

# The Inward Eye

December  
2024

Mission  
Updates

Department  
Spotlight

NM West Health  
Accelerator

PBS Holiday Party at  
the Chicago  
Architecture Center

NM

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## New Faculty and Staff

**Jacob Atlas**

Program Director



**Juan Aparicio, MD**

Psychiatrist



**Nicole Lentini, MD**

Psychiatrist



**Blake Myers, RN**

Registered Nurse



**Lauren Ewart**

Behavioral Health Counselor



**Sade Hines**

Patient Liaison



**Isaiah Lopez**

Intake Coordinator



**Crystal Tapia**

Patient Service Representative



## Departing Staff

**Katherine Estep**

Executive Assistant



**Felicia Wince**

Program Assistant 4



Every month, we'll highlight a staff member in our newsletter! If you're interested in being featured, please reach out to [pbsweb@northwestern.edu](mailto:pbsweb@northwestern.edu)



**Sandra Jordan**  
Supported Employment  
& Education Specialist



**Kaelin Hamilton**  
Patient Liaison

## What is your title?

- **Sandy:** I am the Employment & Education Specialist for the REPP clinic and the Focused Forward program.
- **Kaelin:** I'm a patient liaison in the psychiatry department at Northwestern.

## What do you like most about your role here at Northwestern?

- **Sandy:** It's incredibly rewarding to see clients land a job, pass a class, complete a training program, or earn a degree. I also love collaborating with clinicians and the care team, learning from their expertise. Even without formal training in mental health, I deeply appreciate the support and interest NM staff show in employment and education.
- **Kaelin:** What I love most about this role is the chance to make a real difference in patients' lives during tough times. It's all about compassion and advocacy—providing comfort and clarity to help patients feel supported when they're overwhelmed.

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

- **Sandy:** I love traveling! Most often I head to Latin America, and have spent extensive time in Argentina, Costa Rica, and Paraguay. I'm also first generation—my mother was born in Colombia and my father was born in Serbia (Yugoslavia at the time). Outside of work, I like to spend time with my 16 year old son (usually bribing him by going out to eat). I was recently diagnosed with celiac disease, so I have been in search of celiac-safe restaurants and foods. When I have time, I like to dabble in making jewelry, bike, do yoga, swim, and ski!
- **Kaelin:** I rescued two kittens in college, they completely changed my perspective on cats. They are my girls to this day shoutout Pickles and Sage! Some of my favorite things to do outside of work is support all of the Chicago sports teams, going to Wrigley Field, Soldier Field, and the United Centers is like Disneyland to me. Trying new restaurants and socializing with my friends is also always a good time!

## How do you define your role and your primary responsibilities?

- **Sandy:** As an Employment & Education Specialist, I help clients achieve their work or school goals. This includes career exploration, job leads, résumé and cover letter assistance, and advocating with employers if needed. I offer retention support, workplace counseling, and guidance on requesting accommodations. I also connect clients with financial benefits counseling to navigate SSI/SSDI and set up ABLÉ accounts for savings. On the education side, I assist with exploring schools, enrolling in programs, applying for financial aid, and requesting classroom accommodations.
- **Kaelin:** As a patient liaison, I act as the main point of contact between patients and medical teams, explaining treatment plans, answering questions, and helping patients and their families understand medical terms and procedures. I assist with scheduling appointments, follow-ups, and referrals to ensure seamless care. I also provide emotional support, offering reassurance and guidance to help patients navigate what can often be a stressful time.

## What motivates you in your work?

- **Sandy:** I believe having a sense of purpose is vital to a patient's recovery, and finding work or starting school is a powerful way to inspire hope. That's why I do what I do. When a client shares that they got a job or had a great day at work or in class, it absolutely makes my week!
- **Sandy:** I believe having a sense of purpose is vital to a patient's recovery, and finding work or starting school is a powerful way to inspire hope. That's why I do what I do. When a client shares that they got a job or had a great day at work or in class, it absolutely makes my week!

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

- **Sandy:** I'm happy to be a resource for the Outpatient Psychiatry clinic. While my caseload is full, I'm available to discuss patients' work or school goals and share helpful community resources. Feel free to reach out at [sandra.jordan@nm.org](mailto:sandra.jordan@nm.org) or (872) 280-0350.

# Education Mission

## Medical Education Day 2024: Celebrating Excellence in Education

On October 15th, **Christine Mozer (PGY2)**, **Kakra Boye-Doe (PGY3)**, and **Veronika Hanko, MD**, were honored by medical students for their professionalism and dedication to creating a positive and supportive learning environment at Med Ed Day.

Additionally, **Katie Kunstman, MD**, **Marta Mudd (PGY4)**, **Jordan Vajda (PGY3)**, **Leigh Berman (PGY3)**, and **Gaya Archer (PGY3)** presented their research at the event, highlighting the department's dedication to innovation and excellence in medical education.



