

Message From the Chair

Welcome to our department quarterly newsletter.

We have a huge backlog of exciting news about our faculty, staff and learners, but space only for items going back about six months.

I am devoting this column to our department's finances for the year ending June 30, 2021. Although I went into some depth during our September Faculty Meeting, I want to ensure all faculty have access to this information.

First, let me start with a definition of contribution margin (CM), the bottom-line metric that the College uses to assess our financial performance (see figure). Academic departments contribute surplus/deficit, dean's tax (10% clinical revenue), and indirect grant/contract recoveries. Embedded in each department's surplus/deficit are its direct revenues (i.e., medical service revenues, direct recoveries, affiliate payments, endowments, etc.) and certain direct expenses (e.g., salaries, rent, services, supplies, travel, etc.).

THE CONTRIBUTION MARGIN Four Components



Of no surprise to anyone, COVID-19 affected both FY20 and FY21 financial data. However, as some restrictions on clinical activity were lifted and we pivoted to telepsychiatry, we can see evidence of recovery in our CM.

We ended the year with a **\$1M positive variance** largely due to the surplus in actual revenues *minus* budgeted expenses that equaled over \$1.4M. Despite the operational limitations experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the department continued to lead the telemedicine transition initiative and remained otherwise successful in clinical and research missions that resulted in **\$1.8M FY21 CM**. While this sizeable CM is something to be proud of, please be aware that all these funds are returned to the College and are not available for the department to spend.

The financial outlook for the department is productive, yet challenging for Fiscal Year 22 and beyond. In addition, in response to both COVID-19 and reductions of funding, the department is embracing the telehealth model of care and allowing some options for faculty/staff telecommuting to reduce the operating cost and physical footprint of the department. The department has taken steps to consolidate

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Dr. Shah Honored by the Pakistan Psychiatric Society

Dr. Asim Shah, professor of psychiatry & behavioral sciences and chief of psychiatry at Ben Taub Hospital, was honored by the Pakistan Psychiatric Society as Eminent Pakistani Psychiatrist 2020. The society cited his “25 years of meritorious achievements in teaching and training, remarkable expertise in community and disaster psychiatry and outstanding services in public and media engagement for promotion of mental health globally.”

UPDATE

Psychology Internship Program Accreditation

Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Director of the Psychology Internship Program, is pleased to share the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation (CoA) voted to reaffirm accreditation of the program for the maximum period allowed (10 years).

This decision is based on the CoA’s professional judgment that the program has demonstrated it adheres to the Standards of Accreditation in Health Service Psychology. The program will be listed among accredited programs in health service psychology on the accreditation web pages. The Commission recognized the exceptional quality of training provided by the program and deemed it in substantial compliance with the Standards of Accreditation. The program’s next site visit is scheduled for 2030.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the accreditation process, including the completion of the self-study, as well as, the site visit held in February. Special thanks to the department leadership, members of the internship training committee, and especially the psychology interns from current and past years for their support.



DISPARITIES GRANT

Technological Determinants of Health Factors associated with equitable utilization among minority adolescents and young adults receiving sexual health services

A multidisciplinary collaborative team including adolescent medicine (MPI Megna Sebastian, MD), public health (MPI Allyssa Abacan, MPH, Peggy Smith, PhD), psychology/psychiatry (Eric Storch, PhD, *pictured*) and pediatrics (Miriam Chacko, MD) was awarded a \$50,000 Health Disparities grant from BCM to explore telehealth acceptability and digital inequities (device access, internet access, and digital literacy) affecting utilization of telehealth for sexual health services among adolescents and young adults. Mixed methods will be used to 1) survey attitudes, barriers, and acceptability of telehealth services for STIs, and 2) understand through qualitative interviews attitudes, barriers, and facilitators around technology.



APPOINTMENT

Dr. Saunders: New DEI Position

The Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is pleased to appoint Dr. John Saunders as its inaugural Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) effective September 1, 2021.

