

EMORY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES KUDOS  
APRIL 2021

**REMEMBER**

**Please send me your accomplishments and personal updates for the May 2021 Kudos**

**SAVE THE DATES**

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS**

Below is the information on the first faculty development seminar for 2021. We will send out the rest of the information as soon as possible so that people can clear their schedules. All seminars are from 9:00-10:30am and will be virtual this year.

- Culturally Inclusive Teaching Strategies to Help Learners from all Cultural Backgrounds Thrive with Telsie Davis, Jessica Maples-Keller, and Carolina Medeiros Da Frota Ribeiro - <https://zoom.us/j/6213030759?pwd=dzB1aWU5TFRVbTZwK2JFd3R6WTh2dz09>
- June 2, 2021 – TBD

**WRITING GROUPS: UPCOMING**

The Writing Group is the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month from 8:00-9:00am. The next meeting is Wednesday May 5, 2021 and will be on Zoom - <https://zoom.us/j/6213030759?pwd=T0hpY056a0N1RFdvWjFIQ3d4UU1vZz09>

**CE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

The next continuing education workshop is on Culturally-Informed Approaches to Working Clinically with Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with Nori Lim and Ginny Chan. Register here - <https://form.jotform.com/211068526060145>

**SPOTLIGHTS**

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Kallio Hunnicutt-Ferguson, PhD**

Kallio Hunnicutt-Ferguson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Clinical Psychologist in the Adult Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic at the Emory Brain Health Center. She identifies as a Cognitive Behavioral Therapist and specializes in treatment of anxiety, trauma and related disorders, and substance use disorders. In addition, she coordinates the DBT skills group program in the Adult Outpatient Clinic, is part of the Emory Addictions Service, and serves as a treatment team lead in the Adult OCD Intensive Outpatient Program. She is excited to have also recently taken on a research role with the Emory Center for Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development working on prevention of maternal substance use and its impact on children and families. Kallio also serves as the Director of the Psychology Practicum Program for the Adult Outpatient Clinic/OCD IOP as well as the EAST and Adult

Addictions clinics. Finally, she supervises residents in OPTP in learning CBT and DBT-based case conceptualization, assessment and treatment.

Outside of Emory, Kallio is an active member of the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, along with its Women's and Addictions Special Interest Groups, the American Psychological Association and its society of addiction psychology, and is pursuing additional opportunities to get involved in statewide organizations related to the problem of maternal substance use now that COVID-19 is impacting such opportunities less.

Kallio is a team-based clinician at heart, and her career highlights surround instances of collaboration with multidisciplinary teams to improve patient care. In addition, Kallio greatly appreciates her privilege of working with individuals with complex clinical presentations to better understand their illnesses, instill hope that change can occur, and be their guide on their journey to recovery, whether this is recovery from trauma, a substance use disorder, or any other adversity in their histories and its impact on current functioning. She also loves to work with trainees and support them in developing their professional identities and confidence in implementing evidence-based psychotherapies. Seeing their growth in a single training year is so rewarding!

Kallio's goals for the future are to continue to expand the DBT skills group program (hopefully with collaboration from her colleagues) and support the IOP's continued expansion. She plans to continue her involvement in training, and is also very excited about the ability to contribute to the field both clinically and from a research and prevention standpoint in her new role with the MSACD and have the chance to make a difference from multiple angles. She is also in the final stages of working towards ABPP certification in cognitive behavioral therapy, currently awaiting the scheduling of her oral exam.

Kallio's interests outside of the workplace include spending time with her close network of friends and family in the Atlanta area (she grew up in Grant Park and went to Grady High school, so has many close friends nearby), as well as spending time with friends in New York and Chicago where she completed her graduate training. She loves time spent with her husband and 2-year-old son Finn on the weekends taking long walks in the neighborhood, gardening, and doing yoga. Her family is also excited to be expanding with a new baby who is scheduled to arrive in early May!

### **TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Brittany Penson, PhD**

Brittany Penson is a postdoctoral resident in forensic psychology through the Emory Psychiatry and Law Service. Her main job duties include working at the Fulton County Jail with pre-adjudicated defendants located on the Competency Restoration Pod. She also conducts a variety of forensic evaluations and engage in competency restoration with defendants.

Brittany is currently a member of Emory School of Medicine's Diversity Inclusion Sub-Committee. Within the committee, she works mainly on the Anti-Racism Action Step

Guide Team. She most recently worked on the action guide regarding steps to combat structural racism in the educational system. She is also a part of the Emory School of Medicine's Departmental Strategic Planning Subgroup that works to increase diverse voices and perspectives in the department.

