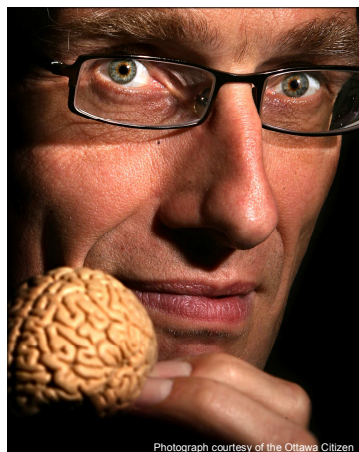




Breaking Through

The newsletter of the University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research

The Mind, Brain Imaging and Neuroethics Research Unit



Photograph courtesy of the Ottawa Citizen

Dr. Northoff

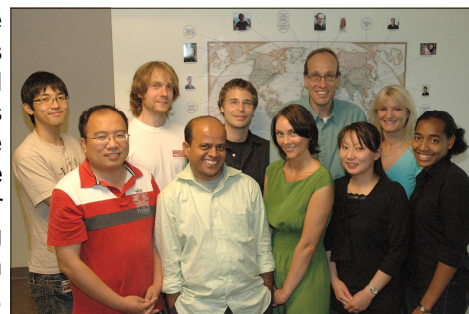
The IMHR is delighted to formally announce the establishment of the **Mind, Brain Imaging and Neuroethics Research Unit**. This Unit will be directed by **Dr. Georg Northoff**, holder of a **Canada Research Chair** as well as the **EJLB-CIHR Michael Smith Chair in Neurosciences and Mental Health**. **Dr. Georg Northoff** plans to investigate some of the most fundamental questions about human existence: What is the self? How is it possible that we experience a self rather than our brain as such? How

is the self related to consciousness? And how are the neural underpinnings of self and consciousness altered in psychiatric disorders like depression and schizophrenia?

In order to approach these problems, the group will adopt a truly trans-disciplinary approach, combining neuroscience, philosophy and psychology. Also integral will be the study of psychiatric conditions intended to lead to innovative insights into the causes of such conditions and development of novel treatments.

Professor Northoff was attracted to **IMHR** because of its strong cadre of mental health researchers and the state-of-the-art research facilities connected to the **Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre**. According to a feature article in the July 11 issue of the **Ottawa Citizen** that highlighted Dr. Northoff on its front page, 'He's one of the top psychiatry researchers in the world....an example of reverse brain drain'. He has hit the ground running; within a short 2 months, he has already built up a team of over 15 researchers - many of

having arrived here from as far afield as **Japan, China and India**. The interests and expertise of the group members are as diverse as their nationalities, ranging from the 'self' in vegetative patients, through translational animal models, to the neurochemical basis of brain-states and their changes in depressed and schizophrenic patients.



Back row (left to right): Takashi Nakao, Niall Duncan, Dave Hayes, Georg Northoff, Christine Wiebking. Front row: PengMin Qin, Pavan Kumar, Victoria Howard, Hitomi Nashiwa, Kim Miredin. Not present: Andree-Anne Ledoux, Oliver Lyttelton

Promising collaborations with other units within the **IMHR** are already underway, and more will no doubt be initiated in the future. The unit also has a number of ongoing collaborations with other researchers and institutions around the world.

The unit will be running a **Mind & Brain forum**, open to anybody interested, which will meet monthly for presentations and discussions that cut across the traditional disciplines of philosophy, neuroscience and psychiatry. These will take place on Thursday evenings in the 6th floor IMHR conference room (Rm 6420), beginning at 5pm. The upcoming meeting dates are: **Sept. 17th, Oct 15th, Nov 12th, and Dec 10th**. In addition, the unit will be hosting a coffee pot on the 10th of September from 11am until 1pm – all are very welcome to come along to meet the people and find out a bit more about the work they employ to search for the neural secrets of our very self.

NADD Award of Recognition



Ms. Richards &
Dr. Fedoroff

On May 29, **Dr. Paul Fedoroff**, Director of the **IMHR Forensic Research Unit** together with **Ms. Deborah Richards**, accepted an award from the **Ontario Chapter of the National Association of Dual Diagnosis (NADD)** in

recognition of the success of their clinic for men and women with intellectual disabilities and problematic sexual behaviors. Quoting from the award: "In recognition of contributions to increasing understanding and awareness of the abilities and needs of individuals with dual diagnosis." The success of this clinic is based in part on research funded by the **CIHR** and **UMRF**.

