

EMORY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES KUDOS
DECEMBER 2022

REMEMBER

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

SAVE THE DATES

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

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

- Wednesday January 18, 2023 – Giving Trainees Effective Feedback: Perspectives from Trainees – NOTE DATE CHANGE

WRITING GROUPS: UPCOMING

The Writing Group is the 1st Wednesday of every month from 8:00-9:00am. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 1, 2023 and will be on [Zoom](#).

SPOTLIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Christina Clarke, PhD

Christina Clarke, PhD joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor earlier this year, after completing her psychology postdoctoral residency in the department. She is based in the adult division at EP12, where she provides individual, couples, and group; supervises psychiatry residents and psychology doctoral students through both the OTP and the Nia Project; provides lectures on suicide behavior assessment and safety planning for the medical students during their psychiatry clerkship; and serves as a consultant to the Nia Project. In addition, she is involved in multiple committees including the Faculty Development Committee, Atlanta Behavioral Health Advocates (ABHA), Atlanta Trauma Alliance (ATA), Racial Ethnic and Cultural Minority (RECM) Faculty Subcommittee, and the Women of Color Faculty Collective. Outside of Emory, her roles including being the Georgia Psychological Association (GPA) Membership Chair and serving as the Membership Directorate's Representative to the GPA Board of Directors.

Christina really loves facilitating healing and growth on both an individual and a systemic level. Thus far, she has been able to do this through providing therapy, supervising, teaching, and mentoring. When she reflects on the key highlights of her career trajectory, she is excited about cultivating her expertise in couples and family therapy, particularly for the African American community.

Outside of work, Christina enjoys spending time in nature through hiking, cycling, scuba diving, or just laying on the beach. She loves spending time with friends and family. And she adores plants!

Moving forward, she plans to become board certified in couple and family psychology. Down the line, she would like to develop culturally sensitive couple and family interventions.

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Alia Rowe, PhD

Alia Rowe, PhD is a postdoctoral resident in the Emory School of Medicine Postdoctoral Residency Program in Health Service Psychology based at Grady Health System. Her primary placement is on the Psychiatry Consult Service at Grady, where she sees patients on medical units for evaluations, risk assessments, and brief therapy. As the psychology resident on the team, she has the opportunity to educate psychiatry residents and medical students on the role psychology can play in an acute medical setting. There are often times during rounds where we can put our heads together as two fields to help aid in the treatment, recommendations, or even diagnosis for a patient. She also spends some time as an executive team member on the Nia Project. On the Nia Project, she coleads two groups and provides individual therapy for one patient. Her Nia Project interactions are primarily with women who have experienced suicide attempts and/or domestic violence. Her work with these women includes being a supportive role for them in a way in which they can build trust and process past traumas in order to live the lives they want to live. Her participation with the Nia Project has given her the opportunity to continue her previous experiences with research projects by helping with the protocol and screening for an ongoing study for Black women with a history of suicide attempts.

Alia really enjoys that every day at work is truly different. It keeps her on my toes to have to make quick decisions, collaborate with various teams and providers and get their insight, and she is learning constantly. She gets get out of the bed every morning to serve the patients she works with. It doesn't feel like pressure or an obligation but a service that she can offer to them as elsewhere in their life they may not have this level of nonjudgmental unwavering support. It's not always every day but being able to hear a patient just say "this was helpful" is what makes every moment worthwhile. She loves the autonomy she has on both the Psychiatry Consult and the Nia Project teams, but absolutely appreciates that when and if she needs assistance, there are several people that are willing to help her with whatever she needs.

In terms of career highlights, Alia reports that a major highlight of her career is accepting a postdoc at Emory. She grew up spending her summers in Atlanta where she admired this university in the field of medicine. In her graduate program there was a significant emphasis on working in academia exclusively as a researcher. Thus far, she has been extremely pleased with working in an academic medical center where she can have her hands in a research project, but is able to do the clinical work in real time that actually serves her. She is hopeful to utilize the connections she has made and will continue to make as she is navigating where her career will take her next. Another highlight is stepping out of her original path of working exclusively with veterans. She has reconnected to her original thoughts about a clinical psychology PhD, that she does not have to fit neatly into a box to work with many clinical populations as diagnosing and treating mental health disorders is her passion.

Outside of work, Alia has become even closer to her five siblings despite their all being so spread out around the country. She also balances her love of baking with her love of being physically active. The beltline is one of her favorite places when the weather is warm. Who doesn't love long walks with an ice cream sandwich! She and her partner love Friday date nights in Atlanta, vowing to eat at a different restaurant 2-3 times each month. He loves a good city view paired with a nice pizza.

