



Message From The Chair



Welcome to spring! With the newly budding flowers and leaves, the department is seeing much that is new as we prepare for substantial staff changes this summer. The big news for health care is that the Department of Health and Human Services announced the end of the Covid emergency.

Of course, that does not mean that Covid has disappeared. People working in the hospital settings should consider vaccinations and certain units, including Emergency Mental Health, require masking. Still, one can feel a certain degree of relief in other departmental settings. One of those is those is grand rounds. We continue providing grand rounds on site as well as zoom. Those

attending on site can still enjoy lunch on the department, as well as the company of your colleagues.

To mark the return to normalcy, we had our first Research Day in five years. This successful event was attended by approximately 100 people. Wilson Compton, MD, MPE, Deputy Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the National Institutes of Health, was our keynote speaker. He, as well as and our other speakers, helped shine new light on addiction, a scourge that has been plaguing our country much longer than Covid. A popular event was the presentation of planned research. Scholars presented their ideas and received feedback from the group. This is how we help each other succeed. In addition, there were 40 posters displaying research with many of the faculty present to go over it.

We have had a successful launch and attendance at our Psychopharmacology Journal Study Group. This group, led by Anthony Rothschild, MD, meets once a month (4th Wednesday at noon) via Zoom to discuss research on psychopharmacologic drugs to treat various mental health disorders. It gives us an opportunity to stay current in pharmacological practices in psychiatry.

Attending the annual meetings of the American Psychiatric and Psychological Association is also a good place to learn more about the latest research and evidence-based practices as well as to share our own contributions. It's important that our faculty and trainee dyads

be able to attend the annual meetings, so we have started a program to support the travel to and from these meetings. Faculty and trainee dyads presenting a poster or talk receive \$1500 to support attendance of these meetings. Five dyads received support this year. The funding is in addition to any academic funds and is supported by the Bresciani fund.

This spring I hope you will not only enjoy the warming weather and fewer Covid restrictions but take advantage of new offerings that we will continue to provide and roll out.

Dr. Kimberly Yonkers

Katz Family Chair, Department of Psychiatry
UMass Chan Medical School/UMass Memorial Health

Education News



The annual faculty retreat took place at Tower Hill Botanical Gardens on May 11th

The UMass Chan Medical School Department of Psychiatry training office has a few announcements this spring 2023.

Dr. Auralyd Padilla is overjoyed to announce the arrival of her second child, Maura Zoe on April 15th, 2023.

Dr. Sheldon Benjamin is away on sabbatical teaching and learning at Kings College and the Royal Society of Medicine in London, England. We all anticipate his return and what knowledge he will bring with him!

The training office will be welcoming new faculty from our graduating resident ranks, including Dr. Bennett Wechsler as attending psychiatrist on our inpatient psychiatric unit on campus 8E, and Dr. Taylor Young as attending psychiatrist on our inpatient psychiatric unit off campus at the PTRC on Queen Street.

We are also happy to announce we have expanded our program from 7 to 8 incoming interns who will begin July 1st.

We are overjoyed to note we have received a very generous grant from the Department of Mental Health that will continue to fund our residents, and faculty in their teaching positions. This grant has allowed us to begin a new Chief Residency called the Adolf Meyer Chief Residency in Public Sector Psychiatry. Dr. Takeiya Lynch will be the first Adolf Meyer Chief Resident and she will learn and work in the public sector during her chief year.

Dr. Elisabeth DeGrush
Training Director, Assistant Professor
UMass Chan Medical School

Recent Awards



Congratulations to Alexandra (Lexi) Sells, OTR, for receiving the Debra Janssens ACCU Employee of the Year award.

Lexi started working at the ACCU many years ago as a mental health counselor. After receiving her occupational therapy training, she returned to the ACCU to work as an occupational therapist.

Her nomination states that Lexi was nominated for "going above and beyond to assist youth during dysregulation and unit acuity." She also came in to cover for the OT department to run youth groups.

In addition, she "took the time to sit with youth in a compassionate/non-judgmental way to provide support and healing while validating their feelings and helping them come up with coping skills."