### Michael Marcangelo, MD, Inducted into FAME

**Michael Marcangelo, MD**, professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, was honored as one of 34 new members inducted into the Feinberg Academy of Medical Educators (FAME). This prestigious recognition, facilitated by the FAME Membership Committee, celebrates Dr. Marcangelo's significant contributions to medical education and his dedication to advancing the field. Congratulations to Dr. Marcangelo on this well-deserved achievement!



# Clinical Mission

## Northwestern Medicine Partners with West Health to Expand Mental Health Access Through Innovative Care Model



**Northwestern Medicine** is partnering with **West Health** and **the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute** to transform mental health care by integrating psychiatric services directly into primary care settings, with an \$8.6 million grant from West Health powering the Northwestern Medicine West Health Accelerator to revolutionize mental health care access. This initiative aims to provide earlier interventions, improve equitable access, and develop a scalable, evidence-based care model that can serve as a national standard.

The event also honored the social workers who successfully completed the Northwestern Medicine system-wide expansion of CBHP in the summer of 2024, pictured to the right.

# Research Mission

## Media, Conferences, and Presentations

### SuperAging Program Spotlight: Dr. Tamar Gefen Featured in Northwestern Magazine

The SuperAging Program in the [Mesulam Center for Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease](#) in Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine was featured in Northwestern Magazine. Click to read the interview with Dr. Tamar Gefen who helps lead the center and watch a video on the program.



[SuperAging Program](#)

[Feinberg School of Medicine](#)

### María José Luna Discusses Mental Health Needs of Justice-Involved Youth on Outside the Loop Radio

PhD candidate María José Luna was recently featured on Outside the Loop Radio to discuss a study exploring the mental health needs of justice-involved youth. In the interview, María highlights critical gaps in services and sheds light on the challenges faced by this population.



Click the link to listen to the full episode and learn more about this important research.

[Mental Health Needs of Justice-Involved Youths](#)

### Northwestern Project Research Featured in The Chicago Reporter and Crain's Chicago Business

The Northwestern Project's impactful research was featured in several notable articles this past quarter. The Chicago Reporter explored inequities in mental health services for justice-involved youth as they age, while Crain's Chicago Business highlighted a \$20M grant awarded to Northwestern to investigate potential links between incarceration and Alzheimer's disease. Click the links to read more:



Links

[Northwestern Project Research Featured in The Chicago Reporter and Crain's Chicago Business](#)

[Northwestern gets \\$20M grant to look for links between prison and Alzheimer's \(Crain's Chicago Business\)](#)

