

Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior

Highlights and Achievement of Faculty Members

FY 2020

Dr. Karen Bailey

Articles

- Peter Ash, MD, Victoria C. Roberts, MEd, LPC, Glenn J. Egan, PhD, Kelly L. Coffman, MD, Tomina J. Schwenke, PhD, and Karen Bailey, PhD. A Jail-Based Competency Restoration Unit as a Component of a Continuum of Restoration Services. *J Am Acad Psychiatry Law* 48(1) online, 2020. DOI:10.29158/JAAPL.003893-20
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Dr. Michael Banov

Articles

- Michael D. Banov, Jonathan R. Young, Tyler Dunn, and Steven T. Szabo. Efficacy and safety of ketamine in the management of anxiety and anxiety spectrum disorders: a review of the literature. *CNS Spectrums* (2019), page 1–12 doi:10.1017/S1092852919001238
-

Dr. Marshall Bedder

Presentation

- Presented a lecture to the Georgia Association of Physician Assistant (GAPA) dinner. "Current status of Opioids in chronic pain and alternative strategies with interventional pain. December 2019.
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Dr. Joseph Bona

Achievements/Awards

- Appointed to the Georgia Mental Health Reform and Innovation Commission by the Governor
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Dr. Jessica Britt

Articles

- Britt, J.Y., Patton, CL., Remaker, D., Prell, L., & Vitacco, M.J. (2019) Predicting violence risk and recidivism in female parolees: A state-wide sample. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 66(2019) 101471 doi 10.1016/j.ijlp.2019.101471
-

Dr. Richard Camino-Gatzambide

Chapters

- Book chapter in a human development textbook in Spanish. Chapter translated as Spirituality, Religion, and Mental Health from a Clinical Perspective

Presentations

- Presented at the International Congress in Spirituality and Psychiatry 4th Global Meeting in Spirituality and Mental Health. "Clinical Use of Moral Development with Families and Patients with Religious Struggles" December 2019 Jerusalem, Israel
-

Dr. Bernard Davidson

Other

- Interview and distributed media story. Tips to beat the blues this season. Media relations, MCG, AU December 13, 2019
-

Dr. Christopher Drescher

Articles

- Drescher, C. F., Griffin, J. A., Casanova, T., Kassing, F., Wood, E., Brands, S., & Stepleman, L. M. (in press). Associations of physical and sexual violence victimization, homelessness, and perceptions of safety with suicidality in a community sample of transgender individuals. *Psychology & Sexuality*.

Other

- POSTER: O'Hayer, C. V., Smith, P. J., Drescher, C. F., Nurse, C. N., Hendry, M., & Stephen, M. J. (October, 2019). ACT with CF Next Directions: Design of a multisite RCT of telehealth-delivered Acceptance and Commitment Therapy vs TAU for anxiety and depression. Poster to be presented at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Nashville, TN.

Presentations

- Drescher, C. F. (chair & presenter), Dvorak, M., Bowen, A., Fedele, Bruschwein, H. (October, 2019). Brief (Targeted) Psychosocial Interventions Clinic. Symposium to be presented at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Nashville, TN.
 - Huffman, B., Troxler, B., Drescher, C. F., Katz, E. (October, 2019). Sleep Issues in CF: The Importance of Sleep Hygiene. Symposium to be presented at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, Nashville, TN.
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Dr. Denise Evans

Presentations

- "Working with Persons with Schizophrenia in Hospice/Palliative Care." Hospice Veteran Partnership Quarterly Meeting, Charlie Norwood VAMC. Augusta, GA, December 13, 2019.
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Dr. Amy House

Other

- Guest co-editor on an edition of the Child Adolescent Psychiatry Clinics of North America "Psychosis in Children and Adolescents: A Guide for Clinicians."
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Dr. Eric Lewkowiez

Achievements/Awards

- Awarded the honor of Distinguished Fellow for the American Psychiatric Association. He will be recognized for significant contributions to the field of psychiatry during the upcoming APA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.
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Dr. Donna Londino

Presentations

- Mentored undergraduate student who presented at ACAP in Chicago. Examining the Occurrence of Conversion Disorder Diagnosis and ASD Among Adolescents and Young Adults in the Emergency Department. Katherine A. Jester, Department of Psychological Sciences, Augusta University, Augusta, GA; Donna L. Londino, MD; Joy Hayman
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Dr. Vaughn McCall