Dr. Saunders also has been selected as a Fellow in the Equity Matters DEI Leadership Learning Community by Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. He will complete an 18-month program and present a capstone project.

Dr. Saunders was born in Oklahoma, raised in Texas, and completed his undergraduate education at the University of Oklahoma in 2004 with a Summa Cum Laude B.S. in Microbiology and a Summa Cum Laude B.A. in Psychology. He received his M.D. at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and completed his Psychiatry Residency and Community Psychiatry Fellowship.

In 2015, he joined BCM as a faculty member in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, where he has been working at Harris Health. Among his many honors and awards, Dr. Saunders is a recipient of a Norton Rose Fulbright Teaching and Evaluation Award and was selected as a Health Scholar for the BCM Center of Excellence in Health Equity Program.

In this new position, Dr. Saunders will have the opportunity to expand and coordinate elements of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that have already been developed as well as create new initiatives in alignment with BCM's offices of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion. Working closely with our Affiliates, he will assist with the development, implementation and tracking of outcomes for the Department's DEI Action Plan. He will leverage his existing clinical role at Harris Health to foster community engagement on issues of mental health inequities. As Vice Chair for DEI, Dr. Saunders will also chair the Department's DEI Committee, which includes its Faculty Inclusion Ambassadors.



Menninger: Best Hospital Rankings

In a nationwide survey, psychiatrists selected The Menninger Clinic as a top psychiatric hospital on U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Hospitals list. This year it moved up a notch, to #8.

Menninger has ranked among the top 10 national psychiatry leaders by the publication for more than 30 years.

Board Appointments: Dr. Shah

Houston Recovery Center:

Mayor Sylvester Turner and Houston City Council appointed Dr. Asim Shah to serve as Board Chair of Houston Recovery Center's Board of Directors. This nonprofit, which operates the city's sobering center, is a partner of Ben Taub and other emergency departments.

Dr. Shah will be a strong advocate for the board around substance use disorder and take it to another level.

"Sobering centers, and programs like these, are essential needs for cities like Houston," Dr. Shah relates.

Texana Board of Trustees: Commissioner Ken DeMerchant reappointed Dr. Shah to Position No. 4 representing Fort Bend County on the Texana Board of Trustees. Texana Center, a nonprofit that started in 1999, delivers life-changing services to people with behavioral health issues and developmental disabilities.

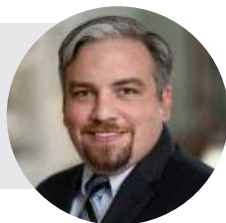


ANNOUNCEMENTS



Kim-Lan Czelusta, MD, Brown Foundation Chair in Psychiatric Education *has been approved by the BCM Board of Trustees. Dr. Czelusta is an Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Education in the department of psychiatry & behavioral sciences at the Baylor College of Medicine.*

Chadi Abdallah, MD, Announced as New Academic Director of CAMRI *(Core for Advanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging) as of January 1, 2021. Dr. Abdallah is an Associate Professor in the department of psychiatry & behavioral sciences, and a Beth K. and Stuart Yudofsky Chair in the Neuropsychiatry of Military Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.*



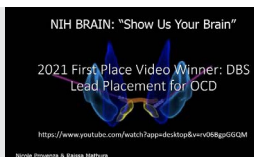
Jeffrey Khan, MD, appointed as a Clinical Director for the Baylor Psychiatry Clinic *at the Jamail Specialty Care Center. Dr. Khan is an Assistant Professor in the department of psychiatry & behavioral sciences at Baylor.*

Kirti Saxena, MD, appointed as a Chief of Psychiatry *at the Texas Children's Hospital. Dr. Saxena is an Associate Professor in the department of psychiatry & behavioral sciences at Baylor.*



Ali Asghar-Ali, MD, invited as Ex-officio *(non-voting) member of Baylor College of Medicine's Inclusion and Excellence Council for the 2020-2021 academic year. Council has valued his content area(s) of expertise in diversity and inclusion and are inviting him to assist in an advisory capacity. Dr. Asghar is an Associate Professor, Associate Director for Education and Director, Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship in the department of psychiatry & behavioral sciences at Baylor.*

