Dear Friends:

It is has been our tradition at this time of year to reflect upon the Department of Psychiatry’s successes and share a summary with our community. The last few years have been ones of unusually high activity as we have dealt with multiple changes in the healthcare and societal environments. As you review this report, we hope that you will agree that the Department has been proactive and effective in response to changes.

We continue to be successful in attracting superb talent to enhance our programs. Our large hospital-based programs continue to be among the top ranked programs in the country. The NYP/Westchester program’s designation by the Planetree Organization has been renewed for its patient-centered approach to care, a major accomplishment for their standards are rigorous and ours is currently the only psychiatric program in this country to receive that honor. Our outpatient faculty practice plan through the Weill Cornell Medicine Physician Organization has grown by approximately 30% over the past three years. The Department has established successful professional development programs for faculty and trainees to support their writing and scholarly activities and involve medical students, residents, and post-docs. Our teaching programs have received excellent evaluations from trainees for both pre-clinical and clinical programs in psychiatry and psychology and are re-accredited with distinction. Our research and scholarly programs, have expanded in an atmosphere of positive collaboration among individuals with different core interests and from multiple fields. Moreover, we have been able to sustain our research program and receive new grants in spite of the NIH’s declining budget. A great deal of effort has been invested in generating private philanthropy which, through the years, has been an important contributor to the growth and development of the Department. Over the past few years, we have also been preparing for the change in the chairmanship now scheduled for June 30, 2018.

Two years ago our department underwent a complete review of all of our programs by two superb, highly experienced external consultants. Extensive materials were prepared involving all aspects of the Department and its needs. The reviewers met with a wide range of individuals and programs. As reported to us by the Dean-Provost and the Hospital President-CEO, their view was extremely positive. The reviewers described the Department as remarkable and unique – functioning in a first-rate fashion and in a harmonious and effective manner across our multiple missions and approaches.

We are fortunate to have the support and respect from the leadership of both the Medical College and the Hospital, as well as from the faculty leadership of other departments. Psychiatry at Weill Cornell is treated with thoughtfulness and encouragement. Despite the excellence of many departments in this country, few can make that claim. Our new Dean, Augustine M.K. Choi, MD, has been very constructive and positive. We could not be more grateful for the supportive leadership of the administrations of both NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medical College who, with their staffs, continue to make important investments in our programming. These currently include from the Medical College: Augustine M.K. Choi, MD, Dean and Provost; Carl Nathan, MD, Dean of the Graduate School; Hugh Hemmings, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Research; Peter Schlegel, MD, Senior Associate Dean, Clinical Affairs; Michael Stewart, MD, MPH, Vice Dean of WCMC; Daniel Knowles, MD, President and CEO of the Physician Organization. From the Hospital: Steven Corwin, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer; Laura Forese, MD, MPH, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Cam Patterson, MD, MBA, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer NYP/Weill Cornell; and Herbert Pardes, MD, Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees. All of them have done superbly by us. They have continued traditions that were furthered by such key institutional predecessors as Drs. Skinner, Pardes, Michels, Nathan, Gotto, Hajjar, and Glimcher. Both the College and the Hospital are proposing major transformational developments. Those important plans will unfold over the next 5 to 10 years with detailed planning later in 2018. The recently appointed new president of Cornell, Martha E. Pollack, PhD, was provost at the University of Michigan and had been the Chief Academic Officer and Chief Budget Officer. As an expert in areas related to the Cornell-Tech campus, she has an excellent background and will be important in efforts to strengthen connections between Ithaca, Cornell Tech, and Medical Programs.
We deeply appreciate the dedication of our faculty and staff whose expertise, commitment, and vision enable us to remain among the country’s premier Psychiatry programs. We also want to make special mention of our voluntary faculty members who make invaluable contributions to our training and education programs and enhance the institution’s prestige with their accomplishments as clinicians and scholars.

**Awards**

Congratulations to Cathy Lord, PhD, Director of the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain, and her collaborator Dr. Matthew State of UC San Francisco, for receiving the prestigious Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health from the National Academy of Medicine. The Sarnat Prize recognizes individuals, groups or organizations whose outstanding achievement in basic science, clinical application or public policy has improved mental health. Drs. Lord and State were honored as a result of work including the creation of a publicly available database compiling genetic and behavioral information on autism.

