



Message From The Chair



Fall starts a new academic year and we have had substantial departmental changes. Like other programs in the country, we were contending with substantial shortages in our Attending staff. I want to thank those of you who pitched in and did additional work, with special thanks to Dr. Patrick Smallwood.

I am thrilled to tell you that we have re-staffed three of our units with excellent clinicians and teachers. We now have Dr. Joe Ipacs at the helm at PTRC and he is accompanied by Dr. Taylor Young and Tamika Wallen, APRN. At 8 East, Dr. Bennett Wechsler is the unit chief with Laura Knight, APRN. New leadership at Marlboro brings Dr. Fida Hassan as unit director and Dr. Maxwell Franks as new section chief of Consultation Liaison and Marlboro and Lisa Liddell as an APRN. Additionally, Dr. Miriam Aframe joined us as Director of CANDO. We are proud of these strong teams; they can provide training and some of the best care in the State of Massachusetts.

We have exciting additions to our research group with Drs. Chris Sheldrick, Megan Kelly and Lourah Kelly joining us. Dr. Megan Kelly is the new Director of iSPARC. Our translational research is strengthened by Drs. Ryan Logan and Stephanie Puig whose research focuses on opioid use disorder.

But our doctors cannot do their work without our excellent staff. We are also joined by Isaura Quezada as program director and project coordinator in the Child OPD clinic, Lin Shea in Finance and Amy Nichols who is a new Recovery Coach.

Please consider joining in on departmental and school development opportunities. The school is offering many new leadership and developmental programs, the writing group continues under the leadership of Dr. Madilyn Hicks and Dr. Anthony Rothschild continues to run an excellent Psychopharmacology Study Group. Please note that the school and system offer development opportunities for staff as well so please consider checking them out.

We have much to be proud of. Aside from excellent clinical care and training efforts, our researchers have really sharpened their pencils. Grant submissions are up and we have more than doubled our successful grant submissions from the prior year—despite not even completing half

the year. UMass Chan is really on the move!

On another note, it has been a long 3 years with the pandemic. It required a great deal of creativity and stamina. While we can travel and shed our masks in most places, cases are on the rise again. The health care system is offering free vaccinations and test kits. Please be careful if you feel sick and test. We need to continue to take care of ourselves and others.

Finally, thank you all for the work you do. It makes our department strong and places UMass as a top place to work!

Education News

RESIDENTS 2023-2024

UMass Chan Medical School DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY RESIDENTS / FELLOWS 2023 - 2024

PGY-1



Eoin Gay, MD Kristen Jorgensen, MD Dalton Mourao, MD Maryam Omran, MD Claire Ryan, MD Cassidy Smith, DO Shayna Swick, MD Karuna Thomas, MD

PGY-2



Adrian Faruqi-Kiss, MD Haile Geller, MD Alexa Hoberman, MD Katherine Hughes, MD Carol Remsburg, MD, MSE Alexandra Ruska, DO Brandon Trojanowski, MD

PGY-3



Bogdan Amos, MD Dipavo Banerjee, DO Danielle Clifford, MD Gil Marcuscher, DO Gina Sawelle, MD Emily Skominski, MD Nasir Torres Moreno, MD

PGY-4



Mate Cironi-Pastrana, MD Takeiya Lynch, MD Kimberly Piccoli, DO

Chief Resident in Psychopharmacology Program Chief Resident & Adolf Meyer Chief Resident in Public Sector Psychiatry Chief Resident in Outpatient Psychiatry

PGY-4 CHILD FELLOWS



Ethan Lindenbaum, DO Lily Millen, DO Ibrahim Sabri, MD

PGY-5 CHILD FELLOWS



Marc Gagner, MD Emily Hochstetler, MD Aimee Staroup, MD, PhD

PGY-5



Alexander Lichtenberg, MD Pooja Modi, MD

Neuropsychiatry Neuropsychiatry

PGY-6



Alexander Lichtenberg, MD Pooja Modi, MD

Neuropsychiatry Neuropsychiatry

PGY-5 ADDICTION FELLOW



Nicolas Genovese, MD

PGY-5 FORENSIC FELLOW



Jon-Michael Saez, MD

Visit the [Meet The Residents Page](#) to find out more about them and why they chose UMass Chan Medical School.

