAND ROUNDS with:
Eric A. Zillmer, Ph.D.
Pacifico Professor of Neuropsychology, Drexel University
The Psychology of Terrorists

For more information regarding any of these lectures, please contact Jennifer Mack at 446-5888.
In the general population, 12 to 20 percent of adolescents and children have some sort of psychological problem. Among children and adolescents serving time in juvenile correctional facilities, that figure skyrockets to up to 75 percent.

With the help of a $23,000 grant from the Norfolk Foundation, three EVMS researchers will be working with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to refine its system of identifying those adolescents who need psychiatric services. The study also seeks to determine how DJJ can best link children with certain types of problems with the proper care and determine what would be the best follow-up services for them once they are released. Currently, how the youth are treated depends on the jurisdiction.

Robert Archer, Ph.D., principal investigator, has focused his career on personality assessment. Archer, who is also the Frank Harrell Redwood Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at EVMS, is co-author of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory – Adolescent (MMPI-A), the most widely used test of psychopathology in adolescents in the United States. Through his work in the field, he has become increasingly interested in forensics and juvenile delinquency.

In Virginia, all youth who enter a detention center are screened with the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI) to determine which need to be referred to mental-health services. Archer and co-principal investigators, David R. Spiegel, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, and Richard W. Handel, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, will assess MAYSI data for the 15,000 youth who entered detention centers as well as the 2,000 who ultimately ended up in correctional facilities.

Handel and Spiegel have extensive experience with adolescent psychopathology and treatment. Handel has authored and co-authored numerous studies on the assessment of personality and psychopathology, including studies focusing on teens. Spiegel has extensive clinical experience with adolescents. From 1994 to 2000, he was contracted by the City of Chesapeake to treat adolescents in detention centers. During this time, he saw teens suffering from depression and bipolar disorder, sometimes appearing cheerful and other times argumentative. Many of the teens had been physically or sexually abused, the effects of which manifested itself in guarded and defensive behavior.

Through the study, the team hopes to identify at-risk behaviors — which include suicide and aggressive behavior that could harm other youth in facilities — and determine how well the MAYSI (which is shorter and easier to administer than the MMPI-A) actually predicts psychopathology. They will also examine other data from the DJJ, such as family environment, arrest history and previous suicide attempts, as well as age, gender, and ethnicity to determine whether these variables can help identify at-risk youth, Archer said.

Archer expressed gratitude to the Norfolk Foundation and the DJJ for helping to make the project possible. Archer and his team hope to complete the study during this school year.
FIVE-YEAR NIMH STUDY ON DEPRESSION

Serina A. Neumann, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at EVMS, has focused her career on researching social, psychological, and biological risk factors for cardiovascular disease. She has been awarded the Marquis Who’s Who in the World and in Science and Engineering 2007 and was selected for Marquis Who’s Who of America and American Women 2006 & 2007. She is also involved in many professional societies at the national, state, and local levels. Through her work in the field she has become increasingly interested in connecting genetic pathways to cholinergic mechanisms of relevance to depression.

Major depressive disorder (MDD) is a common, debilitating and often recurrent disorder affecting about 15-17% of people sometime in their lives. Having a family history of depression substantially increases a person’s risk for developing MDD with a heritable risk estimate of 40-50%. Although researchers have made great strides in identifying causes of MDD, the causes underlying this complex, often inheritable illness are not yet clearly understood. However, several neurotransmitters in the brain have been researched to help explain the causes of depression. Accumulating evidence has suggested that a disruption in acetylcholine neurotransmission may play a role in the neurobiology of depression.

Dr. Neumann was awarded a $598,700 five year research career award grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to investigate variation of genes regulating acetylcholine neurotransmission in association with MDD in humans. Dr. Neumann hopes that by merging her expertise with cutting-edge advances in neurobiology and molecular genetics, she can help to improve our understanding of neuropathophysiologic pathways underlying risk for depression. She also hopes that her research endeavors will aid in the development of additional and specific interventions to help prevent and/or treat depression. This research is being done in collaboration with Stephen Manuck, Ph.D., and Robert Ferrell, Ph.D., at the University of Pittsburgh.

PERSONNEL

We would like to welcome the following new employees to the department:

- **Sophal “Phal” Ey - Intake Coordinator.** Paul is a recent VCU graduate who worked as an Administrative Assistant in their College of Humanities and Sciences office. She joined us on April 23.

- **Starlette “Star” Gibbs - Psychology Internship Coordinator.** Star joins us from an 11-year service to the U.S. Navy. She joined us on April 16.

- **Missy Swoope - Administrative Assistant to Dr. Archer.** Missy is an ODU graduate who worked on Congressional and Senatorial campaigns before joining us. She joined us on January 16.
PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


Gatewood, E.E. Why do we measure competence both poorly and slowly? (March 2007). CME-accredited lecture presented as part of the EVMS Office of GME’s Faculty Development series.


Ware, J.C. (March 2007). Sleep in the Old-Old. Virginia Geriatrics Conference. Williamsburg, VA.


Ware, J.C. (April 2007). Recognizing fatigue and sleep deprivation. CHKD Grand Rounds, Norfolk, VA.
PRESENTATIONS (continued)

Ware, J.C. (May 2007). Sleep better with chemistry: Pros and cons. South East/West Regional American Association of Sleep Technologists, 25th Annual Conference, Virginia Beach, VA.

Ware, J.C. (June 2007). Are beavers, moths, and their relations good sleepers? Better sleep with chemistry: Pros and cons. American Association of Sleep Technologists, 29th Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Ware, J.C. (June 2007). Lecture to EVMS MPH Students, Norfolk, VA.

Ware, J.C. (June 2007). Resident fatigue: Update on recent research. Presentation to incoming EVMS residents, Norfolk, VA.

IN THE NEWS

**Military Psychology**


In the context of recent news developments concerning the incidence of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among returning war veterans and the problems faced by veterans at Walter Reed Hospital and within the Veterans Administration healthcare system in meeting these and other mental health needs, a recent text co-edited by a U.S. Naval clinical psychologist, Dr. Carrie Kennedy and one of our student alumni and former faculty members, Dr. Eric Zillmer, has become very much in demand. Dr. Zillmer is now the Carl R. Pacilio Professor of Neuropsychology and Director of Athletics at Drexel University. After graduating from Florida Institute of Technology (FIT), he was a clinical psychology intern within the EVMS Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences from 1983 to 1984, and he came back to EVMS as an Assistant Professor with The Neuropsychology Center from 1986 to 1988. He has since served a term as President of the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN). Dr. Zillmer will speak in October 2007 at our Department Grand Rounds on some of the many subjects covered in this timely treatise. Also of note, Dr. J.D. Ball and Dr. Tom Peake, former Director of the EVMS Clinical Psychology Internship, have a chapter in Dr. Zillmer’s book entitled, “Brief Psychotherapy in the U. S. Military.” This chapter was recently highlighted in a review of the book that appeared in *The National Psychologist* in the March/April 2007 issue of that periodical.

The next issue of this newsletter, anticipated for Fall 2007, will be devoted to the Department’s Training Programs.