

EMORY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES KUDOS  
NOVEMBER 2021

**REMEMBER**

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

**SAVE THE DATES**

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS**

Next month we will provide information on the faculty development seminars for 2022. Seminars will be held quarterly on Wednesdays from 9:00-10:30am and will continue to be virtual. We welcome input with regard to topics.

**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 January 5, 2022 and will be on Zoom -

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

**CE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

None reported

**SPOTLIGHTS**

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Matthew Segall, PhD**

Matt Segall loves his work at the Emory Autism Center. It's been a fun and interesting career thus far – originally Matt thought that he'd be out in K-12 schools all of the time, helping to make schools and classrooms more inclusive for students with autism. Over time, Matt has found himself more squarely in the role of program development and project management, something he didn't necessarily envision, but it's been a happy opportunity. Most importantly, these roles have given Matt the chance to work with, mentor, supervise, and collaborate with incredibly talented people so that everyone shines and our community that is impacted by autism enjoys more accessible and inclusive experiences and better outcomes.

Recently, Matt and his team have been working with a team of collaborators from UGA and GSU on a grant to improve employment outcomes for autistic college graduates. In September 2021, the team was awarded a 3-year Implementation Grant from the Administration for Community Living; as a result of the new funding, the Emory Autism Center will be able to launch a new program at Emory University, Emory Oaks, a support program for autistic college students. Matt and so many others have been dreaming of this for quite a while now, and it is very exciting to get to bring this program to life!

Matt also is co-teaching (with an incredible Post-Doctoral Fellow!) an undergraduate course at Emory, Reflections on Neurodiversity, for the first time. The course is in just

its third year, and it's been a really great experience to learn with and learn from Emory's bright and thoughtful students. Between Emory Oaks and the Neurodiversity seminar, Matt is hoping to continue to engage in more conversations with other leaders at Emory University so that neurodiversity is a recognized and valued diversity group at Emory and that, most importantly, Emory journeys towards being an accessible, inclusive, and welcoming community that genuinely fosters a sense of belonging in all its spaces. In this way, one of his key career highlights (and one that he hopes he'll continue) is to give space to the voices and gifts of autistic people and advocate for more and more valued opportunities for their engagement and leadership. Likewise, it was an absolute honor last year to be invited by the Emory University Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion to plan an annual Autism Celebration month at Emory; Matt and the Planning Committee are already hard at work planning the 2022 events, so be on the lookout for announcements in the spring for our next installment of events and activities to highlight and celebrate autism and neurodiversity in our community!

Outside of the Emory Autism Center, Matt, first and foremost, enjoys being a dad to his soon-to-be-8-year-old daughter, Ava. Matt and his wife, Michelle, love their neighborhood of Ormewood Park (near Grant Park and Zoo Atlanta) and the opportunity for Ava to grow up in Atlanta, with so many diverse families, and live within walking distance of Ava's school. Matt enjoys cooking, and most things that involve eating, drinking, and music. Atlanta is a pretty perfect place for all that! During fall weekends, you'll find Matt watching the Georgia Bulldogs and the Baltimore Ravens (it's been a great football season at the Segall house this year, and the Braves were a welcomed celebration, too!).

#### **ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Courtney Crooks, PhD**

Courtney is a licensed psychologist with over 19 years of applied research experience and has served in numerous leadership roles, project director/principal investigator, faculty mentor, and supervisory positions throughout her career. She is also actively involved in her professional and civic communities. For example, in her position at Georgia Tech, she is serving a 3-year term on the Georgia Tech Faculty and Status Grievance Committee. She has also served two years as Chair of the Georgia Psychological Association Legal and Legislative Committee; and is currently a member of American Psychological Association, American Psychoanalytic Association, IEEE/Women in Engineering, Atlanta Psychoanalytic Society, and Atlanta Kiwanis. She completed a PhD in Cognitive Psychology with University of Georgia; Masters in Aeronautical Science – Aviation Human Factors with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University; retraining in clinical psychology with Fielding Graduate University; doctoral internship and postdoctoral residency in Health Services Psychology with Emory University School of Medicine; Georgia Tech Professional Education certificate in Cybersecurity; and Faculty Fellowship with the Georgia Tech Sam Nunn Security Program.

Courtney's expertise as a psychologist is in cognitive, political, forensic, and cyber psychology; psychoanalytic theory; qualitative analysis; social & behavioral modeling research; and human systems integration. Although she has many interests within the

field of psychology as evidenced through the various specialties that she has pursued throughout my professional career, her identity as a psychologist is longstanding and began to develop immediately upon entering college at the undergraduate level. The experiences she has had through graduate school, the military, Georgia Tech, and Emory, have allowed her to compile a diverse range of professional skills. The integration of these skillsets enables her to bring a unique perspective to both clinical and national security-related research. She enjoys teaching psychology and mentoring at the university level because it gives her a chance to help students explore how the field of psychology contributes in significant ways to our daily lives, regardless of academic program or career choice. Her current research applies psychoanalytic and large group psychological theory to understand how cultural trauma, coercive control, and strategic narrative impact relational dynamics, beliefs, and behaviors in socio-cultural systems. Specifically, this research seeks to investigate the implications of these phenomena for national security, policy, and psychological practice.

