



Department of Psychiatry Annual Letter December 2009

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

In spite of the daunting challenges facing academic psychiatry today, Weill Cornell's Department of Psychiatry has had a year of growth. We deeply appreciate the help and encouragement of the Hospital (**Laura Forese, MD; Steven Corwin, MD;** and **Herbert Pardes, MD**) and the Medical College (**Antonio Gotto, Jr., MD, DPhil;** and **David Hajjar, PhD**) and we are delighted to share this summary of our accomplishments with our friends and colleagues. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all whose contributions and support have made this one of our most exciting and successful years.

New Faculty Leadership

After extensive national searches, the Department of Psychiatry is delighted to welcome two stellar, world-class leaders in the fields of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Eating Disorders:

John T. Walkup, MD, Vice Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

In November 2009, **John T. Walkup, M.D.**, joined the faculty as Vice Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Chief, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Walkup is a distinguished clinician, scientist, and educator with broad expertise in various clinical problems and treatment approaches including psychopharmacology, Tourette Syndrome, OCD, affective and anxiety problems, and other severe mental disorders of children and adolescents. Dr. Walkup comes to us from Johns Hopkins where he maintains an Adjunct appointment.

In addition to his broad responsibilities in the child and adolescent program, Dr. Walkup will use his extensive experiences in clinical care as well as translational and treatment studies and trials, to foster collaborations with our successful departmental programs in developmental psychobiology and developmental neurobiology. He also will be involved in our joint programs with Columbia including the Columbia-Cornell Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residency Program of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and joint efforts in autism and other areas.

We are deeply indebted to **Margaret Hertzog, MD**, for her sterling job in the role of Interim Vice Chair for these last years. With Dr. Walkup's arrival, the leadership position will be combined into one role covering both Manhattan and Westchester campuses.

Evelyn Attia, MD and New Joint Program for Eating Disorders

In August 2009, **Evelyn Attia, M.D.**, joined the Weill Cornell faculty as Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and the Director of a newly formed Joint Program for Eating Disorders Services of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC), and the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (CUMC). Dr. Attia is also Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons and Director of The Columbia Center for Eating Disorders at New York State Psychiatric Institute/CUMC. An accomplished clinician, researcher, and mentor, Dr. Attia is an expert in the psychobiology and treatment of eating disorders, especially anorexia nervosa.

A newly remodeled, state-of-the-art, in-patient Eating Disorders Unit at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's Westchester Division was unveiled in a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 1st. The unit, named ***The Outlook at Westchester*** is the cornerstone of the new eating disorders program, which will treat both adolescents and adults and will be the only specialized inpatient eating disorders program in New York State.

Katherine Halmi, MD, has been the Director of the Weill Cornell Eating Disorders program since its establishment almost twenty-five years ago. It is due to her exceptional leadership and prodigious scholarship and research that our program has become one of the most distinguished in the country. We are very grateful to Dr. Halmi for the value and prestige that she has brought to the program and we look forward to her continued contributions to the field of Eating Disorders.

New Faculty

We would also like to welcome to our faculty **Zev Alexander, MD; Jeremy Barowsky, MD; Kevin Bath, PhD; Nisba Husain, MD; Bruce Leuchter, MD; Philip Seibell, MD; Michael Walton, MD;** and **Victoria Wilkins, PhD.**

Faculty Research and Scholarly Endeavors

The Department of Psychiatry has built a broad portfolio of globally recognized research programs and fostered the development and maturation of an extensive array of scholarly activities. Our faculty continue to receive major grants from national agencies and foundations as well as garner prestigious awards for their ongoing contributions to the field of Psychiatry.

George Alexopoulos, MD, was awarded a five-year, \$10 million grant to fund the Advanced Center for Interventions and Services Research in Geriatric Depression, one of the largest grants given to study geriatric depression and the largest grant received by the Weill Cornell Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry in its 20-year history. The grant will allow Dr. Alexopoulos and co-Directors **Martha Bruce, PhD, MPH**, and **Andrew Leon, PhD**, to advance their pioneering work in understanding the biological, medical, cognitive and psychosocial problems of depressed older adults. The Institute's **Patrick Raue, PhD**, was awarded an R01 from the NIMH titled, "Shared Decision-Making for Elderly Depressed Primary Care Patients". **Robert Young, MD**, received a collaborative R01 from the NIMH to study prolonging remission of depression in the elderly in addition to an Independent Scientist Award from the NIMH to support his ongoing research on the treatment of late-life bipolar disorders.

