



Message From The Chair



You may have heard that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow forecasting an early spring. Soon it will be time for all New Englanders to wrap up their skiing and put away their shovels! So, what do we have to look forward to other than tulips and roses?

- We've wrapped up resident and fellow interviews and are looking forward to match results in March.
- The Medical School is expanding to include a site at Lahey Clinic.
- The American Psychiatry Association and American Psychology Association conferences are coming up, and some faculty trainee dyads may earn support to make the trip.
- The Psychiatry Women's Faculty Retreat is approaching.
- Graduation for our Trainees is coming up fast.

Watch out for more communications and join us to show your support for the department.

Education News

As part of our continuous efforts to improve the residency program, our residents worked together to take a deep dive to evaluate their training experience. They completed a thorough SWOT (strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats) analysis which the program directors will present to the department leadership.

Additionally, the psychiatry residency program has been immersed in the recruitment season for the general adult, combined adult/child, and neuropsychiatry residency tracks. We received over 1,020 applications. Without the time and contributions of our faculty, residents, fellows, and staff it would not be possible to successfully recruit our new trainees. We will know the outcome and celebrate together on Friday, March 15th, 2024. Stay tuned for details.

The psychiatry fellowship programs successfully recruited incoming fellows:

Addiction Psychiatry: Rajat Duggirala, M.D.

Forensic Psychiatry: Chidi Wamuo, M.D.

Child Psychiatry: Danielle Clifford, Patricia Shi, M.D. and Robert Daly, M.D.

Finally, our department has been one of 10 academic and administrative departments participating in the UMass Chan Diversity and Equity Action plan (DEAP) pilot. The DEAP is part of the medical school's DEI strategic goals to integrate DEI across the institution through policies and processes, develop and integrate anti-racism curriculum, increase DEI education, and establish equity within recruitment, mentorship, and advancement. By joining this pilot, our department agreed to the responsibility of supporting the institution's DEI goals and be accountable.

Auralyd Padilla Candalero, M.D.
Training Director
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry

FELLOWSHIPS

PGY-4 CHILD FELLOWS



Ethan Lindenbaum, DO



Lily Millen, DO



Ibrahim Sabri, MD

PGY-5 ADDICTION FELLOW



Nicolas Genovese, MD

PGY-5 CHILD FELLOWS



Marc Gagnier, MD



Emily Hochstetler, MD



Alane Stalcup, MD, PhD

PGY-5 FORENSIC FELLOW



Jon-Michael Saenz, MD

Meet Our Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Fellows

Awards



AAAP/NIDA MENTORED FACILITATED TRAINING AWARD

Congratulations to **Karuna Thomas, M.D., M.B.B.S., MRCPsych**, for receiving the AAAP/NIDA Mentored Facilitated Training Award in Substance Use Disorders Science Dissemination to fund your project.

Her mentor is **Sanya Virani, M.D., M.P.H.**, Associate Program Director, Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship.

THE BRESCIANI RESEARCH AWARD FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR HAS BEEN EXPANDED

The Department of Psychiatry is pleased to announce that the funds from the **Arthur Bresciani Research Award**, made possible through a generous donation to the

department by Arthur Bresciani in 1997, will consist of six travel awards each academic year. The awards will be used to support the travel of 6 people (3 dyads) with each person receiving \$2,500 to present at the annual meetings of the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)**. One dyad will consist of a Senior Faculty and a Junior Faculty (Assistant Professor or Instructor) member collaboration, and the other two dyads will contain a faculty member and a trainee collaboration. For mentored groups of 3 or more who wish to collaboratively submit a proposal, an award of \$5,000 will be divided amongst mentors, junior faculty and/or trainees.

Submissions can be either a poster or an oral presentation. The presentation abstract, along with the official acceptance letter, should be sent to Dr. Anthony Rothschild at anthony.rothschild@umassmemorial.org. All accepted submissions will be reviewed by the Selection Committee, and official award notifications will be emailed to the award recipients. Submissions for funding can be made at any time but should be done as soon as the presentation is accepted. The Bresciani award cannot be combined with other travel awards.

The 2024 AACAP Annual Meeting submission site is currently open for submissions and posters.

- Submission Deadline: February 15, 2024
- Late New Research Poster Deadline: June 6, 2024

The AACAP annual meeting will be held on October 14-19, 2024. [Get More Information.](#)



Lifeline For Moms Receives \$22 Million Grant
Congratulations to Nancy Byatt, D.O., M.S'15, M.B.A., Wendy Davis, Ph.D., Christopher Sheldrick, Ph.D. as well as the rest of their team on this multi-year award to research mental-health equity in perinatal care.

[Read More](#)

Recent Publications



A study entitled **Trauma and Psychosocial Adversity In Youth With Autism Spectrum Disorder And Intellectual Disability** was published in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* on January 26th.

This study, written by Sarah J. Palmer, M.D. and Yael Dvir, M.D explores the effects of different sources of trauma and their impact on this population.

