

EMORY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES KUDOS
MARCH 2021

REMEMBER

Please send me your accomplishments and personal updates for the April 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.

- May 5, 2021 – Ways to make the classroom more culturally inclusive – consponsored with RECM, WFC, and DISC - <https://zoom.us/j/6213030759?pwd=dzB1aWU5TFRVbTZwK2JFd3R6WTh2dz09>
- September 1, 2021 – Promotion: Personal Statements
- November 3, 2021 – Running a lab and mentoring advanced graduate students

WRITING GROUPS: UPCOMING

The Writing Group is the 1st Wednesday of every month from 8:00-9:00am. The next meeting is Wednesday April 7, 2021 and will be on Zoom -

<https://zoom.us/j/6213030759?pwd=T0hpY056a0N1RFdvWjFIQ3d4UU1vZz09>

CE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

The next continuing education workshop is on the Unified Protocol and will be held virtually on Friday April 9, 2021 from 9:00-12:00pm. Contact Rachel Ammirati, rammira@emory.edu, for more details.

SPOTLIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Justin Palanci, MD

Justin Palanci is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He serves as Medical Director of the Grady Assertive Community Treatment Program as well as Co-Director of Open Dialogue Atlanta, an outpatient program at Grady Behavioral Health. Within the department, he teaches and supervises trainees, is a founding member of Caring Communities, a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, and a member of the clinical service subgroup to address bias and racism within Grady Behavioral Health.

Justin is responsible for providing clinical supervision to the ACT advanced practice providers, providing direct clinical care, facilitating team meetings, and developing policies and procedures for program development with Grady ACT leadership. He provides educational workshops for program staff. For Open Dialogue Atlanta, Justin

provides care to young adults experiencing psychosis through network meetings and medication consultations. He also facilitates a weekly intervision group on the approach.

Outside of Emory, Justin is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association. He is a member of the planning committee on Racism, Privilege, and Socioeconomic Oppression within the Dialogic Community, which has held three national gatherings on the topic.

Justin enjoys working alongside many talented clinicians and staff who are dedicated to working with patients facing challenging circumstances. He appreciates the opportunity to teach trainees to think critically about psychiatry and their approach to patient care. He is grateful for the opportunity to share his experiences with Open Dialogue as it is a core aspect of his development as a clinician. He is passionate about continuing to collaborate with his colleagues on anti-racism initiatives within Emory and the dialogic community.

Looking forward, Justin is committed to continuing to develop and promote recovery-oriented practices at Grady Behavioral Health. He aspires to lead an effort to be the first program to implement an Open Dialogue model within the ACT framework. He plans to continue to be involved in efforts to bring Open Dialogue-informed care to the United States.

Outside of his work, Justin enjoys spending time with his wife, son, and pug. He enjoys playing golf competitively and looks forward to traveling again as the pandemic eases.

ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Peggy Flanagan, PhD

Peggy Flanagan is a psychologist and working predominantly in forensics for the last 10 years. She does work on the state and federal level and evaluate competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility and occasionally does evaluations for risk assessments and sentencing mitigation. In addition, she has a small private practice where she sees therapy patients and that's part of what brings balance to her professional life.

Peggy has been privileged to work with this department as a therapy supervisor for psychiatry residents. It's an absolute pleasure to work with such talented residents and help them connect to the therapeutic modality that works best for them. She often finds that the residents with whom she works enjoy the process of therapy much more than they anticipated, and that is a great part of what makes it so rewarding.

The process of supervision has been a steep learning curve for Peggy, and one of the parts she enjoys most is the connection within the Emory community. She has found the other faculty are so incredibly supportive, both interpersonally and with offering additional training and educational opportunities.