Courtney's involvement as an adjunct faculty member in the Emory Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences includes actively contributing as a Co-Investigator in securing and executing funded research, such as multiple partnered projects with the Emory-Georgia Tech Healthcare Innovation Program. Through this research, she has supervised research assistants in the qualitative research process. She is also a 4th year Candidate with the Emory University Psychoanalytic Institute (EUPI), completing specialty training in psychoanalytic practice and theory, and an active member of Atlanta Psychoanalytic Society (APS).

Courtney most enjoys the opportunities for psychoanalytic training and practice through EUPI, and collaborative psychoanalytic and trauma research with other Emory faculty members. that her position as Emory adjunct faculty encourages.

People might be surprised to learn that Courtney has several interests outside of her professional career that she tries to support when the opportunity arises. For example, she enjoys reading psychological/historical/gothic thrillers, watching movies (especially if they can be discussed through a psychoanalytic lens), writing manuscripts, doing fitness activities, supporting the arts, and eating international cuisine. She has also recently cultivated an interest in historical biographies, autobiographical narratives, and poetry from the Victorian and Romantic periods.

### **STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Tamara Wright**

Tamara Wright is the Program Coordinator for the Medical Student Clerkship and PA Students Rotations for Psychiatry, as well as Coordinator for psychiatry electives for fourth year medical students and Coordinator for Dr. Gillespie's Behavioral Science course for second year medical students. She currently does not have roles and responsibilities outside of Emory due to the pandemic, but hoping it will change soon.

Tamara most enjoys working with future doctors and collaborating with amazing faculty, residents and staff who are passionate about ensuring students get the most out of the psychiatry clerkship experience. She finds it especially rewarding when students

express an interest in psychiatry at the conclusion of the clerkship that they did not have in the beginning.

Key highlights to Tamara's career trajectory include being of service to her community and various causes. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has limited this quite a bit.

Goals and plans for Tamara's professional future include continuing to grow professionally and become more involved within Emory. Personally, she would like to find new passions to explore and get back to reading more.

Outside of work, Tamara enjoys traveling, cooking, listening to music and meditating.

### **TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Mahfuza Akhtar, PhD**

For addiction fellowship, which is mainly based at the Atlanta VA Healthcare System, Mahfuza Akhtar evaluates patients in the ESP (Evaluation, Stabilization and Placement) outpatient clinic. She assesses patients with the Substance Abuse Treatment Program's (SATP) Consultation-Liaison Service. In addition, Mahfuza follows up with patients in the Opioid Agonist Treatment Program. Currently, she is rotating at the Atlanta's Grady Hospital, Infectious Disease Program (IDP) and Dekalb's County's Drug court where she is learning treatment of the substance use disorders and the legal system in the community. One day out of the week, she provides psychotherapy and motivational enhancement therapy for substance use disorders.

Outside of Emory, Mahfuza looks forward to continuing her learning at the Atlanta VA based Intensive Outpatient Program.

Mahfuza thoroughly enjoys working with a culturally diverse staff and to experience wide range of pathology with patients. She has been very grateful of the availability of supervision any time of the day.

Key highlights of Mahfuza's career include being a chief resident during her fourth-year residency was a valuable experience with focus on administrative work. Extensive research projects with focus on local population with diverse cultural backgrounds and presenting at the APA conference. She is looking forward to completing my training and join as an Inpatient Psychiatric attending.

Outside of work, Mahfuza loves spending time with her husband and travel to visit family members which is spread throughout USA, best place to visit is Virginia. She also loves playing tennis (don't tell anyone that serving is her weakest point). She considers herself a foodie and cook variety of different cuisines. Lastly and most importantly, she likes to recognize the importance of people that care for her.

## **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATES**

The Emory School of Medicine Emory launched the AAPI Medical Faculty Association Affinity Group. The Emory AAPI Medical Faculty Association Affinity Group was formed to: provide mentorship and support to medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty of Asian and Pacific Islander descent; raise awareness of and challenge racism, prejudice, and bias experienced by Asians and Asian-Americans at Emory University School of Medicine and in the workplace; and promote research, treatment, and education in the health and well-being of Asian and Pacific Islander people and their communities.

## **WELLNESS RESOURCES**

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

- Benefits: <https://www.hr.emory.edu/eu/benefits/index.html>
- Rewards: <https://www.hr.emory.edu/eu/rewards/index.html>
- Career: <https://www.hr.emory.edu/eu/career/index.html>
- Learning: <https://www.hr.emory.edu/eu/learning/index.html>
- Wellness: <https://www.hr.emory.edu/eu/wellness/index.html>
- Work Life: <https://www.hr.emory.edu/eu/work-life/index.html>
- Employee Assistance: <https://www.fsap.emory.edu> & <https://www.physician-wellbeing-conference.org/>

## **FACULTY KUDOS**

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

Barbara Rothbaum received the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society of Traumatic Stress in recognition of her impressive body of work. For over 30 years, Barbara has led the field of psychiatry in effective interventions for PTSD. Her foundational work in developing Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD, Exposure and Response Prevention for OCD, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Trichotillomania and other interventions she has provided effective options for care. She has also pushed treatment into virtual reality and new settings, with the aim to greatly increase treatment efficacy and access for those suffering with anxiety and PTSD.

