

JGH NEWS

SIR MORTIMER B. DAVIS - JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL
DEDICATED TO THE FUTURE · VOLUME 35, NO. 2 · SPRING 1999

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**The Lady Davis Institute
for Medical Research
and
The Institute of Community
and Family Psychiatry**

Celebrate

@ JGH Archives HGJ

30

**years
of Excellence**

TRIBUTE ISSUE

Serving the community for 30 years



Helmet worn during the groundbreaking of the ICFP building and signed by the key players involved in the establishment of the institute.

Psychoiatric problems can strike at any time, affecting people of all ages and backgrounds. "Walk into any group and you'll find at least one person who has been affected by a mental health problem. It touches virtually every family," asserted Dr. Philip Beck, chief of the JGH Department of Psychiatry.

The philosophy of the department has always been to treat the individual patient in the context of his or her family and culture. This orientation is reflected not only in the department's various programs, but also in the very name of the building that houses outpatient services, clinicians' offices, teaching and research facilities - the Institute of Community and Family Psychiatry (ICFP).

Dr. Henry Kravitz, chief of the Department of Psychiatry, 1967-1988

By the mid-1960's, the Department of Psychiatry, which offers both inpatient and outpatient services, had rapidly outgrown its space in the hospital and needed to expand. Thanks to the generosity of a donor who wished to remain anonymous, the ICFP opened in 1969.

"Our goal was to develop a centre of excellence in teaching and research as well as to accommodate ambulatory care," said Dr. Henry Kravitz, emeritus chief of the Department of Psychiatry.

The establishment of the ICFP coincided with the advent of medicare, which changed the practice of psychiatry in Quebec. Hospitals were assigned the responsibility to provide psychiatric services to a specific geographically based population. In addition to being responsible for a sector of 130,000 people, the JGH undertook to provide services to Montreal's Jewish population, which has a high percentage of people over the age of 65.

In order to fulfill these mandates, Dr. Kravitz and his team began developing innovative hospital-based outreach programs and strengthening their links with out-

side agencies, a process that continues to this day. For example, the department developed specialized psychogeriatric services designed to allow patients to maintain their autonomy in the community and, as much as possible, avoid hospitalization.

Recruitment was a top priority for Dr. Kravitz, who became the first full professor at McGill University in the hospital's history, and whose department was the first in the hospital to be recognized as a



Dr. Henry Kravitz.

full teaching partner at the university. "We were always attractive to residents and young professionals because we had a reputation for being a desirable training centre and a good place to work," he noted.

Dr. Kravitz is justifiably proud of his long and productive

association with the Department of Psychiatry and his role in having developed a department with a legacy of excellence in psychotherapy and international recognition in many areas. ■

Services and areas of expertise

- Psychotherapy and family therapy
- Internationally recognized psychosocial research
- Youth and child psychiatry
- Transcultural psychiatry
- Geriatric psychiatry
- Behaviour therapy
- Day hospital
- Strong clinical teaching
- Specialized services including clinics for treatment of problems such as manic depression, evaluation and assessment of patients, new parents clinic
- Extended care services for chronically ill patients
- Well developed links with local, national, international professional groups and associations



Management Committee members. Left to right: Dr. Daniel Frank, Dr. Zeev Rosberger, Dr. Marilyn Segal, Dr. Philip Beck, Dr. Viviane Zicherman, Dr. Michael Bond, Sharon Milner, Lucia Fabijan, Janet Sutherland, Pearl Aronoff. Missing from photo: Dr. Khalil Geagea, Dr. Christopher Perry, Dr. Martin Solomon, Dr. Kathleen Myron, Lynne McVey, Louise de Bellefeuille.

In its 30 year history, the Institute of Community and Family Psychiatry quickly made a name for itself as a place where excellence in teaching and research goes hand-in-hand with compassionate, high quality medical care. "Modern psychiatric treatments are very effective. We are dealing with suffering, but we are also dealing with hope," said Dr. Beck.

Dr. Philip Beck, chief, Department of Psychiatry

In addition to the wide variety of outpatient services provided at the ICFP, the Department of Psychiatry treats patients in a 48 bed inpatient unit, which includes emergency and high risk care. The ICFP is also home to the Division of Psychology, directed by Dr. Zeev Rosberger. Members of this division are actively involved in all facets of patient care, teaching and research.

Under the leadership of Dr. Beck, who was appointed chief in 1988, the Department of Psychiatry has further enhanced its academic and research profile. "Good research is designed to improve patient care, and the synergy between the two improves the quality and relevance of our research," Dr. Beck explained. The department enjoys a strong presence on the international stage for research in areas such as psychotherapy studies, the interface between psychiatry and medicine, and transcultural psychiatry. In fact, the McGill Division of Transcultural Psychiatry, which explores how different cultures deal with mental health issues, is based partially at the JGH.

The expertise of the department's staff in several key areas of psychiatry is complemented by extensive audio-visual services necessary for proper training and supervision. The department's superb teaching program is highly sought after by residents in psychiatry and family medicine as well as medical students from other disciplines, not only at McGill, but also at Université de Montréal, Université du Québec à

Montréal and other universities. This reputation for excellence reaches beyond our borders - in 1991, the department's Couple and Family Therapy Training Program was granted accreditation as a post-graduate training program by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Community outreach, which has always been an essential focus of the department, is becoming even more important given the trend, in recent years, to steer people away from hospitals and to community agencies. "We want to ensure, as much as possible, that patients do not fall between the cracks," said Dr. Beck. To that end, Dr. Beck has begun the process of restructuring the department's outpatient services to ensure timely, effective communication and improve links with community resources and treatment agencies such as CLSC's and patient/family associations. ■



Dr. Philip Beck.