A surprising fact about Peggy is when she was in college she worked her way through school as a baker in a bakery. She can bake just about any bread, dessert, or treat - but she is terrible at cake decorating!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Arica Washington

Arica Washington is the Program Coordinator for PEACE for MOMS, which launched on December 1st, 2020. She is responsible for scheduling meetings, creating monthly reports, reviewing the budget, sending marketing emails and communicating with similar programs in other states. She answers calls from interested physicians and enter an encounter form so Dr. Goldsmith and Dr. Woo can complete consultations. She also manages Dr. Goldsmith's calendar. Outside of the department, she has recently been accepted into the Mentor Emory program, so she will have the privilege of learning new professional skills as well.

Due to the pandemic, Arica does not currently have any roles or responsibilities outside of Emory, but she plans to resume volunteering within her community. She was previously involved with a youth development organization that mentored teenage girls, and she also assisted her cousin with her wedding planning business.

What Arica enjoys most about her work, and working in mental health in general, is seeing people seeking help because they aren't feeling their best, and then being able to watch them improve. In her previous role at the front desk, she had a rapport with patients. In her current role, she gets to be involved in that process in a different way, which is still incredibly exciting. Knowing that she is playing a role in offering a service that previously didn't exist in Georgia, and that this program will grant access to mental health care to more people has been a tremendous learning opportunity.

Right now, Arica's biggest goal is to go back to school for her MPH. She loves reading about nutrition and gut health, so she would like to get certified in nutrition. When it is safer to be in group classes, Arica would love to resume her tap dance lessons, and maybe try a new hobby every few months. After spending most of 2020 in her house, she hopes to one day be able to travel more. The past year has shown her that anything can happen, so she will no longer be taking time for granted.

Outside of the workplace, Arica enjoys reading fiction novels, watching nineties sitcoms, learning about various health issues, specifically gut health and taking outdoor walks.

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Jack VanBezooyen, MD

Jack VanBezooyen is a fourth-year general psychiatry resident at Emory University and is the chief resident for the VA service line. In this role, he is responsible for the coordination of weekly didactics, teaching, and mentorship of medical students and second-year psychiatry residents as well as redesigning the VA call schedule to introduce a night float system meant to improve quality of life and reduce burnout in residents.

In his time at Emory University, Jack has focused extensively on developing his psychotherapeutic skills through participation in the Emory University Psychoanalytic Institute and through receiving additional supervision in interpersonal therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, time-limited psychodynamic therapy, behavioral

couple's therapy, motivational enhancement therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy for addiction. He is particularly interested in working psychotherapeutically with the addiction, dual diagnosis, chronic pain, and palliative care populations.

What drew Jack to the field of psychiatry and sustains his ongoing passion is the unique opportunity to build strong and longstanding relationships with his patients. He feels that to have the time to sit down and get to know someone on a deep level is a gift and rare occurrence in modern medicine. Furthermore, he feels that it is the relationship itself that is integral in alleviating the suffering of his patients.

Jack will be leaving Emory University next academic year to be closer to home and participate in an addiction fellowship at the University of California - San Francisco. He hopes to use the experience to provide care for patients suffering from comorbid psychiatric illness and substance use disorders, specifically for those populations traditionally underserved by healthcare systems.

Outside of work, Jack and his wife, Laura, love exploring the Atlanta food scene, running and hiking with their adorable new dog, Fizzgig, and having dinner parties with family and friends.

FACULTY COMINGS AND GOINGS

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

None reported

THANK YOU TO FACULTY WHO ARE LEAVING

None reported

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee (DISC)

Maha Shivaratri (March 11, 2021) – Sobha Fritz, PhD, Assistant Professor – “The Great Night of Shiva” tends to occur in February or March. What makes this celebration unique is that it occurs at night with fasting and meditation. It is a celebration of the night Lord Shiva performed his sacred dance regarding creation, preservation, and destruction. Devotees engage in prayers during an all-night vigil format.