Sanjay Johan Mathew, MD, Promoted to American College of Neuropsychopharmacology Fellow *Promotion was based on his scientific reputation and contributions to the college through committee work and involvement in the annual meeting program. Dr. Mathew is a Professor, Vice Chair for Research and Director, Mood and Anxiety Disorder Program in the department of psychiatry & behavioral sciences at Baylor.*



Featured on NIH Director's Blog *Our Psychiatry-Neurosurgery research team was featured in NIH's Director's Blog, The Amazing Brain: Deep Brain Stimulation for OCD. It describes a 360-degree view of deep brain stimulation (DBS) lead placement for one participant who underwent DBS surgery for obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). This research is truly a team effort with principal investigator Dr. Wayne Goodman and lead neurosurgeon Dr. Sameer Sheth. The project won a 2021 First Place Video award in the Show Us Your BRAINS! contest.*

Darius Dawson, PhD, invited to serve as a Member (trainee) of Baylor College of Medicine's Inclusion and Excellence Council for the 2020-2021 term. This will be an exciting opportunity for him to represent the voice of his fellow students, trainees, staff and faculty and share his passion and expertise to support diversity, inclusion and equity efforts across the college. Dr. Dawson is an instructor in the department of psychiatry & behavioral sciences at Baylor.



Ana Maria Rivas Grajales, MD named to Society of Biological Psychiatry Domestic Travel Fellowship Award. Dr. Grajales was a PGY4 resident in the department of psychiatry and has been selected as a recipient of the 2021 Society of Biological Psychiatry Domestic Travel Fellowship Award for the 2021 annual meeting of the Society of Biological Psychiatry (SOBP). Selection criteria include past excellence in scholarly work, potential for scholarly growth in biological psychiatry and clinical neuroscience, and overall excellence. The amount of the award is a stipend of \$2,000 to help defray expenses associated with the meeting.

"That's The Way Surprise Visit" Certificate Recipient Jeffrey Abass, MD, was selected as a recipient of the 'That's The Way Surprise Visit' certificate. He was a BCM PGY 3 when he received the award and is now a first year CAP Fellow at UT-Houston.



Robert J. Boland, MD, New Chief of Staff and Vice Chair at Menninger Baylor College of Medicine and The Menninger Clinic jointly announce the hiring of Dr. Boland as vice chairman of the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine and chief of staff at The Menninger Clinic.

Laura Marsh, MD, New Vice Chair for Veterans Affairs

Dr. Marsh has been appointed as the Vice Chair for Veterans Affairs. Dr. Marsh is a Professor of Psychiatry in the department of psychiatry & behavioral sciences at Baylor College of Medicine.



Ricardo Jorge, MD, Chair of Brain Injury Medicine Dr. Jorge was recently named Chair of Brain Injury Medicine in the Beth and Stuart Yudofsky Division of Neuropsychiatry. He is also co-chair on a \$30M grant from the VA to test a novel treatment for veterans with TBI, across 20 sites.

Jose Ribas Roca, MD, Selected as a Junior Faculty Scholar Dr. Ribas Roca has been selected as a Junior Faculty Scholar in the Center of Excellence (COE) in Health Equity, Training and Research.



Jan Lindsay, PhD, receives Major Contribution Award. Dr. Lindsay's work to increase use of telehealth, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has had a major impact in the continuity and quality of care to veterans and has been one of the major successes of the SC MIRECC in 2020.

Nithya Ramakrishnan, MS, received Early Career Research Award

American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology (ASCP) has awarded the 2021-2022 ASCP Early Career Research Award in the amount of \$5,000 to Ramakrishnan for her proposal titled, "Neurophysiological and Clinical Effects of the NMDA Receptor Antagonist Lanicemine (bhy-5500) in PTSD: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial."