Articles

- Martinez A, Parker CB, Spearman EV, Rosenquist PB, McCall WV. Globus pharyngeus: etiology, taxonomy, and response to electroconvulsive therapy. *Harvard Review of Psychiatry* 2019;27(254-259. doi:10.1097/HRP.000000000000229
- McCall WV, Benca RM, Rumble ME, Case D, Rosenquist PB, Krystal AD. Prevalence of obstructive sleep apnea in suicidal patients with Major Depressive Disorder. *Journal of Psychiatric Research* 2019;116: 147-150.
- Haq IU, Snively BM, Sweadner KJ, Suerken CK, Cook JF, Ozelius LJ, Miller C, McCall WV, Whitlow C, Brashear A. Revising Rapid-Onset Dystonia-Parkinsonism indications for ATP1A3 testing. *Movement Disorders* 2019; 34: 1528-1536
- McCall WV, Benca RM, Rosenquist PB, Youssef NA, McCloud L, Newman JC, Case D, Rumble ME, Szabo ST, Phillips M, Krystal AD. Reducing suicidal ideation through insomnia treatment (REST-IT): a randomized clinical trial. *American J Psychiatry* 2019: 176: 957-965
- Yao Z, McCall WV, Essali N, Wohl E, Parker C, Rosenquist P, Youssef NA. Precision ECT for Major Depressive Disorder: A review of clinical factors, laboratory, and physiologic biomarkers as predictors of response and remission. *Personalized Medicine in Psychiatry* 2019; 17-18:23-31 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmip.2019.07.001>

Abstracts

- Youssef NA, George MS, McCall WV, Sahlem GL, Short B, Kerns S, Dancy M, Cook D, Devries W, Rosenquist PB, Sackeim HA. Reduction of suicidality in depressed patients with focal

electrically administered seizure therapy (FEAST) compared to standard right unilateral (RUL) ECT. J ECT 2019;35, e21

- Cicek M, McCall WV, Sackeim HA, Rosenquist P, Youssef NA. Effect of electric parameters and electrode placement on cognitive side effects of ECT in patients with schizophrenia. A systematic review. J ECT 2019; 35: e22

Other

- Editorial & Commentaries: Rosenquist PB, McCall WV. Somewhere over the rainbow. J ECT 2019;35:145
- Editorials & Commentaries: Chanpattana W, McCall WV. Commentary on Braga et al: the potential; of large simple trials to determine the real-world effectiveness of combined electroconvulsive therapy and antipsychotics in treating patients with treatment-resistant schizophrenia. J ECT 2019;35:153-155
- Editorial & Commentaries: Jacobs WS, McCall WV. Commentary on the role of transcranial direct current stimulation in substance use disorders. J ECT 2019;35:152

Presentations

- REST-IT Results: Sleep measures and suicidal ideation. World Sleep 2019. Vancouver, British Columbia. September 25, 2019.
- Sleep disorders as a risk factor and the impact of treating insomnia in suicidal patients. World Sleep 2019. Vancouver, British Columbia. September 25, 2019. (moderator of symposium)
- WJBF news Channel 6 story October 2, 2019 "Treating insomnia can reduce thoughts of suicide."
- Overview of insomnia. Part of the symposium "Wide Awake: a panel discussion on sleep problems, sleep medication, and suicide". Valparaiso University. Valparaiso, Indiana. October 18th, 2019.
- Pharmacologic treatment of insomnia. Valparaiso University. Valparaiso, Indiana. October 19th, 2019.
- Reducing suicidal ideation through treatment of insomnia (REST-IT): a randomized clinical trial. International Summit on Suicide Research. Miami Beach, Florida. October 30th, 2019
- The role of medications for treating sleep symptoms associated with depression and PTSD. Valparaiso University. Valparaiso, Indiana. October 19th, 2019.

Achievements/Awards

- Highest Altmetric score out of all American Journal of Psychiatry articles published in September. "Reducing Suicidal Ideation Through Insomnia Treatment (REST-IT): A Randomized Clinical Trial"
- Listed as Best Doctors in America" in Psychiatry for 2019 – 2020
- Grant reviewer activity: Ad Hoc Reviewer for NIMH Special Emphasis Panel ZMH1 ERB-D (02) S "Pharma/Device Early Phase Clinical Trials"

