



# BAYCREST

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## OBJECTIVES

The Mission of the Department of Psychiatry is “to enrich the quality of life of the elderly and their families through the provision of exemplary multi-disciplinary mental health care, education and research”. The strategic goals are:

1. to provide high quality effective clinical care to our patients;
2. to strengthen and promote opportunities for research activities;
3. to strengthen and promote opportunities for creative professional activities and leadership;
4. to provide excellent education in the realm of care for the elderly;
5. to strengthen and build the Department of Psychiatry within Baycrest and the community.

## PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

A new Baycrest Strategic Plan, including six areas of focus, has been developed. The main areas of clinical focus remain cognition and mental health. New funding from the Aging at Home Strategy will allow for expansion of our

Geriatric Psychiatry Community Service and Medical Community Outreach Team to work with a new community (New Heights). Baycrest staff continues to be involved in planning at the LHIN level with regard to the efficient use of specialty geriatric psychiatry beds. After a period of financial uncertainty at Baycrest, a comprehensive proposal to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to support a new arrangement in which Baycrest would be uniquely identified to lead the continued development of highly innovative solutions to an aging population was submitted. It appears at this point that an additional annual investment in Baycrest will be made.

## AWARDS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. David Conn was selected to receive an International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) Distinguished Service Award (for service to the country of the host Congress). He was also elected to the Board of the IPA (2009-2013). Dr. Bruce Pollock served as President of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry.

## STAFF CHANGES

The search for a new Psychiatrist-in-Chief at Baycrest was temporarily put on hold during the recent hiring freeze. The searches for Psychiatrist-in-Chief and Chief of Medicine at Baycrest will be reactivated as soon as possible. We are hopeful that the search for the next Vice President of Research/Director of the Rotman Research Institute will reach a conclusion in the near future.

There were no changes among the complement of psychiatrists in the Department during the last academic year.

## RESEARCH

Dr. Paul Verhoeff continues his work on beta amyloid PET imaging in Alzheimer's disease. His studies focus on mild Alzheimer's disease and mild cognitive impairment. Dr. Linda Mah has continued to study older subjects with depression, who are medication free, utilizing the fMRI scanner at Baycrest. She continues to hold a Dean's Fund new grant from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. In addition, she has recently received a grant from the Scottish Rite Foundation. Drs. Nasreen Khatri and Corey Mackenzie completed their study on the effectiveness of cognitive behaviour therapy in treating depressed caregivers of individuals suffering from dementia. This study was funded by the Alzheimer's Society.

Dr. Khatri with Dr. Marziali has recently received CIHR funding to study the effectiveness of CBT via teleconferencing. Dr. David Conn continues to Chair the National Seniors Mental Health Guidelines Project for the Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health. The Project is funded by the Population Health Fund (Public Health Agency of Canada). Seven pilot studies of the implementation of the Guidelines have almost been completed with one of these studies being carried out at Baycrest. The latter pilot study, which also received funding from Healthforce Ontario, is nearing completion.

Dr. Rob Madan and colleagues have examined the status of direct observation in postgraduate medical education in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto. This study has been supported by the Education and Development Fund at the University of Toronto as well as the Academic

Development Fund in the Department of Psychiatry at Baycrest. Dr. Monica Scalco, in the Mood Clinic, has continued her study of memantine as an augmenting agent for late-life depression. Drs. Conn and Madan recently received funding from the AFP Innovation Fund to carry out a program evaluation study of the Baycrest Telepsychiatry Program.

## EDUCATION

Dr. Rob Madan continues as Director of Postgraduate Education for the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry, University of Toronto, and is also Director of Postgraduate Education in our Department. He chairs the Baycrest Medical Education Committee. Dr. David Conn is now Vice-President of Medical Services and Academic Education at Baycrest. Dr. Susan Lieff continues to direct the Education Scholars Program in the Faculty of Medicine. She is also the Director of Academic Leadership Development at the Centre for Faculty Development. Dr. Matt Robillard coordinates undergraduate education and Dr. Paul Verhoeff coordinates Continuing Medical Education. Dr. Verhoeff has also recently taken over coordination of the Research Fellowship Program and continues to organize Grand Rounds. We continue to train psychiatry residents for both mandatory and career path training. Dr. Dallas Seitz will continue the second year of his fellowship at KLARU and the Department of Psychiatry. He will continue his research focusing on the examination of large databases. We continue to provide education for undergraduate medical, social work, nursing, and occupational therapy students and psychology interns. Family practice residents and geriatric medicine residents also receive training in the Department. Members of the Baycrest staff continue to contribute to a variety of Continuing Education activities including regular teaching via telehealth to Northern Ontario. Dr. Verhoeff plays an important role in the planning and development of the annual KLARU conferences. Dr. Ken Schwartz received funding from the AFP Innovation Fund to write a manual on Group Psychotherapy for Nursing Homes.

*David Conn, MB, FRCPC  
Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Baycrest*