

New to the neighborhood:

Introducing: The ACH/USF Rothman Center for Pediatric Neuropsychiatry

SEPTEMBER 4 , 2008

We are pleased to welcome All Children's Hospital pediatric psychiatrist Tanya Murphy, M.D. Dr. Murphy holds the ACH/USF Maurice A. and Thelma P. Rothman Endowed Chair in Developmental Pediatrics and is nationally recognized for her work with childhood psychiatric disorders, including obsessive-compulsive disorder, autism spectrum disorders, Tourette's Syndrome, anxiety disorders and dyslexia.

The multi-disciplinary Rothman Center for Pediatric Neuropsychiatry is led by Dr. Murphy and includes psychology, occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology and research specialists. It is located on the fourth floor of the Children's Health Center.

Services currently include cognitive-behavioral therapy, habit-reversal training and pharmacological and medical management of a range of disorders, including autism spectrum disorders. Habit reversal training, a behavioral method for managing tics or hairpulling behaviors, has shown promise in Tourette's Syndrome patients.

The Rothman Center offers both intensive and weekly Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), a highly effective treatment for obsessive-compulsive disorder and anxiety treatment. Intensive CBT consists of daily sessions for three to four weeks, allowing patients and families from outside Florida (and even from outside the U.S.) to receive treatment. Psychologist Eric Storch, PhD., will direct the OCD program at the Rothman Center. Visit BeACH or www.allkids.org to learn more about Dr. Murphy and Dr. Storch.

The Rothman Center has a significant research focus on patients with Tourette's Syndrome, obsessive-compulsive disorder, autism spectrum disorders and stuttering. Dr. Murphy and colleagues also will collaborate with pediatric immunologist John Sleasman, M.D., who holds the ACH/USF Robert A. Good Chair in Pediatrics, in studying Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcus (also called PANDAS). Research suggests that group A streptococcal infections can lead to the abrupt onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder, tics and other psychiatric disorders, and Dr. Murphy and colleagues will study the effectiveness of acute antibiotic therapy for these patients.

Other programs, including intensive therapy for dyslexia, will be added in the coming months as additional faculty and staff join the Rothman Center. Dr. Murphy will work in collaboration with our All Children's Specialty Physicians programs in pediatric psychiatry and developmental-behavioral pediatrics to expand the scope of therapeutic services and clinical trials available to our patients.

The phone number for the Rothman Center is 727-767-8230. An Open House this fall will provide a chance to tour the facility and learn more about its varied programs.