**Welcoming Katharine Phillips, MD**

We are delighted to welcome Katharine Phillips, MD, who joined the full time faculty of Weill Cornell as of December 1st. Dr. Phillips is an internationally recognized expert in the study and treatment of body dysmorphic disorder (BDD) and related disorders, such as olfactory reference syndrome and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Dr. Phillips has conducted pioneering research studies on BDD, many funded by the NIMH, that have led to effective treatments. Dr. Phillips has produced more than 300 publications in scientific journals and books and presents at scientific and professional conferences all over world. A devoted mentor and teacher, Dr. Phillips will enhance our education and teaching programs and provide new opportunities for research and scholarly collaborations for colleagues and trainees. Dr. Phillips will launch an outpatient practice at our Weill Cornell Psychiatry Specialty Center [http://weillcornellpsychiatrycenter.org/](http://weillcornellpsychiatrycenter.org/).

**Our Institutes, Research, and Scholarly Endeavors**

We are proud of the contributions to the advancement of science and scholarship made by our faculty, trainees, and students, and of the collaborations and integration among the Department and Medical School’s institutes and programs. Connectivity not only leads to innovation and efficiency, but to a collaborative culture that is highly rewarding for the contributors. We are leveraging the knowledge we generate to spark new projects and using innovative technologies to move the field forward.

**The 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 in geriatric psychiatry, and providing high-quality specialized care to older adults. This year, Dr. Alexopoulos and his colleagues received funding from the NIMH to support the Weill Cornell ALACRITY Research Center. This new center grant will focus on the development of novel behavioral interventions to treat depression in older adults that are informed by neurobiology and enhanced with mobile technology. The Center’s investigators are working to simplify treatments and improve their delivery by working jointly with community partners and testing interventions at community sites using community based clinicians.

JoAnne Sirey, PhD, continues her award winning collaboration with New York City’s Department for the Aging with a new contract to implement a mental health service delivery program called TRIO that is designed to improve detection, assessment, and mental health care for hard-to-reach older adults with language, mobility, stigma and financial barriers. TRIO was first developed and used by Dr. Sirey and DFTA to service victims of Hurricane Sandy and will now be implemented at senior centers in Brooklyn and Staten Island. In addition, Dr. Sirey’s Treatment Initiation and Participation (TIP) program, developed to improve antidepressant adherence among older adults treated in primary care, was published by *JAMA Psychiatry* this year.

Dimitris Kiosses, PhD, has two ongoing NIMH funded studies: a novel psycho-social intervention to prevent suicide, and a treatment trial evaluating the effectiveness of interventions on the improvement of cognitive impairment and depression in older adults.

Faith Gunning, PhD, received a new NIMH grant to fund the Research Career Institute in Mental Health of Aging (CIMA), a national mentoring network aimed at promoting the development of early career investigators focused on aging and mental health. Dr. Gunning serves as the department’s Vice Chair for Psychology and was appointed Associate Vice Chair for Research this year. Dr. Gunning is also the lead investigator on two NIMH-funded grants that use brain imaging...
to inform novel treatment development for late life depression.

The faculty of the Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology are making important contributions to the field under the leadership of Interim Director, Francis Lee, MD, PhD. Dr. Lee, who is also the department’s Vice Chair for Research, continues his NIMH-supported research studying brain plasticity in relation to developmental physiology and behavior with great productivity, and continues to publish in major journals such as the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and Nature Communications.

In a paper published in January 2017 in Nature Medicine, Conor Liston, MD, PhD, identified biomarkers in depression by analyzing more than 1,100 functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) brain scans of patients with clinical depression and of healthy controls gathered from across the country. This landmark study suggests that in the future, there could be objective biological tests that can help diagnose subtypes of other mental illnesses, especially as they first emerge in childhood and adolescence.