## Research Mission

Upcoming Media, Conferences, and Presentations

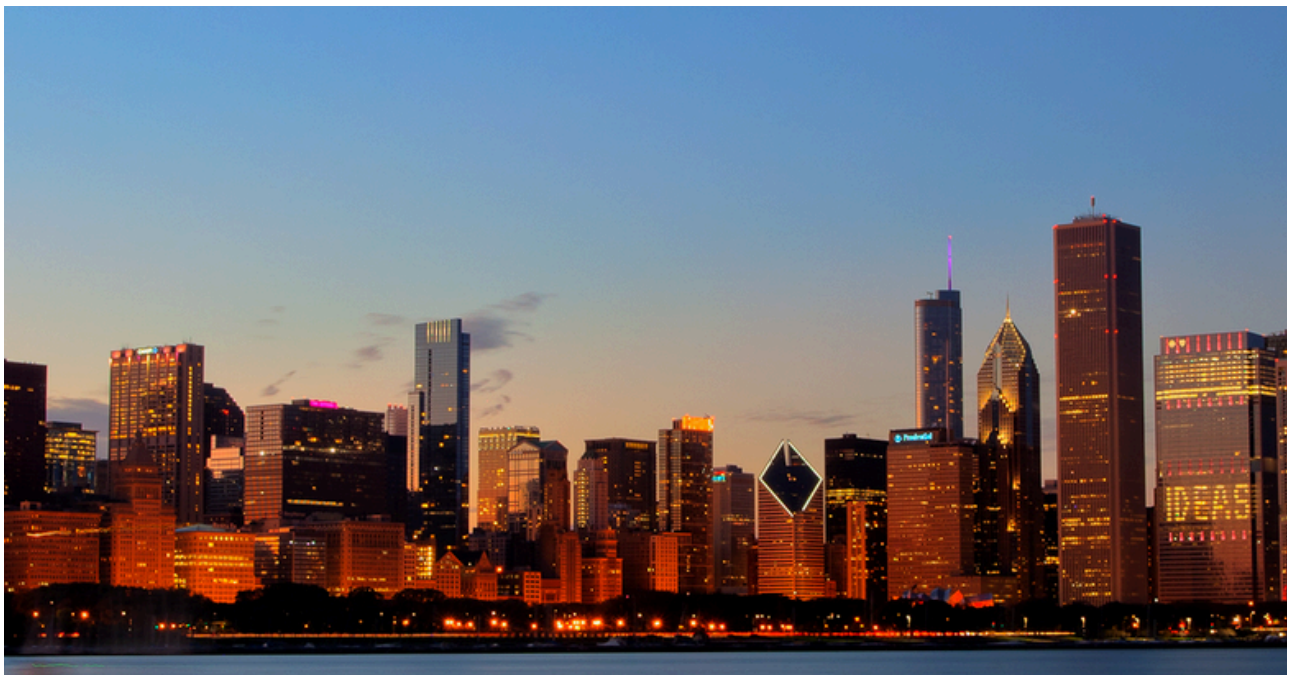
### 2025 Consortium Satellite Meeting



The 2025 Consortium Satellite Meeting is an interdisciplinary event bringing together scholars in psychiatry, psychology, and linguistics. The focus is on advancing the theoretical and empirical investigation of thought, language, and communication disturbances in psychosis.

#### Organized by:

The Department of Psychology, and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, in conjunction with The Adolescent Development and Preventive Treatment Program, The Department of Cognitive Neuroscience, and Northwestern University. Chicago, Illinois, USA.



**APRIL 3RD, 2025**

Venue:

**BALDWIN AUDITORIUM  
LURIE MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTER  
LURIE 1-123**

Address:

**303 E SUPERIOR ST  
CHICAGO, IL, 60611**



# Faculty Spotlight in the Media



## Spotlight on FTD Awareness Week

In honor of World FTD Awareness Week (Frontotemporal Degeneration - September 22-29, 2024), Dr. Weintraub was interviewed by Emma Heming Willis, advocate and wife of actor Bruce Willis, to shed light on this underdiagnosed condition.

Additionally, thanks to advocacy led by [Amy Bouschart](#), whose husband, Frank Callea, participates in Northwestern's Mesulam Center research, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson signed a proclamation officially recognizing FTD Awareness Week in the city.

“Our clinic often sees patients after years of misdiagnosis and uncertainty,” said [Darby Morhardt, PhD, LCSW](#). “These awareness efforts are crucial to improving early diagnosis and care.”

The Mesulam Center remains at the forefront of FTD research, treatment, and support. [Learn more here.](#)

[Watch Dr. Weintraub's insightful interview with Emma Heming Willis for World FTD Awareness Week 2024](#)



## Northwestern's Largest Active Grant to Fund Clinical and Translational Research Hub, Led by NUCATS



[Sara J. Becker, PhD](#), the Alice Hamilton Professor of Psychiatry and director of Northwestern's Center for Dissemination and Implementation Science, serves as one of the principal investigators for the NUCATS Institute, which recently received a \$55 million NIH grant to advance clinical and translational research. Dr. Becker highlights the importance of implementation science in accelerating the adoption of evidence-based practices into routine care, positioning Northwestern as a national leader in the field. Under her leadership, NUCATS aims to foster inclusive excellence, drive innovation, and integrate implementation-science methods to rapidly develop and disseminate effective health interventions that address critical public health challenges.

Learn more about how Northwestern's \$55 million NIH grant is advancing clinical and translational research under the leadership of Dr. Sara J. Becker: [Read the full article here.](#)

## Celebrating Dr. Inger Burnett-Zeigler's Notable Achievement

Congratulations to **Inger Burnett-Zeigler, PhD**, Associate Professor and licensed clinical psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Northwestern University, for being recognized as a notable nonprofit board leader by Crain's Chicago Business. As the board chair for Thresholds, Dr. Burnett-Zeigler has made outstanding contributions to improving mental health services in Chicago, particularly for underserved populations. Her groundbreaking work includes securing a multimillion-dollar NIH grant to address depressive symptoms among Black women, showcasing her dedication to advancing mental health equity.

We celebrate this well-deserved honor and her continued impact on the community through research, advocacy, and public engagement.




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## APHA Award for Excellence

**Linda Teplin, PhD, Owen L. Coon Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences**, has been honored with the 2024 APHA Award for Excellence by the American Public Health Association. This prestigious award recognizes her groundbreaking contributions to community health, including her longitudinal research on mental health disorders and psychosocial outcomes among detained youth.

Dr. Teplin's work has profoundly influenced federal agencies, congressional hearings, and the development of new court standards for managing mental health disorders. Her ongoing "Next Generation" intergenerational study further highlights her dedication to advancing public health.

Congratulations to Dr. Teplin for this well-deserved recognition!




