



A Welcome to Our Community Network by Xiaoduo Fan, UMass Psychotic Disorders Program

As a way to create a more inclusive community, the UMass Psychotic Disorders Clinical and Research Program has developed the Central Massachusetts Psychosis Network to build knowledge, develop skills, and share resources that may be useful to those who are interested in psychosis, schizophrenia and severe mental illness. We hope the network will serve as a catalyst to promote collaboration among all of the Central Massachusetts community and ultimately to improve the clinical care and quality of life for those living with psychotic disorders and severe mental illness.

As a member of this network, you will receive up to date information regarding groundbreaking research, community organizations, and local resources. If you would like to be featured in our future newsletters, do not hesitate to send us information that you feel is relevant such as patient resources, upcoming events, research updates, and inspiring stories. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining this network, please share our contact information with them or let us know; we will be happy to add them to the group.

Welcome to the Central Massachusetts Psychosis Network!

EVENTS

Early Psychosis Professional Educational Event by Samantha Sutton, UMass Psychotic Disorders Program



On April 12, 2017, the UMass Psychotic Disorders Clinical and Research Program hosted the Early Psychosis Professional Education Event at UMass Medical School. The event included conversation about early detection and prevention, coordinated care and educational resources available for patients in the Central Massachusetts area. Topics ranged from pharmacological interventions to co-occurring substance use and medical problems, to treating youth with complexities such as psychosis and dual-developmental concerns. We would like to extend our thanks to all who attended and participated. To read more about this event, please click [here](#).

2nd Annual First Episode Psychosis Conference by Emily Klein, Massachusetts Mental Health Center

On June 16, 2017, the 2nd Annual First Episode Psychosis Conference will be held at Massachusetts Mental Health Center. This one-day symposium brings together mental health experts to provide state of the art reviews on the rationale and approaches to early intervention in psychotic disorders. Participants will better understand the current models of care in patients with early course psychotic disorders, explain opportunities, challenges, and strategies for early intervention in psychotic disorders in Massachusetts, as well as discuss approaches to enhance functional recovery after the first psychotic episode toward employment, among other objectives.

This event is free and will provide CE credits for social workers, psychologists, counselors, and nurses. The address for the Massachusetts Mental Health Center is **75 Fenwood Road, Boston MA 02115**. To learn more and register, please click [here](#).

IN THE NEWS

New Medication Approved to Treat Tardive Dyskinesia by Rachel Madhur, UMass Psychotic Disorders Program

Tardive Dyskinesia (TD) is caused by antipsychotic medications which are commonly prescribed to individuals living with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression. It is estimated that approximately 500,000 people in the United States are affected by TD. The symptoms are often persistent and irreversible and include uncontrollable or abnormal movements of the body and/or face.

In April 2017, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Neurocrine Bioscience, Inc.'s new drug, INGREZZA™ (valbenazine) for the treatment of adults with TD, making it the first and only FDA-approved product for the treatment of Tardive Dyskinesia. INGREZZA™ has been studied in over 1,000 individuals and in more than 20 clinical trials during the past ten years before becoming FDA approved. **The UMass Psychotic Disorders Research Program contributed to this achievement by conducting 3 long-term research studies on the investigational drug.** Christopher F. O'Brien, MD, Neurocrine's Chief Medical Officer commented on their collaboration and success in an e-mail to the UMass research team, "Neurocrine would like to thank the many clinical investigators and TD patients who participated in our clinical trials. Without their partnership and commitment, we would not have been able to achieve this tremendous breakthrough." To learn more about INGREZZA™, click [here](#).

RESOURCES

UMass Consultation Service for Patients with Psychiatric Disorders by Maya Duffy, UMass Psychotic Disorders Program

The UMass Psychotic Disorders Clinic provides an outpatient consultation service for adult patients suffering from psychotic disorders with or without medical co-morbidity and substance use. Due to the consultative nature of the service, all patients must have a prescriber who manages their psychotropic medications on a regular basis. Follow-up care is not provided by this clinic. The consultation service includes a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation, discussion of treatment options, and a written report sent to the referring care provider.

The clinic is located at the **UMass Department of Psychiatry Ambulatory Services** at the **Hahnemann Campus, 281 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA 01605**. Patients, families, health care providers and others can call the UMass Psychotic Disorders Consultation Service Phone line at **508-334-0695** to request a consultation. For more information, click [here](#).

Local NAMI Support Groups for Patients and Families by Suzanne Hannigan, NAMI Central MA



The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Central MA is a volunteer organization that works to provide support and improve quality of life for those with chronic mental illness as well as their family members and friends. They also aim to reduce the stigma that surrounds mental health by educating the community.

NAMI Central MA offers support and education to family members, friends, and persons living with chronic mental illness. They offer bi-monthly patient support groups and family to family psychoeducational groups as well as monthly speaker presentations.

NAMI Central MA is located at Worcester Recovery Center & Hospital in room G1-B9 at **309 Belmont Street, Worcester MA 01604**. If you are interested in services offered by NAMI Central MA or have any questions, please contact them by phone at **508-368-3562** or by email at namiworc@hotmail.com. To access their website, click [here](#).

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The UMass Psychotic Disorders Research Program aims to elucidate the etiology of each facet of the triple jeopardy (devastating mental illness, medical co-morbidity, and substance use). The goal of our research is to develop innovative intervention strategies combining pharmacological and psychosocial approaches to ultimately improve the quality of life those living with psychotic disorders. It is our patients and their stories that inspire the research that we do and drive us to apply the findings to patient care.

Research studies are located at **26 Queen Street, Worcester, MA 01610**. **You will be compensated for your time.** If you are interested in participating, please contact us by phone at **508-856-MIND (6463)** or by e-mail at mind@umassmed.edu.

Please see below for our ongoing research studies.



The Memory Study

This study seeks to see if exenatide, an investigational drug when used in people with schizophrenia, can improve memory, thinking, and possibly promote weight loss in individuals with schizophrenia.



The Early Treatment Study

The purpose of this study is to help understand if the experimental drug, paliperidone palmitate, or oral antipsychotic medication is better at preventing a worsening of symptoms of schizophrenia or schizophreniform disorder.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The UMass Psychotic Disorders Research Program accepts highly motivated students and trainees at all levels who are interested in gaining clinical and research experience in patients with mental illness. There are several opportunities for students to volunteer and learn at our program over the summer or on a part-time basis during the school year. Volunteers will assist with a variety of tasks including data management, analysis and presentation, and literature review. For more information, please contact us by phone at **508-856-MIND (6463)** or by e-mail at mind@umassmed.edu.

*The Central Massachusetts Psychosis Network aims to create a community space to build knowledge, develop skills, and share resources regarding psychosis, schizophrenia and severe mental illness. Please share with us your novel ideas, useful resources, upcoming events, research updates and inspiring stories. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the network or if you prefer not to be part of the network, please let us know. You may reach us by phone at **508-856-MIND (6463)** or by e-mail at mind@umassmed.edu.*

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