



2019 Department of Psychiatry Annual Holiday Letter

Contents

Advancing Clinical Care

With outstanding patient care driving the mission of Weill Cornell Medicine Psychiatry, we are constantly working to improve and expand our clinical care.

Advancing Research and Scholarship

Celebrating our researchers' collaborative efforts to convert conceptual breakthroughs into novel therapies and clinical applications.

Advancing Education and Training

An array of opportunities for continued growth and learning within the psychiatry community allows faculty and students to educate and collaborate.

Advancing Careers

We proudly highlight faculty whose achievements have been honored with promotions this year.

Advancing Diversity

As part of our mission, we continue to strive to include different perspectives, proficiencies, and life experiences to advance patient care and scientific knowledge.

Advancing our Partnerships

We thank our partners, who are an integral part of our mission to drive research, education, and clinical care within the psychiatry community.

In Memoriam

Transitions

In Acknowledgement of Our Administrative Leaders and Staff

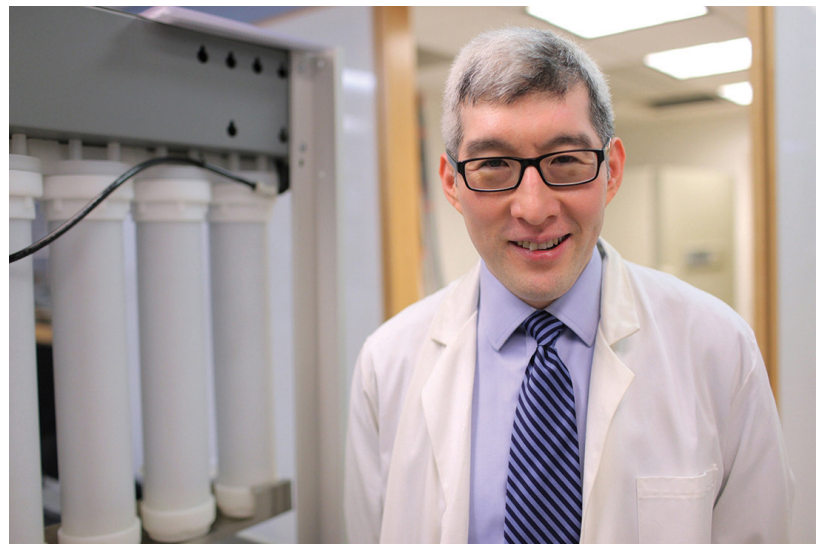
Message from the Chair:

It is a great pleasure to share this newsletter that provides highlights of the Department of Psychiatry's accomplishments this past year. It is a privilege to serve as Chair and I wish to express my deepest thanks to all of the people whose commitment to our program ensures our ongoing success. In particular I am grateful to the leaders of the Medical College and Hospital for their wisdom and support. I am proud of our outstanding faculty and staff whose talents, passion, and commitment to the advancement of patient care, science, and education distinguish our program as one of the top in the nation. I would also like to acknowledge our donors whose generous philanthropy accelerates the advancement of our missions.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and New Year!

Francis Lee, MD, PhD
Chair, Department of Psychiatry
Weill Cornell Medicine

Psychiatrist-in-Chief
New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center





Justin Mohatt, MD

Advancing Clinical Care

NewYork-Presbyterian Psychiatry is consistently ranked in the top five psychiatry programs in the country by U.S. News and World Report. This is in large part due to the strength of the partnership between the departments of psychiatry of WCM and Columbia Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and their leadership including **Jeffrey Lieberman, MD**, Chair of Psychiatry and, **Lou Baptista-Neto, MD**, Vice Chair for Clinical Services.

We also acknowledge the vision and leadership of **Philip Wilner, MD, MBA**, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of NYP Westchester and Executive Vice Chair for the Department who is responsible for standardizing and regionalizing the broad array of behavioral health programs and services across the NYP enterprise.

This was a very special year in the life of our department with the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the NYP Westchester campus in October. In a moving ceremony co-hosted by **Laura Forese, MD**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of NYP and **Dr. Philip Wilner**, we recognized the long and prestigious history of the campus has been distinguished by its patient-centered approaches to care since opening its doors in 1894. The celebration was capped by the announcement that the program would now be called the **NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Health Center**, which is a name that truly reflects the program's prominence in American Psychiatry. We are grateful to the Hospital leadership for its ongoing commitment and significant investment in the Westchester program and for Dr. Wilner for his leadership of one of the oldest and most prestigious programs in the country. We also thank **Mark Russ, MD**, Vice Chair and Medical Director of the program for his leadership.



