

EMORY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES KUDOS
APRIL 2023

REMEMBER

**Please send me your accomplishments and personal updates for the May 2023
Kudos**

SAVE THE DATES

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

Upcoming faculty development seminars, which will be held from 9:00-10:30a, [Zoom](#) link:

- Wednesday June 28, 2023 – Powerpoint: From Basics to Innovation

WRITING GROUPS: UPCOMING

The Writing Group is the 1st Wednesday of every month from 8:00-9:00am. These meetings are on [Zoom](#).

SPOTLIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Joseph Cubells, MD, PhD

Joe Cubells is an associate professor in the departments of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and human genetics, as well as director of medical services at the Emory Autism Center. He is Co-principal Investigator (with Erica Duncan) on the R01-funded project, "Psychosis – related Physiological and Neuronal Phenotypes in 22q11 Deletion Syndrome." Outside of Emory, Joe is a member of the executive board of the Atlanta Autism Consortium, member of the board of directors for Georgia Options, as well as reviewer for the Special Emphasis Panel for Review of P50 Autism Centers of Excellence, Center for Scientific Review and National Institutes of Health.

What Joe most enjoys about his work is interacting with his wonderful colleagues, especially Danielle Belva and others at the Emory Autism Center such as Erica Duncan, Opal Ousley and David Parker, co-principal investigator, co-investigator and post-doctoral fellow, respectively, on their NIH-funded R01 project. He enjoys working with the patients and families in the clinic. Many of the patients he works with depend on family members for support and care, often for their entire lives - their families step to the task without complaint, and with love in their hearts. He describes them as truly inspiring examples of humanity's best.

In terms of teaching, Joe offers a clinical elective on psychopharmacological treatment of adults with autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities, half a day per week for at least one semester, and preferably for a year. The elective is one that is fairly unique among psychiatry residencies. Mentoring residents in this elective has been a great pleasure.

Some of the key highlights of his career trajectory include attending college at Johns Hopkins University, receiving his MD-PHD from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, residency from Columbia-Presbyterian and New York State Psychiatric Institute, serving as a Reader's Digest Research Fellowship from Cornell University Medical College, and being a faculty member first at Yale University Psychiatry for nine years and now at Emory since 2004.

Joe has always avoided being too involved in "political" aspects of psychiatry, but as he has worked with hundreds of adult patients with autism and their families, the urgent need to incorporate education about autism into psychiatric training, and to train adult psychiatrists knowledgeable about autism, has become clear. Looking to the future, he hopes to advocate for that cause. As genetic testing becomes ever-more relevant to the practice of clinical psychiatry, he hopes to expand his role in educating colleagues about using genetic testing in practice.

Outside of work, his interests include keeping up with his three grown children, Rebecca (35), Aaron (33) and Sarah (27), as well as All things outdoors (hiking, fishing, hunting, etc) and his dogs Frodo and Junebug.

ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Hasani Baharanyi, MD

Hasani Baharanyi trained in general psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital and child and adolescent psychiatry at Emory. After graduating from the Emory Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program, he began working in private practice and community mental health clinics. He loves learning and developing as a clinician and currently enrolled in the Emory University Psychoanalytic Institute as a psychoanalytic candidate. Hasani also learns best when teaching and writing. To that end, he wrote a chapter on ADHD for the book Pediatric Mental Health for Primary Care Providers: A Clinician's Guide and published an article in The American Psychoanalyst. He has also supervised and taught child psychiatry fellows at Emory and Morehouse School of Medicine.

As an adjunct faculty member in the Emory Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Hasani has given lectures on typical child and adolescent development to the Emory psychiatry residents and supervised an Emory child psychiatry fellow.

Of the many benefits of being an adjunct faculty member, Hasani most enjoys teaching and supervising trainees. In addition, he appreciates connecting with his fellow adjunct faculty members and community. He is motivated by their dedicated work. They publish, teach, lead and mentor while providing exceptional care to their patients. They are truly a dynamic and inspiring group of people.

Hasani thinks people would be surprised to discover he was a Reggaetón dancer in his past life and continues to exercise by running regularly and doing high intensity interval training.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Kevin McKnight

Kevin McKnight works as the program coordinator at the Emory Brain Health Center for the Healthy Brain and Child Development Study. He manages a team of nine great individuals dedicated to providing the best care to these mothers. He oversees study procedures and coordinate with other team members to make sure they can accommodate the participants seen, but also make sure the site is in line with the requirements the HBCD consortium sets forth.

