As January rolls around, I’d like to thank each of you for all you did to make 2017 such a memorable year, and to wish you a happy and healthy 2018. And there’s already a lot to report on since the last Digest in December, including awards for a number of members of our Department, successes at CIHR grant competition, and a number of new appointments.

Nick Kates

Important Dates:

January 17th, 2018
DEPARTMENT MEETING
9:00-10:00a.m.
Lower Auditorium
St. Joes-West 5th

Welcome to:

Philippe Shnaider, Assistant Professor, who joined our department on December 1st as a full time faculty member working in the Anxiety Treatment and Research Centre at St. Joes.

Congratulations to:

Ana Hategan who is a recipient of the 2018 CAME (Canadian Association for Medical Education) Certificate of Merit Award for her commitment and dedication to medical education, a richly deserved honour to her many educational contributions.

Gary Hasey who was invited to attend a high level two-day workshop organized by the Canadian Space Agency entitled, “Space, Health and Innovation: New Challenges, Emerging Opportunities and Benefits to Society”. Gary was presenting his work on “transforming healthcare through artificial intelligence” and his presentation was extremely well received.

Jeesu Suh a student of Benicio Frey and Luciano Minuzzi, who recently received a CGS Travel Award to spend three months studying advance neuroimaging at the Neuroinstitute in France.

Ben McCutcheon who received the highest mark amongst all Canadian residents at the recent COPE MCQ exam.

The Psychiatry Elves who raised $740 in their fundraiser for McMUST, our project with Uganda.
New Appointments:

Joe Ferencz has graciously agreed to take on the role of Chair of the Competence Committee. This will be a crucial role as we move ahead with the induction of Competence By Design (CBD).

Carla Edwards is the new Clerkship Education Coordinator for the Waterloo Regional Campus.

Research News

Congratulations to the following who have recently received CIHR catalyst grants:

Zena Samaan who has been awarded a grant to study cannabis use in individuals with opioid use disorder over the course of the new legislation. The Co-PI is Tea Rosic, a resident in the psychiatry CIP program and other investigators include James MacKillop.

Peter Bieling who is a Co-PI with colleagues from Lakehead and the University of Waterloo on a worth $200,000 over two year to look at using the Resident Assessment Inventory (RAI) to inform patients and providers about their care needs.

In the Media:

James MacKillop, who is a co-investigator on a study that found a genetic signature for delay discounting - the tendency to undervalue future rewards - which overalps with ADHD, obesity and smoking. Read more. The study was also published in Nature Neuroscience and Health News.

Jon Davine recently spoke to CMHL radio about S.A.D. (Seasonal Affective Disorder).

Michael Devillaer was interviewed by the Ottawa Citizen on how the cannabis industry should be allowed to promote itself.

CBC News and Yahoo News spoke to Margaret McKinnon about the importance of having access to mental health care and social supports to help people cope with trauma from a tragic event.

Eldon Tunks was interviewed for an article on why the US use more pain medication than any other country. Read more.

Jane Foster was recently interviewed by IEEE Pulse for an article about how the gut and the brain communicate. Read more.

Farewell:

It Sheri Alchorn who has left our Financial Office to take a position with Elections Canada. We hope to have her replacement in place by early February.
I will be briefly reviewing our Strategic Plan, which will be circulated on Monday, January 15th, but the main agenda item will be a presentation by Karen Saperson and Sheila Harms on Competence By Design, the new approach from the Royal College to residency education, including a provisional timeline as we prepare for this major transformation. And Margaret McKinnon and Michael Amlung will be presenting the results of their survey on supports required to increase academic activity.

I hope to see you there.

-Nick

Nominations are now being accepting for 2018 CFPC/CPA Mental Health Awards in Collaborative Care. Further information can be found here.

50 Years of History Photobook.........order deadline January 22nd

If you haven't ordered your commemorative book yet there's still time to do so...until January 22nd. Details can be found here.

If you wish to contribute to a future Newsletter (e.g. announcements, achievements, etc), please forward it to Joanne Milne.

McMaster University
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences

Contact Us

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