From Left to Right: White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach; **Dr. Francis Lee**, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine and psychiatrist-in-chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Benjamin Boykin; White Plains Common Council Member Milagros Lecuona; Dr. Laura Forese, executive vice president and chief operating officer of NewYork-Presbyterian; New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins; New York State Senator Shelley Mayer; **Dr. Philip J. Wilner**, senior vice president and chief operating officer of NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Health Center; Dr. Herbert Pardes, Executive Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, NewYork- Presbyterian

Photo Credit: Courtesy of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital



Linda Espinosa, MS, RN, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of NYP Westchester Behavioral Health Center and NYP Weill Cornell Medical Center (Behavioral Health), continues to achieve success in maintaining high metrics in patient experience, employee engagement, and quality and patient safety, and for also maintain the highest standards expected as a Magnet designated hospital. Magnet designation is awarded by the American Nurses' Credential Center to hospitals that satisfy a set of criteria designed to measure the strength and quality of their nursing and overall program. In 2018, NYP Westchester was the first campus to receive Magnet designation at NYP. Since then NYP Weill Cornell and Columbia University Irving Medical Center have also received this important designation.

Lisa Sombrotto, MD, continues to be an outstanding and creative leader in her roles as Clinical Director for the program at NYP Weill Cornell Medical Center and in her role as Associate Chief Quality Officer for NYP. This past year she also took on the added responsibility of overseeing the Consultation Liaison program at NYP.

The New York City Police Department established a new partnership with New York-Presbyterian Psychiatry to launch the **Finest Care program**. The program was established to address the rising suicide rate in the NYPD and offers uniformed NYPD officers access to free and confidential mental health services. This important program is being led by **Judith Cukor, PhD**, Associate Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine with care being provided by the faculty from the departments of Psychiatry of WCM and Columbia Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

We look forward to working more closely with our colleagues at NYP Brooklyn Methodist and welcomed its Chief of Psychiatry, **Jessy Colah, MD**, to the faculty of Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Colah was appointed Vice Chair of NYP Brooklyn Methodist Psychiatry and will serve on our Department's Steering Committee. We also thank **Donna Anthony, MD**, our partner at Gracie Square Hospital, for her ongoing collaborations with our program. We congratulate Dr. Anthony and her colleagues for receiving Gold Certification from the Planetree Organization that recognizes organizations who demonstrate excellence in providing person-centered care. Gracie Square Hospital is only the second behavioral health organization to receive this designation with NYP Westchester being the first in the nation.

Our service line is leading the way in providing care to emergency departments across the NYP enterprise through our innovative Telepsychiatry Program. This new team of psychiatrists led by **Christina Shayevitz, MD**, Chief of the Telepsychiatry service, will provide psychiatric consultation to NYP Queens, NYP Lawrence Hospital, and NYP Hudson Valley Hospital 24/7 and 365 days of the year.



Physician Organization

We have over 100 clinicians in the department's faculty practice plan providing outstanding outpatient clinical care and representing a depth and breadth of excellence in clinical expertise. We also appreciate the thoughtful planning of Dr. Mohatt who is the Vice Chair of the Psychiatry Physician Organization and has been instrumental in strategic planning and faculty recruitment to expand the program.

The **Pediatric OCD, Anxiety and Tic Disorders Program (POCAT)** was relaunched under the new leadership of **Avital Falk, PhD**, who has expanded the program to include inpatient, partial hospitalization, and outpatient services and also a new postdoctoral training position. POCAT also offers an intensive outpatient treatment program that provides a team-based approach to treating children and adolescents utilizing state-of-the-art evidence-based practices. POCAT provides one of the only Intensive Treatment Programs for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Anxiety in the region and has been featured in an article by the New York Times.

We are also excited about the development of the new **Westchester Psychiatry Specialty Center** based on the campus of NYP Westchester and replicates the highly successful fully supported group practice model of the Manhattan Psychiatry Specialty Center.