Holi (March 28, 2021) – Sobha Fritz, PhD, Assistant Professor – Holi signifies the triumph of good over evil and is a celebration of springtime and love. This light-hearted and playful Hindu festival occurs in the month of March on the day of the full moon. There are many mythological stories that signify these themes as part of Holi. Festival goers celebrate Rangwali Holi in which people throw and smear colorful powders on each other, squirt each other with water, and share food and drink with friends and family.

FACULTY KUDOS

Major Leadership Appointments, Activities and Achievements

Sheila Rauch and Vasiliki Michopoulos have been selected to lead the new Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Research and Scholarship Consultation Service.

Education

Congratulations to the 2020-21 WHEA Teaching Fellowship Graduates from our department: Rob Cotes, Chanda Graves and Erica Lee.

Jeffrey Rakofsky co-led a workshop at the annual American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training conference, titled "Step 1 Changing to Pass/Fail: An Opportunity to Improve Resident Recruitment and Selection?"

Virani S, Mitra S, Grullón MA, Khan A, Kovach J, & Cotes RO. (2021). International medical graduate resident physicians in psychiatry: Decreasing numbers, geographic variation, community correlations, and implications. *Academic Psychiatry*, 45 7–1. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40596-020-01380-0>

Research

Alpert E, Hayes AM, Yasinski C, Webb C, Deblinger E. Processes of Change in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Youth: An Emotional Processing Theory Informed Approach. *Clin Psychol Sci*. 2021;9(2):270-283. doi:10.1177/2167702620957315

Clark SM, Immelman TD, Hart AR, & Kaslow NJ. (2021). Childhood maltreatment and resource acquisition in African American women: The role of self-esteem. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. doi: [10.1037/tra0001003](https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0001003)

DeJong SM, Balasanova AA, Frank A, Ruble AE, Frew JR, Hoefer M, Rakocevic DB, Carey T, Renner JA, Schwartz AC. "Addiction teaching and training in the general psychiatry setting." *Acad Psychiatry* 2021, doi.org/10.1007/s40596-021-01431-0.

Hampton-Anderson JA, Carter S, Fani N, Gillespie CF, Henry TL, Holmes E, Lamis DA, LoParo D, Maples-Keller JL, Powers A, Sonu S, & Kaslow NJ. (2021). Adverse childhood experiences in African Americans: Framework, practice, and policy. *American Psychologist*, 76(2), 314-325. doi: [10.1037/amp0000767](https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000767)

Powers A, Hunnicutt K, Stenson A, Jovanovic T, Kaslow N, Bradley B. Associations Between Emotion Dysregulation Dimensions and Parenting Behaviors in Trauma-Exposed African American Mothers. *Child Maltreatment*. January 2021. doi:[10.1177/1077559520988352](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559520988352)

Price M, Albaugh M, Hahn S, Juliano AC, Fani N, Brier ZMF, Legrand AC, van Stolk-Cooke K, Chaarani B, Potter A, Peck K, Allgaier N, Banaschewski T, Bokde ALW, Quinlan EB, Desrivieres S, Flor H, Grigis A, Gowland P, Heinz A, Ittermann B, Martinot

JL, Paillere ML, Artiges E, Nees F, Orfanos DP, Poustka L, Hohmann S, Frohner JH, Smolka MN, Walter H, Whelan R, Schumann G & Garavan H. Examination of the association between exposure to childhood maltreatment and brain structure in young adults: a machine learning analysis. *Neuropsychopharmacol.* (2021).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41386-021-00987-7>

Mar Sanchez's R01 grant has been funded by NIH/NIDA. The details for the grant are: R01 DA052909-A1 (MPI: Sanchez/Nader), NIH/NIDA, 04/01/21–03/31/26 \$4,318,135 (total: D+I, 5 years)
“Early Life Stress, Chronic Drug Use and Neuroplasticity in Nonhuman Primate Models of Cocaine Abuse: Relevance to Treatment Strategies.”
Project Goals: To use a translational macaque model of early life stress and cocaine exposure during adolescence to examine the neurobiological mechanisms of increased risk to cocaine addiction in adulthood.

