CELEBRATE MONTEFIORE CELEBRATES T. BYRAM KARASU

On October 25th, 2006, psychiatry department chairman Dr. T. Byram Karasu was honored at The Waldorf=Astoria during Celebrate Montefiore, Montefiore Medical Center’s annual black tie gala. Dr. Karasu was recognized by MMC community for “…tireless dedication and commitment to the medical center”. First held in 1989, Celebrate Montefiore fetes a member from the medical center’s board of trustees and a physician medical faculty. In 2006, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Jay B. Langner was also honored. The J.E. and Z.B. Butler Child Advocacy Center received the Suzanne Pincus Award, granted to one pediatric program at Montefiore Medical Center.

Congratulations 2007 Grads

The Garden Terrace Room of the New York Botanical Gardens was the site for residency training graduation on Friday, June 1. The commencement luncheon was presided over by Drs. Peter Buckley, director of the residency training program and T. Byram Karasu, Silverman Professor and the University Chairman. Many of our residents brought their children, and recruitment for future AECOM psychiatrists began early. Names of the graduates appear on the following pages.
Welcome to the newest members of the AECOM family. Our incoming residents are a peripatetic group. Some residents’ travels have taken them to Iceland, the Himalayas, and Israel. Equally wide ranging are the residents’ interests, which in addition to psychiatry and behavioral sciences, include creative writing, music, and film.

Sybil Montas
New York University School of Medicine
B.A., Cornell University with major in Psychology. Dean’s List. Worked in various research projects involving the Haitian immigrant community in NYC. Published on Huntington’s Chorea in the International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology. As a first-year medical student she led the creation of the Pediatric Obesity Prevention Program at NYU.

Jordon Matus
Joan & Sanford/Weill Medical College of Cornell University
B.A., Magna Cum Laude, Eckerd College with major in Creative Writing. Wrote “medical breakthroughs” column for Prevention Magazine, monthly health and fitness segments for Men’s Health, where he was an Assistant Editor, and book reviews for Publishers Weekly.
Adam Silberman
University of Wisconsin Medical School
B.S., University of Wisconsin with major in Psychology. Member Psi Chi (National Undergraduate Honor Society in Psychology.) Wrote, directed, and produced plays during 3rd and 4th years of medical school.

Sarah Kevelson
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY
B.A., Magna Cum Laude, Wellesley College with major in Psychology. Member Psi Chi. Worked for one year as a Mental Health Specialist on the inpatient child unit at McLean Hospital.

Dara Kolodner
University of Florida College of Medicine

Anne Rohs
Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health
B.S., Ohio State University with major in Molecular Genetics. Phi Beta Kappa. Worked in community education on the subject of organ donation.

Amar Mehta
New York Medical College
B.S., University of California at San Diego with major in Biological Neuropsychology. Worked for two years as a therapist for autistic children. Drummer in band The Synaesthetics. International Medical Volunteer in the Himalayas.

Rebecca Fink
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY
B.A., Cum Laude, Mount Holyoke College with major in Neuroscience and Behavior. Worked as Research Co-coordinator for two years in the Department of Gastroenterology, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital. Published two papers on Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

Zoran Vukadinovic
Indiana University School of Medicine
B.A., Indiana University with major in Psychology. Worked as a Research Associate at The Kinsey Institute studying sexual addictions and sexual risk taking and its relationship to mood states. Published a number of papers in The Journal of Sex Research.

Kathryn Forman
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY
B.A. Duke University with major in Women’s Studies. Worked for six months in a group home and therapy center for the mentally handicapped in Jerusalem. Fluent in Hebrew.

Shoba Varkey
UMDNJ/New Jersey Medical School
B.A. Summa Cum Laude, Drew University with major in Biology. Dean’s List. Studied pediatric medical practice in India. Worked with victims of natural disasters in Iceland.
Leo Davidoff Society

Ronit Cohen, MD was presented with the Leo Davidoff Award at the graduation festivities. The Leo M. Davidoff Society was established in 1976 to honor the memory of Dr. Leo M. Davidoff, distinguished neurosurgeon and founder of the College of Medicine, who recognized that the primary mission of a medical college is excellence in the education of its students.