[Read The Study](#)

Ryan Logan, M.D. along with several other



researchers published a study on January 31st called **Single Nuclei Transcriptomics In Human And Non-human Primate Striatum In Opioid Use Disorder** in *Nature Communications*

[Read The Study](#)

Research

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR PATIENTS FOR OUR PSILOCYBIN STUDY

A New Treatment-Resistant Depression Medication

We are currently enrolling participants with treatment-resistant depression (TRD) in a clinical research study utilizing psilocybin to improve depressive symptoms.

Participants must:

- be 18 years of age or older
- have been diagnosed with treatment-resistant depression
- have not adequately responded to at least 2 different antidepressant treatments
- not be pregnant or have plans to become pregnant

The psilocybin dosing takes place over three days, starting with a pre-dosing therapy session, followed by a six-to-eight-hour dosing session with a therapist, and ending with a reintegration session. Each dosing session takes place in a controlled setting.

Subjects will be randomly assigned to receive study drug or placebo, and receive some study-related care at no cost. Compensation for expenses and travel will be provided for qualified participants.

Contact Michelangela Yusif
774-455-4136
IRB # STUDY00000671-AJRothschild

For more information [please visit](#).

Upcoming Events

2024 PSYCHIATRY WOMEN'S FACULTY RETREAT

"Harnessing the Power of Sisterhood"

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

New England Botanic Garden
at Tower Hill
11 French Drive
Boylston, Massachusetts



Tia Lessin
Co-Director, "The Janes"
Keynote Speech



Opening Remarks from our
Department Chair,
Kimberly Yonkers, MD



Nancy Byatt, DO and
Tiffany Moore Simas, MD
Power of Collaboration



Maryann Davis, PhD
Leadership Journey

Breakfast and Lunch by Struck Catering

RSVP to Suzanne Gillies at
Suzanne.Gillies@umassmed.edu
by Friday, March 22nd, 2024



Phoebe Moore, PhD
Mentorship Workshop

UMass Chan Collaborative in Health Equity Health Equity Distinguished Lecture Series

Thursday, April 11, 2024

12 pm – Albert Sherman Center Amphitheatre

Black Maternal Health Week 4/11 – 4/17, 2024

- [International Day for Maternal Health and Rights \(4/11/24\)](#) – highlight efforts to eliminate maternal mortality globally
- Build awareness, advocacy, and community-building to amplify and center the voices, perspectives, and lived experiences of Black birthing people.
- Celebrate every person's right to respectful, quality, safe, and comprehensive maternal health care.



Ndidiamaka Amutah-Onukagha, PhD, MPH

Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion

Julia A. Okoro Professor of Black Maternal Health

Associate Professor, Public Health and Community Medicine

Founding Director, Center for Black Maternal Health and Reproductive Justice

Tufts University School of Medicine



PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY JOURNAL CLUB

The Psychopharmacology Journal Club meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month over Zoom from 12pm – 1pm. Each month will feature a different topic and different

moderators. The next meeting will be on February 28th. We will be discussing the use of cariprazine in mood disorders.

Psychopharmacology Journal Club Zoom link
[https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91950328105?](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91950328105?pwd=N0hKR2N4WWlQeENLSThVZnRwMmF1Zz09)
[pwd=N0hKR2N4WWlQeENLSThVZnRwMmF1Zz09](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91950328105?pwd=N0hKR2N4WWlQeENLSThVZnRwMmF1Zz09)

If you would like more information about the journal club or if you would like something discussed, please reach out to Anthony.Rothschild@umassmemorial.org

GRAND ROUNDS

Grand Rounds occur every Thursday at noon with some exceptions. Please visit the webpage below for upcoming topics.

If you are unable to participate in person, you can watch the videos on the *Grand Rounds Playlist* on our YouTube Channel.

Grand Rounds
Webpage

Recent Events

THE DIVISION OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY RETREAT @UMASSCHAN

At our annual retreat in December, we reconnected and discussed best practices and the latest research among other things.

Pictured below is the group and Yael Dvir, M.D.



HOLIDAY PARTY

December 20, 2023

GRILL ON THE HILL, WORCESTER, MA

A fun time was had by all at our annual holiday party, particularly when we played a game of "A Fact You Don't Know About Me."





Other Helpful Information



JOIN THE DEPARTMENT WRITING GROUP

The Psychiatry Department Writing group is a collegial working group, which meets monthly to develop effective writing skills as members progress in their ongoing writing projects. Skills are developed to increase productivity, to implement effective writing strategies, to reach audiences, and to target journals successfully for acceptance. The group provides step-by-step

support as members reach their individual writing goals.

Madelyn Hicks, M.D., FRCPsych and Kimberly Yonkers, M.D. run this group.

Read
More

THE CONVERSATION

Faculty, do you want to increase visibility and have your writing reach 19 million readers a month? Check out [The Conversation](#) online.

Many UMass Chan scholars have been published here and you could be next. Articles published in *The Conversation* reach every newsroom in the US and have been reposted by *The Scientific American*, *PBS News Hour*, and *The Washington Post*. Read more about it on the link above, and be a part of the national conversation with *The Conversation*.

Advancing Together Campaign



The university launched its new Advancing Together branding campaign on September 6th. The campaign will be appearing on billboards around Worcester as well as in TV, radio and podcast advertisements. #advancingtogether.



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