Welsh JW, Hunnicutt-Ferguson K, Cattie JE, Shentu Y, Mataczynski KJ, LoParo D & Greenfield SF (2020) Adaptation and Pilot Testing of the Women's Recovery Group for Young Adults (WRG-YA), *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*, DOI: [10.1080/07347324.2020.1837044](https://doi.org/10.1080/07347324.2020.1837044)

Wu Y, Jiang F, Wu S, Liu Y, Tang YL. Sleep Duration and Satisfaction Among Physicians In Tertiary Public Hospitals In China: A Large Sample National Survey, *Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology*, 2021 Mar 5;16(1):8. doi: 10.1186/s12995-021-00298-z.

Honors, Awards, Rankings

Congratulations to the following faculty who were honored during [Doctors' Day 2021](#):

- Rachel Ammirati
- Mark Burton
- Jordan Cattie
- Telsie Davis
- Chanda Graves
- Jennifer Holton
- Laura Loucks
- Erica Marshall-Lee
- Meghna Patel
- Monika Stojek
- Yilang Tang
- Carly Yasinski
- Liza Zwiebach

Brian Cooke was named to the United States Medical Licensing Examination Behavioral Health Test Material Development Committee.

Yilang Tang was recently nominated as a member of the Self-Assessment Editorial Board of Focus: The Journal of Lifelong Learning in Psychiatry.

Presentations

Andrew Furman gave a lecture in the Emory College Department of Art History title “Art and the Humanities in Health Education.”

Chanda Graves presented on “Family Approaches to HIV Care for Youth: Opportunities and Challenges” to Division 43 of the American Psychological Association.

Rebecca Schneider presented at the Child and Adolescent Special Interest Group meeting at the annual Convention of the Anxiety and Depression Association of America with the presentation titled “The Development of an ACT-based DNA-V Multifamily Group for Youth OCD.”

Naadira Upshaw and Douglas E. Lewis, Jr. presented "Assessment and Management of Suicide Risk: Children and Adolescents" to a national afterschool program "Bright and Quirky."

Laura Watkins presented on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder during Emory Healthcare’s 2021 Clinical Update Series – Behavioral Health Monthly Spring Series.

Emory in the Media

Jordan Cattie (1) AJC – [In Search of Lost Manners After a Year of Home Confinement.](#)

Nadine Kaslow (1) Vox – [Some COVID-19 Survivors are Now Struggling with Guilt.](#)

Sheila Rauch (1) VA Research Currents – [VA Researcher Tests Condensed Form of Psychotherapy to Treat PTSD Patients.](#)

Karen Rommelfanger (1) Thomson Reuters Foundation – [Out of My Mind: Advances in Brain Tech Spur Calls for ‘Neuro-Rights.’](#)

ADJUNCT KUDOS

Ren Massey was selected the new Co-Chair/Mental Health Chair of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Global Education Initiative (GEI) in January 2021. Ren is the first transgender person to head the mental health track of the GEI. WPATH's GEI has a certification program for members and provided in-person training for over 3,000 mental and medical healthcare professionals in many countries before the pandemic. Since 2020, the GEI has offered Foundations and Advanced Courses virtually with about 1,000 attendees from over 20 countries.

TRAINEE KUDOS

Schneider MB, Greif TR, Galsky AP, Gomez D, Anderson C, Edwards DS, Cherry AS, & Mehari K. (2021). Giving psychology trainees a voice during the COVID-19 pandemic: Trainee mental health, perceived safety, and support. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 15(1), 76–85. [https:// doi:10.1037/tep0000343](https://doi.org/10.1037/tep0000343).supp

Daiysa Smith has been named DEI Chief Resident for the 2021-2022 academic year with the role of brainstorming, implementing and promoting programs to improve the Emory Psychiatry Residency's DEI.