Francis Lee, MD, PhD, continues his award-winning research on brain growth factors. Most recently, Dr. Lee won The International Mental Health Research Organization (IMHRO) 2009 annual Rising Star Award for Mental Health Research, which provides funding for his proposal to shed new light on the genetic and biochemical causes of anxiety disorders, and to test for new medications to treat them.

The Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology thrives under the leadership of **B. J. Casey, PhD**, who is progressing with her pioneering studies on adolescent brain development and behavior. The Institute's **Jason Zevin, PhD**, has received an R21 titled, "Distributed Phonetic Representations in the Brain", and Postdoctoral Associate **Jeremy Skipper, PhD**, was awarded a K99 "Pathway to Independence Award" from the NIH for his work in the neurobiology of speech perception.

The Program for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress (PATSS) directed by **JoAnn Difede, PhD**, received a Welcome Back Veterans Award from the McCormick Foundation in Chicago. The grant enables PATSS to offer a range of free psychological services for OIF/OEF Veteran and active duty U.S. military personnel and their loved ones with an emphasis on major psychiatric issues (PTSD, Depression) facing those returning from combat. Dr. Difede has had an important national leadership role in the development of the Welcome Back Veterans program. Dr. Difede was also the principle organizer of the Association for Research on Nervous and Mental Disease's (ARNMD) annual conference, "The Psychiatric and Neurologic Aspects of War".

The (NIH) has awarded NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research, highly competitive awards funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to three members of our faculty: **Stewart Anderson, MD; Martha Bruce, PhD, MPH**; and **Francis Lee, MD, PhD**. The grants provide over \$2.2 million of funds to support both new and ongoing research projects in basic science and health delivery research.

Stewart Anderson, MD received a highly competitive two-year Innovative, Developmental or Exploratory Activities (IDEA) grant in Stem Cell Research from the New York State Department Health and Empire State Stem Cell Board STEM.

Andrew Leon, PhD, is participating in a large-scale, NIMH research project called RAISE: Recovery After an Initial Phase Schizophrenia Episode, that seeks to fundamentally change the way schizophrenia is treated by developing and testing innovative and coordinated intervention approaches in the early stages of the illness.

David Hamburg, MD, released a new edition of his acclaimed book: *Preventing Genocide: Practical Steps Toward Early Detection and Effective Action*. He and **Beatrix Hamburg, MD**, had earlier co-authored: *Learning to Live Together: Preventing Hatred and Violence in Child and Adolescent Development*. Dr. David Hamburg also released a path breaking series of 27 interviews with world leaders on the prevention of genocide, which is now available to the public on Stanford University's website at <http://lib.stanford.edu/pg>.

Charles Glatt, MD, PhD, who is working on developing new approaches to studying genetic changes in severe mental illness, has won The Hartwell Foundation's Biomedical Research Collaboration Award with Jian Zuo, Ph.D., from the St Jude Children's Research Hospital. The award funds early-stage, innovative, and cutting-edge biomedical research to benefit children.

Examples of other faculty with ongoing research include **Scott Campbell, PhD**, and **Patricia Murphy, PhD**, of the Chronobiology Laboratory who are working on their federally-funded research of sleep patterns including studies of melatonin; **Otto Kernberg, MD**, and **John Clarkin, PhD**, of the Personality Disorders Institute (PDI) who are working on a treatment trial of Transference Focused Psychotherapy (TFP) for patients with Borderline Personality Disorder; **Barbara Milrod, MD**, who continues a very important NIMH-funded treatment trial of psychotherapy treatment of panic disorders; and **Rosemary Stevens, PhD, MPH**, who continues with her study of the early history of the Veterans Administration, a system that had a large psychiatric component and resulted in the first scandal of the Harding administration. Members of our faculty have active collaborations with many other institutions and centers including the Rockefeller University and our own Ithaca campus.