Justine Welsh was appointed Medical Director of the Addiction Alliance of Georgia.

### **Education**

Soeprono T, Meyer Karre V, Ernst C, Schwartz AC, Fipps, D. "Educational diamonds in the COVID-19 Rough." Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Annual Meeting, 2021 (virtual workshop).

Rachel Ammirati's continuing education advocacy efforts were highlighted in the Executive Director's Report of the Georgia Psychological Association's December 2021 newsletter. GPA's Executive Director emphasized that Dr. Ammirati's "questions and points of discussion with the BOE were highly relevant to GPA" and that "the BOE spent considerable time discussing CE."

## **Research**

Burton MS, Marks EH, Bedard-Gilligan MA, Feeny NC, Zoellner LA. The effect of perceived life stress on posttraumatic stress disorder treatment outcome. *J Trauma Stress*. 2021 Oct 31. doi: 10.1002/jts.22744. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34719829.

Fan YY, Liu J, Zeng YY, Conrad R, Tang YL. Risk factors for non-suicidal self-injury of Chinese adolescents: A meta-analysis. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 2021, DOI: 10.3389/fpsy.2021.747031

Friis-Healy EA, Farber EW, Cook SC, Cullum KA, Gillespie CF, Marshall-Lee ED, Upshaw NC, White DT, Zhang S, & Kaslow NJ. (2021). Promoting resilience in persons with serious mental health conditions during the Coronavirus pandemic. *Psychological Services*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/ser0000594>

Kaslow NJ, Dunn SE, Bonsall JM, Mekonnen E, Newsome J, Pendley AM, Wierson M, & Schwartz AC. (2021). A roadmap for patient- and family- centered care during the pandemic. *Couple and Family Psychology: Research and Practice (10)* 3, 223-232. doi: [10.1037/cfp0000176](http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/cfp0000176)

Pan YZ, Xie XM, Tang YL, Ng CH, Wang G, Xiang YT. A comparison of aggression between patients with acute schizophrenia and mania presenting to psychiatric emergency services. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 2021, 296, 493-497. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2021.09.071>

Zhao YJ, Zhang SF, Li W, Zhang L, Cheung T, Tang YL, Ng CH, Yang BX, Xiang YT. Mental health status and quality of life in close contacts of COVID-19 in post-COVID-19 era: a comparative study. *Translational Psychiatry*, 2021, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41398-021-01623-0>

## **Honors, Awards, Rankings**

Brandon Kitay was accepted into the upcoming Junior Faculty Development Course.

Dorian Lamis was elected to Fellow status in the APA American Psychological Association.

Erica Marshall-Lee was selected to join the Emory Professional Leadership Enrichment and Development Program (EM-ProLEAD) cohort of 2022.

Samantha Patton was accepted into the upcoming Junior Faculty Development Course.

Martha Ward began her two-year term as President of the Association of Medicine and Psychiatry, and she also won the Dean's Teaching Award.

Justine Welsh was selected to join the Emory Professional Leadership Enrichment and Development Program cohort of 2022.

DeJuan White received the “Best Under-Represented in Medicine Research Award.

### **Presentations**

Hershenberg R, & Yasinski C. (2021, November). Treatment Resistant Depression and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Current and Emerging Strategies. Continuing Education Workshop via the Psychology Division of the Emory University School of Medicine at Grady Health System.

Schneider RL, Faro AL, Cattie J, & Fraire M. (2021, October). Finding your treatment focus: Using functional assessment to target ERPs. Workshop presented at the Annual Convention of the International Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Foundation.

Schneider RL & Kennedy J. (2021, November). Development of an intensive outpatient program using evidence-based treatment principles for youth OCD. Paper presented at the 55th Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

### **ADJUNCT KUDOS**

Crooks CL, Kaslow N, De Choudhury M, Druss B, Muchlinski D, Philipose J, Badio K, & Shurtz L. (2021). Assessing moral injury in healthcare workers through a global pandemic. Paper presented at the 2021 Annual Conference of the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture & Society (APCS).

Stojek MM, Wardawy P, Gillespie CF, Stevens JS, Powers A, Michopoulos V. Subjective Social Status Is Associated with Dysregulated Eating Behaviors and Greater Body Mass Index in an Urban Predominantly Black and Low-Income Sample. *Nutrients*. 2021; 13(11):3893. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu13113893>

Beverly Stoute was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

### **TRAINEE KUDOS**

Courtney Forbes presented a poster titled “Bilateral Caudate Activation During Effort-Based Decision-Making Predicts 3-Month MDD Status in a Recently Traumatized Sample” and co-chaired a symposium titled “Increasing Engagement in Evidence-Based Suicide Prevention Interventions: Considering Patients, Providers, and Organizations.”

Ku B\*, Smith AK, Schwartz AC. “A sleepless night on ifosfamide: A case of mania following cancer chemotherapy. Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Annual Meeting, 2021 (poster).