Ed Mullen Named Chairman of the Board of Trustees

In January 2012, Ed Mullen was named Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Judge Baker Children’s Center (the Baker). Mullen is the Chairman of Beacon Equity Partners LLC. He has business interests in the US and Europe.

“It is wonderful to welcome Ed as Board Chair at this pivotal time in the Baker’s history. Ed’s keen business acumen and global vision are great assets to the Baker as we implement a new strategic direction focused on broad dissemination of best practices for children’s mental health,” said Dr. John Weisz, President and CEO of Judge Baker Children’s Center. Mullen was founding president of the Massachusetts Interactive Media Council, playing a vital role in the growth of the IT industry in the Bay State. He has served on the WGBH Business Executive Council and he has been an Adjunct Professor at Boston College’s Graduate School of Management. Mullen is excited to serve as Chairman, having been on the Board for eleven years. “I look forward to working with my fellow Trustees and the leadership of the Baker to expand the number of children and families we serve,” said Mullen.

Dr. Ed Mullen

Dikla Eckshtain, Ph.D. Receives Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award from the National Institute of Mental Health

Dikla Eckshtain, Ph.D., a Research Scientist at Judge Baker Children’s Center, Harvard Medical School, has received the Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (R23). This grant, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, provides career development and research support for highly trained investigators who are currently working on and who have made a commitment to focus their research endeavors on patient-oriented research.

Dikla Eckshtain’s study will focus on the first step in the development of personalized treatment for depressed children using the Sequential, Multiple Assignment, Randomized Trial (SMART) design, an experimental method that is well suited to the development of personalized treatments. The study will include the refinement of individual cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and caregiver-child treatment manuals. The pilot study will provide information about the acceptability of the treatment manuals, assessments, and study procedures and about the feasibility of the two-step randomization used in the SMART design. The resulting information will inform the development of a full-scale properly-powered SMART trial. The long-term objective is to use the SMART trial methods to guide the development of personalized treatment for child depression. Project consultants are John R. Weisz, Ph.D. (Mentor), Susan Murphy, Ph.D. (co-mentor), Joan Asarnow, Ph.D., Paul Rholde, Ph.D., Rex Forehand, Ph.D., and Martha Tompason, Ph.D.

Dr. Eckshtain was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Judge Baker Children’s Center, Harvard Medical School and in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University. She received her Doctoral Degree in Clinical Psychology from Western Michigan University and completed her pre-doctoral internship at Children’s Hospital of Michigan. Dr. Eckshtain’s research interests include the development of evidence-based interventions for internalizing and externalizing youth disorders and the dissemination of interventions into practice settings. Specifically, she is interested in the causes of childhood depression and the association between maternal and familial variables and childhood depression, the development and dissemination of evidence-based treatments for depressed children, and the development of strategies for personalizing interventions for depressed children.

Dr. William R. Beardslee Fund For Research and Dissemination

Judge Baker Children’s Center is pleased to announce the establishment of the Dr. William R. Beardslee Fund, honoring our alumnus, long-standing staff member and Senior Research Scientist at the Baker who directs the Preventive Intervention Project and the Prevention of Depression Study.

The Beardslee Fund will be for the research and dissemination of evidence-based practices, those practices that have been scientifically tested and proven to work. With a special interest in the prevention of depression, the Baker is launching the Dr. William R. Beardslee Fund. Beardslee’s work, the Fund will build on this science to include prevention and treatment practices for other children’s mental health conditions. The Fund will provide Judge Baker Children’s Center researchers and scholars with the resources to pursue high impact opportunities.

If you would like more information regarding this Fund, please contact Michele Urbanic, Vice President of Advancement, at 617-278-4280 or e-mail her at micheleu@jbcc.harvard.edu. To make a donation, simply log on to www.judgebaker.org and select Make a Gift. Please indicate Dr. Beardslee Fund in the comments section.

