

Who We Are



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*For more information about our
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[www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry/
Psychotic-Disorders-Research-Program](http://www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry/Psychotic-Disorders-Research-Program)



*The
Psychotic
Disorders
Research
Program*

What We Do

The Psychotic Disorders Research Program in the Department of Psychiatry at UMass Medical School aims to elucidate the etiology of each facet of the triple jeopardy of psychosis: devastating mental illness, medical co-morbidity, and substance use. We also conduct research on possible shared pathophysiological pathways and mechanisms among these three conditions. The goal of our research is to develop innovative intervention strategies combining pharmacological and psychosocial approaches to treat psychotic symptoms, medical co-morbidity, and substance use. Ultimately, we strive to improve the quality of life in this patient population.



Current Research Studies

1.) Sodium Nitroprusside Study (Docket # H00007610)

The goal of this 6 week research study is to see if sodium nitroprusside (SNP), an investigational drug when used in people with schizophrenia, can improve symptoms of schizophrenia.

2) The Movement Study (Docket#H00009161)

The purpose of this clinical research study is to evaluate the effectiveness, safety, and tolerability of an investigational oral medication for tardive dyskinesia. Each individual will be evaluated to determine his or her eligibility.

3.) The Memory Study (Docket #H00004119)

The goal of this study is to determine if weekly injections of exenatide, a medication sometimes used to treat diabetes, helps improve symptoms of schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.

4.) The Marijuana Study (Docket# H00001171)

In this study, our goal is to determine whether clozapine, an antipsychotic medication, is more effective in reducing cannabis use than other medications in individuals with schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.

5) The Early Treatment Study (Docket # H00007426)

This study investigates the effectiveness of aripiprazole once monthly in treating patients who have been diagnosed with schizophrenia in the last 1-5 years.

6) The Alcohol Study (Docket # H00005852)

The goal of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of an investigational medication to treat alcohol use in patients with schizophrenia.



Community Outreach & Engagement Initiatives

The UMass Psychotic Disorders Program community outreach & engagement (O & E) initiatives aims to educate the public about schizophrenia, co-occurring substance use and co-morbid medical problems. The O & E initiatives ensure the participation of consumers, family members, advocates and members of underserved communities in central Massachusetts.

For those groups or organizations who are interested in our community education programs free to the general public, please contact us at 508-856-MIND(6463) or MIND@umassmed.edu