

Psychiatry, Law and Ethics

Paul S. Appelbaum, MD, Dollard Professor of Psychiatry, Medicine, and Law

Robert Klitzman, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Steven Simring, MD, Director, Forensic Psychiatry Training Program

***Overview**

With its creation, the Division assumed responsibility for forensic psychiatry training, including the Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Program, which recruits two post-residency fellows per year, and instruction in issues related to law and psychiatry for psychiatry residents in their PGY II-IV years. Dr. Appelbaum teaches seminars in informed consent and in mental health law at Columbia Law School, where he is an affiliated faculty member. The Division also hosts a monthly seminar in Psychiatry, Law and Ethics, open to all Psychiatric Institute faculty and trainees. Division personnel are heavily involved in ethics teaching at CUMC, including in the Center for Bioethics, Ethics and Policy Core of the HIV Center, and in the newly formed Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. Faculty in the Division have active empirical research programs in the law and ethics of medical treatment and research.

Current Research

Funded research in the Division for the period of this report includes the following projects:

Leverage in Assertive Community Treatment (John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Dr. Appelbaum, PI)

Effectively Implementing Psychiatric Advance Directives (NIMH, Dr. Appelbaum, co-PI)

Competition Between Science and Care in Clinical Trials (NINDS, Dr. Appelbaum, co-PI)

DVD Consent for Schizophrenia Research in Clinical Trials (NIMH, Dr. Appelbaum, co-PI)

Research Ethics in Schizophrenia (NIMH, Dr. Appelbaum, co-PI)

An Observational Descriptive Study of IRB Practices (NCI, Dr. Appelbaum, co-PI)

Views and Approaches Toward Research Integrity Among IRBs (NHGRI, Dr. Klitzman, PI)

Education and Training

The Division runs a Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Program for two fellows per year, funded by the Office of Mental Health. In addition, as noted above, Division faculty are actively involved in training in the psychiatry residency program and in a variety of venues at CUMC and Columbia Law School.

Awards/Honors

Dr. Appelbaum delivered the 20th Ed Hornick Memorial Lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine, and the George Saslow Lecture at Oregon Health Sciences University. In addition, he received the President's Award of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society for distinguished contributions to psychiatry.

* The Division of Psychiatry, Law and Ethics was created with the arrival of Dr. Paul Appelbaum at the beginning of January 2006. This report covers the first 3 months of the Division's existence.