



## Message From The Chair



Many talented individuals make up our department and they hail from psychiatry, psychology, neurobiology, nursing and social work. Given this, neither I nor the leadership team feel that “Department of Psychiatry” adequately reflects our faculty composition. Dr. Dickson, Dean Flotte and Chancellor Collins agree. So let me re-introduce you to our department... the **Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences**! We hope this change acknowledges all faculty who contribute to the department, the school and the health care system.

It also bears mentioning that our department has more psychologists than any other department at UMass. However, psychologists have not had a division that reflects this strength. Departmental leadership decided to rectify this by launching a division of Psychology within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. This division will support the research productivity, scholarship, clinical excellence, high-quality training, and engagement/retention of our psychologists. It aligns with and supports the department’s mission to improve mental health and addiction recovery through research, teaching, and clinical care. It creates an academic home and standing for psychologists in the UMASS community, and it establishes the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences as the primary home for psychology at UMASS.

An event celebrating our department name and our new Psychology Division is being planned for the Spring. Watch your communications for more information!

Kimberly Yonkers, M.D.  
Katz Family Chair  
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

## Education News

### PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY NEWS

Please join us in congratulating the following fellowship matches.

The 5<sup>th</sup> match is still to be determined. We will announce that one shortly.



**Dipavo Banerjee, DO PGY-4**  
matched in Addiction  
Psychiatry Fellowship at the  
UMass Chan Medical School



**Bogdan Anton, MD PGY-4**  
matched in Addiction  
Psychiatry Fellowship at the  
University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center



**Emily Slominski, MD PGY-4**  
matched in Child and  
Adolescent Psychiatry  
Fellowship at the University of  
Colorado



**Brandon Trojanowski, MD PGY-3**  
matched in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Fellowship at Washington University in St.  
Louis (WashU)

### **CONGRATULATIONS LEXI HOOBERSMAN, MD PGY 3**

Lexi was elected to the Massachusetts  
Psychiatric Society (MPS) Resident-Fellow  
Member of Council



### **CONGRATUATIONS TO GINA SAVELLA, MD, PGY 4**

Gina was inducted into to the Alpha Omega  
Alpha Honor Medical Society.

Dr. Savella is the residency program chief  
resident and chief resident in women's mental  
health. She was selected to AOA based on  
her educational achievements, leadership and  
service to others.

Resident Recruitment season ended and now we are awaiting **Match Day on March 21st**. Thank  
you to our faculty and house staff for your help and dedication to recruiting the next class of  
psychiatry residents!

# Research

## 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: Lucy Wang

Phone at 1-774-455-4045

IRB # STUDY00000671-AJRothschild

For more information [please visit](#).

## Upcoming Events

### LEARN HOW TO USE AI IN YOUR WRITING ON MAY 6TH AND JUNE 3RD

The Department of Psychiatry is coordinating a writing event aimed at developing and supporting the writing skills of our emerging authors while assisting our seasoned authors with writing tasks. This 2-hour in-person event will launch with a brief presentation, *Writing Scientific Manuscripts: Exploring AI, Embracing Personalized Approaches, and Learning from Experience*, from Dr. Jeroan Allison that discusses the role of AI in writing.

The presentation will be followed by a “speed dating” type exercise allowing new writers to gain expertise from more seasoned authors. A fun, interesting and engaging day for sure! A second session has been scheduled as well, to be used as a follow-up for attendees, or as an initial introduction for new authors who missed the first one.

If you’re a seasoned writer with a data set, task or idea that you’d like to work on with an up-and-coming author, or a new author looking for the opportunity to work with an experienced writer, reach out to [maria.mercado@umassmemorial.org](mailto:maria.mercado@umassmemorial.org) and let her know! Please also include the type of writing you’re most interested in (topics, data sets, chapters, review articles, etc.) and add the following logistics to your calendar:

May 6th from 3-5pm

University Campus, NERB 1st floor conference room 1100

June 3rd from 3-5pm

University Campus, NERB 1st floor conference room 1100

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# Lunchtime Academy

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- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| • <b>Psychiatry Faculty Meetings</b>     | every-other month |
| • <b>Psychiatry Department Meetings</b>  | 3x yearly         |
| • <b>Psychopharmacology Journal Club</b> | Monthly           |
| • <b>Psychotherapy Journal Club</b>      | Monthly           |
| • <b>Quarterly Addiction Group</b>       | Quarterly         |

Organize an academic club that

- ✓ Facilitates a **structure for learning**,
- ✓ Establishes and maintains **connections** and discussions with colleagues, researchers and clinicians,
- ✓ Disseminates **current knowledge** in a particular area of study, and
- ✓ Offers **intellectual stimulation** and engagement



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## THE NEW PSYCHOTHERAPY JOURNAL CLUB

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is starting a new psychotherapy journal club! We will be meeting on the second Wednesday of each month, starting on February 12<sup>th</sup>. All faculty, staff, residents, and trainees are welcome to join.

