Welcome to the Summer 2012 edition of the RWJMS Department of Psychiatry’s Research News. Starting on page 2, you will see a list of peer reviewed articles our faculty has recently published. While you will notice many interesting and important articles in that list, there are two that really stand out by being published in highly competitive, high impact journals. Please see page 4 for information on the exemplary work by Dr. Roseanne Dobkin and colleagues, and Dr. Mike Gara and colleagues. You will notice that many of the co-authors of those articles are also from within our Department of Psychiatry.

There are also new research grants awarded to Drs. Paul Lehrer, Maria Katsamanis, Marc Steinberg, and Jill Williams listed on page 3. We look forward to seeing the resulting publications listed in a future issue of Research News.

In addition to the Annual Department of Psychiatry Poster Session, we also have two active listservs for faculty to keep up on relevant research issues around the department. If you would like to be included on these listservs, please contact Dr. Steinberg (for the Research listserv) or Dr. Williams (for the Addictions listserv).

Lastly, we are calling on faculty to submit their curriculum vitae to be added to the Department of Psychiatry website. This will allow other researchers to know about the great work everyone has been doing at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Psychiatry. Please send a copy of your CV to marc.steinberg@umdnj.edu to be included on the website.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of Research News.
Faculty Publications


Recently Funded Awards

*Integrative Physiology of Gulf War Illness: Role of Autonomic Function, Central Neural Processing, and Sleep.*
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP), $15,000
**Principal Investigators:** Paul Lehrer, Ph.D. and Maria Katsamanis, Psy.D.

*Persistence Targeted Smoking Cessation.*
R34-DA030652-01A1. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), $715,663
**Principal Investigator:** Marc L. Steinberg, Ph.D.

*Healthy People 2020 Community Innovations Project.*
US Department of Health and Human Services through the Foundation of UMDNJ, $10,000
**Principal Investigator:** Jill Williams, M.D.

*A Phase 4, randomized, double-blind, active and placebo-controlled, multicenter study evaluating the neuropsychiatric safety and efficacy of 12 weeks Verenicline Tartrate 1mg bid and Bupropion Hydrochloride 150mg bid for smoking cessation in subjects with and without a history of psychiatric disorders.*
Pfizer, $1,300,000
**Principal Investigator:** Jill Williams, M.D.

*Tobacco-Free Residential Addiction Programs.*
NJ Dept of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, $600,000
**Principal Investigator:** Jill Williams, M.D.

13th Annual Department of Psychiatry Poster Session

The 13th Annual Department of Psychiatry Poster session was a big success again this year! There were 15 posters presented and lots of interesting discussions regarding each others’ work. The winner of this year’s Early Career Research Award, Keith Feigenson, Ph.D. gave a very well-received presentation titled "Variability of perceptual organization correlates with specific cognitive traits in the general population: Implications for a modifying influence in schizophrenia" followed by a very interesting Q & A session.

I’d like to thank Annette Austin, Haydee Hernandez, and Susan Connolly for their help with the logistics of this event, Dan Freund for procuring the Award plaque for Dr. Feigenson, and the Research Committee for reviewing Award submissions.

Next year’s poster session will be held on May 9, 2013. Save the date and start thinking about your poster submissions. We will again award an Early Career Research Award to a psychiatry resident, psychology intern, post-doc, or other non-faculty.
Featured Research Publications

This edition of Research News includes two featured publications. While you can see that there were many interesting research publications from the faculty recently, these publications are being highlighted for being published in particularly high-impact, highly competitive journals, *Journal of Consulting & Clinical Psychology* (Dr. Dobkin et al.) and *Archives of General Psychiatry* (Dr. Gara et al.). Congratulations Drs. Dobkin and Gara!


**Objective:** The purpose of this study was to examine predictors of treatment response to cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) for depression in Parkinson’s disease (PD).

**Results:** At Week 10, caregiver participation was the only significant predictor of treatment response in the CBT group. At Week 14, both caregiver participation and executive functioning predicted response to CBT. Treatment group, baseline depression severity, executive functioning, motor disability, psychiatric comorbidity, marital status, and caregiver burden were also related to change in depression scores, for all participants, in secondary and exploratory models. **Conclusions:** Caregiver participation may enhance acute treatment response to psychosocial interventions for depression in PD. Further research is needed to extend and replicate these findings.


**Objective:** To determine whether African American individuals would continue to exhibit significantly higher rates of clinical diagnoses of schizophrenia, even after controlling for age, sex, income, site, and education, as well as the presence or absence of serious affective disorder, as determined by experts blinded to race and ethnicity. A secondary objective was to determine if a similar pattern occurred in Latino subjects.

**Results:** A significant ethnicity/race effect ($\chi^2(2) = 10.4$, $P = .01$) was obtained when schizophrenia was narrowly defined, controlling for all other predictors. The odds ratio comparing African American with non-Latino white individuals was significant (odds ratio = 2.7; 95% CI, 1.5-5.1). Similar differences between African American and white individuals occurred when schizophrenia was more broadly defined (odds ratio = 2.5; 95% CI, 1.4-4.5). African American individuals did not differ significantly from white individuals in overall severity of manic and depressive symptoms but did evidence more severe psychosis. **Conclusions:** African American individuals exhibited significantly higher rates of clinical diagnoses of schizophrenia than non-Latino white subjects, even after controlling for covariates such as serious affective disorder.
Publications continued from page 2


Steinberg ML, Williams JM, Gandhi KK, Foulds J, Epstein EE, Brandon TH. Task persistence predicts smoking cessation in smokers with and without schizophrenia [in press]. Psychol Addict Behav.


Williams JM, Gandhi KK, Lu SE, Steinberg ML, Benowitz NL. Rapid smoking may not be aversive in schizophrenia [in press]. Nicotine Tob Res.

Williams JM. Varenicline should be used as a first line treatment to help smokers with mental illness quit [in press]. J Dual Diag.