Center of Excellence for Tourette Syndrome

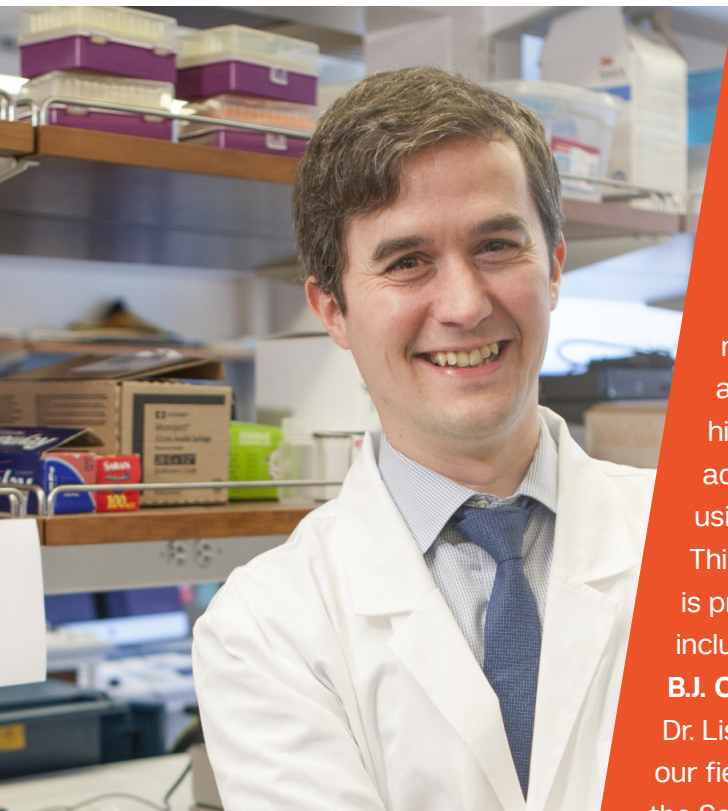
Shannon Bennett, PhD

Shannon Bennett, PhD and **Justin Mohatt, MD**, serve as Co-Directors of the Center of Excellence for Tourette Syndrome at Weill Cornell Medicine, which a designation from the Tourette Association of America that was recently renewed for another two years. Dr. Bennett and colleagues from the Behavioral Sciences Consortium of the Tourette Association of America received a Eugene Washington Engagement Award from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to host a two-day National Summit, called Treating Tourette Together that occurred in August 2019 and included 45 stakeholder participants including healthcare professionals, researchers, and, people with Tourette Syndrome and their families. The summit's goal was to create a formal agenda for the next generation of research on behavioral interventions for Tourette and Tic Disorders.



Discover

Advancing Research & Scholarship



Conor Liston, MD, PhD

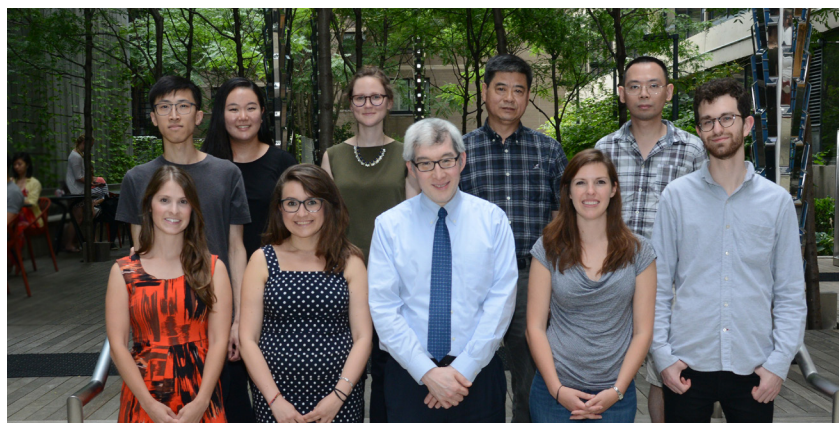
The Sackler Institute

The Department celebrated the conclusion of a very important search process with the appointment of **Conor Liston, MD, PhD**, to the role of Director of the Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology and appointment as the Sackler Associate Professor of Developmental Psychobiology. In this role Dr. Liston will oversee and expand the Institute's world-class multidisciplinary research program investigating the psychology and psychobiology of human developmental processes. As a highly accomplished translational neuroscientist, Dr. Liston will advance the translational research mission of the Institute by using computational approaches to functional neuroimaging. This program is a crown jewel of the our Institution and Dr. Liston is preceded by luminaries in the developmental psychology field including **Michael Posner, Ph.D.**, the Institute's Founding Director, and **B.J. Casey, Ph.D.**, both of whom remain connected to the Institute. Dr. Liston has an extensive research portfolio and has published in our field's most important journals. This appointment ensures that the Sackler Institute will continue to be at the forefront of scientific advancement in our field.

An important line of investigation that Dr. Liston and his colleagues are pursuing is to improve our understanding of brain circuitry-symptom relationships with the goal of leading us to neurobiologically-informed treatments. To that end, **Dr. Liston** and **Faith Gunning, PhD**, have brought together their expertise in novel computational neuroimaging approaches and experimental therapeutics to conduct an NIMH-funded study to test a computational strategy developed by Dr. Liston. The goal of the study is to confirm neuroimaging biomarkers of novel subtypes of depression and anxiety in individual patients. They have also been awarded a large multi-site grant from the NIMH to conduct the pivotal study to test and replicate this computational neuroscience approach in a randomized controlled trial that will definitively evaluate their ability to improve the efficacy of a network-based neurostimulation approach for treatment resistant depression.

The Lee Lab

Continuing with **Translational and Basic Science Research**, the Lee Lab, along with colleagues at Yale University have reported progress in unraveling the underlying neural basis for social anxiety, leading to further knowledge in development of treatments and interventions for individuals with anxiety disorders. These findings are part of **Heidi Meyer, PhD's** National Institute of Mental Health funded research on Developmental engagement of neural circuitry underlying safety learning and **Danielle Gerhard, PhD's** CTSC TL1 Training Award to study the impact of juvenile stress on the development of social behavior and the underlying neural circuits that mediate these behaviors using preclinical models.



Members of the Lee Lab



George Alexopoulos, MD

Weill Cornell Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry

Our **Weill Cornell Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry**, headed by founding director **George Alexopoulos, MD**, is recognized as one of the country's premier programs conducting ground-breaking research in late-life psychiatric disorders, training future research and clinical leaders, and providing high-quality specialized care to older adults. As part of Dr. Alexopoulos' NIMH funded ALACRITY Center grant, **Lindsay Victoria, PhD** and **Nili Solomonov, PhD** are conducting a collaborative MRI pilot study to identify the neural circuits contributing to reward abnormalities in depressed older adults. Dr. Victoria has been awarded a new K01 Career Development Award by the NIMH to support her work that combines neuroimaging and computational models to examine the interaction of reward and salience abnormalities in aging and depression. The work by these promising young investigators could lead to the development of personalized behavioral interventions for depressed older adults.