In terms of her goals/plans for the future, Alia is continuing to explore her options. She notes that one of the most attractive things about her clinical PhD health psychology training is that there is so much she can do and she doesn't have to choose. She truly enjoys any and all clinical work. A dream way to begin her career at the moment is to lean into how our society is changing to gain an understanding of how impactful mental health is in addition to physical health. In the spirit of this, the dream way to start her career would be to work with sports teams to assess and treat mental health concerns among athletes. She points out that in recent years we've seen so many professional athletes become more open about their mental health struggles and we've also seen many college athletes dying by suicide. She believes that clinical and sports psychologists can help to intervene in these situations in a preventative space by educating athletes on the mind-body connection and creating non-judgmental spaces in the sports world to address concerns as it pertains to how their emotions and thoughts impact their behaviors. In general, she hopes to continue clinical work with vulnerable populations as well as continue to publish work that speaks to health outcomes of minorities in response to every experiences of racial discrimination and trauma.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Katie Suggs

Katie Sugg's current role within the department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is Senior Operations Manager. Within this role, she oversees day-to-day operations within the various clinics (CAMP, General Adult Psych, Geri Psych and AAG). She supervises and supports the admin teams in these clinics. One thing Katie strives to do for them is coaching and developing them to be their best. She spends most of her time on process improvement or developing and implementing new processes. She does this in a variety of areas from front desk operations, billing/insurance, provider onboarding, intake workflow and call center operations.

Outside of the department, Katie is currently involved in PGP's Leadership Academy at Emory that started in December. This includes a group of 34 leaders across PGP as the first cohort for this initiative. She is honored to be a part of this and looks forward to learning new things about leadership and Emory.

Prior to Emory, Katie worked for UF Health in Gainesville, FL. This is also an academic healthcare center, but smaller than Emory. Her previous experience includes many roles as Practice Manager within a variety of clinics ranging in size and services. In 2015, she worked as the Practice Manager I for the Child & Adolescent Psychiatry/Medical Psychology clinic for two-and-a-half years. Then, in 2017, she became a Practice Manager III for the department of Pediatrics where I was for over

three years. She worked as a Practice Manager IV in the department of Neuromedicine (Neurology & Neurosurgery) for six months in 2021 prior to her departure from this institution as she accepted the position at Emory. During her tenure with this employer, she developed herself as a leader and gained a variety of experiences ranging from behavioral health, primary care and specialty care.

Katie has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Emory in the department. It feels great to come to work every day feeling valued, appreciated and enjoying the work she is doing. Operations is her niche and something she has found to be passionate about. Psychiatry is a department near and dear to her as she “grew up” in that department at UF Health. She started out at the front desk doing check-in and check-out. Then, she was a financial counselor, call center agent and finally became the manager. Not only from a work perspective, but she also has compassion for this patient population and appreciates the journey they are on or have been on.

Katie’s goal for the future is to remain at Emory and continue growing into a better leader. She would love to remain in the department and further her experience here. In her opinion, Emory as an organization promotes excellent employee growth opportunities. Natalie McWhorter has been an excellent leader for her to learn from and she sincerely appreciates the opportunity given to come here.

Outside of work, since Katie is new to Atlanta, she spends much of her time exploring with my eight-year-old son, Kingston. He plays baseball and she loves being a sports mom! They like to go to the different parks around Atlanta, explore the mountains in North Georgia, but also enjoy going back home to Florida to spend time with family in Gainesville and watch college football – Go Gators! Spending time near the water is also one of their favorite things to do in the summer. Katie is still getting to know her way around the big city. So, hopefully, they will both find more things to be involved in.

ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Mark Stoholski, PhD

Mark Stoholski, PhD is a psychotherapist working in private practice and within hospital settings. Previous to this, he served as Associate Director of the Psychoanalytic Studies Program at Emory and was Erikson Scholar-In-Residence at the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, MA. He has taught numerous courses at the Emory University Psychoanalytic Institute (EUPI), most recently on Sándor Ferenczi and the psychoanalytic tradition in Hungary, the work of Laplanche and Pontalis, and aesthetics as a model for psychoanalytic listening. He further serves on the editorial board of *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*. He is co-editor of the volume *Traversals of Affect: On Jean-François Lyotard*, and his articles have appeared in *Helios* and *Oxford Literary Review*. In his role as an adjunct faculty member, teaching and serving on multiple committees at EUPI, he greatly appreciates the opportunity to promote scholarly work on clinical psychoanalysis. He often wears his shoes inside-out.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

None reported

FACULTY LEAVING

J. Stephen McDaniel, MD – After more than 20 years in various roles at Skyland Trail, Steve is retiring as Medical Director of Admissions. He intends to spend more time traveling and fishing. Before coming to Skyland Trail, he worked at Grady and the Ponce Clinic and has been a beloved educator and clinical psychiatrist over the years. Eugene Farber reflected on Stephen's career, "From his earliest days on faculty at Emory, Dr. McDaniel dedicated himself to the creation and implementation of accessible high-quality HIV behavioral health specialty services at Grady. Dr. McDaniel innovated HIV clinical, education and research programs that gained national recognition, and he achieved national and international prominence as a leader in HIV psychiatry."