For Kevin, there is nothing quite like the feeling of making a new discovery or solving a difficult problem. Research can be a challenging and demanding career, but it is also incredibly rewarding. With the population the study is working with it is a great feeling to be able to help these mothers not only through research but also with resources they may need.

Kevin recently reached the milestone of being part of Emory for five years. As of right now, his future plans are to continue growing with the study and learn as much as he can from his PIs Dr. Julie Kable and Dr. Claire Coles.

Away from work, Kevin enjoys being outside, usually hiking or playing soccer at the local fields in Tucker.

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Kathryn Bertacchi, MD

Kathryn Bertacchi transitioned from the general psychiatry training program at Emory in summer of 2021 to Emory's child and adolescent training program, where she will graduate in two months' time. She has worked to increase the visibility and services for the transgender and gender diverse population throughout her career as a trainee through service development and intra-departmental teaching. She spends clinic time with Emory, CHRIS180, Georgia State University, the Marcus Autism Center and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Emory has empowered Kathryn's personal and professional growth with wonderful mentors, passionate and curious peers that challenge each other and a program that uplifts its' fellows and their patients. She highlights how Dr. Holton has built an incredible sense of community in the fellowship which is thoughtful about how intersectionality impacts how we move throughout the world. The result is a fellowship program that feels like home - a place that is supportive, inclusive and full of life and friends. Kathryn loves the work of making meaningful relationships with her patients and primarily enjoys working with families as a unit. She feels most fulfilled being able to see a family come together in joy again after a period of difficulty.

In her last year of residency, Kathryn served as chief resident at Grady where she was a recipient of the resident of the year award, developed the diversity chief position for Emory's general psychiatry program and produced a series of lectures and workshops promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. She has continued these efforts in fellowship, having established two longitudinal psychotherapy groups for transgender and gender non-conforming adolescents.

Outside of Emory, Kathryn enjoys sewing, cooking, video games and hanging out with her partner and two annoying adopted cats. She is also spending time interior designing for their upcoming move, where she is thrilled at the prospect of being able to sit down for dinner instead of having the dining room table overtaken by her home office.

Kathryn's plans for the future include building on the diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, including founding the psychiatric support arm of the clinic for transgender children and adolescents. She is looking forward to expanding her teaching and research about the transgender population. She plans to work against recently passed harmful and discriminatory legislation against this group while supporting those affected. Personally, she plans to spend her time between the end of fellowship and starting her new position this summer by fully embracing her sleepy nature and stay-cationing in bed with her aforementioned cats.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Wellness Resources:

Healthy Emory is bringing back the [Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less](#) program in September.

Challenges with Healthy Emory are ongoing - the Sharecare app is the platform and incentive dollars are available!

[Operation Eat Right](#) encourages you to improve your nutrition and boost your well-being using Healthy Emory Connect!

Resources from Healthy Emory and a link below to the ACPH.

- [Benefits](#)
- [Rewards](#)
- [Career](#)
- [Learning](#)
- [Wellness](#)
- [Work Life](#)
- [Employee Assistance](#)
- [Employee Assistance – Physician Wellbeing Conference](#)

Healthy Emory resources including the Sharecare platform for Move More, Refresh from Stress and more! Open to University and Healthcare Employees

[Healthy Emory Connect | Emory University | Atlanta GA](#)

Wellbeing and mental health support for Emory University Employees [Faculty Staff Assistance Program](#) and for [Emory Healthcare Employees](#) username EHC (800 327 2251)

Graduate Medical Education Well-being [Resident Well Being | Emory School of Medicine](#)

International Conference on Physician Health (alternates years with American Conference) [International Conference on Physician Health™ | American Medical Association \(ama-assn.org\)](https://www.ama-assn.org)

[Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes Foundation | Dedicated to Protecting the Well-Being of Physicians and Health Care Professionals \(drlornabreen.org\)](https://www.drlornabreen.org)

Office of Well-Being established for Woodruff Health Sciences
[Emory's Woodruff Health Sciences Center establishes Office of Well-Being | Emory University | Atlanta GA](https://www.emory.edu/woodruff/office-of-well-being)

FACULTY KUDOS

Major Leadership Appointments, Activities and Achievements

Erin Elliott has started a detail as Deputy Chief for the Mental Health Service Line at the Atlanta VAHSC.