Dimitris Kiosses, PhD, continues his NIH-funded research of a psycho-social intervention designed to prevent suicide, in addition to a treatment trial which evaluates the effectiveness of interventions on the improvement of cognitive impairment and depression. He has traveled extensively this past year at the invitation of multiple countries around the world to share his preliminary findings as well as lead clinical trainings for mental health providers. In December his Problem Adaption Therapy that was developed with the aim to help older adults with dementia cope with depression was featured in an article in the New York Times and has garnered much attention.

Jo Anne Sirey, PhD, Associate Director for Community Integration of the Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry, has been awarded an expansion of her program funded by the New York State Department for the Aging (DFTA) to deliver mental health services to older adults in community based settings. Dr. Sirey's program, called TRIO, brings together mental health, medical expertise, and social and aging support services in an integrated program for older adults that is delivered in senior centers. Dr. Sirey will expand from 9 to 15 senior center sites across Brooklyn and Staten Island. In addition, Dr. Sirey and DFTA have received a grant from the department of Justice to expand the delivery of an intervention called PROTECT that is designed to reduce depression among elder abuse victims. These projects extend our Department's mission to deliver care to vulnerable adults with mental health treatment needs identified outside of medical service settings.

Jennifer Bress, PhD, continues her NIMH-funded research assessing target engagement in depressed older adults receiving psychotherapy therapy using ERP and a panel of other positive valence system measures.



Program for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Studies (PATSS)

JoAnn Difede, PhD, is the Director of the **PATSS**, the Virtual Reality Lab and NYP Military Family Wellness Center at the Weill Cornell campus. This past October, Dr. Difede and Dr. Andrea Stevenson Won from Cornell University, co-hosted a cross-campus symposium focusing on translational research in immersive media for use in medicine and healthcare

education. Additionally, Dr. Difede served as the lead PI of the recently completed multisite Department of Defense funded study entitled, "Enhancing Exposure therapy for PTSD: Virtual Reality and Imaginal Exposure with a Cognitive Enhancer". She is the Principal Investigator of a study using virtual reality as a non-pharmacologic pain management tool at the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center at New York- Presbyterian Hospital and recently began collaborating with Dr. Richard Kaner and Dr. Yasmine Van Wilt in another non-pharmacologic project researching the effects of medical music on anxiety in patients with interstitial lung disease. In addition to her work in virtual reality, Dr. Difede's contributions to the NYP Military Family Wellness Center have enabled U.S. military service members and their families to obtain high quality, evidence-based mental health services. Dr. Difede is also the Principal Investigator of two ongoing Department of Defense (DoD) funded studies; the first is a trial of interpersonal therapy (IPT) compared to prolonged exposure (PE) for MST-related PTSD and the second is a clinical trial of a first-in-class vasopressin receptor antagonist for the treatment of PTSD.

NYP Youth Anxiety Center

Avital Falk, PhD and colleague **Faith Gunning, PhD** are leading an effort towards **digital therapeutics** as part of the Weill Cornell site of the NYP Youth Anxiety Center and have developed a new mobile app called "MAYA" that will deliver cognitive behavioral therapy to young adults struggling with anxiety.

The Weill Cornell site of the Youth Anxiety Center continues to grow and attract talented postdoctoral trainees under the leadership of site director, **Shannon Bennett, PhD**.

Michelle Pelcovitz, PhD, continues work on her pilot study investigating the feasibility of integrating virtual reality (VR) into the treatment of social anxiety disorder in youth, which is supported by the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation (BBRF) and the NYP Youth Anxiety Center. While data collection is ongoing, Dr. Pelcovitz has been invited to present on the topic of VR in varied settings, including an interdisciplinary Immersive Media in Medicine Symposium and the BBRF Meet the Scientist Webinar.



In an effort to reach more patients and increase patient engagement, "MAYA," is currently in early phase clinical testing with patients.

Center for Autism and the Developing Brain (CADB)

So Hyun (Sophy) Kim, PhD, continues her NIMH-supported investigation of the mechanisms of treatment for autism spectrum disorders (ASD) with the goal of informing the development and dissemination of cost-effective and personalized treatment models. She has also recently received a new funding from the Simons Foundation to conduct a parent-mediated intervention study for toddlers with ASD at **CADB**, while integrating behavioral and automated computational methods.

The search process for the next Director of CADB is ongoing in partnership with a highly reputable search firm who have identified superb candidates. We are grateful to **Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele, MD**, for serving as Interim Director of CADB.

DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry

Among numerous other speaking engagements this year, **George Makari, MD**, Director of the **DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry**, travelled to Japan for a series of lectures in advance of the Japanese translation of his book, *Revolution in Mind*. Associate Director **Nathan Kravis, MD**, received a Gradiva Award for his book, *On the Couch: A Repressed History of the Analytic Couch*. The Institute launched a new interdisciplinary working group this year on Psychiatry, Psychology, and Society, which includes faculty from departments of philosophy, history and other disciplines from area universities including CUNY, Columbia and NYU, all of whom share an interest in the mind sciences. The Institute's initiative to support responsible public debate on mental health and illness continues, with updates to its web-based "Fact Sheets" created by **Megan Wolff, PhD**, accessible on our website, <http://psych-history.weill.cornell.edu/>. The Institute staff is excited to welcome new special collections librarian, Nicole Topich, MLIS, to the Oskar Diethelm Library, where she takes charge as the library continues to grow and support numerous researchers locally, nationally, and internationally.



One of the Library's thousands of photos & prints on the history of psychiatry, entitled, "A phantasmagoria; scene conjuring up an armed skeleton."

Psychotic Disorders Program

Tony Ahmed, PhD, conducts studies of the benefits of forms of cognitive training on clinical and functional outcomes in people with schizophrenia including an NIMH-supported study of visual remediation in schizophrenia.

Psychodynamic Approaches to Care

One of the greatest challenges of psychotherapy research, particularly in the area of psychodynamic treatments, is translating and implementing demonstrated, efficacious treatments to the community. **Barbara Milrod, MD**, is conducting a pilot randomized controlled trial, supported by grants from the American Psychoanalytic Association's Fund for Psychoanalytic Research, The International Psychoanalytic Association, and the Weill Cornell Clinical Translational Science Center's pilot award, designed to test a brief, efficacious manualized psychodynamic psychotherapy for Veterans with PTSD, Trauma-Focused Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, an adaptation of Panic-Focused Psychodynamic Psychotherapy [PFPP]. The study represents a rare and important opportunity to demonstrate psychodynamic psychotherapy's broad applicability and relevance by making this otherwise inaccessible yet efficacious treatment available to our Veterans. **Jack Keefe, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow and recipient of the WMC Clinical Translational Science Center TL-1 research fellowship is an expert in moderator and mediator psychotherapy research, and is assisting with the implementation of this study. Current Affective disorder research on inflammation in bipolar depression and the relationship of inflammatory markers with obesity in bipolar disorder. **James Kocsis, MD** has been awarded grant from Qatar National Research fund to better understand the relationship between bipolar disorder, body weight, and inflammation in the body.

Otto Kernberg, MD, John Clarkin, PhD, and their colleagues continue their study of predictors and mechanisms of change in the treatment of borderline patients with Transference-Focused Psychotherapy (TFP) while simultaneously working with Drs. Liston and Gunning to collect functional neuroimaging data supported by the Pritzker Consortium with the goal of identifying neuroimaging biomarkers for Borderline Personality Disorder.

Teach

Advancing Education & Training



Dr. Aaron Stern and Betty Lee Stern

The Department received a transformational gift from Dr. Aaron and Betty Lee Stern to launch the **Aaron Stern, MD, PhD Program in Psychodynamic Psychiatry**. The program's mission is to advance training and education of psychodynamic approaches to treat personality disorders and to promote awareness of these disorders both within the medical community and outside it. The Sterns' \$5 million gift endows a professorship, a postdoctoral research fellowship and a prestigious visiting professorship. The program was officially launched with an inaugural seminar titled "Psychodynamic Approaches to Narcissistic and Related Personality Disorders" held on December 5th and moderated by Dr. Stern and Dr. Lee with **Robert Michels, MD, Elizabeth Auchincloss, MD, and Otto Kernberg, MD** serving as panelists. This widely attended event was made even more special with the announcement of Dr. Auchincloss' appointment as the Aaron Stern, MD, PhD, Professor of Psychodynamic Psychiatry and the program's Founding Director.



Jonathan Avery, MD

Jonathan Avery, MD, was recognized for his tremendous efforts in developing addictions programming at NYP/WCM by being promoted to Chief of Addiction Psychiatry. Building on his longstanding work, Dr. Avery formally launched his Program for Substance Use and Stigma of Addiction with a mission to examine and develop interventions to improve clinicians' attitudes towards patients with substance use disorders and educate all physicians on how to treat individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders and mental illness. The program primarily focuses on the stigma that exists in the medical community towards addiction, but also focuses on stigma that exists in other spaces that should be the safest, such as the home, workplace, and justice system.

Our Department is distinguished by the quality of our training programs from medical student education, to our multiple residency training programs, to our pre- and post-doctoral psychology training. In addition to our full-time faculty, we have over 200 voluntary faculty who volunteer their time and effort to mentor and educate our trainees and whose breadth of expertise allows us to offer high-caliber training experiences. We appreciate the leadership of **Elizabeth Auchincloss, MD**, who serves as Vice Chair for Education for Psychiatry. On the Psychology side, **Susan Evans, PhD**, Director of Education for Psychology and founding director of our highly rated, accredited psychology internship. We welcomed **Kate Herts, PhD**, to the full time faculty this year who has done an outstanding job overseeing the psychology postdoctoral training program at Westchester. **Vicky Wilkins, PhD**, has taken over the coordination of our large psychology externship program.

