# The Inward Eye

The official newsletter of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

September 2024 / Volume 8

In this newsletter you can expect:

Mission Updates

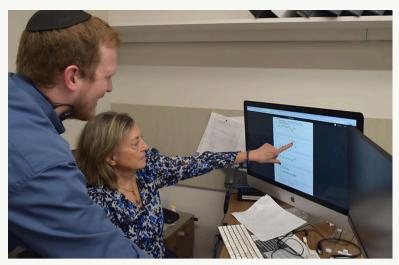
Department Spotlight

Brookstone Conference

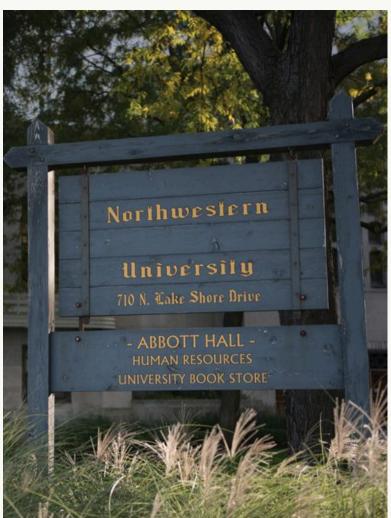
Research Seminar Series











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Staffing Spotlight

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Feinberg Scientists to Lead Grant Studying Autism, Schizophrenia

CBHP Program System-wide Expansion Updates

6th Annual Brookstone Conference





# U.S. News & World Report Rankings Released

#### NM Connections

Northwestern Medicine and its hospitals have once again achieved national acclaim in the healthcare industry. Northwestern Memorial Hospital stands as Illinois' top hospital for the 13th consecutive year, tying for this honor, with 11 specialties recognized nationally. It is one of just three hospitals in the nation recognized as High Performing across all procedures and conditions. This recognition reflects Northwestern Medicine's ongoing commitment to excellence in patient care and medical innovation.

Find more detailed rankings, including information about specialties, on the <u>U.S. News & World Report website</u>.



# An Interview With Howard B. Chrisman, MD, and Gaurava Agarwal, MD: Mental Health for the Healthcare Workforce



**Dr. Gaurava Agarwal**, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, has been a dedicated member of the Northwestern community since beginning his residency in 2003. He joined the faculty in 2007 and has served in various roles, including Director of Undergraduate Medical Education in Psychiatry and Director of Faculty Wellness for Northwestern University. In a recent interview with **Dr. Howard B. Chrisman**, President and CEO of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare, Dr. Agarwal discussed how Northwestern Medicine is supporting mental health through initiatives like an enhanced Employee Assistance Program and peer support.

These efforts align with the NM 2035 Strategic Plan, reflecting the Department of Psychiatry's commitment to promoting mental health and well-being across the healthcare system.

"In order for us to be able to provide the care we want to provide to others, we have to care about individuals themselves. It's not just their own well-being, but the well-being of their families and their friends," says Dr. Chrisman. "The more we can help — not just the individual but those that surround the individual — with resources, the healthier the climate we will have here at Northwestern Medicine."

Read the full interview here

# New Faculty & Staff



Jade Avery, MD Psychiatrist



**Kevin Conway, MSW** Social Worker



Razvan Popescu, MD Psychiatrist



**Zatio Kone, MSW** Peer Support Specialist



Reuben Heyman-Kantor, MD Psychiatrist



Jonathan Keeney, LCSW Neuropsychology Technician



Maggie Vissering, RN Registered Nurse



Micah Samuel, MSW Social Worker



Nora Myers Intake Coordinator



SaCora Williams, LCSW Social Worker







Each month, we'll feature a dedicated spotlight on members of our outstanding team, celebrating their contributions and achievements within the Department of Psychiatry.

# What is your title? How do you define your role?

Mary: As an RN in the clinic, I support providers by triaging medication needs and addressing patient concerns. Over the past year, I helped launch the ketamine clinic and supported ECT and TMS services. I also monitor lab results, administer longacting injections, and assist with walk-ins.

Cecilia: I'm a Research Study Support Coordinator in the Health Disparities & Public Policy Program. My role encompasses both administrative and research tasks. On an average day, I assist Dr. Linda Teplin with administrative duties and research the latest statistics on incarceration and health.

**Tia**: As a Behavioral Health Coordinator, I manage and streamline patient care within our behavioral health services. I act as a liaison between patients and providers to ensure cohesive and effective treatment. My role involves facilitating referrals and enhancing communication to deliver high-quality, patient care.

