REMEMBER
Please send me your accomplishments and personal updates for the March 2021 Kudos

SAVE THE DATES

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS
Below is the information on the first faculty development seminar for 2021. We will send out the rest of the information as soon as possible so that people can clear their schedules. All seminars are from 9:00-10:30am and will be virtual this year.

- May 5, 2021 – Ways to make the classroom more culturally inclusive
- September 1, 2021 - Faculty development topic – Personal Statements
- November 3, 2021 - Running a lab and mentoring advanced graduate students

WRITING GROUPS: UPCOMING
The Writing Group is the 1st Wednesday of every month from 8:00-9:00am. The next meeting is Wednesday March 3, 2021 and will be on Zoom - https://zoom.us/j/6213030759?pwd=T0hpY056a0N1RFdvWjFlQ3d4UU1vZz09

CE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
TBD.

SPOTLIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Kandi Schmidt, PhD
Kandi Schmidt is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the Director of Transplant Behavioral Health in the Emory Transplant Center. Within the department of psychiatry, she supervises the clinical training of psychology postdoctoral fellows/graduate students and psychiatry residents and contribute as much as she can to Caring Communities.

Clinically, Kandi is responsible for pre-surgical clearance evaluations of potential transplant candidates. She provides individual, couples/family, and group psychotherapy for transplant candidates and recipients across the various organ teams and serve as a liaison between patients and their transplant teams. This past fall she started a graduate-level clinical psychology practicum and has thoroughly enjoyed supervising her practicum student two days a week.
Administratively, she is responsible for building the growing multidisciplinary behavioral health team and promoting the integration of behavioral health services within the transplant center and across the five organ programs. She enjoys working with the diverse transplant teams to contribute to quality assurance activities, develop psychosocial protocols, and provide educational workshops for hospital staff. And she is excited to be a founding member of the newly established Transplant Diversity Council.

Outside of Emory, Kandi is a member of the American Society for Transplant Psychosocial and Ethics Community of Practice and a member of GPA and active with the Health Psychology Taskforce. Although she enjoyed volunteering with Happy Tails pet therapy organization, she recently retired her 15 y/o pup, Benson, who is content spending his days by her side while she works from home.

Kandi loves that at its core, her job is to be an advocate for her patients, which makes it easy to find meaning and purpose each day. Not only does she hear some of the most inspiring stories of human resilience, but she also then has the privilege of helping those courageous, resilient individuals to navigate the grueling and extraordinary process of receiving a second chance at life. She also really loves working with medical professionals across disciplines in such a unique and dynamic specialty.

After completing her post-doctoral residency at the Atlanta VA, Kandi was fortunate to be hired as the first full-time behavioral health provider at the Emory Transplant Center in 2017. This position has allowed her to apply her clinical interests in integrated care and health psychology skills, as well as her background in program development to essentially build a new integrated service line. The team has expanded and now includes a patient care coordinator, a full-time clinical social worker and will soon have a full-time psychiatrist and second full-time clinical psychologist.

Looking forward, Kandi is eager to see the anticipated developments for her team come to fruition. She is eager to start publishing the research they have begun to contribute to the psychosocial transplant literature and she intends to complete my ABPP board certification in clinical psychology.

Outside of work, Kandi enjoys painting, listening to old records and hiking with her dog Benson. Kandi and her husband love to travel internationally (pre-pandemic) and hope to continue traveling soon. Since the pandemic, she has acquired many new hobbies including home improvement projects, refinishing furniture and gardening.

**ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Beverly Stout, MD**

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Alejandra Grullon** Alejandra Grullon is a clinical research coordinator for a study drug trial targeting negative symptoms in patients with schizophrenia. She is also a coordinator in the qualitative study looking at the implementation of Open Dialogue and Coordinated Specialty Care Model within the first episode psychosis program called Project ARROW, where she interviews participants to collect qualitative data and administer clinical assessments. She also does Open
Dialogue therapy with Open Dialogue Atlanta, and volunteers with the geriatric psychiatry research team at Wesley Woods Hospital, where she is a back-up rater for the Electroconvulsive Therapy for Agitation in Alzheimer’s Dementia study.

Alejandra’s favorite aspect of her job is working with patients with serious and persistent mental disorders, as well as young adults experiencing first episode psychosis. She is in awe of peoples’ stories and resiliency through traumatic life experiences and particularly interested in the connections between trauma and adverse childhood experiences and psychosis.

After Alejandra graduated medical school, she had the opportunity to work in different specialties including ophthalmology, surgery and pediatrics, as well as manage an emergency medicine department. She also lived with her maternal family in Argentina for one year, where she discovered a passion for teaching.

Alejandra’s primary goal is to obtain and complete a psychiatry residency and eventually pursue a fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. She wants to keep increasing her production of research, as well as provide mentorship to Latinx students. When it’s safe, she would like to travel to Argentina so her partner can meet her maternal side of the family and enjoy the best meat and wine she’ll ever have. She also used to speak French like a native and hopes to brush up and further improve her fluency.