Faculty Awards and Distinctions

The International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropharmacology (ICGP) awarded **George Alexopoulos, MD**, their 2009 Senior Investigator Award; The New York Academy of Medicine awarded **Jack D. Barchas, MD**, The Academy Plaque for Exceptional Service to the Academy and was he reelected as President and Chair of American Psychiatric Institute for Research and Education (APIRE) of the American Psychiatric Association and continues as Chair of the Association for Research on Nervous and Mental Disease (ARNMD) and President of the Pasarow Foundation; Voluntary faculty members, **Arnold M. Cooper, MD** and **Richard C. Friedman, MD**, received the highly prestigious Sigourney Trust Award, honoring people who have made significant contributions to the field of psychoanalysis; **Christina Dziedzic, MD**, from Payne Whitney Manhattan and **Fong Liu, MD**, at Westchester were honored with Physician of the Year Awards given by NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell's nursing colleagues to those who consistently espouse our institutional values and practice in a collaborative and collegial fashion; **Katherine Halmi, MD**, was the recipient of the Alexander Gralnick Research Award for Achievements and Research in Adolescent Mental Health; **Robert Leahy, PhD**, was awarded the Aaron T. Beck Award for outstanding contributions to field of cognitive therapy; **Robert Michels, MD**, was the recipient of The American Society of Psychoanalytic Physicians Sigmund Freud Award for 2009 and is the Joint Editor-and- Chief of the International Journal of Psychoanalysis and Deputy Editor of American Journal of Psychiatry **Cynthia Pfeffer, MD**, was awarded The William A. Schonfeld Award from the American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry for outstanding achievement, excellence and dedication throughout her career in psychiatry; **John T. Walkup, MD**, received the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Norbert and Charlotte Rieger Award for Scientific Achievement at the 2009 AACAP Annual Meeting; and **Michael Posner, PhD**, a member of our adjunct faculty and former director and founder of the Sackler Institute, was awarded the National Medal of Science in October 2009.

Under the leadership of site directors **Martha Bruce, PhD, MPH**, and **James Kocsis, MD**, the Department is one of 16 participating sites in the National Network of Depression Centers (NNDC), whose mission is to improve the quality, effectiveness, and availability of depression and bipolar illness diagnosis, treatment, and prevention so people can live better lives. The Department also continues its participation in the **Pritzker Neuropsychiatric Disorders Research Consortium**.

The newly established Weill Cornell Medical College's *Music and Medicine Initiative* is off to a promising start under the direction of two members of our voluntary faculty **David Shapiro, MD**, Chairman of the program, and **Richard Kogan, MD**, Co-Chair and Artistic Director. The primary goal of the program is to provide the structure that will enable our students, many of whom have musical training and talents, to continue a musical life while studying medicine at WCMC.

Kenneth Tardiff, MD, and coauthor Robert I. Simon, MD of Georgetown University School of Medicine, have been selected to receive the Manfred S. Guttmacher Award that is presented each year by the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law for the most outstanding contribution to the literature on forensic psychiatry. Drs. Tardiff and Simon were selected for their book titled *Textbook of Violence Assessment and Management*.

Two important initiatives began this year to enhance the scholarly atmosphere and academic productivity of the department. The first, a series of research and writing seminars for clinical faculty and residents have begun at Payne Whitney Westchester and Payne Whitney Manhattan. These seminars have fostered the preparation and publication of 15 manuscripts in the past year. In addition, Chairman's Journal Club had a very successful start this fall. **Dr. Barchas** has been joined so far by **Jim Kocsis, MD**; **Andy Leon, PhD**; **Charles Glatt, MD, PhD**; **George Alexopolous, MD**; and **Marty Bruce, PhD, MPH**, to discuss important articles in the field of psychiatry. Thanks to psychiatry residents **Xenia Protopopescu, MD**; **Conor Liston, MD**; **Ben Brody, MD**; and **Jennifer Bernstein, MD**, for their outstanding presentations to the senior faculty. We thank **Stephen Ferrando, MD**, who was instrumental in the implementation and ongoing organization of these initiatives that were accomplished as part of his newly appointed additional role as Vice Chair for Departmental Operations.

We would also like to recognize **Susan Matorin, ACSW**, in her role as President of the Faculty Council and thank her for her and her colleagues for their tireless work.

