

419-381-4172

419-381-5695

3000 Arlington Avenue  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10008  
Toledo, Ohio 43699-0008



December 18, 1990

Chairperson, 2014 A.D.  
Department of Psychiatry  
Medical College of Ohio

Dear Chairperson:

Greetings from 1990! We are beginning the congressionally proclaimed "Decade of the Brain." Where you are now in the 21st century will be in some measure the outcome of these last few years of the 20th century. Where we are now in 1990 is the outcome of a brief but booming existence.

I've only been with the Medical College of Ohio since 1973 so I don't have personal awareness of the school from its inception in 1964. However, I am familiar with the history of our department. It can be said to have started in 1967 when William Easson, M.D. was appointed professor and chairman. We were housed in the Roche Building on what came to be known as East Campus. Only parts of the Roche Building still exist. After Dr. Easson made some Blade quoted comments about the Toledo Mental Health Center being a snake pit, he was challenged to do something about it and the department was moved to Women's Hospital 4 and 5 at the Toledo Mental Health Center. This began a long (still existing) and eventful relationship between TMHC and the department. We have always taught in at least one unit at TMHC and have been in as many as four units.

We began teaching medical students in 1969 when the first class began and we have always taught in all three or four years of the curriculum. Residency training began in 1969 under the direction of Marvin Gottlieb, M.D. and he remains program director to this date. Dr. Easson was a child psychiatrist and thus a child training program was planned but not initiated during his tenure as chairman.

In 1972 Dr. Easson resigned as chairman and Dr. Gottlieb became acting chairman until the arrival of John Kempf, M.D. in late 1972. He was the second child psychiatrist appointed

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to the chairmanship. He remained chairman until 1975, however, he had also accepted the position of Dean of the Medical School and Vice-President for Academic Affairs in 1974. I became the third child psychiatrist to be chairman in early 1975. As you can see, we have had quite a legacy of child psychiatry.

The child psychiatry training program began in 1974. In 1976, Charles Davenport, M.D. became chief of the child psychiatry division and training program. He continues in that position to the time of this writing.

Psychiatry and child psychiatry continued to move after 1976 and there was a total of seven more building moves. During the entire time from the early 1970's until the late 1980's, psychiatry grew in faculty strength. Many services were added including neuropsychiatry, an adult in-patient unit, child psychiatry day treatment, biofeedback, and behavioral medicine program, psychology assessment center, consultation-liaison program, among many others. Many training grants contributed to this growth.

In 1983, the long sought Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital was constructed and occupied. This acquisition was a result of dedicated efforts by many in the Department of Psychiatry. The adult division finally arrived at its present location in the Health Center in early 1988.

The major efforts by the department in these first 25 years have been teaching and training. Numbers are hard to come up with but the department has taught medical students, psychiatry residents, child psychiatry residents, psychology interns, social work students, psychology practicum students, student nurses, speech and language students, student teachers and innumerable professionals in grand rounds and other continuing education endeavors.

Not surprisingly, the scholarly efforts so far have been primarily in writing about teaching programs and in clinical research. I am sure that the latter will continue until your arrival. We are looking forward to this Decade of the Brain and beyond as the time when this portion of the faculty's efforts will be able to flourish.

Where psychiatry at MCO or, in general, will be when you open this letter has to be conjecture, however, no doubt much more will be known about the biology of the disorders under our stewardship. Possibly, funding of care for these disorders will have been improved by then. It is hoped that this will arise from better (and faster) treatment techniques developed because of greater scientific knowledge. I would imagine that hospitalization for these disorders will be shorter if not lessened. It is my sincere belief, however, that the psychosocial aspects of psychiatric disorders will remain critical issues that the well trained clinician will have to understand to be able to provide comprehensive help to his patients.

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This past year alone has brought so many world political changes along with all the scientific advancement that I hesitate to conjecture further. Good luck to you and the department and be sure to write a letter to the chairperson of 2039.

With hope for the future,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel P. Zrull, M.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joel P. Zrull, M.D.  
Professor and Chairman for the  
Department of Psychiatry  
Medical College of Ohio

JPZ/gk