- The paper "Reducing suicidal ideation through insomnia treatment (REST-IT): a randomized clinical trial" was first authored by Dr McCall, with co-authors also from within the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior. The paper was published in November in the American Journal of Psychiatry, and has now been selected by the Editors of the American Journal of Psychiatry as one of the seven most 'interesting and important' articles published by the Journal in 2019. Notably, Dr McCall and his team also were given the same honor in 2017 for their paper "Hypnotic medications and suicide: risk, mechanisms, mitigation, and the FDA" which was also published by the American Journal of Psychiatry. The American Journal of Psychiatry is the flagship journal for the American Psychiatric Association

Dr. Joseph McEvoy

Presentations

- Grand Rounds -- "The Treatment and Management of Schizophrenia" University of Utah SLC, Utah October 2, 2019
- Psychopharmacology Summit, Global Medical Education, Scottsdale, AZ, 10/18 -- "The Treatment of Schizophrenia"
- Lecture -- "Clozapine for Aggression/Violence and/or Self-Injury/Suicide" in Course: Everything You Wanted to Know About Clozapine Institute for Psychiatric Services Meeting NY, New York October 4, 2019

Achievements/Awards

- Listed as "Best Doctors in America" in Psychiatry for 2019 - 2020

Dr. Dion Metzger

Achievements/Awards

- Became part of the inaugural class of the top 10 under 40 at Morehouse SOM

Dr. Brian Miller

Articles

- Jackson AJ, Miller BJ. Meta-Analysis of Total and Differential White Blood Cell Counts in Schizophrenia Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica 2019. In press.
- Miller B. Family history of diabetes: is there an association with non-affective psychosis? Psychiatric Times. 2019. 33(12).
- Miller B. Examining the Link Between the Immune System and Schizophrenia. Psychiatric Times. 2019. 36(11): 1.

Presentations

- Chung J, Miller BJ. Meta-analysis of comorbid diabetes and family history of diabetes in nonaffective psychosis. Schizophrenia Research 2019. In press.
- Miller BJ, Goldsmith DR. Inflammatory Biomarkers in Schizophrenia: Implications for Heterogeneity and Robustness. Biomarkers in Neuropsychiatry 2019. In press.
- Luch E, Miller BJ. Rates of Hepatitis B and C in Patients with Schizophrenia: A Meta-Analysis. General Hospital Psychiatry 2019. In press.

Achievements/Awards

- Appointed to the Editorial Board of a new journal, Biomarkers in Neuropsychiatry

Dr. Anil Pillai

Achievements/Awards

- Awarded National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Mental Health "Chronic stress, complement immune system and behavior" \$421,938.00 (Total Costs)
Role in project: Principal Investigator
- Awarded National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Mental Health "Complement component, neuroinflammation and depression" \$1,907,616.00 (Total Costs) Role in project: Principal Investigator
- Elected to membership in the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. This membership signifies major peer recognition of accomplishments and contributions to the field of Neuropsychopharmacology research.

Dr. Sandra Sexson

Articles

- Hunt, J. Brannan, E. Sexson, S. "Lifelong Learning for Professional Development in Psychiatry: Pedagogy, Innovations, and Maintenance of Certification." Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2019 Sep;42(3):425-437

Achievements/Awards

- Listed as The Best Doctors in America in the Augusta Magazine
- Listed as Best Doctors in America" in Psychiatry for 2019 - 2020

Dr. Vanessa Spearman

Achievements/Awards

- Elected as Councillor (one of 5) for the Association of Medicine and Psychiatry Council for the 2019-2021 term.

- Recipient of the 2019 Roger Kathol Pioneering Spirit Award. the Roger Kathol Pioneering Spirit Award is intended to honor an outstanding physician who demonstrates excellence in integrated care. The physician should be 5-10 years out from training and come from a combined Internal Medicine-Psychiatry, Family Medicine-Psychiatry, Pediatrics-Psychiatry-Child Psychiatry, or Neurology-Psychiatry residency program in the United States
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Dr. Lara Stepleman

Articles

- Pavani Rangachari, P., May, K.R., Stepleman, L.M., Tinger, M.S., Looney, S., Liang, Y., Rockston-Winston, N., Rethemeyer, R.K. (2019). Measurement of Key Constructs in a Holistic Framework, for Assessing Self-Management Effectiveness of Pediatric Asthma. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 16, 3060; doi:10.3390/ijerph1617306
- Griffin*, JA, Eldridge ED, Casanova T, & Stepleman LM (in press) Gender Minority Stress and Physical Health. *Transgender Health*