Our WCMC medical students continue to rank psychiatry among the highest clerkships. In the past five years, Weill Cornell Medicine matched an average of 7.4% of our students into psychiatry with the national average being about 5%. Two of our interns and recent graduates from WCMC medical school received awards this year; **Zhenzhen Shi, MD** for the Oskar Diethelm Prize for Excellence in Psychiatry and **Emily Menand, MD** for the Richard N. Kohl Prize for Excellence in Psychiatry and the AWP's Leah J. Dickstein, M.D. Medical Student Award. Thanks to **Susan Samuels, MD**, Director of Medical Student Education and Psychiatry Clerkship Director, **Dimitris Francois, MD**, Assistant Clerkship Director for NYP/Westchester; and **Kimberly Resnick, MD** who joined the Clerkship as the Associate Clerkship Director for the Manhattan site, for their efforts in running this program.



Residents taking on a cycling class through the "Classpass" wellness initiative.

We have a stellar team running our ACGME-accredited training programs including **Julie Penzner, MD**, General Residency Training Director; **Jimmy Avari, MD**, Assistant Training Director, NYP/Westchester, and Director for the Geriatric Residency Training program; **Rebecca Rendleman, MD**, Director for the Child and Adolescent Residency Training program; and **Helen Ding, MD**, Assistant CAP Residency Director, NYP/Westchester. Applications to our residency and psychology training programs continue to increase every year with the applicant pool even stronger.

Continuing a scholarly focus on health outcomes and caring for a diverse patient population, we are proud to offer a new rotation in public psychiatry/addiction psychiatry at Lincoln Hospital for all second-year residents. Other highlights from the general psychiatry residency program include a new elective in Quality Improvement featuring resident-designed projects, a faculty development workshop focusing on delivering effective feedback, and ongoing scholarship initiatives through our resident Clinical Scholars Institute.

The general residency program's "Continuing the Conversation" series on enhancing meaning in medicine remains a core component of housestaff well-being programming. We continue to fund resident and psychology intern fitness and wellness classes through "Classpass," a service that provides access to a global network of fitness opportunities. Preliminary "Classpass" use and satisfaction data will be presented at this year's Annual Meeting of the American Association of Directors of Residency Training in Psychiatry (AADPRT).

- **Susan Samuels, MD** – elected to the WCM Senior List
- **Jacqueline Panzone, DO; Nabil Kotbi, MD; Anna Salajegheh, MD; and Nancy Needell, MD** - Department's Certificate of Recognition for Dedicated Teaching and Outstanding Mentorship.
- **Gwen Zornberg, MD** - WCM Excellence in Teaching Award
- **Steven Roth, JD, MD** - nominated for the APA's Nancy C.A. Roeske, M.D. Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Medical Education, which will be presented in January 2020

We thank our talented Chief Residents: **David Hankins, MD; Charlie Shaffer, MD; and Mark Sullivan, MD**. We are also grateful to the Payne Whitney Faculty Council and its current President **Jim Nininger, MD**, for their role in organizing four Grand Rounds presentations as well as a number of interesting educational and training workshops every year.

The department would also like to congratulate the members of our faculty who were recognized this past year for their outstanding efforts in advancing the quality of psychiatry education.

Advancing Careers

We congratulate Justin Mohatt, MD, on his appointment as Vice Chair for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry that was effective November 1st. Dr. Mohatt had been serving as Interim Director of the Division since 2017 and has distinguished himself as a capable and innovative clinical leader. Dr. Mohatt will be responsible for overseeing the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's clinical and training program across NYP Weill Cornell Medical Center and NYP Westchester. He will also continue in his role as Vice Chair of the Psychiatry Physician Organization that he has held since 2015.

It is always a privilege to recognize the faculty who advanced in rank. This year we saw the advancement of:

- **Julie Penzner, MD** to Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
- **Rebecca Rendleman, MD** to Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
- **Nina Freund, MD** to Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
- **Meredith MacGregor, MD** to Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry (MSKCC)

Advancing Diversity

We are committed to the goal of promoting and nurturing diversity in the Department and the field. We have a number of faculty who are devoted to this cause to whom we are grateful. We acknowledge and thank **Jess Zonana, MD**, who serves as the Department's Diversity Liaison and participates in numerous committees and events throughout the year. Dr. Zonana will be participating in the first cohort of Faculty Scholars in Health Equity for 2019-20 hosted by the Weill Cornell Medicine Diversity Center for Excellence.

The **Weill Cornell Medicine Wellness Qlinic** opened this past year and is the first student-run clinic in New York City to offer free mental health care for those who identify as LGBTQ+, regardless of insurance status. The Qlinic is dedicated to serving the needs of this community and to bridging the mental health disparities they often face, and is in their second year of offering supplemental medical student curriculum on LGBTQ mental health.

For the second year, we hosted a 4th year medical student for a Psychiatry Diversity Visiting Sub-Internship over the summer to improve opportunities at Weill Cornell for underrepresented students.

In June 2019, we launched a departmental Psychiatry Diversity Council, open to any staff, trainees, faculty within the department from either NYP or Weill Cornell.