# Can you share something personal about yourself (e.g., hobbies, interests, a fun fact)?

Mary: Fun Fact — nursing is actually my second career. Before becoming a nurse, I was a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC), but I decided to transition to nursing with the ultimate goal of becoming a nurse practitioner. I'm currently pursuing my doctorate at Rush to achieve that goal. Balancing full-time work and school doesn't leave much free time, but when I do have a moment, I love spending it with my husband, Zach, and our dog, Teddy, or listening to Taylor Swift and binge-watching TV.

**Cecilia**: I have a small community garden plot that has brought me a lot of joy this summer, though not much in terms of food. I've learned that's what farmers markets and grocery stores are for!

## What motivates you in your work?

Mary: Like many in the clinic, I am truly passionate about mental health. I love working with patients and witnessing their progress, while also being there to provide support during challenging times. I cherish the relationships I build with both patients and fellow staff members in the clinic.

Cecilia: I am inspired by my co-workers' commitment to ensuring that study participants are respected and well-represented. I am passionate about mental and physical health for everyone, particularly for those who are or have been incarcerated. I feel fortunate to contribute to research that advances our understanding of health, racial, and class disparities. My colleagues are exceptionally intelligent, kind, and supportive.

**Tia**: I'm motivated by seeing the positive impact of our work on patients' lives. Witnessing their renewed hope and improved well-being is incredibly rewarding and reinforces my commitment to compassionate, effective care. This drives me to keep making a meaningful difference in their lives.

# Favorite Accomplishment

Tia: One of my favorite accomplishments was assisting a transgender patient undergoing Hormone Replacement Therapy and treatment for a traumatic brain injury. She was agitated, partly due to being misgendered. I provided a genderaffirming kit that greatly calmed her and restored her dignity, highlighting the importance of personalized, respectful care and significantly improving her well-being.

# Mary Sandler Nurse Clinician





If you'd like to be featured in a future staff spotlight, please reach out to alexander.white@northwestern.edu

# Is there anything else you'd like to share with the newsletter readers?

Mary: As of this week, I've entered the final year of my NP program and will soon begin a clinical rotation here at the clinic!

Cecilia: Read more about the Northwestern Project here!







# U.S. Surgeon General Declares Firearm Violence a Public Health Crisis

#### Northwestern Institute for Policy Research

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy has declared firearm violence a public health crisis, underscoring the need for urgent action. Northwestern University faculty, recognized for their contributions to firearm violence research, were available for media interviews on this issue.

The report features a <u>study</u> by behavioral scientist and IPR associate **Linda Teplin**, **PhD**, which shows that people with serious mental illness are more likely to be victims of violence themselves, even after accounting for other factors. Dr. Teplin, emphasized the need for a multidisciplinary approach involving legal, healthcare, and public health professionals, as well as street outreach workers. She highlighted that hospital emergency departments are critical for violence prevention and call for addressing underlying issues like poverty, inadequate housing, and unemployment. While mass shootings are highly visible, they account for less than 4% of firearm deaths, with the remaining 96% affecting poor, urban youth and communities of color.

### Read the full article at ipr.northwestern.edu

# **Linda Teplin, PhD**Principal Investigator of the Northwestern Juvenile Project



# Ketamine: A Double-Edged Sword in Mental Health Treatment

#### NBC News — www.nbcnews.com/health

**Brandon Hamm, MD**, psychiatrist and assistant professor at Northwestern University, recently spoke with NBC News about ketamine, a drug originally developed as an anesthetic that is now being used to treat severe depression. While ketamine has shown promise for patients who haven't responded to traditional therapies, Dr. Hamm cautions that it must be administered in a controlled, clinical setting due to its potential risks, including addiction. The conversation around ketamine has gained renewed attention following the death of actor Matthew Perry, highlighting the need for careful medical oversight.

#### Read the full article at nbcnews.com/health

Brandon Hamm, MD
Assistant Professor of
Psychiatry and Behavioral
Sciences (Consultation Liaison
Psychiatry)



# Shedding Light on "Summertime SADness"

## WTTW News — Black Voices

**Dorothy Sit, MD**, was recently featured on ABC7 News to discuss "Summertime SAD"—Seasonal Affective Disorder during the summer months. While SAD is often linked to winter, Dr. Sit shed light on the lesser-known occurrence of depression and mood swings in warmer weather. Her insights on symptoms, triggers, and treatments emphasized the complexities of mood disorders across seasons and highlighted her commitment to advancing mental health care and public education.