RECRUITMENT SEASON

Recruitment season starts October 11th through January 31st. Thousands of medical

students will be looking to interview for a psychiatry residency position. This takes the effort of many faculty who volunteer their time to interview all the trainees (residents and fellows). They take time to answer applicants' questions and share their experiences in our program. The season cannot run without their contributions. Thank you all!

Additionally, there have been a lot of conversations in the field regarding how to appropriately use Augmented Intelligence (AI) (eg. ChatGPT) to write recruitment materials, personal statements, and letters of recommendation, as well as other academia.



DANIELLE CLIFFORD, M.D. SHARES HER TWO-WEEK EXPERIENCE AT GOULD FARM

Not knowing what to expect at Gould Farm when she went for her residency elective, Dr. Clifford found a professional enhancing and personally enlightening experience. She shares her story, photos and her observations about the future of psychiatry [here](#).

Gould Farm is a unique community, which provides a natural therapeutic environment for adults with mental health challenges. It is located on over 700 acres in New Marlborough, Mass., a part of Berkshire County.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Addiction Psychiatry fellowship is reviewing applications and interviewing candidates for academic year 2024-25. Match Day is on November 29. Our current fellow, Dr. Nicolas Genovese, is busy during his many clinical rotations, including for the first time ever, expanding psychiatric services as part of the Road to Care clinic, focused on patients who are unhoused.

The fellowship program continues to offer exciting elective opportunities for fellows, such as restarting a clinical rotation at the Bedford VA and obtaining experience in psychotherapy for patients with behavioral addictions.

Grant News



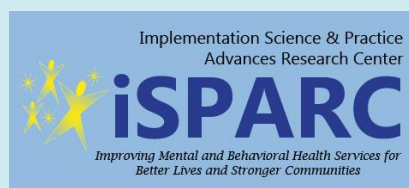
PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT GRANT

The UMass Chan Psychology Internship has a long history of preparing emerging psychologists to assume professional employment within the UMass Chan and Memorial health systems, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and other public sector settings that address the needs of Massachusetts residents with serious mental illness.

The program began in 1922 at the Worcester State Hospital, has been accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1957. It is one of the oldest continuously funded psychology internships in the country.

In April 2023, the program was awarded a **\$950,000 5-year** contract by DMH to implement our proposed expanded training model. The new UMass Chan Comprehensive Psychology Training Program at WRCH will increase our training capacity from 3 to 12 trainees (4 predoctoral students, 5 doctoral interns, and 3 postdoctoral fellows) and significantly expand our ability to train future psychologists.

We are excited by the opportunity to grow the psychology training program at UMass Chan, and if you have an interest in being involved and/or supervising interns, please contact Jeff Burl (jeffrey.burl2@umassmed.edu).



ISPARC RECEIVES THREE NEW GRANTS

- Kathryn Sabella, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Thomas, Ph.D., Temple University, are co-directors of a new *“Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Community Living and Participation among Transition Age Youth with Serious Mental Health Conditions from Disadvantaged, Vulnerable, and Marginalized Backgrounds”* co-funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- Melissa Anderson, Ph.D., and the Deaf Yes! Team were awarded the 5-year project “*Evaluating Signs of Safety: A Deaf-Accessible Therapy Toolkit for AUD and Trauma*” by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA).
- Lourah Kelly, Ph.D., was awarded a 3-year project entitled “*Development and Evaluation of an Avatar Guided Mobile Health for Emerging Adults*” by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA).

For more information on these grants, visit [iSparc Grant News](#)

Awards

BRESCIANI RESEARCH AWARDS EXPANDED FOR 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

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 department by Arthur Bresciani in 1997, will consist of six travel awards each academic year. The awards will be used to support the travel of 6 people (3 dyads) with each person receiving \$2,500 to present at the annual meetings of the **American Psychological Association**, the **American Psychiatric Association**, and the **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry**. One dyad will consist of a Senior Faculty and a Junior Faculty (Assistant Professor or Instructor) member collaboration, and the other two dyads will contain a faculty member and a trainee collaboration. For mentored groups of 3 or more who wish to collaboratively submit a proposal, an award of \$5,000 will be divided amongst mentors, junior faculty and/or trainees.

Research News

NEW PSILOCYBIN STUDY

We are excited to announce that the Center for Psychopharmacologic Research and Treatment in the UMass Chan Department of Psychiatry, under the direction of Anthony Rothschild, M.D., was chosen as a site for a COMPASS sponsored phase 3 trial to evaluate the efficacy of psilocybin for treatment resistant depression.

