

Centers



ACISR: Pediatric Psychiatry Disorders

David Shaffer, F.R.C.P. (Lond.),
F.R.C.Psych. (Lond.) Director

The purpose of the Advanced Center for Intervention and Services Research (ACISR) is to improve community access to the most modern and effective ways of treating the emotional and behavioral disorders of children. Child and adolescent psychiatry is a relatively small profession in almost all countries, including the United States, where the prevalence of psychiatric disorders is an estimated 6% to 10% of the child and teen population. In New York State alone, there are more than 10 counties with no practicing specialists in child psychiatric disorders. Consequently, one of the Center's missions is to develop evidence-based methods of diagnosis and treatment that paraprofessionals can learn to help disturbed children. The Center focuses on: identifying and treating such groups as depressed mothers whose children are especially prone to psychiatric disorder and who are commonly encountered by family practitioners; working with pediatricians to identify and treat children with ADHD; and developing techniques, such as telephone-based therapy and telepsychiatry, so that professionals who lack the training to work effectively with troubled children can make appropriate referrals. The Center studies the effectiveness of interventions and methods of evaluation and the extent to which they generalize to other real-world settings.

The success of the Center owes a great deal to its close collaboration with the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, the New York State Psychiatric Institute, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University.



Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research

Eric R. Marcus, M.D. Director

The Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research is the psychoanalytic institute within the Department of Psychiatry. In addition to participating in many of the educational, therapeutic, and research programs within the Department and the University, the Center provides education and training in the theory and practice of adult and child psychoanalysis; conducts research in psychoanalysis, psychoanalytic education and applied psychoanalysis; collaborates in interdisciplinary scholarship related to psychoanalysis; and provides therapeutic consultation and high-quality, low-cost

psychoanalytic therapy to individuals and families in the greater New York-Metropolitan area.

During the past year, members of the Research Committee conducted a number of studies, including Dr. Bret Rutherford's study of psychopharmacologic management by psychoanalytic candidates. Drs. Steve Roose, Robert Glick, Andrew Gerber, Eve Caligor, and Bret Rutherford are studying the comparative outcomes of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis.

In the educational arena, the Center's Child Psychoanalytic Program, chaired by Dr. Karen Gilmore, continued to evolve. The newly formed joint program in child analysis, with NYU Psychoanalytic and the New York Psychoanalytic Institutes, is underway. The Center now offers two 2-year clinical training programs in child and adolescent psychoanalytically — oriented psychotherapy for psychiatrists and clinical psychologists with a Ph.D. or Psy.D. degree. The Center's Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Division expanded from a one-year to a two-year program.



Conte Center for the Neuroscience of Mental Disorders: The Neurobiology of Suicidal Behavior

J. John Mann, M.D. Director

The NIMH-funded Conte Center for the Neuroscience of Mental Disorders is dedicated to the investigation of clinical and neurobiological correlates of suicidal behavior across the life cycle. The Conte Center successfully tested a predictive model for suicidal behavior in a prospective study and revealed much about the role of the serotonin system in the diathesis for suicidal behavior. It identified a role for certain genes in modulating environmental effects (life events and childhood adversity) on suicidal behavior. Specifically, these genes may affect suicidal behavior via their effect on the diathesis for suicidal behavior. The Center's documentation of the role of reported adverse childhood experiences in the familial transmission of suicidal behavior underscores the significance of this genetic discovery. The Center also detected serotonin related abnormalities by in vivo PET scanning of depressed subjects comparable to those found in our postmortem studies in major depression and suicide. It found imaging methods can detect biological intermediate phenotypes related to both the clinical phenotype and to the major candidate susceptibility genes that form a focus for ongoing study by the Center. The clinical and biological intermediate phenotypes are both crucial to building an explanatory model for suicidal behavior and for identifying therapeutic targets for suicide prevention.

The Department has an impressive thirteen Centers in total, seven of which are NIH-funded. Five Centers are described here.



Lieber Center for Schizophrenia Research and Treatment

Jonathan Javitch, M.D., Ph.D. Director

At the Lieber Center for Schizophrenia Research and Treatment some of the world's best researchers collaborate to elucidate the causes of schizophrenia and develop strategies for prevention and cure. These investigators have successfully collaborated among themselves; with Columbia University's established and emerging basic, clinical, and pathophysiological researchers; and with colleagues at Yale University, University of Washington in Seattle, The Nathan Kline Institute, and The Kaiser Research Foundation.

The newest diagnostic and therapeutic initiatives are already benefiting patients, most recently those in the newly established Lieber Clinic for Comprehensive Care of Schizophrenia. Unique among outpatient facilities, the Clinic combines state-of-the-art diagnostic assessment with a full array of services designed to maximize recovery. Researchers and clinicians design and monitor a personalized treatment plan for each patient.



Substance Abuse Medications Development Center

Herbert Kleber, M.D. Director

Dr. Kleber's Medications Development Center grant includes a mechanism to support pilot studies to promote research opportunities for Research Fellows and junior faculty in the Division of Substance Abuse. Since the inception of this grant in 1994, the Center has funded forty-five pilot studies. These pilot studies were instrumental in obtaining grants, including 11 R01's, 10 K Awards, 1 NARSAD award, and 1 R-21, and resulted in twenty-two peer-reviewed publications and over fifty-five presentations at scientific conferences, both national and international.

Ongoing pilot studies include the development of a laboratory model of heroin abuse to evaluate new medications for opioid abuse and dependence. The goal is to evaluate the relative abuse liability of heroin and prescription opioid medication, such as fentanyl, oxycodone, buprenorphine, and morphine. The effectiveness of buprenorphine maintenance in reducing the reinforcing effects of the prescription opioids is also being examined. Other studies include using PET to measure mesolimbic dopamine type 1 and 2 receptors in cocaine addiction. This work demonstrated that the loss of dopamine type 2 receptors is not associated with cocaine-taking behavior, whereas the loss of synaptic dopamine appears to confer a vulnerability to the priming effects of cocaine. The Center's researchers are also investigating pharmacological treatments for depressed cocaine abusers and the effects of mirtazapine on marijuana withdrawal and relapse.

CENTERS AND DIRECTORS

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Conte Center for the Neuroscience of Mental Disorders: The Neurobiology of Suicidal Behavior*

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DCIPS: Intervention with High Suicide Risk Populations*

Barbara Stanley

Implementing Evidence-Based Practices for Children*

Kimberly Hoagwood

Lieber Center for Schizophrenia Research and Treatment

Jonathan Javitch

Pathological and Functional Impact of Tauopathy In Vivo*

Karen Duff

Reiner Center for Behavioral and Psychosomatic Medicine

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Ruane Center for Early Detection of Mood Disorders

David Shaffer

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Myron Hofer

Neurobiology of Dopamine in Schizophrenia*

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Stroud Center for Aging Studies

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Substance Abuse Medications Development Center*

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