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## The Augusta Webster Education Grant

Congratulations to **Brent Schnipke, MD**, on receiving the Augusta Webster Faculty Fellowship in Educational Research and Innovation. The Augusta Webster Accelerating Education Grant, offered by the Feinberg Academy of Medical Educators, provides funding to jump-start innovative educational projects.

Dr. Schnipke's project, titled *Integrating Education in Addiction Medicine: Implementation of Medical Student, Resident, and Fellow Elective Experiences in an Interdisciplinary Addiction Setting*, focuses on developing a formal educational curriculum for learners on the addiction consult service.

The grant will fund durable course materials and educational content to enhance addiction medicine electives for residents, fellows, and medical students, fostering interdisciplinary learning. This two-year, \$50,000 fellowship recognizes Dr. Schnipke's dedication to advancing medical education through innovation and research.



# PBS Holiday Party at the Chicago Architecture Center



VOLUME 9



THE INWARD EYE

# PBS Holiday Party at the Chicago Architecture Center



VOLUME 9



THE INWARD EYE



**Building Capacity for Youth Mental Wellness: Feasibility and Acceptability for a Mental Health Family Navigator Model for Foster Parents.**

Principal Investigator: Heather Jill Risser, Ph.D., Christina L. Boisseau, Ph.D.

Co-Investigator: Zoran Martinovich, Ph.D.

Agency: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Institutes of Health

Project Period: 09/01/2024 - 08/31/2027

**A Hybrid Effectiveness-Implementation Trial of an Intervention to Reduce Diabetes-Specific Emotional Distress in Teenagers**

Principal Investigator: Jill Weissberg-Benchell, Ph.D.

Co-Investigators: Sarah Helseth, Ph.D., Michael Harris, Ph.D., Jennifer Raymond, M.D., Tina Drossos, Ph.D., Ellen O'Donnell, Ph.D., Jessica Pierce, Ph.D., Marissa Feldman, Ph.D.

Agency: Breakthrough T1D Foundation

Project Period: 09/01/2023 - 08/31/2026

**Consequences of Incarceration on Health, Age-Related Conditions, and Risk Factors for ADRD**

Principal Investigator: Linda A. Teplin, Ph.D.

Co-Investigators: Karen Abram, Ph.D., Leah J. Welty, Ph.D., Sandra Weintraub, Ph.D., Tamar Gefen, Ph.D., Kiarri Kershaw, Ph.D., Kenzi Cameron, Ph.D., Thomas McDade, Ph.D., Roland J. Thorpe Jr., Ph.D.

Agency: National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institutes of Health

Project Period: 08/15/2024 - 04/30/2029

**Motric Features of the Voice as Indicators of Psychomotor Agitation and Retardation in Current and Remitted MDD**

Principal Investigator: Stewart A. Shankman, Ph.D.

Co-Investigators: Matthew A. Goldrick, Ph.D., Vijay A. Mittal, Ph.D.

Agency: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Institutes of Health

Project Period: 04/01/2024 - 03/31/2029

**Validating Non-Linguistic Laboratory Biomarkers of Depression in Persons with Aphasia**

Principal Investigator: Sameer Afzal Ashaie, Ph.D.

Co-Investigators: Stewart Shankman, Ph.D., Leora Cherney, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Agency: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health

Project Period: 09/01/2024 - 08/31/2026

**Linguistic and Neural Synchrony During Co-Rumination as Interpersonal Mechanisms of Depression in Adult and Adolescent Dyads**

Principal Investigator: Lilian Y. Li, Ph.D.

Mentors and Collaborators: Stewart Shankman, Ph.D. (primary mentor); Elizabeth Norton, Ph.D.; Amanda Rose, Ph.D.; Stevie Chancellor, Ph.D.; Lisa Johnson, Ph.D.; Randy Auerbach, Ph.D.; Nicholas Allen, Ph.D.

Agency: National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH), National Institutes of Health

Project Period: 05/01/2024-04/30/2026

## Publications

Bitran, A. M., Sritharan, A., Trivedi, E., Helgren, F., Buchanan, S. N., Durham, K., Li, L. Y., Funkhouser, C. J., Allen, N. B., Shankman, S. A., Auerbach, R. P., & Pagliaccio, D. (2024). The effects of family support and smartphone-derived homestay on daily mood and depression among sexual and gender minority adolescents. *Journal of psychopathology and clinical science*, 133(5), 358–367. <https://doi.org/10.1037/abn0000917>

Costello, R., MacDonald, B., Papadakis, J. L., & Jordan, L. L. (2024). Culturally-informed neuropsychological evaluations of patients with spina bifida: Application of the ECLECTIC framework to a complex pediatric medical condition. *The Clinical neuropsychologist*, 1–27. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13854046.2024.2372877>

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