Hyuntaek Oh, PhD, Receives \$90,000 Young Investigator Award from American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The grant, *Functional Connectivity Alterations in Suicidal Patients Among Opioid Users*, supports the work of young investigators who contribute to understanding suicide and prevention. Dr. Oh will be mentored by Dr. Ramiro Salas (BCM, Psychiatry; Menninger, Researcher) and will collaborate with Drs. Raymond Cho (BCM, Psychiatry), Neil Puri (Menninger, Director of Center for Brain Stimulation) and Jaehoon Lee (Texas Tech University), along with Vaughan Gilmore, LCSW, LCDC (Menninger, Director of Addictions Services).

Sophia Banu, MD, Received the Baylor College of Medicine Ben and Margaret Love Foundation Bobby Alford Award for Academic Clinical Professionalism.

The award recognizes physicians who model professionalism and humanism in their practice of medicine. The committee specifically recognized Dr. Banu's professional behavior, compassion, and warm interpersonal communication skills.



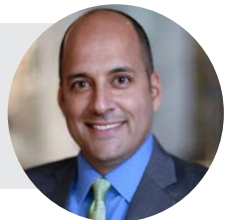
Mollie Gordon, MD, MA, received Clark Faculty Service Award

Dr. Gordon has been selected as a 2021 Clark Faculty Service Award recipient. This prestigious award recognizes her significant service with professionalism to Baylor College of Medicine. It is through her efforts that we are able to achieve exceptional outcomes relevant to the College's mission, vision and values.



Patient Experience Award for Baylor Psychiatry Clinic

Baylor Psychiatry Clinic is a winner of the "Most Improved Award" and "Best Performer Award for Patient Experience QI". We are the first clinic to receive both awards across the college.



Drs. Eric Storch and Sophie Schneider Awarded NIH Grant of \$4.2M

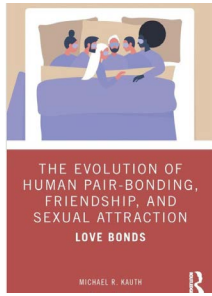
in collaboration with colleagues from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The five-year R01 grant is for "Optimized Affective Computing Measures of Social Processes and Negative Valence in Youth Psychopathology." This application develops and validates novel facial expression and linguistic measures that can be easily and widely disseminated across research and clinical settings to improve assessment of behavioral health conditions in youth. Other Baylor investigators include Drs. Leandra Berry, Kirti Saxena and Robin Kochel.



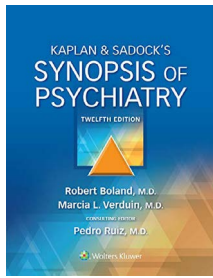
New Grant Honors Dr. Shah Hackett Family Foundation presented a \$100,000 grant to honor Dr. Asim Shah. The funds are part of a capital campaign to renovate the first floor at Ben Taub Hospital's Level 1 Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center.



BOOKS

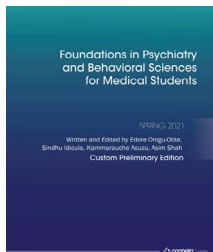


Dr. Michael Kauth published a book, *The Evolution of Human Pair-Bonding, Friendship and Sexual Attraction*. He has authored several papers and books on LGBT veteran health, implementation science, and evolution of sexual attraction.



Dr. Robert Boland's latest textbook, *Kaplan & Sadock's Synopsis of Psychiatry 12th Edition*, has been recognized on Doody's Core Title 2021 list, which highlights the best titles published within a variety of medical specialties.

Doody Enterprises, Inc. is an authoritative medical book review service that helps institutions and medical libraries with their purchasing decisions.



Foundations in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Sciences for Medical Students is a new book written and edited by Dr. Edore Onigu-Otite, Dr. Sindhu Idicula, Dr. Kammarauhe Asuzu, and Dr. Asim Shah.

Message From the Chair (continued from page 1)

the GreenPark location (Neuropsychiatry Division site) into the Jamail departmental space. The cost savings from the elimination of the departmental footprint at GreenPark is approximately \$300K per year and will be realized in FY22.