These findings are providing the foundation for new and powerful collaborative studies across our programs and Institutes. For example, in a new study funded by a Pritzker Foundation grant, Dr. Lee, in collaboration with Marc Dubin, MD, PhD, John Clarkin, PhD, Faith Gunning, PhD, and Otto Kernberg, MD, is examining neural correlates in individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) with the goal of identifying subtypes of BPD that could lead to the prediction of treatment response and treatment that could be individualized for the patient.

Important studies from the Personality Disorders Institute, directed by Professors Kernberg and Clarkin, utilizing a new treatment model have been described in other communications and are now ongoing with recruitment of subjects and treatment. With their colleagues from Weill Cornell, Columbia, and elsewhere, they also are monitoring various other biomarkers.

Work is being done by Dr. Lee in collaboration with Dr. Gunning in the area of late-life depression, and with Shannon Bennett, PhD, Clinical Director of the NYP Youth Anxiety Center (YAC), to study anxiety in children and adolescents. Both of these research projects include the use of mobile technology to study whether such tools could enhance treatment.

Rebecca Jones, PhD, who is dually based in the Sackler Institute and the Center for Autism and Developing Brain (CADB) and a co-investigator on the YAC project, is also using mobile technology in a collaborative project with Dr. Lord funded by the Simons Foundation to develop measures of social behaviors for use in the assessment and treatment of autism. Dr. Jones received a Simon’s Foundation Explorer grant to develop new hardware that could lead to improved neuroimaging techniques for the study of children with autism. She also received the Rising Star Award from the Association of Psychological Sciences. So Hyun (Sophy) Kim, PhD, another promising young investigator in CADB, received her first R01 from the NIMH to study the mechanisms of treatment for autism spectrum disorders with the goal of informing the development and dissemination of cost-effective and personalized treatment models. We recognize the accomplishments of Elisabeth Mitchell, PhD, who was appointed Clinical Director of CADB this past year.

JoAnn Difede, PhD, director of the Program for Anxiety and Traumatic Stress Studies (PATSS), and her colleagues continue to enroll service members across the country in a multi-site PTSD treatment trial funded by the Department of Defense. PATSS is an integral partner in the NewYork-Presbyterian Military Family Wellness Center that connects U.S. military service members and their families with high quality, evidence-based mental health service. The program is a partnership with Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons made possible by a generous donation. The program launched a new website: http://www.nyp.org/mfwc.

Michelle Pelcovitz, PhD, who is based in the Youth Anxiety Program, received a NARSAD grant to test the feasibility of integrating Virtual Reality technology into exposure-based treatment in anxious adolescents and young adults with the goal of approximating equivalent efficacy with traditional CBT. Dr. Difede and the PATSS faculty will be important contributors to this project given the program’s strength in use of VR technology to treat PTSD.

Congratulations to George Makari, MD, Director of the DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry, for receiving the 2017 American Psychiatric Association Benjamin Rush Lectureship Award for lifetime achievement in the history of psychiatry. Dr. Makari has also been in high demand lecturing at institutions across the country. The Institute launched a new initiative to support responsible public debate on mental health and illness
including a web-based resource for statistics and facts created by Megan Wolff, PhD. The website located at http://psychhistory.weill.cornell.edu/his_res/ has information pertaining to relevant topics such as the opioid epidemic, the ACA, and incarceration and mental health policy. The Institute’s Oskar Diethelm Library added 130 new titles, including seven rare books notable for their importance to the history and development of French psychiatry and neurology and supported the work of numerous researchers locally, nationally, and internationally.

Other Honors, Honorable Mentions, and News

Opioid addiction has become a major public health crisis and we are fortunate to have Jonathan Avery, MD, serving as Director of NYP’s Opioid Overdose Prevention Program that is overseeing the dispensation of naloxone rescue kits to NYP patients and families. Dr. Avery has a particular interest in improving attitudes of clinicians toward substance use disorders and has launched an education campaign that is a result of work completed as part of his American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology Innovation in Education Award. He has also just co-authored a book with John Barnhill, MD titled Co-occurring Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders: A Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment.