This study will involve the administration of psilocybin in a controlled and comfortable setting, with substantial psychological support administered by trained therapists. The dosing session will last for 8 hours, have accompanying therapy, and will be preceded by several preparatory sessions with a lead and assistant therapist. Integration sessions will occur after the dosing session, with the goal of consolidating insights learned during the experience.

If you have patients interested in participating in this study, please contact Chelsea Kosma at 508-856-5312

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

SPECIAL LECTURE



**Linking Genetics to Brain Disorders
Using Comparative Genomics and Machine Learning**
Andreas Pfenning, Ph.D.
Wednesday, November 8, 2023
2:00-3:00 PM
Lazare Auditorium (S1-607)

We are very excited to announce this special lecture given by Andreas Pfenning, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Computational Biology, School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 moderators.

The next meeting is October 25th noon-1pm.

Psychopharmacology Journal Club Zoom link
[https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91950328105?](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91950328105?pwd=N0hKR2N4WWlQeENLSThVZnRwMmF1Zz09)
pwd=N0hKR2N4WWlQeENLSThVZnRwMmF1Zz09

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 began again on Thursday, September 21st. They 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 Chanel**.

For more information on upcoming Grand Rounds, visit our **Grand Rounds webpage**.

Recent Events



PSYCHIATRY RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS REPRESENT UMASS CHAN AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On September 5th, four members of the UMASS Psychiatry Residency went to Vancouver for the Association for Academic Psychiatry (AAP) Annual Meeting 2023, which was attended by more than 400 faculty, fellow, and resident physicians. They presented a workshop on Administrative Psychiatry in a small group setting that included program directors from across the United States and Canada.

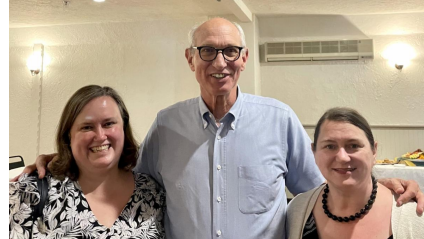
The workshop is based on an administrative elective introduced by Suliman El-Amin, MD, medical director of psychiatry at UMASS Marlborough Hospital with extensive support from Auralyd Padilla Candelario, MD, Program Director of the Psychiatry Residency Program at UMASS Chan School of Medicine. Dr. El-Amin noticed a need for cultivating management and leadership skills as core parts of psychiatry residency training. The elective was piloted by two third-year psychiatry residents, Dipav Banerjee, DO and Bogdan Anton, MD. These residents sought to implement a multidisciplinary care record to reduce wait times in the ED, and provide discharge paperwork in patients' preferred language, respectively.

Drs. Padilla Candelario and El-Amin presented the essential components for developing the elective. These included objectives, curriculum, and challenges they encountered. Drs. Anton and Banerjee presented their quality improvement projects and shared what they had learned as a result of being part of the administrative psychiatry elective. Workshop attendees completed worksheets that asked them to develop a mock elective at their institution and subsequently engaged in a lively Question and Answer session. The workshop was well-received and served as an enriching experience for our residents and faculty.

RETIREMENT PARTY FOR PETER METZ, M.D.

June 29, 2023

Thank you Dr. Metz for your 40 years of dedicated service.
We really appreciate you and all you've done.



Advancing Together Campaign



UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Advancing
together



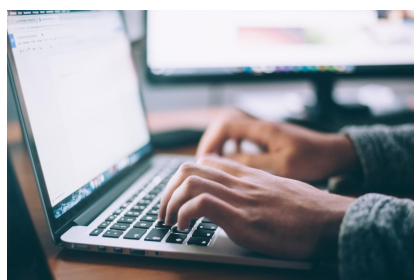
UMass Chan
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Advancing
together

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.

To find out more, please [Read More Here](#).

Other Helpful Information



Join The Departmental Writing Group

This group is run by Madelyn Hicks, M.D., FRCPsych and Kimberly Yonkers, M.D.

For more information, [click here](#).

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.

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News From The
University

UMass Chan Psychiatry Dept

55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, Massachusetts 01655
508-856-8989



Contact Us

UMass Chan/UMMH | Department of Psychiatry, 55 North Lake Ave, Worcester, MA 01655
<https://www.umassmed.edu/psych>

[Unsubscribe diane.george@umassmed.edu](mailto:diane.george@umassmed.edu)

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