Stuart T. Hauser, MD, Ph.D. Mentorship Award in Psychiatry

Harvard Medical School (HMS) has announced the Stuart T. Hauser, MD, Ph.D. Mentorship Award in Psychiatry to recognize outstanding mentorship in the areas of adult and child psychiatry, human development, and psychosocial research. The first recipient was Robert Waldinger, MD of Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Hauser was President of Judge Baker Children’s Center and a Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. He was nationally and internationally known for his work in adolescent development and his focus on resilience to adversity.
President’s Corner

Celebrating Our History and Our Heroes

In this edition of The Baker Bulletin, I am delighted to note a major milestone for Judge Baker Children’s Center: We are now celebrating our 95th year. We recently recognized this milestone at our 2012 World of Children Award Celebration—see our photos on the opposite page.

Since our founding in 1917, the center has changed the lives of countless children. Our nine and a half decades of innovative research, training, and direct service have made the Baker a leading force for children’s mental health in New England, the nation, and beyond. Our work has helped countless children overcome challenges and realize their potential for success in life. Our clinical training programs have produced many generations of mental health professionals in psychiatry, psychology, social work, education, and related fields, who now lead programs for children and families around the world. Our research training programs have produced many generations of clinical scientists who create the knowledge from which best practices for children are built. Clearly we have a lot to celebrate!

To pay homage to our founders and their era, we chose an old-fashioned carnival theme as the backdrop for our World of Children event. The ballroom of the Charles Hotel in Cambridge was dressed in the decor of the early 1900s, and guests of all ages won prizes in arcade games, visited a fortune-teller, and had their images captured by a talented caricaturist. The rich history of the Baker was celebrated throughout the evening, along with the presence of many of our renowned Manville School was conveyed in person by staff and students, who quizzed our guests in science, history, and world news, all relevant to the historical epochs spanned by the Baker’s many years of service.

A highlight of the World of Children event was the opportunity to recognize three very special honorees: Dr. William R. Beardslee, the Family of Hiram E. Manville, and Laurie Flutie and the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism. Dr. Beardslee has dedicated virtually his entire career to the prevention of depression in at-risk children and adolescents, through his innovative research and training programs. In 1957, through the charitable foundation established by Hiram E. Manville, a very generous gift was made to the Baker for the creation of our Manville School, a therapeutic day program for children who face severe emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges. Manville School is now our largest direct service program, widely recognized for its educational and clinical excellence. Laurie Flutie took the challenges she faced as a young mother with an autistic child and, with the help of her husband, former pro footballer Doug Flutie, created the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, to honor their son. The Foundation provides an array of support for families with children who confront the challenges of autism. We celebrate the major contributions of these honorees to the well-being of children and families.

We, at the Baker, are proud to continue building on the dreams of Judge Harvey Humphrey Baker, whose life work inspired the creation of the Baker. From groundbreaking research to direct service of the highest quality, to professional training and the dissemination of best practices, we continue to build on the traditions established in the early 1900s by this influential Boston Juvenile Court Judge. His view was that children in trouble are children who need to learn skills for coping and that learning those skills can set the stage for success in life. If Judge Baker were with us today, we believe he would be pleased at the work being done in his name and gratified by the many lives forever changed through the Baker that is his legacy.

Baker Happenings

The seventh annual Liberty Mutual Invitational Golf Tournament to benefit Judge Baker Children’s Center will be held on Monday, June 25th at Walpole Country Club. It is a 12:30 shotgun start, scramble format. Lunch will be provided and the day will conclude with an awards dinner, a charity auction and a raffle. The top players will be invited to compete at the Liberty Mutual Invitational National Finals at Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina in 2013! Enter our raffle for a chance to win a golf vacation for four to Ireland! For more information on registration, rules and other sponsorship opportunities or to purchase raffle tickets, please contact Liz Fitzsimons at 617-278-4279.

Coming Soon!
September 25, 2012
Be a part of Team Baker as a rider or as a supporter! We need your help!

For more information please call 617-278-4281 or log on to http://teambaker.kintera.org