Alexandra Klufas, MD, Chief of NYP/Westchester’s Emergency Evaluation Service, received the 2017 Physician of the Year Award from NYP’s Department of Nursing. Justin Mohatt, MD, and Susan Samuels, MD, were elected to represent Psychiatry on the General Faculty Council joining Sylvia Karasu, MD, who continues to serve. Richard Friedman, MD, continues to be a contributing Op-Ed writer for The New York Times, writing about behavior, mental health, and neuroscience, and gave lectures at Yale and Columbia about writing about mental health and neuroscience for the public. John Barnhill, MD, was appointed Chair of the Department’s Appointments and Promotions Committee, and Susan Evans, PhD, its co-Chair. We congratulate Avital Falk, PhD, Annie Li, MD, and Elisabeth Mitchell, PhD, for being accepted into the Medical College’s competitive LAMP program for the development of future academic leaders. We thank David Shapiro, MD, and Richard Kogan, MD, for their creation of, and dedication to, the successful Music and Medicine Initiative that now involves many institutions and benefits the entire community. Our thanks to James Nininger, MD, for his work as President of the Payne Whitney Faculty Council.

Robert Michels, MD, continues to serve as Deputy Editor of the American Journal of Psychiatry, and also serves on the Boards of the Hope for Depression Research Foundation and The Hastings Institute. Included among his recent publications and lectures are: Thoughts on the Present and Future of Psychoanalytic Education (with Dr. Otto Kernberg) in the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, and The Evolution of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy lecture at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American College of Psychiatrists.

The book of David A. Hamburg, MD, titled A Model of Prevention - Life Lessons, has just become available in a paperback edition from Routledge Press. It covers his acclaimed work on the prevention of genocide, and his wide range of activities, including the 12 years he spent at Cornell during which he and Beatrice A. Hamburg, MD, wrote Learning to Live Together: Preventing Hatred and Violence in Child and Adolescent Development. He is currently in Washington, DC, where he is continuing his studies on terrorism and has served as an informal advisor to the Department. Michael Posner, PhD is continuing studies on development of children at the University of Oregon. He has been helpful as an advisor to the Department and The Sackler Institute. B.J. Casey, PhD, is now in the Department of Psychology at Yale University, continuing significant work on developmental studies, and considering legal issues involving adolescents with members of the Yale School of Law. She is currently serving in an adjunct role with our department.

Jack Barchas, MD and Rosemary Stevens, PhD, MPH are working out the details of their future activities as a couple. For 2017, Dr. Barchas has been in a multitude of roles and activities as departmental chair, and continues as the Chair of the Committee of Review, which examines all promotions to associate and full professorships for the Medical College. He has continued with his consulting to the neuroscience and substance abuse programs at the University of Michigan and at UCLA, and serves as a member of the Hatos Foundation. His activity for the Brain and Behavior Foundation has included chairing its most competitive grants, the Distinguished Investigator Awards Program, for highly successful full professors; chairing its Patricia Goldman-Rakic Award Committee, for basic or translational research related to cognitive neuroscience and mental illness; and membership on its Pardes International Humanitarian Awards Committee. With great pleasure, he continues his research with the remarkable and magnificent philanthropy of the Pritzker Family. They started a network, which he chaired early in his coming to Cornell that has morphed into the Pritzker Consortium.
The programs center on basic and translational research concerning severe mental illness, and have been very productive and aid many persons at Cornell and the other involved institutions, which include Michigan, Stanford, UC Irvine, and HudsonAlpha. He currently co-chairs the Cornell node of the Consortium with Francis Lee, MD, PhD. Both are active in the leadership of the Consortium, which has recently been renewed for a final five years. The UJA’s Federation presented the Mortimer J. Blumenthal Award to him for his accomplishments in Mental Health and his many years of involvement and consistent support to the UJA. The award was presented at the UJA Mental Health Reception in June by Herbert Pardes, MD, with Judith Cukor, PhD, as the guest speaker.