#### Watch her interview here

**Dorothy Sit, MD**Associate Professor of
Psychiatry and Behavioral
Sciences









# Novel Pathway Explains the Escalation of Fear Responses

#### News — feinberg.northwestern.edu

In a recent study published in *Nature*, **Jones Parker**, **PhD**, coauthored a groundbreaking discovery about the brain's neural pathways involved in high-intensity fear responses. The research, using mouse models developed by Jonathan Fadok, PhD, identified a previously unknown connection between the prefrontal cortex and the amygdala. This pathway controls the transition to high-intensity fear behaviors, such as freezing or fleeing, essential for survival. Dysregulation of these responses in humans can lead to psychiatric disorders like PTSD and anxiety.

# Read the full article on news.feinberg.northwestern.edu.

Jones Parker, PhD
Assistant Professor of
Neuroscience, Pharmacology,
and Psychiatry and Behavioral
Sciences



# Mental Health Advocates Work to Address Cultural Stigmas, Break Down Barriers to Care in Chicago

#### WTTW News — Black Voices

Inger Burnett-Zeigler, PhD, was recently interviewed by WTTW News on the topic of addressing cultural stigmas and barriers to mental health care in Chicago. She emphasized the importance of phasing out police responses to mental health crises in favor of CARE alternate response teams. Dr. Burnett-Zeigler highlighted the potential dangers of involving law enforcement in mental health calls, as officers may not understand the symptoms, which can worsen the crisis. She noted the critical need for healthcare professionals to respond to the estimated 300,000 Chicagoans with unmet mental health needs.

#### Read the full article on news.wttw.com

Inger Burnett-Zeigler, PhD Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (Psychology)



# Feinberg Scientists to Lead Grant Studying Autism, Schizophrenia

#### Northwestern Medicine Breakthroughs for Physicians

Northwestern Medicine scientists have secured a \$17 million grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health's Silvio O. Conte Centers to study genetic causes of autism and schizophrenia and develop new drugs for these conditions. Over five years, four projects will explore neural mechanisms underlying these disorders. **Peter Penzes, PhD**, will lead the initiative at Feinberg.

The research will investigate genetic variations, molecular structures of patient mutations, and their impact on proteins. Additionally, human-induced pluripotent cell-derived neurons and organoids will be used to study the conditions in the lab. Neural circuits in mice will be examined to understand signal transmission and the effect of genetic mutations. Finally, the team will collaborate with Gavin Rumbaugh, PhD, to study how genetic mutations and drugs affect mouse behavior.

"This grant will cover topics from genes to drugs in autism and schizophrenia," Penzes said, emphasizing the importance of institutional collaboration for advancing treatments

Peter Penzes, PhD
Director, Center for Autism
and Neurodevelopment
Ruth and Evelyn Dunbar
Professor of Psychiatry and
Behavioral Sciences
Professor, Neuroscience,
Pharmacology, Psychiatry and
Behavioral Sciences









#### Northwestern Medicine integrates DAX Copilot with Epic, seeking workflow efficiencies

Northwestern Medicine has implemented Nuance's Dragon Ambient eXperience (DAX) Copilot across its Epic electronic health record system to streamline clinical documentation. The Al-driven tool, deployed via Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare, automatically documents patient conversations, reducing the documentation burden on clinicians. Early results show that doctors using DAX Copilot can see over 11 additional patients per month and experience a 17% decrease in after-hours charting. The tool is also improving clinical accuracy and revenue, with further efficiency gains anticipated as the rollout continues.

"Implementing DAX Copilot will allow our physicians to spend more quality time with our patients, focusing on their needs rather than on paperwork and data entry," said **Dr. Gaurava Agarwal**, chief wellness executive of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare. "This will improve the overall patient experience while enhancing the wellbeing of our physicians, enabling them to deliver care more effectively and with greater satisfaction."

#### Microsoft Office 365 Upgrades Began This Month

Starting in August, Information Services began upgrading Microsoft Office applications on computers issued by Northwestern Medicine.

These updates did not apply to kiosks.

The applications that were upgraded include:

- Outlook
- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- OneNote
- Access
- Publisher

Once your computer is updated, you should experience increased speed and better performance within Microsoft Office applications.

#### What you need to know about the update

A week before your scheduled upgrade date, you will receive an email from <a href="mailto:nmissystemsupdatecommunication@nm.org">nmissystemsupdatecommunication@nm.org</a>. The email will contain upgrade instructions, an FAQ and reference guide.

You will be asked to restart your computer a day before the scheduled deployment to receive all required and pending software updates. You will also receive a reminder email on the day of your deployment.