Alejandra is passionate about wellness. She strength trains consistently and loves developing her own twist on healthy meals each week for her and her partner. She is from the Dominican Republic, and when she lived there she loved to spend her weekends relaxing and sharing meals with her parents, sister, brother-in-law and her niece and nephew, and going to their favorite beach in Juan Dolio. Since immigrating three years ago, she has fallen in love with Atlanta and it has become her home. Alejandra and her wife love to explore the food scene in Atlanta, as well as take advantage of the incredible green space around the city. Early mornings are her favorite part of the day, where she gets to read, drink coffee and tend to their fur babies, two big orange tabbies. They also have a dog who is a terrier mix and an excellent walking buddy. Other interests include video games (Nintendo Switch!), reading (about culture, wellness, technology, Stoicism) and true crime shows and movies.

**TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Madison Hardee** Madison Hardee is a graduate research assistant on the Education and Transition team at Emory Autism Center (EAC). Her responsibilities consist of researching transition-related services and opportunities for autistic youth, specifically those in high school preparing for their transition into the workforce or post-secondary education, as well as assisting in the development of measurement tools to evaluate our team’s assessment work and program. Outside of the department, she is a graduate student in the Rollins School of Public Health’s Health Policy and Management Department, and a teaching assistant for one of the HPM department’s courses.
Outside of Emory, Madison is a Posse scholar alumna. She received a full-tuition scholarship to attend Boston University for undergrad as a scholar with the Posse Foundation. Today, she remains connected and involved with her fellow scholars and the organization. Prior to the 2020-21 academic year, she worked with the Center for Black Women's Wellness, a local non-profit in Atlanta, to help launch a COVID-19 Response Program and administer their rent and utility relief effort to the community. Working with the organization was a professional highlight for Madison. The organization ensures access to quality healthcare for women and their families, and stands for increasing health education along with awareness of health issues and risk factors as a method to strengthen the community. This aligns with her belief in the efficacy of community-based care.

The most rewarding part of Madison’s position as graduate research assistant at EAC is knowing she is helping design a measurement tool that will hold the team accountable for the work we do. The team she is part of consists of dedicated and hard-working individuals, and the program evaluation tool being developed just demonstrates how committed EAC staff is to providing quality services and ensuring successful futures for all autistic individuals and their families who walk through the Center's doors.

As previously mentioned, working with the Center for Black Women's Wellness at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic is a key highlight of Madison’s career trajectory so far. She also cherishes a previous internship with the CDC where she worked with and shadowed individuals in the Center for Global Health, Division of Global HIV & TB.

After graduation, Madison will be moving to Boston and joining Massachusetts General Hospital as an Administrative Fellow. She enrolled in Rollins School of Public Health immediately after graduating from Boston University for undergrad, so she is extremely excited to officially launch her career in a city that she loves and in a health system she admires (in addition to Emory Healthcare of course).

Outside of the workplace, Madison is interested in molecular biology research as it was her major in undergrad at Boston University. Graduate school and other responsibilities have kept her extremely busy, but she hopes to one day return to the lab bench for a potential pastime. Currently, however, she has taken up roller blading and baking as hobbies during the pandemic!

FACULTY COMINGS AND GOINGS

WELCOME NEW FACULTY
Anjan Bhattacharyya, MD – Dr. Anjan Bhattacharyya is an Internist-Psychiatrist who recently moved from Saint Louis University School of Medicine. He completed his Medical School in New Delhi, India at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, and then did a Combined Internal Medicine/Psychiatry Residency at Southern Illinois University. His primary role at Emory will be to develop a Psychiatry Consultation-Liaison Service to serve the Dekalb Operating Unit facilities, along with an outpatient Integrated Medicine-Psychiatry Clinic. He has a passion for teaching, having served in
the roles of Psychiatry Clerkship Director and Residency Director for both Med/Psych and Categorical Psychiatry residencies at past institutions. His clinical interests lie in the care of individuals with complex medical and psychiatric comorbidity. He has interests and experience in the areas of Neuropsychiatry, Transplant psychiatry and Collaborative Care interventions.

THANK YOU TO FACULTY WHO ARE LEAVING

Monika Stojek, PhD – Monika will be moving back to Poland, her country of origin, to be close to her family. She will start an Assistant Professor position at the Psychology Department at the University of Silesia. She is also planning to develop a private practice specializing in evidence-based cognitive behavioral treatments. At Emory, Monika was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She served as a clinical psychologist at the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program’s (EHVP) Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), and an associate director of wellness services at EHVP. With support from Drs. Rothbaum, Rauch, Michopoulos, and Gillespie, she also continued to study the relationship between stress, including trauma, and health behaviors. Monika will miss her work at Emory – her team of colleagues who are always working to improve and innovate clinical intervention, the friends she made along the way, and the joy of making a difference in patients’ lives in a relatively short time in the IOP Program. She is looking forward to her four-year-old son growing up with both sets of his grandparents and the adventure of starting over. She is also looking forward to visitors from her adopted homeland!

