B. History of the Department

The University of Wisconsin was among the last major universities to establish a medical school. A two-year pre-clinical medical program that focused on basic science education was initiated in 1907. After completing this program, University of Wisconsin students would transfer to another institution to conclude their medical education. The first clinical medical faculty joined the University when the Student Health Service was initiated in 1910, but a full medical education curriculum was not initiated until after the first University affiliated hospital, the State of Wisconsin General Hospital, was constructed in 1924. Dean Charles R. Bardeen conferred the first four-year medical degrees to the class of 1927, which was composed of 19 male and 6 female students. The University of Wisconsin Clinical Sciences Center opened in 1979, replacing Wisconsin General Hospital with University Hospital and Clinics and creating a center to house the clinical medical departments and the School of Nursing. The former hospital, renamed the Medical Sciences Center, was renovated into space for the basic science departments, the Dean's Office, and medical classrooms and laboratories.

The Department of Psychiatry was established in 1956 when the Medical School authorized the division of the Department of Neuropsychiatry into two independent departments: Neurology and Psychiatry. In the beginning, we consisted of six faculty members and two residents under the chairmanship of Robert Roessler, M.D. This was during the heyday of dynamic psychotherapy and a time when psychotherapeutic medications were first being introduced into the treatment of the more severe mental illnesses.

There was a national shortage of psychiatrists and the state of Wisconsin was very much under-served. Dr. Roessler's first tasks were to focus on undergraduate psychiatric education and to expand the residency program. The Medical School teaching program de-emphasized large lectures in favor of small discussion groups in both academic and clinical contexts.

As a group, the small number of Department faculty devoted considerable effort to preparing training grant applications to support both residents and faculty. During Dr. Roessler's tenure, a psychophysiological laboratory was developed, as well as a cooperative research program with Mendota Mental Health Hospital, which focused on the treatment of schizophrenia. The Principal Investigator of this program was Carl Rogers, Ph.D. During this era, the National Institute of Mental Health was extremely helpful in providing grants for expansion of residency training. NIMH funding also supported the development of pre- and post-doctoral training of clinical psychologists. As the residency training program became established, most of its graduates settled in Wisconsin.
After Dr. Roessler’s departure in 1961 for Baylor Medical College, Milton Miller, M.D., who had been the first director of the residency program, became Chair. Dr. Miller, who was a graduate of the Menninger School of Psychiatry, strengthened residency education by adding academic seminars to the traditional clinical teaching model.

Under Dr. Miller’s leadership, the scope of the Department’s training programs was further broadened. Child psychiatry training began in 1965 with one faculty member, Dr. Jack Westman, and was eventually expanded to include trainees. In addition, one of the most prominent family therapists in the nation, Carl Whitaker, M.D., was recruited and Wisconsin became a nationally recognized center for family therapy.

In order to further broaden the academic base of the Department, a prominent medical sociologist, James Greenley, Ph.D., was recruited to inaugurate a postdoctoral training program focused on Mental Health Services Research. This enriched the academic environment by recruiting representatives of many different disciplines (sociology, social work, economics, etc.) as well as psychologists and psychiatrists, and by fostering a number of interdisciplinary research efforts. The training program was closely allied with a novel community mental health treatment and research program which was developed by Leonard Stein, M.D. and others at Mendota State Hospital and the Madison Community Mental Health Center. Dr. Stein’s seminal contribution in the 1970’s was to pioneer the concept of “alternative-to-hospitalization.” He established a program in Madison, which has become a model for such efforts nationally and internationally.

After Dr. Miller left the Department in 1971 to become Chair of Psychiatry at the University of British Colombia, William McKinney, M.D. became Chair. Dr. McKinney, a prominent researcher in animal models of depression, strengthened the scientific focus of the department and created programs in biological psychiatry and developed ties with the Wisconsin Primate Center. During Dr. McKinney’s tenure as Chair the number of funded research programs increased dramatically in biological psychiatry and psychosocial treatment. We also saw an implementation of computer applications in psychiatry during this period.