In This Issue...

- Funding Success: Christine McKay
- IMHR Public Lecture
- Research/Clinical Ethics Information
- Farewell to Dr. Koszycki
- Publications, Presentations & Announcements

Funding Success



Ms. MacKay

Congratulations to **Christine MacKay**, graduate student under the supervision of **Dr. Zul Merali**, the President & CEO of IMHR, who was awarded a **CIHR Master's Award** in the area of Population Genetics, Genetic Epidemiology and Complex Diseases for her project titled "The role of glucocorticoid receptor polymorphisms and early life stress in treatment response to electroconvulsive

therapy". The award is granted for a year duration and is valued at \$17 500. She recently completed her Honours B.Sc. with specialization in psychology (Summa cum laude) at the **University of Ottawa** and was awarded the **Roger Stretch Award** (valued at \$1000). Each year one award is granted to an honours student in Psychology for excellence in the Honours research paper in both the French and English sections. She will be continuing her studies at the **University of Ottawa** in the MA-PhD clinical psychology program.

October 8, 2009: "Untangling the Mind II" Symposium



University of Ottawa
**Institute of Mental
Health Research**

To coincide with **Mental
Illness Awareness Week**
(October 5-9, 2009), the
University of Ottawa Insti-

tute of Mental Health Research (IMHR) proudly presents a public lecture on **Thursday, October 8, 2009**, at the **Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre**, 1145 Carling Avenue, Room 1410, from 9.00 am - 2.00 pm.

This will be done in partnership with the **Ottawa Operational Stress Injury Clinic (OSI)**. The purpose of this public lecture is to explore trauma-induced **post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** and to showcase the hope emerging from research into the new treatment for PTSD. This event will feature **Dr. Roger Keith Pitman**, Harvard Medical School, whose specialty is PTSD and newly emerging treatment strategies. This public lecture will also feature **Dr. Alain Brunet**, Douglas

Research Centre, who will discuss PTSD and the translation of laboratory-based research to clinical application. To help lighten up this serious topic, **Victoria Maxwell**, comedian, from the Crazy for Life Company, who will present a solo sketch, a brave, funny, and compelling look at experiencing, surviving and coming to terms with mental illness. Finally, a personal testimonial by an individual who survived PTSD will be presented. An ensuing question and answer period will complete the day's events

We are expecting a full house with a diverse audience of over 150 participants, including researchers, academics, various health professionals, community organizations and lay persons. Stay tuned for more details! For more conference information, please contact: **Marilyn Prince**, University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research, Phone: 613.722.6521 ext. 6551, Email: marilyn.prince@rohcg.on.ca

Research/Clinical Ethics Informational Sources

Information on **Research and Clinical Ethics** is available on two web sites associated with the **Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons**. The first is a good supplement to already existing research ethics guidelines provided by the **Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS)** and **Good Clinical Practice (ICH-GCP)** and can be accessed here: http://rcpsc.medical.org/bioethics/extended-primers/research-ethics_e.php

The second source links to a number of case studies (with question and answer formats) related to medical decision making (consent to treatment, capacity, substitute decision

making); communication (access to records, conflict resolution); professionalism (competence, confidentiality, conflicts of interest); reproductive health (abortion, reproductive technologies); end-of-life care; novel genetic technologies; and, health care resources (waiting times, organ donation etc.). Details are accessible here: <http://rcpsc.medical.org/bioethics/cases/index.php>

Both sites provide valuable background knowledge and information underlying research ethics and ethical issues associated with clinical service delivery and would be of interest to researchers and clinicians.

Farewell to Dr. Koszycki



Dr. Koszycki

Dr. Diana Koszycki, Director of the **Stress and Anxiety Research Unit** at the University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research (IMHR) departed the IMHR in mid-August 2009 to begin a new position as a full professor in the **Faculty of Education** at the **University of Ottawa**.