Although this report may not be scintillating — unless you hold an accounting degree — I hope you found it informative. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me or one of our financial authorities, Hafeez Ullah or Sue Mujica. Our overall strong financial performance last year would not have been possible without the support of our Affiliates and the hard work of all our faculty and staff. I am especially thankful given the grave challenges everyone faced because of the pandemic, which still threaten our safety and that of our patients. While our primary missions are clinical care, education, and research, our ability to carry out these missions is predicated on financial viability and sustainability.

EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATES



Lindsey Pershern, MD, new Director for General Psychiatry Residency Program Lindsey Pershern, MD, is the new Director for the General Psychiatry Residency Program. Dr. Pershern completed undergraduate studies at the University of Texas – Austin and received her Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Texas Health Science Center – San Antonio. Dr. Pershern then completed General Psychiatry residency at Baylor College of Medicine, where she served as Chief Resident. In addition to her residency education leadership responsibilities, Dr. Pershern will continue to serve as teaching faculty on the Consultation-Liaison Service at Ben Taub Hospital.



Shetal Amin, MD, new Assistant Training Director for CAP Fellowship Program Shetal Amin, MD, is the new Assistant Training Director for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. Dr. Amin is our current Legacy Community Clinic Site Director. Dr. Amin is a graduate and Chief Resident of our Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. Prior to coming to Baylor, she completed her General Psychiatry residency at the University of Illinois where she also served as Chief Resident. She completed her medical studies at St. George's and her undergraduate studies at Baylor in Waco, Texas.



Daryl Shorter, MD, new Medical Director of Addictions at Menninger Clinic Daryl Shorter, MD, started a new role at the Menninger Clinic as Medical Director of Addictions effective July 1, 2021 after serving as Program Director of the General Psychiatry Residency Program since 2017. He will remain Program Director of the Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship Program, which will double in size from two to four fellows in July, under his creative and excellent leadership. Dr. Shorter will play a pivotal role in addressing the national addiction epidemic by training the next generation of addiction psychiatrists and developing more substance use treatment options at the Menninger Clinic for our community.

RECOGNITION:

Roberto Sanchez, DO, BCM PGY4 resident, will be a Yale REACH scholar and complete the ABPN Senior Resident Administrative Fellowship during his PGY-4 year. He plans to pursue an addictions fellowship after residency.

Henry Heisey, MD, BCM PGY3 resident, was one of two recipients of the American Neuropsychiatric Young Investigator Award.

Heisey HD, Kunik ME, Paudyal A, Villareal DT: Impact of Body Composition on NIH Toolbox Cognition Battery Scores among Community Dwelling, Older Adults with Obesity. American Neuropsychiatric Association Annual Meeting. March 19, 2021. Platform presentation (Only six clinical and six research abstracts were accepted.)

Meet Our 2021-2022 Residents

GENERAL PSYCHIATRY RESIDENCY

Program Director: Lindsey Pershern, MD



Ahmed Ahmed, MBBCh

Medical School: Ain Shams University Faculty of Medicine
PhD in Clinical and Translational Science, Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences



Madeline Bos, MD

Undergraduate School: University of Texas at Dallas
Medical School: McGovern Medical School (UT Houston)



Ziba Colah, MD

Undergraduate School: University of Houston
Medical School: Baylor College of Medicine



Jacqueline Fenn, MD, PhD

Undergraduate School: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Medical School: University of Illinois College of Medicine
PhD in Neuroscience, Michigan State University



Thomas Ittoop, MD

Undergraduate School: Wayne State University
Medical School: Central Michigan University



Ava Jang, MD

Undergraduate School: Rice University
Medical School: Baylor College of Medicine



Yaman Kawamleh, DO

Undergraduate School: Boston University
Medical School: New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine
Undergraduate degree in Biology from Valparaíso University and a Master of Science in Management Studies from Boston University. DO from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Laura Kenyon, MD

Undergraduate School: University of Florida
Master's Degree in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, The Ohio State University
Medical School: Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University