Meghna Patel was named Acting Associate Chief of Staff Mental Health, AVAHCS.

Abigail Powers Lott was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, effective September 1, 2023.

Jennifer Stevens was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, effective September 1, 2023.

Zhexing Wen was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, effective September 1, 2023.

Research

Barsch A, Chawla S, Kim D, Kim J, Li C, Martinez N, Marure CC, Thampy J, Yun J, Zweig R, & Goodman G. (2023, August). Does therapeutic alliance mediate the relation between dimensions of object relations and self-esteem? Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

Chawla S, Barsch A, Kim D, Kim J, Li C, Martinez N, Marure CC, Thampy J, Yun J, Zweig R, & Goodman G. (2023, August). Relationship between fearful attachment styles and object relations dimensions of self-esteem. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

Fani N, Guelfo A, La Barrie DL, Teer AP, Clendinen C, Karimzadeh L, Jain J, Ely TD, Powers A, Kaslow NJ, Bradley B, Siegle GJ. (accepted). Neurophysiological changes associated with vibroacoustically-augmented breath-focused mindfulness for dissociation: Targeting interoception and attention. *Psychological Medicine*

Garceau C, Goodman G, Ravitz P, Hunter J, Chyurlia L, Baker S, Balfour L, McQuaid N, Pain C, Leszcz M, & Tasca GA. (2023, June). Training community therapists to use mentalizing interventions during sessions: A randomized controlled trial. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research, Dublin, Ireland.

Garceau C, Goodman G, Ravitz P, Hunter J, Chyurlia L, Baker S, Balfour L, McQuaid N, Pain C, Leszcz M, & Tasca GA. (2023, May). Training therapists to use mentalizing interventions. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for the Exploration of Psychotherapy Integration, Vancouver, Canada.

Goodman G, Dent VF, Chung H, Cantas N, Fanciullo M, & Toker A. (2023, June). Once upon a time: Studying the efficacy of the Storytelling/Story-Acting (STSA) play intervention on Ugandan preschoolers' narrative coherence, class rankings, and mental state talk in two rural Ugandan community libraries. Paper presented at the meeting of the Society for Psychotherapy Research, Dublin, Ireland.

Joya Hampton-Anderson received a grant entitled "Developing a Culturally Informed Anxiety Intervention Program for Black Youth" from the Emory University Research Council.

Jeste DV, Malaspina D, Bagot K, Barch DM, Cole S, Dickerson F, Dilmore A, Ford CL, Karcher NR, Luby J, Rajji T, Pinto-Tomas AA, Young LJ. Review of Major Social Determinants of Health in Schizophrenia-Spectrum Psychotic Disorders: III. Biology. *Schizophr Bull.* 2023 Apr 6: sbad031. doi: 10.1093/schbul/sbad031. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37023360.

Kapoor S, Freitag S, Bradshaw J, Valencia GT, & Lamis DA. (in press). The collective impact of childhood abuse, psychache, and interpersonal needs on suicidal ideation among individuals with bipolar disorder: A discriminant analysis. *Child Abuse and Neglect*.

Kim D, Barsch AC, Chawla SK, Kim J, Li C, Martinez N, Marure CC, Thampy J, Yun J, Zweig R, & Goodman G. (2023, August). Relationship between therapeutic alliance, positive affect, and understanding of self in psychotherapy. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

Li C, Barsch A, Chawla S, Kim D, Kim J, Martinez N, Marure CC, Thampy J, Yun J, Zweig R, & Goodman G. (2023, August). Therapeutic alliance, patient's perceived helpfulness of therapy, and object relations dimensions. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

LoParo D, Fonseca AC, Matos AP, Craighead WE. (2023). [**A developmental cascade analysis of peer rejection, depression, anxiety and externalizing problems from childhood through young adulthood**](#). Research on Child and Adolescent Psychopathology.

Rakofsky JJ. (2023) Psychomotor Agitation. In R. Balon & M. Morreale (Eds.) *Pocket Guide to Emergent/Serious Adverse Events in Psychopharmacology*. (pp.11-19). Washington DC: American Psychiatric Association Publishing

Rakofsky JJ, Lucido MJ, Dunlop BW. All studies are not created equal: A systematic narrative review of bipolar depression clinical trial inclusion/exclusion rules and baseline severity scores. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 2023; 333:130-139

Honors, Awards, Rankings

Laura Jane Miller was in the first cohort in Georgia to become endorsed as an infant mental health specialist. It's a vetting process to show she has sufficient training, supervision and experience to provide dyadic care for children 0-5 and their parents.