Peter Fonagy, PhD, FBA, Chief Executive of the Anna Freud Center in London and a pioneer in the development and implementation of Mentalization-Based Therapy for Borderline Personality Disorder, was the recipient of the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center's Borderline Personality Disorder Resource Center's Fourth Annual *Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Field of Severe Personality Disorders*. The award ceremony and dinner is held each year at the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) annual meeting. Past winners of the award include **Glen Gabbard, MD**; **John Oldham, MD**; and **John Gunderson, MD**. The Borderline Personality Disorder Resource Center is the only not-for-profit service in the country that is a clearinghouse for information and education on BPD and resources for children, adolescents and adults at all levels of care throughout the country. At the annual APA reception jointly-sponsored by the departments of psychiatry at WCMC and Columbia and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, author **Danielle Steele** was recognized with an award for her efforts in mental health advocacy. **Barbara Mason, PhD**, was awarded the WCMC Department of Psychiatry's Alumni Award in recognition for her many contributions to advancing knowledge and treatment of co-occurring disorders.

Promotions:

It is a great pleasure to acknowledge the faculty who received promotions this past year:

Smita Agarkar, MD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

John Barnhill, MD, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

Dara Bellace, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Jose DeAsis, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

Richard Glass, MD, Clinical Professor Psychiatry

Jean Kim, MD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Lucy LaFarge, MD, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry

Elena Lister, MD, Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Katherine Lynch, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology

Patricia Marino, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology

H. Jonathan Polan, MD, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

Andrew Roth, MD, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

Christian Nelson, MD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Muhammad Tahir, MBBS, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Andrea Walter, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Notably, we are proud of **George Makari, MD**, who was promoted to Professor of Psychiatry with Tenure. Dr. Makari, a preeminent scholar and brilliant clinician, is Director of the renamed DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry, an invaluable international resource for scholars and students of the history of psychiatry.

We would like to congratulate **David Shapiro, MD**, on becoming a member of Weill Cornell Medical College's Board of Overseers.

In January 2009, the Board governing the DeWitt Wallace Fund approved a program designed to recognize and distinguish exceptional, senior professorial-level faculty members in the Department of Psychiatry, based upon extraordinary service as mentors in scholarship and research. The following faculty members have been designated *DeWitt Wallace Senior Scholars*, a high honor that has been approved both by the Wallace Board and the Dean: **William Frosch, MD; Katherine Halmi, MD; Otto Kernberg, MD; Michael Sacks, MD; H. Charles Schulberg, PhD; Theodore Shapiro, MD.**

The Weill Cornell Medical College Board of Overseers has approved the appointment of **George Alexopoulos, MD**, Professor of Psychiatry, to the Stephen P. Tobin and Dr. Arnold M. Cooper Professorship in Consultation Liaison Psychiatry at the Medical College. The endowed chair recognizes his exceptional role in bridging psychiatry and medicine.

Residency Program 2009-2010

The Department of Psychiatry's residency training program continues to thrive under the direction of **Elizabeth Auchincloss, MD**, and **Sibel Klimstra, MD**, attracting top medical students in the match. The program is in the third year of offering the Wallace Research Scholars program and the Benjamin Rush Scholars program. Our DeWitt Wallace Scholar for this year is **Brendon Watson, MD** (PGY 1), who will be working with new techniques with imaging the functioning brain and the Benjamin Rush Scholar is **Raymond Raad, MD** (PGY 1), who will be working with George Makari, MD, at the Institute for the History of Psychiatry. This Fall, all our residents enjoyed the intellectual fun of our first (and hopefully annual) Research/ "Speed-dating" networking event during which 35 residents met with as many research faculty to share interests and forge collaborations. For a partial list of publications from our residents and recent graduates, please visit our website at: http://www.cornellpsychiatry.org/education/residency_new.html. Finally, our residents continue to pursue far-flung elective opportunities, including at the Weill Bugando Medical School/Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania. Thanks to everyone on our full-time and voluntary faculty for your help with our recruitment process, our ACGME site visit (October, 2009), and our strong teaching program. Our residents bring intellectual capacity and curiosity to their clinical and learning experiences and constitute one of the best such groups in the nation. We wish to commend our past Chief Residents **Julie Penzner, MD**, and **Michael Walton, MD**, and our current Chief Residents, **Janna Gordon-Elliott, MD**, and **Sarah Meyer, MD**, on their help to the entire program – they continue a great tradition.