Jennifer McDonald, DO

Undergraduate School: University of California, Berkeley
Medical School: Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine



Syed Murtaza, MBBS

Medical School: Frontier Medical and Dental College



Adeolu Oladunjoye, MBBCh

Medical School: Obafemi Awolowo University College
Master's in Public Health, Boston University School of Public Health



Katelyn Tate, MD

Undergraduate School: St. Edward's University
Medical School: University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth



Vivian Wang, MD

Undergraduate School: Northwestern University
Medical School: Baylor College of Medicine

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY FELLOWSHIP

Program Director: Laurel Williams, DO



Nnenna Akronu, MD

Undergraduate School: North Carolina State University
Medical School: The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina
University Residency: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center



Jenny Lee, MD

Undergraduate School: University of Virginia
Medical School: Eastern Virginia Medical School
Residency: University of Virginia



Ankur Bhagat, DO

Undergraduate School: University of Illinois
Medical School: Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
Residency: Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine



Kiran Malhi, MD

Undergraduate School: University at Buffalo
Medical School: American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine
Residency: University of Central Florida/HCA



Raheel Chaudhry, MD

Undergraduate School: Greenhead College
Medical School: International American University College of Medicine
Residency: Henry Ford Allegiance Health



Raheel Memon, MBBS

Medical School: Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences
Residency: Henry Ford Allegiance Health



Sharon Karki, MBBS

Medical School: Nepalgunj Medical College
Residency: St. Elizabeth's Medical Center



Crystal Obiozor, MD

Undergraduate School: Prairie View A&M
Medical School: University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine
Residency: Tulsa School of Community Medicine

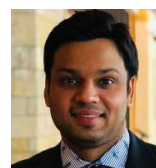
GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY FELLOWSHIP

Program Director: Ali Abbas Asghar-Ali, MD



Alexandra Sibley, MD

Undergraduate School: University of Pennsylvania
Medical School: Baylor College of Medicine
Residency: University of Mississippi Medical Center

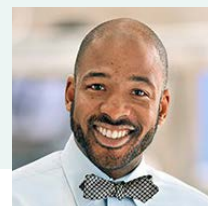


Ashish Sarangi, MBBS

College: Montego Bay Community College
Jamaica Medical School: University of the West Indies, Jamaica
Residency: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

ADDICTION PSYCHIATRY FELLOWSHIP

Program Director: Daryl Shorter, MD



Shetal Amin, MD

Undergraduate: University of Florida

Medical School: Meharry

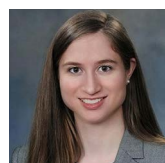
Residency: Baylor College of Medicine



Gurtej Mann, MBBS

Medical School: Sri Guru Ram Das Institute of Medical Sciences and Research

Residency: Central Michigan University College of Medicine



Claire Morice, MD

Undergraduate: Rice University

Medical School: Baylor College of Medicine

Residency: Baylor College of Medicine

Karachi Igwe, MD

Undergraduate: City University of New York - Lehman College

Medical School: St. George's University School of Medicine

Residency: University of Texas Rio Grande Valley



Britney Lambert, MD

Undergraduate: Spelman College
Medical School: Boston University

Residency: Louisiana State University Health Center - New Orleans

CONSULTATION LIAISON PSYCHIATRY FELLOWSHIP

Program Director:
Mauro Garcia-Altieri, MD

BEHAVIORAL NEUROLOGY & NEUROPSYCHIATRY FELLOWSHIP

Program Director:
Laura Marsh, MD



Madhuri Jakkam Setty, MBBS

Medical School: MBBS Sree Gokulam Medical College and Research Foundation

India Residency: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai-Elmhurst Hospital Center

Gabriela Austgen, MD

Undergraduate School: University of Notre Dame

Medical School: Baylor College of Medicine

Residency: Baylor College of Medicine

PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP

Program Director: Phuong Nguyen, PhD



Bryant Clayton

Internship Track: Menninger
Adult Track Graduate Program:
University of Indianapolis