Meghna Patel served on a panel for the American Psychological Association's Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP) for Women's History Month entitled "CWP: 50 Years of Activism in APA – Past Meets Present."

Larry Young is the 2023 Emory School of Medicine Dean's Distinguished Faculty Lecture and Award recipient. The Dean's Distinguished Faculty Lecture and Award is among the most prestigious and celebratory honors the School of Medicine can bestow on a faculty member. Larry will give his honorary lecture, "The Brain Science of Social Connections: Implications for Health and Society," on Thursday, May 25.

Presentations

Browning M, Schneider RL, Young H, Lloyd-Richardson E, & Morena A. (2023, April). Co-occurring suicidality, nonsuicidal self-injury, and OCD: Assessment, treatment, and research considerations. Presented at the Suicide Research Symposium. Virtual conference.

Negar Fani (1) Fani, N. Improvements in interoception and increased interoceptive network connectivity in dissociative trauma-exposed women following device-augmented breath-focused mindfulness. In A. King (chair)., *Neural and Psychological Mechanisms of Mind-body/Interoceptive-metacognitive Treatments for Trauma-, Dissociative-, and Distress-related Conditions*. Oral presentation at the 2023 annual meeting of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America. (2) Fani N. (Chair). Neurobiological research with dissociative populations: Multifaceted perspectives. Symposium presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation.

LoPilato A & Schneider RL. (2023, April). Not all that glitters is gold: Skills use and misuse in adolescents. Workshop presented at the Annual Convention of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America. Washington, DC.

LoPilato A, Schneider RL, & Hampton-Anderson J. (2023, April). More than a card sort: Leveraging values in adolescent treatment. Workshop presented at the Annual Georgia Psychological Association conference. Athens, GA.

Community

Toby Goldsmith presented at GPB's Maternal Mental Health Training on the topic Suicide Among Perinatal Persons: Data, Details and Determinants.

Media

Emory Addiction Alliance of Georgia (1) HC+O News – [New Facility in Atlanta Focuses on Addiction Treatment.](#)

Emory Healthcare Veterans Program (1) Alabama Public Radio – [New Resources Available for Post-9/11 Veterans, Service Members in Alabama.](#)

Jeffrey Rakofsky (1) Psychiatry News – [Traditional Letters of Recommendation Need a Rewrite, Say Psychiatry Educators.](#)

TRAINEE KUDOS

Abdul-Ghani S, Lathan E, Powers A, Fani N. (2023, April). The relationship between economic insecurity and COVID-19-related physical and mental health concerns in a minoritized community. Oral presentation and Poster Award Winner at the 2023 annual meeting of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Mandy Bekhbat has accepted a position in the Georgia CTSA KL2 program. This is based on her application entitled, "The role of monocyte metabolism and migration in inflammation-related reward circuit deficits and symptoms of anhedonia in people with HIV."

Choucair K, Lathan E, Fulton T, Julian J, Carter S, Sheikh I, Fani N. Relationships between moral injury and race-related stress in a trauma-exposed sample of Black Americans. Poster presentation at the 2023 annual meeting of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America.

Fulton T, Lathan E, Guelfo A, Hinojosa C, Turner J, Turner M, Currier J, Powers A, Fani N. Indirect effect of moral injury on the association between interpersonal violence and drug abuse in civilians. Poster presentation at the 2023 annual meeting of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America.

Guelfo A, La Barrie DL, Lathan E, Teer A, Powers A, Fani N. The moderating role of coping self-efficacy on dissociation and emotion dysregulation. Poster presentation at the 2023 annual meeting of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America.

Lathan EC, Sheikh IS, Guelfo A, Choucair KC, Julian J, Mekawi Y, Currier JM, Powers A, Fani N. (accepted). Moral injury appraisals and dissociation: Associations in a sample of trauma-exposed community members. *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation*.

Maggie To received first place for her research posted entitled "Clearing the Fog on COVID-Brain Fog" for Resident Research Day for the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Justin Trop was selected to participate in the Emory University School of Medicine Global Health Residency Scholars Program for the 2023-24 academic year.

ADJUNCT FACULTY KUDOS

James Siwy presented a paper, "Recovery from Traumatic Abuse in the Missions Industry: A Psychoanalytic Case Study," at the annual international convention of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS) in Louisville, KY.