Debra Janssens, RN, was an ACCU leader and a nurse who believed in a compassionate, inclusive, and multidisciplinary approach to mental health care.

Recent Appointments

Congratulations to Drs. Cochran and Sannes on their recent appointments.

David Cochran, MD, PhD, was approved for Fellow Status by the American Psychiatric Association Board of Directors.

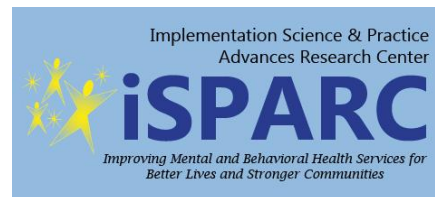
Fellow status is an honor that reflects one's dedication to the work of the APA and signifies allegiance to the psychiatric profession.



Timothy Sannes, PhD, was appointed as Director of Mentoring of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society.

He is currently Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UMass Chan Medical School.

News From iSPARC



iSPARC is turning 30 in June!

They will be posting more information about this anniversary in mid-June.

[iSPARC Website](#)

Recent Events



THE PSYCHIATRY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH DAY

Our first Research Day in five years took place on April 27th at the Medical School Building. Wilson Compton, MD, MPE, was the key-note speaker. Dr. Compton is currently the Deputy Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) of the National Institutes of Health.

After the Keynote Presentation, several awards were given. Nancy Byatt, MD, DO, MS, MBA received the Steven M Banks Research Mentoring Award. Alan Brown, MD received the Excellence in Quality Improvement Award in Recognition of Outstanding Provision of Quality Care. And Anthony Rothschild, MD received an award in honor of Outstanding Leadership as Psychiatry Research Day Chair.

The presentation of planned research was particularly popular and helpful. Scholars presented their ideas and received feedback from the group.

Implementation Science and Practice Advances Research Center (iSPARC) also gave a symposium on Innovations to reduce alcohol and drug use in marginalized populations. There were also 40 research presentations with posters in the lobby.

[Click here more information and to get a copy of the event brochure with all the research.](#)

Upcoming Events

GRAND ROUNDS

Our last grand rounds of the school year takes place on Thursday, June 8, 2023
The Briscoli Lecture

The topic will be "Updates on the Treatment of Borderline and Other Personality Disorders in 2023"

Presented by Choi-Kain, Lois W., M.D.

*Director, Gunderson Personality Disorders Institute
Director, Gunderson Personality Disorders Institute Research Program
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
Distinguished Fellow, American Psychiatric Association*

For more information visit the [Grand Rounds Page](#)



RESIDENCY GRADUATION

Resident graduation will be held on June 15, 2023

at Cyprian Keys Golf Club in Boylston.

This year's graduation award ceremony will be on that same day from 12-1pm via zoom and will include the winner of the Briscoli Award.

Please feel free to join us with the link below:

<https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/96018457302?pwd=TDIxV3ILS2R5eTdtZFFRTGVDUjJnQT09>.

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY JOURNAL CLUB

The Psychopharmacology Journal Club meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month over Zoom from 12pm – 1pm. Each month will feature a different topic and different moderators.

The next meeting is June 28th from noon-1pm.
We are looking for volunteers and suggestions for the paper we will read.

Psychopharmacology Journal Club Zoom link
[https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91950328105?
pwd=N0hKR2N4WWIQeENLSThVZnRwMmF1Zz09](https://umassmed.zoom.us/j/91950328105?pwd=N0hKR2N4WWIQeENLSThVZnRwMmF1Zz09)

If you would like more information about the journal club or if you would like something discussed, please reach out to Anthony.Rothschild@umassmemorial.org

Other Helpful Information

Faculty, do you want to increase visibility and have your writing reach 19 million readers a month? Then check out *The Conversation* online.

Many UMass Chan scholars have been published here and you could be next. Articles published in *The Conversation* reach every newsroom in the US and have been reposted by *The Scientific American*, *PBS News Hour*, and *The Washington Post*. Read more about it on the link above, and be a part of the national conversation with *The Conversation*.

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