Brittany is drawn to this line of work simply because she gets the opportunity to work with underserved and underrepresented populations. She has found that individuals at the intersection of the criminal justice system and severe and persistent mental illness are among the most vulnerable populations. Though she serves in a neutral role as a forensic evaluator, she finds it extremely important to continue to advocate for individuals that are often disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system.

Key highlights of Brittany's career trajectory to date are she completed her doctoral internship at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington DC, one of the oldest psychiatric hospitals in the country. She had the opportunity to work on high profile federal cases in the District and be exposed to some of the most severe psychiatric presentations she's ever seen. In February of 2021, she was tendered as an expert witness in Forensic Psychology and provided expert testimony for the first time in a civil commitment hearing.

Goals and plans for Brittany's future include continuing to work as a forensic psychologist in a state hospital with the eventual plan of starting her own private practice. She hopes she will always continue to have a hand in teaching, research and supervision of the next generation of psychologists. Additionally, she hopes to stay in the Atlanta area and engage in outreach programs particularly geared towards minority mental health.

Outside of the workplace, Brittany enjoys being outside in nature and spending time with loved ones. She also loves to read and currently part of a Black Feminist Book Club.

## **FACULTY KUDOS**

### **Major Leadership Appointments, Activities and Achievements**

Michelle Casimir was elected President Elect of the Georgia Psychological Association.

Marianne Celano and her colleagues published a new book titled *Something Happened in Our Park*. Their previous book, *Something Happened in Our Town*, was listed as one of the 10 most challenged books of 2020.

Nadine Kaslow, Yilang Tang, Shuzing Zhang and colleagues in the School of Nursing, School of Public Health, and Emory College received a grant from the Emory Global Health Institute to provide culturally responsive mental health services to healthcare workers in China.

Dorian Lamis will be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective September 1, 2022.

Erica Lee received the Justice, Compassion, Perseverance (JCP) Initiative Award.

Jessica Maples-Keller's proposal for the I<sup>3</sup> Nexus Research award program was competitively reviewed and selected to receive funds.

Vasiliki Michopoulos will be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective September 1, 2022.

Meghna Patel was selected for the Atlanta VA's MHSL Deputy Chief. She also was elected Treasurer of the Georgia Psychological Association.

Yilang Tang will be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective September 1, 2022.

Aliza Wingo received notice of award for two grants: VA Merit grant: Identifying novel brain and VA Clinician Scientist Investigator Award.

### **Education**

Forrest L, Elman NS, Bodner KE, & Kaslow NJ. (2021). Trainee confidentiality: Confusions, complexities, consequences, and possibilities. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*. doi: [10.1037/tep0000364](https://doi.org/10.1037/tep0000364)

### **Research**

Liu D, Wu Y, Jiang F, Wang M, Liu Y, Tang YL. (2021). Gender differences in job satisfaction and work-life balance among Chinese physicians in tertiary public hospitals. *Frontiers in Public Health*, doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2021.635260

Rakofsky JJ, Rakofsky SI, Dunlop BW. Dry Those Crying Eyes: The Role of Depression and Antidepressants in Dry Eye Disease. *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*. 2021 Mar 18. doi: 10.1097/JCP.0000000000001382. Online ahead of print.

Ren L, Pan W, Zhu D, Mao P, Tang YL. (2020). Association between BDNF serum level, gene polymorphisms and cognitive function in first-episode late-life depression. *Journal of Neuroscience and Mental Health*, 11, 785-789. DOI: 10.3969/j.issn.1009-6574.2020.11.005 (Paper in Chinese language)

Thompson K, Nahmias E, Fani N, Kvaran T, Turner J, Tone EB. (accepted, *PLoS One*). The prisoner's dilemma paradigm provides a neurobiological framework for the social decision cascade. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0248006

van Rooij SJH, Ravi M, Ely TD, Michopoulos V, Winters SJ, Shin J, Marin MF, Milad M, Rothbaum BO, Ressler KJ, Jovanovic T, Stevens JS. (in press). Hippocampal activation

during contextual fear inhibition related to resilience in the early aftermath of trauma. *Behavioural Brain Research*.

van Rooij SJH, Sippel LM, McDonald WM, Holtzheimer PE. (in press). Defining focal brain stimulation targets for PTSD using neuroimaging. *Depression and Anxiety*.

Wingo TS, Liu Y, Gerasimov ES, Gockley J, Logsdon BA, Duong DM, Dammer EB, Lori A, Kim PJ, Ressler KJ, Epstein MP, de Jager PL, Lah, JJ, Bennett DA, Seyfried NT, Levey AI, Wingo AP\*. (scheduled to be published on 4/12/21). Brain proteome-wide association study implicates novel proteins in depression pathogenesis. *Nature Neuroscience*.