Dr. Stevens came to Weill Cornell from the University of Pennsylvania where she had interests in the social history of medicine. There she had been Chair of the Department of History and Sociology of Science and later served as the Dean of Arts and Sciences, covering both undergraduate and graduate programs. Though offered positions at other institutions when she came to New York, she elected to join the Program on Social Medicine and Public Policy at Weill Cornell at the encouragement of Dean Gotto, which was chaired by David Hamburg. A member of the Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, she was designated as a DeWitt Wallace Distinguished Scholar and has been fully active in this role. She has not received salary and only obtains limited funds for scholarly expenses. She has worked on a number of projects while in the Department. This year, she was honored in a reception hosted by The New York Academy of Medicine for her book: A Time of Scandal - Charles R. Forbes, Warren G. Harding and the Making of the Veterans Bureau, which was released in early 2017 and is published by Johns Hopkins University Press. She was interviewed by C-Span and has given talks at the Veterans Administration Headquarters in Washington, the Harding Society, and to other groups. She was interviewed for Ken Burns’ developing PBS documentary on the Mayo Clinic. She is continuing with her involvement in various aspects of our History of Psychiatry Institute and is working on several papers. She was recently celebrated for her service to the Milbank Memorial Fund, including chairing its program committee, and serves on the Board of the Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy.

Our Department continues its role as one of the key centers for humanities-related programs for the institution. The Music and Medicine Initiative had its start in this Department. There are strong programs in the History of Psychiatry and its remarkable library. The Department sponsors a variety of art shows, and there are extensive lecture programs in specific areas of history, psychiatry, ideas, and policy. Those various programs in the humanities have dramatically increased over the years, improving the quality of life and enhancing the attractiveness of the Department and the Medical Center to recruits at all levels. Psychiatry Art Exhibit: The next art show will be held starting on March 21, 2018 in the main library space, a wonderful venue. Professor Jay Rohrlich chairs the Art Show Committee with Professors Aaron Esman and Rosemary Stevens as members, and a notice has been sent out inviting faculty, trainees, and staff to contribute materials for the show. We do end up taking all of the available space in the library for this very enjoyable event.

Highlights from our Clinical Programs

The Department of Psychiatry is participating to fulfill Dr. Corwin’s goal to integrate, standardize, and virtualize care across the four regional hospitals of NYP. Under the leadership of Philip Wilner, MD, MBA, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, NYP/Westchester, Psychiatry is taking the lead in forming an integrated behavioral health service line across the enterprise and was responsible for overseeing the implementation of a centralized psychiatry access center using state of the art technologies to bring together all 500 psychiatric inpatient beds so a patient can be placed in any bed by our access team. The team is led by Ruth Mendelowitz, whose leadership is instrumental to this effort.

Lisa Sombrotto, MD, Associate Chief Quality Officer for NYP Psychiatry, and Vice Chair Clinical Services for Payne Whitney, continues to do an amazing job advancing the quality mission at NYP and overseeing the Payne Whitney clinical services. Mark Russ, MD, Vice Chair and Medical Director of NYP/Westchester, has done an excellent job navigating through numerous regulatory surveys and overseeing facility safety upgrades.

Linda Espinosa, MS, RN, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of NYP/Westchester 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 overseeing our journey to Magnet status, an award given by the American Nurses’ Credentialing Center to hospitals that satisfy a set of criteria designed to measure the strength and
quality of their nursing. We expect that NYP/Westchester’s documentation will be submitted no later than April 1, 2018 and Magnet designation awarded for the campus by the end of 2018.

We congratulate Justin Mohatt, MD, who was appointed Interim Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry following the departure of John Walkup, MD. Dr. Walkup was recruited to a superb position as Chairman of the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine this past year. Dr. Mohatt has been in his new role since October and has already made a number of exciting new recruitments to the clinical faculty who will be joining the division across both campuses in the coming year. Dr. Mohatt continues to be the Vice Chair of the Department’s Physician Organization and has led the program through enormous growth and expansion in the last few years including the launch of the Weill Cornell Psychiatry Specialty Center and the Collaborative Care Center (CCC).

The CCC continues to be a success offering access to commercially insured patients who are receiving primary care and other sub-specialty services by Weill Cornell physicians. The program was established with funding from both the Medical College and the Hospital with a goal to use innovative and integrated approaches to improve health outcomes of medically ill patients by addressing their psychiatric needs. We bid farewell to Tomer Levin, MD, who was instrumental in helping to launch the program and also thank Judith Cukor, PhD, for her continued contributions as co-director.