Child Psychiatry Residency Program 2009 - 2010

Under the direction of **Elisabeth Guthrie, MD**, and **Rebecca Rendleman, MD**, the NYPH Child Psychiatry Training Program of Columbia and Cornell is now in the fifth year of operation. The two departments collaborate very effectively to provide the best training with a remarkable range of clinical and research opportunities and approaches available in child psychiatry. An exciting new training initiative in child psychiatry is the development of a specialized track which emphasizes training in public sector child psychiatry. This program which evolved in collaboration with Queens Children's Psychiatric Center, can accommodate two trainees per year, and is now enjoying its second full year of operation. We are coming to the end of a very robust recruitment season. An unprecedented eight internal applicants from within the two departments are seeking to train in child psychiatry next year which attests to the wonderful job both departments are doing in nurturing interest in child psychiatry. Please visit our training website for more information at <http://nyp.org/pro/child-psych/index.html>.

Psychology Program

Under the able direction of **Susan Evans, PhD**, and **James Rebeta, PhD**, the Psychology training programs continue to thrive and attract outstanding candidates for predoctoral and postdoctoral training opportunities. This year, one of our four predoctoral interns, **Megan Olden, PhD**, received a two-year competitive training grant (TL1) from Weill Cornell's Clinical and Translational Science Center to use telemedicine to treat veterans with PTSD in a rural area. To highlight some of the significant contributions from Psychology, the Department congratulates **Kenneth Barish, PhD**, on the publication of his book, *Emotions in Child Psychotherapy: An Integrative Framework*, and to **Anna Odom, PhD** and **Pamela Foelsch, PhD**, for their outstanding training and research project on transference focused psychotherapy for adolescents. The Westchester postdoctoral fellows gave "Teacher of the Year" awards to **Kenneth Barish, PhD**, and **Barbara Flye, PhD**. **Susan Evans, PhD**, received a "Teacher of the Year Award" from the psychology interns.

Medical Student Education

Under the leadership of **H. Jonathan Polan, MD**, the Psychiatry Clerkship continues to be one of the most popular among the Medical College's students. Nine students matched in Psychiatry Programs in 2009. **John Barnhill, MD**, received the *Teaching Excellence Award for the Psychiatry Clerkship* and **H. Jonathan Polan, MD**, and **Peter Marzuk, MD**, were both elected to the *Senior List* of favorite teachers by the graduating class. The high level of success of our teaching program for medical students depends upon the efforts of both full-time and voluntary faculty.

Psycho-Oncology Continues to Thrive at MSKCC

The clinical fellowship training program shared between MSKCC and Cornell-NYPH was recently reaccredited by the ACGME for another five years. Thanks to training director **Andrew Roth, MD**, who is ably supported by **John Barnhill, MD**, for their efforts in guiding this accreditation review to a successful outcome. Positions have been offered to another fine group of six trainees for 2010. This is the largest and most successful training program in Psychosomatic Medicine in our country – one we can all be very proud of.

2009 has also been a year in which the MSKCC training grant was renewed by the National Cancer Institute. The grant funds six post doctoral and four pre doctoral students in each year. This five-year renewal takes the grant beyond a remarkable 25 year history. Special thanks to **Jamie Ostroff, PhD**, for her outstanding leadership of this program.

Tim Ahles, PhD, continues to lead MSK's U54 partnership with City College, aimed at training researchers from a minority institution in cancer research. Several other innovative research programs were funded in 2009, with **Drs. Burkhalter, Bylund, Duhamel, Hay, Lichtenthal, Nelson, and Zaider**, all having very noteworthy success.

The clinical and research activity in the MSKCC program initiated by **Jimmie Holland, MD**, and now under the extraordinary leadership of **David Kissane, MD**, has again passed all historical levels of productivity, continuing its superb quality of care and academic excellence. We look forward to further expansion of the relationship between the MSKCC and NYPH/WCMC's departments of psychiatry.

WCMC-Qatar

Members of our Department are actively involved in the Qatar teaching experience. All lectures in the key psychopathology course for medical students directed by **Peter Marzuk, MD**, are relayed to Qatar. We particularly commend the efforts of our colleagues **Javaid Sheikh, MBBS, MBA**, who is interim Dean of Qatar, and those of his colleagues **Hassen Al-Amin, MD; Suhalia Ali Ghuloum, MBChB; Ziad Kronfol, MD; and Taher Shaltout, MD, BCH, PhD**.

WCMC-Qatar class of 2008 celebrated the first commencement in an inspiring combined ceremony with Weill Cornell Medical College and Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences at Carnegie Hall. An outstanding graduate of WCMC-Qatar's 2008 class, **Nancy Abdelmalek, MD**, was accepted into the Department's Residency training program.