#### On the day of your update, the installation will begin at 7 pm.

- If you are working at an NM location, restart your computer before 7 pm.
- If you are working remotely, restart your computer and log in to the VPN before 7 pm.
- If your computer is offline during your scheduled update, the installation will begin the next time your device is connected to the NM network.

Be sure to save your work and close all applications before the upgrade begins.

# New COVID-19 vaccines were just approved: Everything you need to know

The FDA has announced the release of the latest COVID-19 vaccine formula, specifically designed to combat the virus's expected dominant strain. This strategic update mirrors the annual approach taken for the flu vaccine, where formulations are adjusted to match the most prevalent strains each season. By targeting the most likely variant, the new formula aims to enhance protection and keep the virus at bay as it continues to evolve. This proactive measure underscores the ongoing efforts to adapt and respond to the changing landscape of the pandemic.



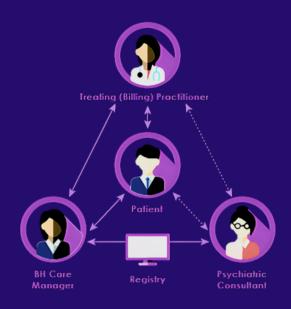




# **CBHP Program System-Wide Expansion**

The Collaborative Behavioral Health Program (CBHP) has been steadily making strides in its system-wide expansion, ensuring comprehensive behavioral health support across multiple regions.

The expansion of the Collaborative Behavioral Health Program (CBHP) presents an exciting opportunity to transform mental health care access for over 400,000 patients. By integrating psychiatric services within 70 primary care locations, this expansion allows patients to receive comprehensive care in a familiar setting, promoting earlier intervention and more personalized treatment options. It also strengthens the collaboration between primary care providers and psychiatric specialists, enhancing the overall quality of patient care.



# **Accelerator for Integrated Psychiatry**

Dr. Lisa Rosenthal announced the creation of an "Accelerator for Integrated Psychiatry" in Chicago, funded for three years by West Health. This initiative aims to address the mental health crisis and ensure equitable, patient-centered care. The project involves collaboration with West Health and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute to develop and implement a model based on Northwestern Medicine's CoCM program. Supported by national experts, the Accelerator will create a blueprint for widespread integrated psychiatric care and focus on optimizing health equity.

# **NM West Region's Progress**

#### Staffing and Management

All Behavioral Care Coordinator positions have been filled, ensuring that the new staff are prepared to support the program under the expert management of Lori Yoder. This development guarantees that the patients will receive consistent and quality care from well-trained professionals.

#### Training Sessions

To further bolster the program's effectiveness, a second series of online primary care trainings on CBHP was held this week. Over 200 primary care healthcare workers participated, enhancing their ability to integrate and utilize CBHP resources in their practice.

#### Enhancements to Referral Process

In conjunction with the August go-live, a Best Practice Alert was activated. This alert is designed to streamline the referral process, making it easier for primary care providers to refer patients to CBHP, thereby improving access to behavioral health services.

The CBHP's structured expansion and ongoing support initiatives reflect a commitment to enhancing behavioral health care across the regions, ensuring that patients receive timely and effective support.



# Media

# Dr. Teplin Honored with 2024 APHA Award for Excellence

**Linda Teplin** has been awarded the 2024 American Public Health Association (APHA) Award for Excellence. This honor recognizes her groundbreaking research on mental health disorders among detained youth, a cornerstone of her 40-year career in community health.

Dr. Teplin's work was the first to confirm the connection between severe mental health disorders and increased arrests, significantly influencing public health policies and judicial standards. Her ongoing research, including the Next Generation study, continues to shape the future of mental health care.



# Ashley Knapp Partners with Oak Park Library to Combat Youth Anxiety

Assistant Professor Ashley Knapp, PhD, was featured in the Oak Park Public Library Impact newsletter for her collaboration with the library to create an evidence-based technology service designed to prevent and treat anxiety disorders in youth. This initiative, which involves library staff and teens, aims to use libraries as a trusted resource to connect mental health research with practical support.



Director of Social Services & Public Safety Rob Simmons and Knapp (pictured) accepted the <u>ARCC Community-Academic</u> <u>Research Partnership Award</u> with Jen Brown, Director and Founder of Northwestern University's Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC).