Senior Faculty Honors

Special recognition was awarded to Madeline S. Abrams, LCSW for her integral role in teaching psychiatry residents.

In addition to her teaching duties, she will chair a panel on Integrating Systems Theory with Cultural Sensitivity in Treatment and Recovery at the upcoming 59th Institute on Psychiatric Services.

Notes and News

Dr. Bruce Schwartz, executive vice chair of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, has been appointed to the American Hospital Association's Mental Health Task Force, whose mission is to identify difficulties acute care hospitals face in meeting community mental health needs and to develop a realistic role for community and general hospitals in meeting community mental health needs.

Dr. Spencer Foreman is the recipient of a number of honors. The Association of American Medical Colleges named its award for outstanding community service in his honor. He was also was feted by the American Jewish committee at the National Human Relations Award dinner. On May 31, The Greater New York Hospital Association bestowed their 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Foreman.

Dr. Pablo Castillo, associate professor of neuroscience, and Dr. Noboru Hiroi, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and of neuroscience, are recipients of 2006 NARSAD Independent Investigator Awards. The awards, given to just 46 researchers nationwide, are presented each year by the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, and are intended to support innovative, independent research opportunities involving clinical and basic research of major brain and behavior disorders.

Dr. T. Byram Karasu, professor and chair of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, is the author of an historical novel, Of God and Madness (Rowman & Littlefield), about an emotionally troubled young man's spiritual journey.
Dr. Manoj Shah, associate professor of clinical psychiatry and behavioral sciences, is the 2006 recipient of the Bruno Lima Award, presented by the American Psychiatric Association. The award recognizes his contribution to the mental health needs of earthquake victims in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in his native India. His efforts in India also are detailed as a chapter in a book, "Disaster Psychiatry," published by Analytic Press.

Dr. Norman Brier, clinical professor of pediatrics and of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, is author of a book, Enhancing Academic Motivation: An Intervention Program for Young Adolescents (Research Press). The book is designed to aid educators, clinicians, and parents in increasing the likelihood of students achieving academic success.

Dr. Karina Berg, assistant professor of medicine and of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, is the recipient of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Award. The award will support Dr. Berg's research examining adherence of HIV medications in patients undergoing treatment in methadone maintenance programs.

Dr. Noboru Hiroi, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and of neuroscience, has been designated the 2006 NARSAD Maltz Investigator through the NARSAD 2006 Research Partners Program. Given the opportunity to select an individual research project for funding, the Maltz Family Foundation chose to sponsor Dr. Hiroi's 2006 Independent Investigator Award.

Dr. Julia Arnsten, associate professor of medicine, of epidemiology and population health, and of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, as well as chief of general internal medicine, received both "Teacher of the Year" and "Mentor of the Year" honors during the graduation ceremony of the Clinical Research Training Program, held at Wave Hill. It was the first time in the program's history that the same person was selected for both awards.

Dr. Alec Miller, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences was quoted in Forbes.com in a story about the growing number of college students seeking mental health services at their schools. The Associated Press (AP) quoted him in a report on the role of parents in assuring the safety of children in schools. Forbes.com and ABC News also quoted Dr. Alec Miller in reports on the possibility that the use of common antidepressants could increase the risk of suicide among could increase the risk of suicide among children and adolescents. August 7, 2006

Dr. Demitri Papolos, associate clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, was quoted in Newsday in an article on new research into bipolar illness in children.

Dr. Salvatore Lomonaco, associate professor of psychiatry and Vice-chair, Education has won the 2008 Harry Gordon Award for Outstanding Clinical Teaching.

Material in this column has been taken from http://www.aecom.yu.edu/home/news/

Fun Factoid
The Rod of Asclepius (Asclepius was one of Zeus' sons and a practitioner of medicine)

often is confused with the caduceus, an ancient astrological symbol of commerce associated with the god Hermes.