Dr. Koszycki has played a valuable role in directing the **IMHR's Stress and Anxiety Clinical Research Unit**. Her research ef-

forts focused on the identification of risk factors that predict the onset of anxiety disorders including the development of treatment interventions, particularly in the realm of alternative and complimentary approaches for anxiety-related illness.

We deeply appreciate **Dr. Koszycki's** many contributions to the IMHR and wish her success in her new position. **Dr. Jakov Shlik** will serve as the Unit's interim Director. Recruiting for her successor is a priority for the IMHR and we will begin that process in due course.

Publications, Presentations & Announcements

Publications

- Aluoja A, Maron E, Gustavsson JP, Vöhma U, Shlik J. Personality traits measured by the Swedish universities Scales of Personality. Nord J Psychiatry 2009; 63:231-6.
- Bani-Yaghoub, M., Fedoroff, J.P., Curry, S., Amundsen, D.E. A time series modeling approach in risk appraisal of violent and sexual recidivism. Law and Human Behavior, April, 2009 DOI: 10.1007/s10979-009-9183-y
- Fedoroff, J.P. The Paraphilias In: The New Oxford Textbook of Psychiatry, 2nd Edition, Michael G. Gelder, Nancy C. Andreasen, Juan J. Lopez-Ibor, Jr., John R. Geddes (Eds.) Oxford, Oxford University Press, 4.11.3, 832-842, 2009.
- Benzian, H. & Weber, G. (2009). Public Health Activities Shaping the Profile of the FDI World Dental Federation. Developing Dentistry, 10, 3-6.
- Kingston, D.A., Malamuth, N.M., Fedoroff, J.P., Marshall, W.L. The importance of individual differences in pornography use: theoretical perspectives and implications for treating sexual offenders. Annual Review of Sex Research 46, 216-232, 2009
- Lafond, V. (2009) 'Coming to terms with mental illness in the family - Working constructively through its grief'. In Lobban, F. & Barrowclough, C. (Eds.) *A Casebook of Family Interventions for Psychosis*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Lunsky, Y., Fedoroff, J.P., Klassen, K., Gracey, Havercamp, S., Fedoroff, B., Lennox, N. (2009). Medical rights for people with intellectual disabilities. In: Challenges to the human rights of people with intellectual disabilities. Owen Frances, Dorothy Griffiths (Eds.) London, Jessica Kingsley, 155-183.
- Murphy, L., Fedoroff, P., & Martineau, M. (2009). Canada's sex offender registries: Background, implementation, and social policy considerations. The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality, 18, 61-72.

Presentations

- O'Brien A-M, Farrell S, Freeland A. (2009). Dangerousness or Deterioration : What criteria are psychiatrists using to issue community treatment orders? XXX1st International Congress on Law and Mental Health, New York, New York. June 29th to July 5th.
- O'Brien A-M and Chan B (2009). Privacy vs Secrecy: The right of family care givers to the personal health information of their severely mentally ill relatives. XXX1st International Congress on Law and Mental Health, New York, New York. June 29th to July 5th.
- Sharma, U. (2009). "Social Consequences of Drug Abuse in South Asia". NIDA (National Institute of Drug Abuse) International Forum, June 19-23, Reno, Nevada, USA
- Shlik J. Challenge tests in panic research. Presented at the Symposium "New insight in Panic Disorder", 9th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry. Paris, France, June 28 - July 2, 2009.

Announcements

Craig Mitchell, a medical student with the [University of Ottawa](#), has recently been presented with the [Mach-Gaensslen Award](#) which will support his work with the [IMHR Forensic Research Unit](#) this summer. He will be working on the Unit's research into improved evaluation of the unique forensic problems faced by men with intellectual disabilities. He will be directly supervised by [Dr. Fedoroff](#) and will be presenting the results of his work at the [University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine](#) this fall.

Ann-Marie O'Brien, social worker within the [ROHCG](#), has successfully completed the [Osgoode certificate in mental health law](#) from [Osgoode Hall Law School](#), [York University](#).

Comments & Suggestions

The University of Ottawa IMHR welcomes any suggestions on improving our newsletter and making it more informative. To submit suggestions or material to appear in future editions of [Breaking Through](#), please contact [Dr. Owen Kelly](#), Research Associate, at 613.722.6521, ext. 6727, or by email at okelly@rohcg.on.ca.