Achievements/Awards

- Appointed to service as a member for the Faculty Appointments, Development, Promotions, and Tenure Committee of the Medical College of Georgia Faculty Senate.
 - Named the AU Health LGBTQ information officer in the Center for Patients and Families to act as a resource and liaison to facilitate an inclusive, patient-and family-centered care environment for LGBTQ patients.
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Dr. Sandarsh Surya

Other

- Commentary: Surya S, Bishnoi R, Shashank R. "Balancing Medical Ethics to Consider Involuntary Administration of Electroconvulsive Therapy" *J ECT* 2019;35:150-151.
-

Dr. Ashwin Tiwari

Articles

- Kinnish, K., McCarty, C., Tiwari, A., Osborne, M., Glasheen, T., Franchot, K. K., Kramer, C., & Self-Brown, S. (2019). Featured counter-trafficking program: Project intersect. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104132>.
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Dr. Michael Vitacco

Articles

- Dexter, E. & Vitacco, M.J. (in press). Strategies for Assessing and Preventing Inpatient Violence in Forensic Hospitals: A Call for Specificity. *European Psychologist*.
-

Dr. Lindsay West

Chapters

- Oshin, L., Ching, T., & West, L. M. (2019). Supervising therapist trainees of color. In M. Williams, D. Rosen, & J. Kanter (Eds). *Eliminating Race-Based Mental Health Disparities: Using contextual behavioral science to achieve equity and excellence across settings and communities* (pp. 187-202). Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications.
-

Dr. Tasha Wyatt

Articles

- Tien, L., Wyatt, T. R., Tews, M. & Kleinheksel, A.J. Simulation as a Tool to Promote Professional Identity Formation and Patient Ownership in Medical Students. *Journal of Simulation and Gaming*. 2019.
-

Dr. Nagy Youssef

Articles

- Koenig HG, Youssef NA, Pearce M. Assessment of Moral Injury in Veterans and Active Duty Military Personnel With PTSD: A Review. *Front Psychiatry*. 2019 June 28; 10:443. PMID: 31316405
- Koenig HG, Youssef NA, Smohters Z, Olive rJP, Boucher NA, Ames D, Volk F, Teng EJ, Haynes K. Hope, Religiosity, and Mental Health in US Veterans and Active Duty Military with PTSD Symptoms. *Mil Med*. 2019. June 27. doi 10.1093/milmed/usz146. PMID: 31247101.
- Youssef NA, Hernandez J, Biles T. Can catatonia be a pathological response to fear and trauma? *Ann Clin Psychiatry*. 2019 Aug;31(3):222-223. PubMed PMID: 31369660
- Patel RS, Sreeram V, Thakur T, Bachu R, Youssef NA. A national study for regional variation of inpatient ECT utilization from 4,411 hospitals across the United States. *Ann Clin Psychiatry*. 2019 Aug;31(3):200-208. PubMed PMID: 31369658.
- Patel RS, Jain SB, Youssef NA. Electroconvulsive Treatment Utilization for the Inpatient Management of Severe Manic Episodes of Bipolar Disorder. *J ECT*. 2019 Sep;35(3):195-200. doi: 10.1097/YCT.0000000000000587. PubMed PMID: 30870263
- Patel RS, Bachu A, Youssef NA. Combination of lithium and electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is associated with higher odds of delirium and cognitive problems in a large national sample across the United States. *Brain Stimul*. 2019 Aug 22. pii: S1935-861X(19)30358-4. doi: 10.1016/j.brs.2019.08.012. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 31492631
- Patel RS, Bachu A, Youssef NA. Combination of lithium and electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is associated with higher odds of delirium and cognitive problems in a large national sample across the United States. *Brain Stimul*. 2020 Jan-Feb;13(1):15-19. PubMed PMID: 31492631
- Koenig HG, Youssef NA, Ames D, Teng EJ, Hill TD. Examining the Overlap Between Moral Injury and PTSD in US Veterans and Active Duty Military. *J Nerv Ment Dis*. 2020 Jan;208(1):7-12. PubMed PMID: 31738222

Other

- TV interview. Stress and Health; good and bad sides: Comment on ranking of the most and least stressed cities in the nation. (Augusta 19th). WJBF Channel 6, Local news July 23, 2019.

Presentations

- Youssef NA. Epigenetics and Transgenerational Effects. Invited talk to PsychD students and Faculty, California Pacifica Institute. July 12, 2019.
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Dr. Katherine Moyer

Achievements and Awards

- Awarded a VA Challenge Coin from VA Secretary Robert Wilkie for service to VA