Clinical Services

Our clinical service thrives under the leadership of **Lisa Sombrotto, MD**, at Payne Whitney Manhattan and **Virginia Susman, MD**, at the Westchester Division. We can all be proud of the high quality of care and attentiveness to patients that is delivered across our services everyday. As a next step, we will be introducing innovative, evidence-based quality metrics to help us to continue to achieve and maintain the highest quality clinical care. In multiple areas we continue to expand our close and productive relationship with our partners in NYPH and Columbia. We thank our colleagues in the administration of the service line: **Jeffrey Lieberman, MD**, Chair of Psychiatry at Columbia as well as **Frederic Kass, MD; Ellen Stevenson, MD**; and the administrator, **Gail Ryder**.

Payne Whitney Manhattan

In Payne Whitney Manhattan, we wish to thank **Michael Sacks, MD**, for his leadership in his new role as Unit Chief of 11-South in Payne Whitney Manhattan and also thank **Christina Dziedzic, MD**, as the head of 11-North. The 11-North unit was remodeled this year to add a discrete adolescent area that includes a larger classroom and dedicated activity and therapy space.

We appreciate the new role of **Margaret Altemus, MD**, who assumed leadership of The Payne Whitney Women's Program (PWWP) this past year. The goal of the PWWP is to treat psychiatric symptoms across the life cycle of women through scientific investigation. Dr. Altemus, a top notch academician, researcher, and clinician, brings expertise and passion to her new role.

Westchester Division

The Westchester Division launched a new clinical service this past year called ***The Horizon at Westchester*** that offers a special track for Orthodox Jewish patients. The Horizon is designed to meet particular requirements that would significantly enhance the comfort level of these patients during their hospitalization. The inpatient unit is open to adults, 18 years of age and over, with general psychiatric disorders, and addresses the special needs of patients requiring kosher meals and other cultural accommodations. A flexible schedule allows opportunities for religious observance. Under the able leadership of **Gerard Addonizio, MD**, the 6-North unit has been reorganized to specialize in the treatment of affective disorders.

Since 2003, our inpatient Amenities Units, ***The Haven*** (general psychiatry) and ***The Retreat*** (substance abuse), have accumulated enormous experience in the treatment of highly sensitive and complex cases. Under the leadership of **George Alexopoulos, MD**, and with the dedication of staff psychiatrists **Nabil Kotbi, MD**, and **Michael McIntosh, MD**, the Amenities Units have had impressive outcomes with difficult cases and a high rate of satisfaction by patients, families, and referring physicians. We are proud of our record and are grateful to colleagues who have entrusted the care of their patients to us.

Physician Organization (PO)

Our PO continues to attract an array of patients seeking us out for broad as well as sub-specialty clinical expertise, high level of quality, and customer service. The patient referral process has been greatly enhanced by the efforts of **Winifred Christ, DSW**.

The Department of Psychiatry's PO launched the ***Weill Cornell Psychiatry Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) Program***. TMS is has been approved by the FDA as a safe and effective treatment for patients whose depression has not responded to a trial of at least one antidepressant medication. **Bruce Leuchter, M.D.**, who is board certified in Psychiatry and trained in Neurology as well, is the program director. The treatment will be available at both Payne Whitney Manhattan and the Westchester Division.

Special Thanks to our Donors

We are most grateful for the support we receive from our donors whose funding enhances our ability to achieve our mission. We recognize the invaluable support from the DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest program of the New York Community Trust, the Mortimer Sackler Family and Foundation, the Dworman Foundation, the Siegel Foundation, the Pritzker Foundation, the McCormick Foundation, NARSAD, as well as many extraordinary helpful individuals.

We can celebrate the Department of Psychiatry's many achievements of this past year, some of which have been a long time in the making, and acknowledge the outstanding work and successes of our stellar faculty. We wish you all very happy holidays and look forward to the year ahead.

At a personal level we deeply appreciate key administrative staff who work with us including **Mary Ferguson, John Flanagan, Luz Ingles, Rebecca Hellman, Elena Hoehn, Brita Kube, Susan Locurto, Ramsay Russell, Jackie Sternberg, Pamela Trester, and Jennifer Walsh**.

Sincerely,



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