



Division of Biology and Medicine

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Steven A. Rasmussen, MD, as interim chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. Rasmussen will assume this new responsibility effective June 30, 2009. He will succeed the current chair, Martin B. Keller, MD, who will step down at the end of June. During Dr. Keller's tenure the department has been widely acknowledged as one of the top ten psychiatry departments in the country. It is currently one of the largest departments in the Division of Biology and Medicine in terms of full time faculty members as well as external funding. Please join me in thanking Dr. Keller for his many accomplishments and fine leadership as chair.

Dr. Rasmussen was a member of the second graduating class of the Medical Education Program and received his MMS and MD from Brown in 1977. He completed his residency in psychiatry at Yale in 1983. Following a two year obligation with the National Health Services Corps in North Kingdom, Vermont, Dr. Rasmussen joined the Brown faculty and Butler Hospital in 1983. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and has been medical director at Butler Hospital since 1998.

Dr. Rasmussen is an internationally recognized expert in the course and treatment of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). More recently his primary research interest has been in neurosurgical approaches to intractable OCD and depression and the neurocircuitry of OCD. He is currently funded by four RO-1s from the NIMH, including studies of the longitudinal course of OCD, neurosurgical approaches to treatment, understanding the neurocircuitry underlying DBS effects in OCD, and a genome wide association study of OCD. He is the author or co-author of over 100 peer reviewed publications and has given many invited presentations on the subject of OCD around the world. He has been a leader in developing bridges between campus-based and hospital-based brain science faculty at Brown and has been charged by me to continue to develop this important area during his tenure as interim chair while maintaining the department's current academic excellence.

Dr. Rasmussen has appointed Jane Eisen, MD, as the vice chair for academic affairs for the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior effective June 30, 2009.

Dr. Eisen has held key leadership positions in the Division of Biology and Medicine. She has served as associate dean of the BioMed faculty since 2006, during which time she spearheaded substantive changes in faculty development and advancement. In addition to her role as associate dean of faculty, Dr. Eisen has continued in her role as training director of the general psychiatry residency program as well as co-director of the combined residency training program in pediatrics, general psychiatry, and child psychiatry, the combined residency training program in neuropsychiatry, and the residency training

program in geriatric psychiatry. Under her leadership, the psychiatry residency has become nationally recognized as a premier training program. Previously Dr. Eisen served as director of the core clerkship in psychiatry, associate director of the residency training program in psychiatry, and director of medical student education for the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. Dr. Eisen also served as the acting chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior from October 2005 to April 2006.

I am confident that Drs. Rasmussen and Eisen will bring energy, vision, and dedication to further strengthening the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and its ties to other departments in the Division. Please join me in congratulating them on their new positions.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Wing, MD
Dean Medicine and Biological Sciences
Frank L. Day Professor of Biology
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University