DISC UPDATES

International Day for People with Disabilities- Erica D Marshall - Lee, PhD, ABPP, Associate Professor

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is an annual international observance decreed by the United Nations in 1992. It is commemorated on December 3rd, every year. The day aims to foster an understanding of disability concerns and organize support for the well-being dignity, and rights of persons with disabilities. It also is also intended to bring attention to gains associated with the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all facets of life. Approximately one billion of the world's population live with disabilities. IDPD is part of the United Nations and World Health Organization (WHO) mission to nationally, regionally, and globally improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and raise awareness about the magnitude and consequences of ignoring their concerns. This year's theme is "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world".

International Human Rights Day- Erica D Marshall - Lee, PhD, ABPP, Associate Professor

Every 10th day of December is Human Rights Day, which aims to foster political resolve and promote awareness to uphold the freedoms and rights outlined in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.](#)

The theme for 2022 is **Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All, with the focus of health being a fundamental human right for all. The theme specifically outlines that everyone should have access to quality and affordable healthcare regardless of their intersectionalities and that everyone has the right to control their own health and body to name a few.**

Kwanzaa- Erica D Marshall - Lee, PhD, ABPP, Associate Professor

Kwanza is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st and concludes with a communal feast known as Karamu. The holiday was created by activist Maulana Karenga and is centered on African harvest festival traditions. Kwanzaa was established in 1966, following the Watts riots of Los Angeles, to give Black Americans an opportunity to celebrate their history and culture. The name is derived from the Swahili "matunda ya kwanza" phrase meaning first fruits. Kwanzaa promotes seven

principles of African Heritage known as Nguzo Saba. Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa are dedicated to one of the principles:

1. **Umoja** (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family and community.
2. **Kujichagulia** (Self-determination): To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.
3. **Ujima** (Collective work and responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.
4. **Ujamaa** ([Cooperative economics](#)): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
5. **Nia** (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
6. **Kuumba** (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
7. **Imani** (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

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 \(ama-assn.org\)](#)

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

Office of Well- Being established for Woodruff Health Sciences
[Emory's Woodruff Health Sciences Center establishes Office of Well-Being | Emory University | Atlanta GA](#)

FACULTY KUDOS

Major Leadership Appointments, Activities and Achievements

Kara Brendle will assume the role of Associate Director of the Adult Outpatient Clinic starting January 1, 2023.

Marianne Celano was elected to serve as the representation to the American Board of Professional Psychology Board of Trustees from the American Board of Couple and Family Psychology.

Rachel Hersehnberg was elected "President-elect" of Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology, APA Division 12.

Research

Powers A, Abrams C, McAfee E, Wallace S, O'Banion D, Hinrichs R, Michopoulos V, & Stevens J. (2022, December). Maternal-infant emotional connection is related to reduced physiological stress response in mothers and their babies: Preliminary results from a trauma-exposed sample of primarily Black mother-infant dyads. The American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. Phoenix, AZ.

Van Rooij SJH, Holtzheimer PE (2022). [PTSD and Neuroimaging. Brain Imaging in PTSD: History, Limitations and Considerations](#). PTSD Research Quarterly.

Honors, Awards, Rankings

Anjan Bhattacharyya was accepted into the Emory New Clinical Leaders Course.

Jennifer Felger was accepted as Full Member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Lauren Gensler was accepted into the Emory New Clinical Leaders Course.

Rickey Gillespie was accepted as Full Member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Monique Hunter was selected into the New Clinical Leaders Course.

Ishrat Khan was accepted into the Emory Professional Leadership Enrichment and Development Program (EM ProLEAD).

Allison LoPilato was accepted into the Emory New Clinical Leaders Course.

Abigail Powers was accepted as an Associate Member of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Rebecca Schneider was selected as an ADAA Alies Muskin Career Development Leadership Program awardee.

Mahalia Way was accepted into the Emory School of Medicine Junior Faculty Development Course.

Education

Jordan Cattie was selected to co-facilitate the Culturally Sensitive and Affirming Training in OCD Task Force, through the International OCD Foundation's Diversity Equity & Inclusion Action Council.

Beach, S.R., Ernst, C.L., Lavakumar, M., Greenstein, S.P., Fipps, D.C. Soeprono, T.M., Heinrich, T.W., & Schwartz, A.C. (2022, December). A 10-year follow-up survey of psychiatry resident education in consultation-liaison psychiatry. *Journal of the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaclp.2022.12.003>

Presentations

Kallio Hunnicutt-Ferguson and Molly Millians provided a workshop to elementary, middle and high school teachers in Colquitt County, GA, on Developmental Impact of Maternal Substance Use and Educational Interventions for individuals impacted by maternal substance use.

Media

Patricio Riva Posse (1) MIT Technology Review – [Neuroscientists Have Created a Mood Decoder That can Measure Depression](#).

ADJUNCT KUDOS

Dr. Adam Meadows has been promoted to Skyland Trail's Medical Director of Admissions starting January 3rd, 2023.

TRAINEE KUDOS

None reported

STAFF KUDOS

None reported