Message From The Chair

You may have heard that Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow forecasting an early spring. Soon it will be time for all New Englanders to wrap up their skiing and put away their shovels! So, what do we have to look forward to other than tulips and roses?

- We've wrapped up resident and fellow interviews and are looking forward to match results in March.
- The Medical School is expanding to include a site at Lahey Clinic.
- The American Psychiatry Association and American Psychology Association conferences are coming up, and some faculty trainee dyads may earn support to make the trip.
- The Psychiatry Women’s Faculty Retreat is approaching.
- Graduation for our Trainees is coming up fast.

Watch out for more communications and join us to show your support for the department.

Education News

As part of our continuous efforts to improve the residency program, our residents worked together to take a deep dive to evaluate their training experience. They completed a thorough SWOT (strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats) analysis which the program directors will present to the department leadership.

Additionally, the psychiatry residency program has been immersed in the recruitment season for the general adult, combined adult/child, and neuropsychiatry residency tracks. We received over 1,020 applications. Without the time and contributions of our faculty, residents, fellows, and staff it would not be possible to successfully recruit our new trainees. We will know the outcome and celebrate together on Friday, March 15th, 2024. Stay tuned for details.

The psychiatry fellowship programs successfully recruited incoming fellows:
- **Addiction Psychiatry:** Rajat Duggirala, M.D.
- **Forensic Psychiatry:** Chidi Wamuo, M.D.
- **Child Psychiatry:** Danielle Clifford, Patricia Shi, M.D. and Robert Daly, M.D.
Finally, our department has been one of 10 academic and administrative departments participating in the UMass Chan Diversity and Equity Action plan (DEAP) pilot. The DEAP is part of the medical school's DEI strategic goals to integrate DEI across the institution through policies and processes, develop and integrate anti-racism curriculum, increase DEI education, and establish equity within recruitment, mentorship, and advancement. By joining this pilot, our department agreed to the responsibility of supporting the institution's DEI goals and be accountable.

Auralyd Padilla Candalerio, M.D.
Training Director
Assistant Professor, Psychiatry

FELLOWSHIPS

Meet Our Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellows

AWARDS

AAAP/NIDA MENTORED FACILITATED TRAINING AWARD

Congratulations to Karuna Thomas, M.D., M.B.B.S., MRCPsych, for receiving the AAAP/NIDA Mentored Facilitated Training Award in Substance Use Disorders Science Dissemination to fund your project.

Her mentor is Sanya Virani, M.D., M.P.H, Associate Program Director, Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship.

THE BRESCIANI RESEARCH AWARD FOR THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR HAS BEEN EXPANDED

The Department of Psychiatry is pleased to announce that the funds from the Arthur Bresciani Research Award, made possible through a generous donation to the
A study entitled Trauma and Psychosocial Adversity In Youth With Autism Spectrum Disorder And Intellectual Disability was published in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* on January 26th.

This study, written by Sarah J. Palmer, M.D. and Yael Dvir, M.D explores the effects of different sources of trauma and their impact on this population.

**Read The Study**
WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR PATIENTS FOR OUR PSILOCYBIN STUDY
A New Treatment-Resistant Depression Medication

We are currently enrolling participants with treatment-resistant depression (TRD) in a clinical research study utilizing psilocybin to improve depressive symptoms.

Participants must:
- be 18 years of age or older
- have been diagnosed with treatment-resistant depression
- have not adequately responded to at least 2 different antidepressant treatments
- not be pregnant or have plans to become pregnant

The psilocybin dosing takes place over three days, starting with a predosing therapy session, followed by a six-to-eight-hour dosing session with a therapist, and ending with a reintegration session. Each dosing session takes place in a controlled setting.

Subjects will be randomly assigned to receive study drug or placebo, and receive some study-related care at no cost. Compensation for expenses and travel will be provided for qualified participants.

Contact Michelangela Yusif
774-455-4136
IRB # STUDY00000671-AJRothschild

For more information please visit.
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY JOURNAL CLUB

The Psychopharmacology Journal Club meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month over Zoom from 12pm – 1pm. Each month will feature a different topic and different presentations.
moderators. The next meeting will be on February 28th. We will be discussing the use of cariprazine in mood disorders.

Psychopharmacology Journal Club Zoom link
https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91950328105?pwd=N0hKR2N4WWIqeENLSThVZnRwMmF1Zz09

If you would like more information about the journal club or if you would like something discussed, please reach out to Anthony.Rothschild@umassmemorial.org

GRAND ROUNDS

Grand Rounds occur every Thursday at noon with some exceptions. Please visit the webpage below for upcoming topics.

If you are unable to participate in person, you can watch the videos on the Grand Rounds Playlist on our YouTube Channel.

Recent Events

THE DIVISION OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY RETREAT @UMASSCHAN

At our annual retreat in December, we reconnected and discussed best practices and the latest research among other things.

Pictured below is the group and Yael Dvir, M.D.

HOLIDAY PARTY
December 20, 2023
GRILL ON THE HILL, WORCESTER, MA

A fun time was had by all at our annual holiday party, particularly when we played a game of "A Fact You Don't Know About Me."
JOIN THE DEPARTMENT WRITING GROUP

The Psychiatry Department Writing group is a collegial working group, which meets monthly to develop effective writing skills as members progress in their ongoing writing projects. Skills are developed to increase productivity, to implement effective writing strategies, to reach audiences, and to target journals successfully for acceptance. The group provides step-by-step support as members reach their individual writing goals.

Madelyn Hicks, M.D., FRCPsych and Kimberly Yonkers, M.D. run this group.

THE CONVERSATION

Faculty, do you want to increase visibility and have your writing reach 19 million readers a month? Check out The Conversation online.

Many UMass Chan scholars have been published here and you could be next. Articles published in The Conversation reach every newsroom in the US and have been reposted by The Scientific American, PBS News Hour, and The Washington Post. Read more about it on the link above, and be a part of the national conversation with The Conversation.
To submit an article for *The Conversation*, please contact Sarah Willey, Media Relations Manager, 774-284-0186.

Advancing Together Campaign

The university launched its new Advancing Together branding campaign on September 6th. The campaign will be appearing on billboards around Worcester as well as in TV, radio and podcast advertisements. #advancingtogether.

Visit our Website

News From The University

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