Alyssa Hertz

Internship Track: OCD &
Related Disorders Track

Graduate Program:
Philadelphia College
of Osteopathic Medicine



Ashleigh Harvey

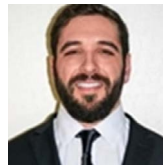
Internship Track: OCD &
Related Disorders Track
Graduate Program: University
of Wisconsin – Milwaukee



Alyssa (Allie) Townsend

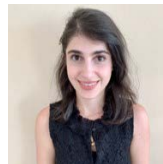
Internship Track: OCD &
Related Disorders Track

Graduate Program: Chicago
School of Professional Psych –
DC Campus



Afik Faerman

Internship Track: TIRR
MH Rehab Psychology/
Neuropsychology Track
Graduate Program: Palo Alto
University



Amanda Tamman

Internship Track: Mood
Disorders Track Graduate
Program: St. John's University



Johann D'Souza

Internship Track: completing
PhD in Clinical Psychology
Adult Track: University of
Houston

Of Forests, Trees, and Mushrooms: New Knowledge and Treatment Possibilities for PTSD and Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors



Dr. Lynnette A. Averill, Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Neuropsychiatry Division) gave an invited presentation for a private donor “Parlor Event” for the Brain and Behavior Foundation (BBRF) in May. Her presentation titled, “Of Forests, Trees, and Mushrooms: New Knowledge and Treatment Possibilities for PTSD and Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors,” provided a review of the evidence and discussion of ketamine and psychedelic medicine approaches. An adapted transcript of this presentation will be included in the upcoming issue of the BBRF’s magazine, *Brain & Behavior*.

Dr. Averill joined the BCM faculty in December 2020. Her line of research will provide a strong understanding of the relationship between synaptic dysconnectivity, chronic stress pathology, and treatment response while rapidly improving often treatment-resistant symptoms in patients.

Division of Global Mental Health Updates

The BCM Division of Global Mental Health, comprising the Clinic for International Trauma Survivors (CITS) and the Anti-Human Trafficking Program (AHTP), remains involved in teaching and educational trainings, clinical care, research, and advocacy.

The Global Mental Health elective increased from 2-4 weeks, while 3rd year residents and child psych fellows rotate at the CITS. The AHTP Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Nicole White began in summer 2021. Practitioners see patients at the CITS, The Alliance Wellness Clinic, and the Anti-Human Trafficking Program.

Group Therapy for Congolese Men at The Alliance and a Trauma Therapy Group at Ben Taub will be starting this fall. Faculty continue to train healthcare providers on human trafficking for licensing requirements under an OVC grant. The Division looks forward

to a Physicians for Human Rights training November 13, organized by Human Rights and Asylum Clinic. Additionally, faculty and trainees lecture at empowerment groups, HIAS, grand rounds, national meetings, and teaching hospitals across the United States. IRB-approved research continues with over a half dozen newly published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters this year. Task Forces were established on mental health for Afghani Evacuees and Congolese clients. Community engagement includes food and hygiene drives and outreach panels.

International Advocacy at the UN resulted in the publication of the Delta Justice Policy Guide, and team members continue to train international governments in building capacity for gender-based violence.



New Department Communications Lead

Vicki Powers joined the department as Lead Coordinator, Communications. She will be handling the quarterly newsletter, web content, department social media, and other special projects.

Vicki is a native Texan with a heart for nonprofits. In her previous role, she managed marketing and communications for Houston Recovery Center, a nonprofit that operates the city's sobering center. She also launched and ran the hyperlocal site, Houston on the Cheap, for nine years.

Vicki is excited to join the BCM Psychiatry team and share her skills and passion for making a difference.

Baylor
College of
Medicine

MENNINGER
DEPARTMENT OF
PSYCHIATRY &
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Editors-in-Chief: Wayne Goodman, MD, & Asim A. Shah, MD
Editor: Vicki Powers

To be added to the newsletter list, send a request to
✉ vanessa.swatzell@bcm.edu.