On behalf of Nick Kates, Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences -

To All Members of the Department:

Here is the second part of our September Update, beginning with the return of the Psychiatry Elves and congratulations to Vanessa Lentz, who will be our new Clerkship and Undergraduate Program Director.

Psychiatry Elves
The Psychiatry Elves are gearing into action for another year! The Elves were started 6 years ago to provide holiday gifts for psychiatric inpatients, and the goal this year is to reach all psychiatric inpatients at St. Joe’s, both at West 5th and Charlton. If you are interested in donating, there are many ways to do so:

Online: Visit http://stjoesfoundation.ca/psychiatry-elves and click on “Be an elf. Donate today!” It will bring you to a screen to donate; under designation, choose “Psychiatry Elves.”

By Cheque: Make cheques payable to St. Joseph’s Healthcare Foundation, and write "Psychiatry Elves" in the Description or Memo area. This can be dropped off to Menika or contact Amanda Ritsma amanda.ritsma@medportal.ca to schedule a pick up. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda.

Undergraduate and Clerkship Director
I am delighted to announce that Vanessa Lentz has accepted the positions of Clerkship and Undergraduate Program Director to replace Natasja Menezes who has taken on the role of Chair of Student Affairs within the MD Program. Vanessa joined our Department in January to work in the Women’s Health Concerns Clinic, after graduating from the residency program in Toronto and then completing a fellowship at Yale. She will begin by taking over the clerkship role this year, while Natasja continues as Undergraduate Program Director, and will take over both roles next July. I would like to wish Vanessa all the best in her new position, and know that she will do an outstanding job.

And on behalf of us all I want to congratulate Natasja on her new appointment, and thank her for the fantastic job she has done in her dual role within the Undergraduate Program in raising the profile of psychiatry within the MD program, increasing the interest and active involvement of medical students in mental health related issues and events, and in overseeing a steady increase in the number of Mac students who go into psychiatry, including into our program here. We have really appreciated her energy, creativity, and commitment to the program and wish her all the best in her new position.

Special Extended Grand Rounds – October 18th.
On Wednesday October 18th, we will be using a slightly different format for Department Rounds, which will run for an extra half hour, to 10.30. We are very fortunate to have two remarkable presenters - Brother Richard MacPhee from the Good Shepherd Centres in Hamilton and Joe Mancini from the Working Centre in Kitchener-Waterloo – who will be describing their experiences and the lessons learnt along the way in building increasingly complex networks of services for disadvantaged and excluded individuals in their communities, including those with mental illnesses. This will be followed by a workshop, I am attaching a flyer about the two events and would ask if you could publicize this as widely as possible within your own networks.
Education Day 2017 – December 6th.
We will be having a slightly different focus for Education Day this year, when award-winning journalist André Picard, one of Canada’s most prominent health and public policy commentators, will be our keynote speaker and will give a special 90 minute Department Rounds presentation from 09.00–10.30. More information to follow.

Holiday Reception 2017 – December 6th.
This year we will be returning to the University Club on campus for our Annual Holiday Reception, which will take place from 17.00 – 19.00 on December 6th, the same day as our Education Day. The centerpiece of the evening will be an opportunity to say thank you to three longstanding members of our Department, Richard Swinson, Emil Zamora and Michael Boyle. Richard and Emil will be retiring from practice at the end of the year, while Michael will be moving into the role of Emeritus Professor, although he will remain actively involved in the work of the Offord Centre and the Ontario Child Health Study (OCHS).

Our Department – The first 50 Years in Pictures
We are finalizing the layout and pictures to include in the pictorial record of our first 50 years and our Reunion Weekend. We hope it will be ready for purchase by the middle of October and details will follow. Particular thanks to Diana Dunnell, Wendy Mattingly and Pri Weerasekera for all the work they have put into its preparation.

Search for a New Chief of Psychiatry at St. Joseph’s
St. Joes is partnering with Niagara Health System to recruit a psychiatrist who will be the Chief for both sites. This is an exciting opportunity to build a stronger collaboration between the mental health and addiction programs in Hamilton and the Niagara region, and strengthen their partnerships with McMaster. It is anticipated that this process will be completed relatively soon.

Congratulations to
Stelios Georgiades who, along with colleagues at three major American Universities, was awarded a 5 year $3,830,321 (US) NIH R01 grant entitled, “Development of a Standardized Measure of Social Communication Abilities for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders”. This grant will be directly linked to our PARC study at the RJCH and will support the collection of data on a new, brief, online measure of social communication in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Ronald Leung, an MD student at McMaster who won the “Medical Student On Becoming a Doctor Essay Contest”, at the annual meeting of the Association of Academic Psychiatry.

Tea Rosic who won the award for the best poster by a resident at the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry meeting in Ottawa last week, with a number of co-authors from our Department and mentoring from Ellen Lipman and Laura Duncan. Her poster was entitled, “Mental health presentations in the pediatric emergency department: Predictors of repeat visits”.

Harman Sandu and Anish Arora – students with Jenn Brasch - who won 3rd prize in the Early Investigator’s poster competition at CPA for a study of stigma and mental illness.

Ben McCutcheon who along with co-authors Sujay Patel and Dawn Copeland had an article published in the Journal of the American Association of Physician Assistants entitled, “Expanding the role of PAs in the treatment of severe and persistent mental illness”.

Benicio Frey who has received a two-year grant for $187,000 from the PSI Foundation for his research project, “A Translational Study of Blood-Brain Barrier Disruption in Bipolar Disorder: Implications for a new pathway for drug development”. Co-investigators are Ram Mishra, Luciano Minuzzi, Flavio Kapczinski and Mike Noseworthy.

Jean Clinton who has been re-appointed as an advisor to the Premier, the Minister of Education, the Minister responsible for Early Years and Child Care and the Ministry of Education on topics including indigenous education and equity for another 18 month term.

Our Faculty in the News
A couple of faculty have appeared on Dr. Danielle’s show on CHML. Catharine Munn appeared earlier this month talking about post-secondary student mental health, while Jon Davine has appeared on the show 5 times so far this year, talking about seasonal affective disorder, sleep, generalized anxiety disorder, somatizing and social anxiety disorder, and PTSD.

Medical Lead for our Addictions Program
In partnership with SJH, we are looking for a medical lead for the Concurrent Disorders Program at SJH. The role will include developing the academic components of the very successful concurrent disorders program. For further details about this position please contact me directly nkates@mcmaster.ca

Departments Roles and Tasks
There are a number of specific tasks and roles that we have been able to identify where we would be looking for one or more people to play a leading role, and which were presented briefly at last week’s Department meeting. I will be attaching the list of roles and tasks in a subsequent email.

Nick