# **Grants & Awards**

# Computational Modeling of Decision-Making Processes in Depressed Women

**Principal Investigator:** Jacqueline K. Gollan, PhD **Agency**: Elinor Beidler Siklossy Foundation



# **Presentations**

- Dr. Dorothy K. Sit presented on "Drivers of Maternal Morbidity and Mortality: Preconception Planning, Preventive Healthcare, Preeclampsia, Maternal Mental Health. Mood Screening, Equity and Optimal Treatment of Maternal Mood Disorders" at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association in Chicago. Her role as both presenter and discussant highlighted key issues in maternal health and strategies for improving outcomes.
- Sara Thomas, PhD, Nanzi Zheng, MA MS, and Linda A. Teplin, PhD, delivered a presentation on "Reducing Firearm Violence: Lessons Learned from The Northwestern Juvenile Project" at the Society for Research on Adolescence 2024 Meeting in Chicago. Co-authors of the paper included Karen Abram, PhD, Leah Welty, PhD, and Nicholas Meyerson, PhD.
- At the 2024 Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Alumni Weekend in Chicago, Dr. Teplin delivered a presentation titled "Mass Shootings and the Other 97% of Gun Deaths: Putting Policy into Perspective."





# Latest Publications by Faculty

Welty, L. J., Luna, M. J., Aaby, D. A., Harrison, A. J., Potthoff, L. M., Abram, K. M., & Teplin, L. A. (2024). Do Substances Used in Adolescence Predict the Persistence of Substance Use Disorders in Adulthood? A 15-Year Study of Youth After Detention. The Journal of adolescent health: official publication of the Society for Adolescent Medicine, \$1054-139X(24)00228-3. Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2024.04.019

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Duckworth, M., Garfield, C. F., Santiago, J. E., Gollan, J., O'Sullivan, K., Williams, D., Lee, Y., Muhammad, L. N., & Miller, E. S. (2024). The design and implementation of a multi-center, pragmatic, individual-level randomized controlled trial to evaluate Baby2Home, an mHealth intervention to support new parents. Contemporary clinical trials, 142, 107571. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cct.2024.107571

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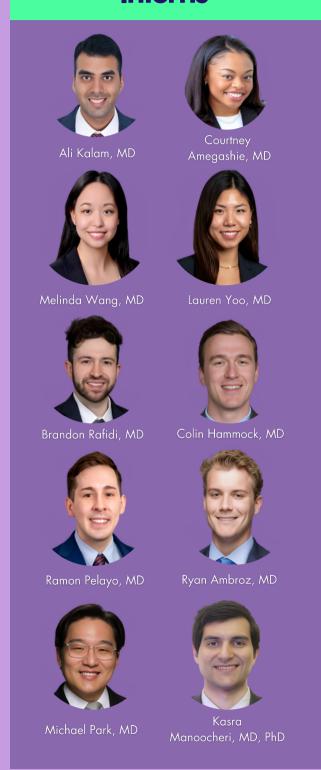
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# NEV/TRAINEES

# Interns



# **Fellows**





# Research Seminar Series



**UPCOMING TALKS:** 

**SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2024** 



VIKAAS SOHAL, MD, PHD

Professor of Psychiatry
UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences

**OCTOBER 3RD, 2024** 



# YARIMAR CARRASQUILLO, PHD

Investigator,
Pain and Integrative Neuroscience Branch of the
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH
at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)





# The 6th Annual BROOKSTONE CONFERENCE

September 13th, 2024

Presentations from: 1:00PM to 5:00PM

Reception: 5:00PM to 6:00PM

Northwestern Memorial Hospital — Feinberg Pavilion

Conference Room A — Third Floor

251 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611



# **CONFERENCE THEME**

"Innovative approaches towards studying and treating adolescent mental health."

Join us to explore groundbreaking methodologies and interventions in adolescent mental health. This conference will bring together leading researchers, clinicians, and educators to discuss the latest advancements in diagnostic tools, therapeutic techniques, and preventative strategies. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the innovative approaches shaping the future of adolescent mental health care.

# Hosted By: Sachin Patel, MD, PhD

Chairman & Lizzie Gilman Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences



# Co-Host: Stewart Shankman, PhD

Dunbar Professor of Bipolar Disease Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences



# **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Lillian Y. Li, PhD**Department of Psychiatry and

Behavioral Sciences Northwestern University



## Erika E. Forbes, PhD

Department of Psychiatry University of Pittsburgh



# Scott Compton, PhD

Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Northwestern University



# Ran Barzilay, MD, PhD

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia University of Pennsylvania



To RSVP for in-person or virtual participation click <u>here</u>

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Dorothy Sit
Brandon Hamm

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# Stay Connected, Follow Us on our Social Channels!

Stay informed and up-to-date with the latest news, events, and insights from our department by following us on Instagram. Join our community and support mental health awareness!



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