### **Honors, Awards, Rankings**

Erica Lee received the Outstanding Service Award from the Georgia Psychological Association.

### **Presentations**

Rachel Ammirati gave a presentation at Grady IDP's medical provider meeting titled, "Responding to Conspiracy Theories & Misinformation: An Opportunity in Disguise?"

Negar Fani presented at the University of Vermont, Department of Psychology, on "Diverse Neuropsychological Responses to Racism-related Stressors and Trauma in Black Americans," virtual meeting, and the Boston University Graduate Program in Neuroscience on "Neurobiological Impact of Racism-related Stress," during the Neuroscience of Stress, Resilience, & Society seminar series, virtual meeting

Justine Welsh presented on Opioid Use Disorder during Emory Healthcare's 2021 Behavioral Health Monthly Spring Series.

Aliza Wingo was invited to give the Successful Merit Awardee Presentation at the Veterans Affairs Office of Research and Development Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workgroup for Underrepresented Early Career Investigators

Rebecca Woo presented at Northside Hospital Gwinnett's Primary Care Grand Rounds CME conference on "Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders: A Real Mother!"

Jennifer Wootten and Paula Gomes presented on Suicide Risk in Health Professionals as part of the Grady Professional Development Lecture Series.

### **Emory in the Media**

Jordan Cattie (1) AJC – [Exhaustion and Trauma Take Toll on Georgia's Front-Line Medical Workers](#). (2) KHN – [Airports Step Up Mental Health Assistance as Passenger Anxiety Soars](#).

Marianne Celano (1) American Library Association – [Coffee Q&A with the Authors of Something Happened in Our Town](#).

Negar Fani (1) The Daily Free Press – [BU Event Reflects on Neurological Impact of Racism on Black Americans](#).

Nadine Kaslow (1) USA Today – [Guilt, Regret, Helplessness: Watching George Floyd Die had a ‘Profound’ Impact on Witnesses](#). (2) Market Watch – [We Shouldn't be Complacent: Suicide Deaths Fell During the 2020 Pandemic - but What Caused the Decline?](#)

Jessica Maples-Keller (1) Psychology Today – [Is Systemic Racism Impeding Access to Psychedelic Therapy?](#)

Bill McDonald (1) Emory – [Addiction Alliance of Georgia Launches Prevention Collaborative in Atlanta School](#).

Matt Segall (1) GPB NPR – [Autism in the Pandemic: How People Cope](#).

### **Community Outreach**

Emory SOM was a proud sponsor of 2021 Autism Awareness Month events hosted by Emory University. Exciting virtual events including keynote speakers focused on helping us think about Meaningful Connections and Inclusion, a “light it up” decoration of the quad, an Autistic Student Panel and a Student Research Symposium and a Virtual Happy Hour.

Rachel Ammirati served as the non-clinical volunteer lead/coordinator for Grady IDP's recent COVID-19 vaccine blitz events.

### **ADJUNCT KUDOS**

Sierra Carter received Georgia State University Department of Psychology's Outstanding Diversity Teaching Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in serving the department's diverse student body in teaching.

Paula Gomes joined Sheryl Heron and Gordon Tuttle to present on “COVID-19 One Year Later: Challenges, Concerns and Next Steps.”

### **TRAINEE KUDOS**

Chaewon Im, JJ Reitz, Nick Thompson and Justin Trop gave a great presentation for the 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students' Capstone Course, “Thoughts, reflections, and musings of your Emory Psychiatry PGY-1s.”

Garcia DJ, Crittenden BE, Skadberg R, Finn MT, Schmidt MR, Kurdziel G, Waugh MH. (in press) Social Cognition and Object Relations Scale as Level of Personality Functioning. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*.

Karyn Korsah was selected as a 2021 American Psychiatric Association Diversity Leadership Fellow.

Ku BS, Li J, Cathy Lally, Compton MT, Druss BG. (2021, February 8). Associations between mental health shortage areas and county-level suicide rates among adults aged 25 and older in the USA, 2010 to 2018. *General Hospital Psychiatry*, 70, 44-50. DOI:10.1016/j.genhosppsy.2021.02.001. PMID: 33714795.

Zvi Shapiro received the 2021 Timothy A. Cudd Award from the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Study Group for the trainee with the highest scoring abstract. His abstract was on machine learning approaches to study speech of children with FASD.

Maggie To took first place in the IM Resident Research Day clinical vignette poster competition.

Margaret Wohleber has been selected to join the 2021-22 Medical Education Track cohort.