Jess Zonana, MD and Weill Cornell Medicine Wellness Qlinic Staff



Medical Students, residents, and attendings training for the Wellness Qlinic opening

Advancing our Partnership

Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar

We acknowledge **Javaid Sheikh, MD**, Dean of **Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar** and a member of our Department's faculty, for his extraordinary leadership. With vision he is recruiting an outstanding group of faculty in various fields to the Qatar program who will be excellent collaborators for programs in New York.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC)

We enjoy a strong partnership with MSKCC with over 30 of their physicians and psychologists on our department's faculty. We appreciate our collaboration with **William Breitbart, MD**, Vice Chair of MSKCC, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at MSKCC. Our joint MSKCC-WCM ACGME accredited Psychosomatic Medicine/ Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Fellowship Training program matched all 6 slots in 2019, led by **Philip Bialer, MD** (Associate Director) and **Matthew Doolittle, MD** (Assistant Director).

Numerous renowned research grants were awarded to the following MSKCC faculty; allowing the MSKCC Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences' to continue to make an enormous impact in the understanding and treatment of oncology:

- **Francesca Gany, MD, MS** and **Tim Ahles, PhD, MSK Pls**, with **Karen Hubbard, PhD** and **Gilda Barabino, PhD**, CCNY Pls, were awarded with another 5 years of NCI funding totaling almost \$15 million for the U54 CCNY/MSK Partnership, which fosters research, training, and community outreach to address cancer disparities.
- **William Breitbart, MD** (PI) won a competitive 5 year renewal R25 grant "Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy Training for Cancer Care Providers" to train 500 clinicians nationwide in meaning-centered psychotherapy for cancer patients.
- **Jada Hamilton, PhD, MPH** and colleague **Kenneth Offit, MD, MPH** received a PSRP Transdisciplinary Population Science Research Grant to evaluate the experiences of BRCA1/2 mutation carriers identified through a novel population screening model.
- **Jamie Ostroff, PhD** and **Jennifer Hay, PhD** renewed the Department's T32 training grant to train post-doctoral and pre-doctoral psychology fellows in Psycho-Oncology research for what now exceeds 35 years.
- **Patricia Parker, PhD** (P) was awarded a five-year R25 on "Geriatric Oncology: Cognition and Communication".

In addition, Two NCI R25 Training Grants are currently conducting multiple national 2-day training workshops for clinicians nationwide in: a) Tobacco Cessation Intervention (**Jamie Ostroff, PhD**); and b) Meaning Centered Psychotherapy in Cancer (**William Breitbart, MD** and the Psychotherapy Laboratory).

This research, devoted to understanding of the impact of a cancer diagnosis and treatment on psychological adjustment and other quality-of-life indicators, has led to the development of the following psycho-oncology programs:

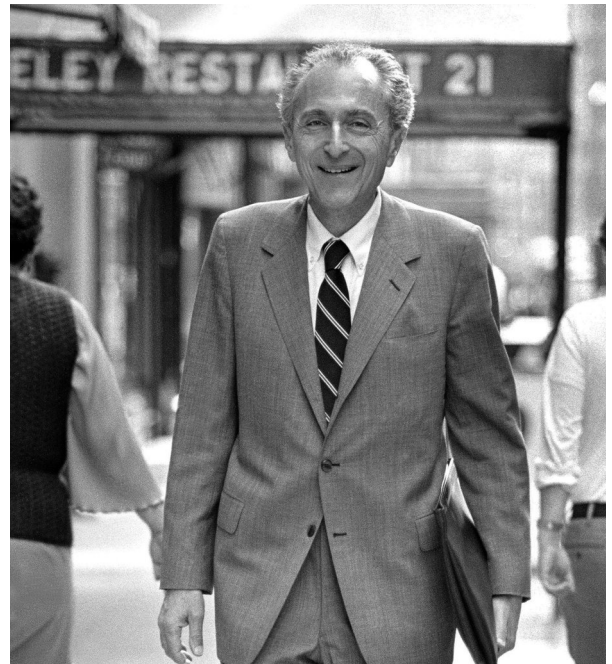
- *Aging and Cancer Research Laboratory*, co-led by **Christian Nelson, PhD** and **Kelly Trevino, PhD**.
- *Tobacco Treatment, Research and Training Laboratory*, co-led by **Jamie Ostroff, PhD** and **Lisa Carter-Harris, PhD, APRN, ANP-C, FAAN**.
- *Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Program (CTTP)* accredited Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training Program, led by **Chris Kotsen, PsyD**.
- *The Behavioral Rapid Response Team*, led by **William Breitbart, MD**, **Yesne Alici, MD**, **Reena Jaiswal, MD**, and **Christian Nelson, PhD** and will have 24 hour psych NP coverage.
- A Research Fellowship for CL Psychiatrists, led by **Christian Nelson, PhD** and **William Breitbart, MD**.

The Department also expanded the *Telepsych Program* to regional sites and patient mobile devices, and in 2019 the Department conducted over 1,500 telepsych visits, led by **Christian Nelson, PhD**.

In Memoriam

The Weill Cornell Medicine Department of Psychiatry faculty and staff were saddened to learn of the passing of their dear colleague, **Dr. David Hamburg**, an extraordinary clinician, scientist, and public servant who advanced humanitarian programs as a leader of several august institutions. His early and seminal work on the impact of stress on the brain ultimately led to his study of the prevention of violence and genocide. In 1996, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom - our nation's highest civilian award - honoring his work toward understanding human behavior, preventing violent conflict, and improving the health and well-being of our children.

As Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Stanford University in the early 70's, he created a multidisciplinary department that became a model for others across the nation. From there he became the President of the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) followed by a period at Harvard University as Director of the Division of Health Policy Research and Education. For nearly 20 years, he served as President of the Carnegie Corporation during which time he promoted peer counseling and after-school programs in the United States while devoting efforts to the development of policies and programs to prevent war and genocide across the globe. Later he chaired commissions for both the United Nations and the European Union.



Dr. David Hamburg

Since 2003, Dr. Hamburg had been a DeWitt Wallace Senior Scholar in the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College where he produced his works *Learning to Live Together: Preventing Hatred and Violence in Child and Adolescent Development*, a magisterial volume co-authored with his late wife, Dr. Betty Hamburg, and *Preventing Genocide: Practical Steps toward Early Detection and Effective Action*. It was a privilege to have Dr. Hamburg as a member of our faculty as he so profoundly enhanced the intellectual life of our institution and was instrumental in supporting the focus of developmental psychobiology and developmental neurobiology as cross-cutting themes across our programs.

Dr. Hamburg lived a life in service of a greater good. He was a teacher to us all and will be missed. We extend our deepest condolences to Dr. Hamburg's children, Eric and Peggy, and their families.

We are honored to pay tribute to **Armand Loranger, PhD**, who passed away this year. Dr. Loranger earned his doctorate from Fordham University and received his clinical training at NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Health Center, where he spent his entire career including fifteen years on the faculty before retiring as professor emeritus of psychology in psychiatry in 1997. He is the author of more than fifty publications in the medical and scientific literature. They include a widely used psychiatric interview and a personality test. His research encompassed studies of most of the major mental disorders. His research on the placebo effect and the methodology of double blind drug studies was cited in the congressional hearings that led to the passage of legislation requiring that the effectiveness of new drugs be demonstrated in properly controlled trials.

He was an international authority on the diagnosis and classification of mental disorders, and an adviser to the World Health Organization and American Psychiatric Association on those subjects. Under the auspices of the World Health Organization and National Institutes of Health he was the lead investigator in the first worldwide study of the personality disorders, demonstrating for the first time that they could be reliably diagnosed in different cultures.

Transitions

We paid tribute to the meaningful careers of some of our longest serving faculty who are retiring from the full time faculty including:



Gerard C. Addonizio, MD
Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medicine; Attending Psychiatrist NewYork-Presbyterian (transitioning to the Voluntary Faculty)



Margaret E. Hertzog, MD
Professor of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medicine; Attending Psychiatrist NewYork-Presbyterian (transition to Professor Emerita)



Michael H. Sacks, MD
Professor of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medicine; Attending Psychiatrist NewYork-Presbyterian (transitioning to the Voluntary Faculty)



Robert C. Young, MD
Professor of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medicine; Attending Psychiatrist NewYork-Presbyterian (Transitioning to Professor Emeritus)



In January **Jack Barchas, MD**, will transition to Chairman Emeritus at Weill Cornell Medicine and will continue to contribute to the intellectual life of the department with his participation in seminars and committees of the DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry. In addition to his scholarly projects, Dr. Barchas will also be an important contributor to the advancement of the scientific mission as Co-Site Director of the Pritzker Consortium, serving along with Dr. Lee to collaborate with colleagues across four other institutions to coordinate studies investigating the neurobiological causes of the major psychiatric disorders.

In Acknowledgment of Our Administrative Leaders and Staff

We have a remarkable team of dedicated administrative staff to whom I am deeply grateful, including our senior administrators: **Nora Contract**, Director of Operations, NYP Psychiatry; **Jennifer Walsh**, Chief Administrative Officer, WCM Psychiatry; **Brita Kube**, Assistant Administrator; **Andrei Gangal**, Financial Manager; and **Marcella Sanchez**, Administrative Manager and our extended administrative team: **Yasmine Akbar**, **Jude Allen**, **Joanne Ciallella**, **Nalini Deonarine**, **Shamila Dilmaghani**, **Elvisa Duraku**, **Zemfira Egelbaum**, **David Eppenstein**, **Rebecca Hellman**, **Rebecca Lovell**, **Brittany Nelson**, **Sharon Pecache**, **Nicole Vital**, **Juleissy Lantigua**, **Geraldine White**, and **Maddy Schier**.

We are especially grateful to **Pamela Trester**, who is retiring from WCM in late December. Pam is a consummate professional of remarkable talents who is highly regarded by all of the faculty and staff as well as colleagues across the institution and beyond. She will be missed more than I can say, and we all thank her for her dedication, excellence, and friendship.



In June we welcomed **Maddy Schier** to the department as our first Marketing Specialist. Maddy has done an exceptional job with launching the department's social media strategy, facilitating the launch of our updated website, and helping faculty promote their programs. Please follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram (@WCMPsychiatry) if you don't already and contact Maddy if you have content you want to share or need help with any promotional materials including your web profile or clinical trial recruitment.