Ideally, articles discussed will cover a wide range of topics related to psychotherapy, including specific theoretical orientations, therapeutic approaches, age groups, and current/new issues or ethical considerations.

We are also actively seeking input from potential members about the format and structure, to make sure this is as engaging and relevant as possible for all participants – if you are interested in the journal club, it would be great to have your feedback via this brief survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T8FPBLQ>

Zoom link: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or  
Android: [https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/97304809172?  
pwd=ElfmF3pgFCBqcYeouVWONzloe7GNvN.1](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/97304809172?pwd=ElfmF3pgFCBqcYeouVWONzloe7GNvN.1)  
Password: 605827

## PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY JOURNAL CLUB

The Psychopharmacology Journal Club meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month over Zoom from 12pm – 1pm.

The next Journal Club meeting **Wednesday February 26, 2025 - 12:00 to 1:00 pm**



Eastern Time (US and Canada).

The discussant is Danielle Li, BA – Research Year Medical Student. The article for discussion is *Growing Concerns Over Valproate Teratogenicity Present an Opportunity for Lithium*.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 26th** from 12:00-1:00 pm

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91950328105?pwd=N0hKR2N4WWIQeENLSThVZnRwMmF1Zz09>. Password: 703626

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](mailto:Anthony.Rothschild@umassmemorial.org)



Next Faculty Meeting  
March 5, 2025  
12:00-1:00pm

## Opportunities

# Invitation to Become a Psychotherapy Supervisor

UMass and UMass Memorial faculty are formally invited to become a psychotherapy supervisor for psychiatry residents. Your expertise and experience in the field would be invaluable in providing guidance and mentorship to our trainees.



- Leadership of Psychiatrists in their PGY 2-4 years
- Involves a one hour commitment each week
- Role commences July 2024

For more information, reference the email from Psychiatry Communications sent on 03/18/24.

If you have any questions, contact

[sureyya.iscan@umassmemorial.org](mailto:sureyya.iscan@umassmemorial.org), or [auralyd.padillacandelario@umassmed.edu](mailto:auralyd.padillacandelario@umassmed.edu)



## Women's Faculty Committee Invitation

### Open Seats

- ✓ WFC members
- ✓ WFC co-chair

### Committee Charge

- ✓ The WFC meets once monthly to identify, plan and organize ways to support our female faculty
- ✓ Initiatives include the biannual day-long Women's Faculty Retreat, social events, promotion workshops, award nominations, and more
- ✓ Open to female-identifying faculty



If interested, or for more information, contact  
[suzanne.gillies@umassmed.edu](mailto:suzanne.gillies@umassmed.edu)

## 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**.

Grand Rounds  
Webpage

## Recent Events

On December 19th at the OPD, we held our first holiday pot luck. It was great to see our colleagues and to enjoy a variety of home-made dishes.



## Helpful Information

### WE HAVE A NEW LOGO

Please reach out to [Paula Darlington](#) for a zip file of all our new artwork. Thank you!



Department of Psychiatry  
& Behavioral Sciences



## PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS

The University offers headshots on a few Wednesdays a month in the Medical School Building. The link to sign up is below:



<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/PhotoSignUps@umassmed.edu/bookings/>

For more information, you can contact [Colleen.Locke@umassmed.edu](mailto:Colleen.Locke@umassmed.edu)



## 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.

Read  
More

## 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.

Read  
More

## Travel Expense System

### UMASS CHAN NOW USES *CONCUR* TO MANAGE BUSINESS AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

Within the Concur Expense module, bank card transactions and out-of-pocket purchases can be



submitted with receipts for reimbursement through an expense report. The Concur Request module allows users to submit requests for Pre-Travel Authorization as well as Prior-Approval and Expense Exceptions for items out of policy.

Concur will replace Terra Dotta, PeopleSoft Expense Module submission for out-of-pocket reimbursement and the current bankcard process for submitting documentation via Buyways and allocation of expenses in PeopleSoft.

The new University Travel Policy, **University Travel Policy and associated standards**, requires all University Travel, both domestic and international, be registered in the University Travel Registry. Please note: failing to register your Travel may impact expense reimbursement eligibility. With our new Concur platform and Healix Travel Registry, University travel must be registered *after travel is approved and booked*. Please see the section on **Before Departure** to learn more about how to register your University Travel.

### New University Travel Policy Information

Visit our  
Website

News From The  
University

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