The Department is proud of the role of trainees, including medical students, in the humanitarian efforts to help asylum seekers and victims of persecutions. Full time and voluntary faculty have aided those important efforts.

The Department has a number of outreach programs in the broader community, including the pioneering Borderline Personality Disorders Resource Center which has an international presence and involves Otto Kernberg, MD, and Frank Yeomans, MD, and other faculty.

Many members on our full-time and voluntary faculty are involved in interesting scholarly and research activities. They are usually highlighted in the Chair’s Report in June and that will be done again in 2018.

Training and Education

Betsy Auchincloss, MD, Vice Chair for Education, received the Henry and M. Page Laughlin Distinguished Achievement Award, American College of Psychoanalysts. In November, she was a guest lecturer at the Korean Association of Psychoanalysis. Dr. Auchincloss leads a stellar and collaborative team who coordinate our educational programs, including Julie Penzner, MD, the Residency Training Director, and Jimmy Avari, MD, Assistant Training Director for NYP/Westchester and Residency Coordinator for the Geriatric Fellowship. Our residents win awards at a national level, are publishing, and presenting at conferences.

Susan Samuels, MD, Director for Medial Student Education and Clerkship Director, received an Excellence in Teaching Award from Weill Cornell in June 2017. We thank Dimitry Francois, MD, who is the Assistant Clerkship director overseeing the Medical Student program at NYP/Westchester and who was recognized at this year’s convocation by the Medical Students and also appointed to the Senior list along with Janna Gordon-Elliot, MD, and Joseph Murray, MD, for their excellence in teaching. Rebecca Rendeleman, MD, does an outstanding job of overseeing the Child and Adolescent Fellowship program along with Breck Borcherding, MD, who serves as the Assistant Training Director at NYP/Westchester. On the Psychology side Susan Evans, PhD, Director of Education for Psychology and founding director of our highly rated, accredited psychology internship, and Megan Hughes-Feltenberger, PhD, Assistant Director of Education for Psychology at NYP/Westchester, do an outstanding job overseeing multiple academically rigorous pre-doctoral and postdoctoral clinical training programs.

We continue to attract the best and the brightest trainees into our clinical training programs. We thank our chief residents Rebecca Nejat, MD, and Alexandra Tatum, MD, from the general residency program, and Alison Lenet, MD; Jessica Simberlund, MD; Colby Tyson, MD; and Xiaoyi Sherry Yao, MD from the child and adolescent program.

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

The MSKCC Psychiatry program at Memorial continues in a highly productive phase with additions to the faculty and expansion of clinical and research activities. In his role as Chair of the program, William Breitbart, MD, has proved to be an effective collaborator and leader. He received the 2017 American Cancer Society Trish Greene Quality of Life Award; Jimmie Holland, MD, gave the Catherine DeAngelis Visiting Lectureship for Women in Medicine at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in April; Jada Hamilton, PhD, MPH, received the 2017 APOS New Investigator Award; Francesca Gany, MD, MS, was invited to serve as Co-Chair for the White House Committee for Global Cancer Care and Co-Chair on the Committee for Disparities and Diversity; Jamie Ostroff, PhD, was appointed and served as member of the Blue Ribbon Panel Working Group on Implementation Science of the NCI Cancer Moonshot Initiative; Andy Roth, MD received The Society for Liaison Psychiatry’s Annual Lifetime Achievement Award; Dr. Breitbart edited a new textbook titled Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy in the Cancer Setting. Oxford University Press, New York, 2017.

MSKCC Psychiatry established a Behavioral Genomics Research Lab to study behavioral aspects of new precision genomic cancer testing and treatments. A new Pediatric Psycho-Oncology Research Lab was established to study the psychosocial and cognitive sequelae of pediatric cancer treatment, survivorship; intervention development. MSKCC received a number of new NIH-funded grants and continue important initiatives including development of Telepsychiatry intervention models; communications skills training and research; the study of neurocognitive aspects of cancer and cancer treatment; and development of community based interventions aimed at reducing cancer disparities. It is expected that there will be increasing interactions between the components of the Department across the street on York Avenue, and the Westchester campus. Our joint training program is outstanding.

