

2011 - 2012 PSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM SERIES

A Psychobiological Model of Pathological Stress Processes in Major Depression

Date: April 20, 2012

Location: Somerville House, Room 3345

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

(Please join us after the talk for light refreshments.)



Dr. Kate Harkness

**Queen's University
Department of Psychology**

Abstract

Major depressive disorder (MDD) is projected by the World Health Organization to be the leading cause of disability worldwide by 2020. The primary contributor to the burden imposed by MDD is its chronic and recurrent nature. My work is guided by the hypothesis that MDD relapse is due to sensitization to stressful life events. I will present research examining the nature of the stressors that contribute to the etiology and recurrence of MDD; the role of early developmental context in shaping exposure and reactivity to stress; and the important correspondence of neuroendocrinological and psychosocial levels of analysis in developing stress models of MDD. Finally, I will present new data from our CIHR-funded 'Blue Sky Project' on first episode MDD suggesting that genes regulating crucial neurotransmitter systems associated with the stress response further moderate the effects of biological and early contextual variables on the generation of and sensitization to stress.

Please email: webpsych@uwo.ca if you require information in an alternate format, or if any other arrangements can make this event accessible to you; website: <http://www.psychology.uwo.ca/>