The chairmanship was assumed by John Marshall, M.D. from 1980-1989. Dr. Marshall continued the department’s dedication to the biopsychosocial model and his expertise and interest in psychopharmacology enhanced the biological aspects of the Department. He was instrumental in creating specialty clinics for Anxiety and Affective Disorders to further focus faculty expertise. These clinics provided in-depth training to residents and fellows within the Department as well as to psychiatrists and physicians in Wisconsin and the Midwest through a number of postgraduate educational programs and workshops.
Carl Getto, M.D., M.B.A. served as interim chair from 1989-1991. In 1991, Ned Kalin, M.D. was appointed Chair of the Department. His efforts have been focused on updating the clinical aspects of the department as well as the training programs. In addition, he has underscored the importance of basic scientific inquiry related to understanding the pathophysiology and treatment of numerous neuropsychiatric illnesses. Over the last 8 years, the training and research programs of the department have gained national stature. Dr. Kalin recruited many new faculty who have modernized the academic programs. Specifically, these individuals have been involved with integrating psychiatry into the overall neuroscience teaching program of the Medical School, so that psychiatry, for the first time, plays a major role in the teaching of the behavioral neurosciences as they relate to normal and abnormal human behavior. Dr. Kalin was also responsible for the 1995 creation of the HealthEmotions Research Institute in partnership with Professor Richard Davidson and other campus leaders.

The department has developed national reputations in the following research areas: developmental psychobiology, the neurobiology of stress, the neurobiology of sleep, the neurobiology of appetitive disorders, and developmental psychopathology. Major research programs are ongoing in these areas by nationally and internationally recognized investigators. Part of the ability to make these changes was related to the decision to move the department away from the University of Wisconsin Hospital to the current site at U.W. Research Park. This move took place on April 19, 1996, and has given the department the increased laboratory and animal holding space and has most of the scientists, clinicians and teachers together under one roof. This has greatly facilitated the entire academic milieu of the department.

Dr. Kalin has forged a strong linkage between the departments of Psychology and Psychiatry, which is unusual. There are numerous joint appointments across both programs, as well as collaborative research projects.

Faculty in the Department of Psychiatry also train and mentor graduate students in the Department of Psychology as well as in the Neuroscience Training Program. The presence of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows residing in the department has also enriched the academic environment. The department has participated actively in the development of an NIMH-funded Center Grant under the direction of Dr. Davidson, with Drs. Kalin, Essex, and Klein as co-investigators. This is a unique Center for Behavioral Science which focuses on affective neuroscience at multiple levels. Dr. Kalin was also named the Hedberg Professor of Mind and Health in 1995.

From 1993, departmental grant funding from the NIH, as well as overall support from all extramural sources, has increased 54%. Recently, the department participated in the development of a new university-wide research institute, the HealthEmotions Research Institute. This Institute's goals are aimed at scientifically determining how emotions (especially positive emotions) influence health. As part of this initiative, the Institute has supported a
functional brain imaging laboratory, numerous innovative studies utilizing state-
of-the-art PET and functional MRI techniques, and studies of free-ranging
rhesus monkeys in Puerto Rico. The HealthEmotions Research Institute was
one of only 5 organizations to receive a NIH Mind/Body grant and had the top
scoring proposal among the group. The grant provides $10.9 Million in funding
to complete a range of projects with HealthEmotions faculty as investigators
across several UW departments and schools.

From a clinical perspective, the department is in the process of making the
transition from traditional clinical models of care to managed-care models.
This is being done in concert with the important changes in the training
programs of the department. The department continues to recruit excellent
residents, and most recently, has developed two residency slots for special
tracks to develop academic scholarship along with traditional residency
training. In 1999, the Department completed an agreement to expand the
affiliation with Meriter Hospital to provide both an adult and a child/adolescent
teaching service.

In 1994, the partnership, which managed the clinical revenues of the faculty,
was merged into a large multi-specialty group practice, which became known
as the 'UW Medical Foundation'. For a broader discussion of the foundation’s
mission and purpose, see Appendix C. In 1997, the UW Medical Foundation
made an offer to purchase and merge with a 350 physician group practice
named Physicians Plus Medical Group. Although this merger has not been
completely consummated, the department has appointed the eight
psychiatrists from that group as salaried clinical track faculty members within
the department. This merger brings many challenges in melding two distinct
cultures: one with a broad academic focus and one with a purely clinical focus.
We anticipate that the merger will strengthen the programs of the department.
The exact mechanisms for this improvement, however, are unclear until details
surrounding the merger are completely worked out.