Dr. David Kissane, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at MSKCC from 2003-2012, is currently the Head of Psychiatry for Monash University in Australia where he pursues his academic interests in group, couples, and family psychotherapy trials; communication skills training; studies of existential distress; and the ethics of end-of-life care. He continues to consult with MSKCC and our Department, and publishes extensively. Recent articles appeared in peer-reviewed works such as: European Journal of Oncology Nursing, Journal of Psychosocial Oncology, and Psycho-Oncology.

Collaborations with Columbia

There are strong connections at Weill Cornell and Columbia through the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital System where together we constitute the Psychiatry Service Line. While the Departments are separate and report to their respective Medical Schools, there are many areas of joint activity and other areas of informal interaction. The Service Line is headed by Philip Wilner, MD, MBA, and has a Steering Committee which includes both Chairs, Jack D. Barchas, MD, representing Cornell, and Jeffrey A. Lieberman, MD, representing Columbia. Particularly impressive are the outstanding Center for Autism and the Developing Brain (CADB), and the joint Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Training Program. We also have joint efforts with the active involvement of the Hospital in the Youth Anxiety Center. Programs such as Eating Disorders headed by Evelyn Attia, M.D. and Forensic Psychiatry also have joint aspects.

Thanks As Always To Our Sponsors

We are grateful for the support we receive from donors, whose funding enhances our ability to achieve our missions, sustain excellence, and provide needed investment for our future. We recognize the invaluable support from the DeWitt Wallace Reader’s Digest program of the New York Community Trust, the Mortimer Sackler Family, the Pritzker Foundation, the Dworman Foundation, Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, Ms. Brooks Betts, the McCormick Foundation, New York Collaborates for Autism, the Siegel Foundation, the Simons Foundation, the Tusiani Family, Ms. Judy Zankel, and a number of other private individuals who facilitate new directions and talented scholars. We are also deeply appreciative of the generosity of faculty members, who provide donations and engage in philanthropic efforts to support program development.

Our Administrative Leaders and Staff

We deeply appreciate the staff members who work with us, including our senior administrators: Nora Contract, Director of Operations, NYP/Payne Whitney; Calandra Branch, Director of Operations, NYP/Westchester Division;
**Transition - A Note from Jack Barchas sent to Faculty and Staff on September 20, 2017**

As most of you know, 2018 marks the 25th year of my role as Chair of our Department. I have deep respect for the Department. We have had a unique developmental approach across the life span that involves both psychobiology and neurobiology in all of their forms, in which findings from one area may influence others in different areas. That has been accomplished while continuing our strengths in multiple fields and approaches. We have been unusually successful in working together with mutual appreciation and good colleagueship, which has often involved collaborative and comparative efforts. We can all be proud of what we have achieved.

Now is an appropriate time for a transition in the Chairmanship. Over the last few years, as some of you know, my wife, Rosemary Stevens, and I have been taking steps toward that goal. Indeed, that was important in our decision in the last couple of years to move to the West Side.

Both the College and the Hospital are about to undertake major transformative plans. They involve time spans of 5 to 10 years with staging. From my interactions regarding those efforts, I believe they are bold and will be extremely important. They require departmental leadership which can contribute through those efforts.

The leadership of the Medical College and the Hospital have put together a search committee which will be chaired by Professor Hugh Hemmings. We have already started preparing materials that may help the search group in terms of the current state of the Department, including some of its priorities and needs based on discussions.

Our Department was fortunate to have had a visit two years ago that confirmed the unique nature of the department and its excellence. The visitors recognized that the department was not based on a single individual - rather the entire leadership group of the Vice Chairs and others, and indeed the faculty and staff, were all part of decision processes. That approach may have been one of the keys to our success. I owe a great debt to the entire leadership group, which I believe may be the finest of its type in this country, and a very great debt to all of you.

I expect to maintain a commitment and involvement with the Department in any way that may be helpful to the group, and will enjoy continuing my relationship with all of you as this great Department moves forward!

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions.

We wish you all a very happy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year.

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Jack D. Barchas, MD  
Barklie McKee Henry Professor and Chair  
Department of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical College  
Psychiatrist-in-Chief, NYP/WCMC

Philip J. Wilner, MD, MBA  
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