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee (DISC) and Racial Ethnic and Cultural Minority Faculty Subcommittee (RECM)

Chinese New Year and Lunar New Year – Shujing Zhang, Psychology Intern – Chinese New Year and Lunar New Year refer to the same day yearly, the first day of a new lunar year, based on the Chinese Lunar calendar. They can be used interchangeably or separately based on the cultural contexts. Specifically, the celebration of this day is originated from ancient China, so Chinese New Year is named and celebrated by Chinese and Chinese descendants globally. Lunar New Year is often recognized and celebrated by Asians other than Chinese or Chinese descendants worldwide, for instance, individuals from Asian countries including South Korea, Malaysia, and Vietnam. Celebrating the beginning of a new lunar year is an essential holiday to all Asian groups worldwide, despite their country of origin, to wishing a prosperous new year. Therefore, Chinese New Year and Lunar New Year have many shared values and information. However, Lunar New Year is celebrated differently by various non-Chinese Asian groups. The information here focuses on introducing you to the Chinese New Year as that is what I am most familiar with.

Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival, is one of the most important Chinese holidays with historical, spiritual, and cultural significance. Chinese New Year can be traced back to about 3,800 years ago. The celebration of Chinese New Year originated to worship harvest gods for all the harvested crops throughout the year. Another popular
belief for the origin of this holiday is the legend of Nian. Nian is a scary beast, which name has the same pronunciation as “year” in Chinese. It attacks and eats people, live stocks, and food wherever it goes at the end of the year every year. A wise elder figures out that Nian is fearful of loud noises, fire, and the color red. Therefore, people wear red clothes and light up firecrackers to scare Nian away. After Nian ran away, people celebrate the victory with the delicious food they harvested. These traditions have still been remained and practiced for celebrating this holiday in modern days. During the Chinese New Year celebration, people wear red clothes and display red decorations everywhere as red also represents good fortune, happiness, and success in Chinese culture.

Chinese New Year represents the beginning of Spring and the start of a new lunar year with a new zodiac animal. There are 12 zodiac animals in total and this year, 2021, is the year of Ox. Therefore, every Chinese has a zodiac animal based on their birth year. My zodiac animal is Horse. The date of Chinese New Year also changes every year according to the Chinese lunar calendar. For this year, it falls on Friday, February 12th. Chinese New Year is celebrated for 16 days, from the Chinese New Year’s Eve till the Lantern Festival. On the eve of Chinese New Year, people reunite with generations of their families and enjoy a hearty family reunion dinner with a table full of delicious dishes. Auspicious food materials are usually prepared and cooked for this dinner, for example, dumplings for wealth, sweet rice balls for family togetherness, fish for prosperity, and rice cake for a higher income or position. During the dinner, people watch the annual Spring Festival Gala on TV. After dinner, people usually play firecrackers at midnight for the good fortune of the new year. Another special tradition in celebrating Chinese New Year is red envelopes, which is also one of my favorites about this holiday growing up. Younger generations receive cash in red envelopes from their parents, grandparents, relatives, and other grown-ups such as neighbors and family friends. Thanks to the prevalence of mobile payment, a growing number of red envelopes are sent electronically nowadays. Therefore, people can receive and extend their New Year wishes through electronic red envelopes no matter how far away they are from home.

Persian New Year – Maryam Hosseini, Assistant Professor – The distinct smell of charcoal and fire wafted through the Chattahoochee Park. We parked on the grass next to rows of cars and made our way through the crowd to find our group of family and friends. My best friend flagged me down. She was the only other teenager I knew there, and she had her group of girlfriends with her. Most of my friends were American and were probably at home doing homework so I was at her social mercy. It was Chahar Shanbeh Soori, technically translated to The Scarlet Wednesday. It’s the Festival of Fire celebrated on the last Tuesday evening of the year. Spring Equinox is Nowruz or the Persian New Year and we spend the weeks before preparing our homes, making our Haft-sins and then, finally, on the last Tuesday before the equinox, purifying our souls. We made quite a scene at the park with our aluminum tins full of charcoal and lighter fluid, jumping over the fire, reciting “sorxi-ye to az man, zardi-ye man az to”, loosely translated to “give me your fire and redness and I will give you my yellow and sickness”.
It’s a purification ritual though I don’t understand this until I am an adult, the meaning lost on me as I try to jump over the tins of fire without catching my jeans on fire.

This ritual is still my favorite. It’s the primal pieces of it, how it connects us back to the Earth and for a moment I forget where I am. If we are with enough family and friends, the sounds of Farsi packing me in, I may even feel like I am home. The sights of Nowruz help too, every Persian’s home decorated with the Haft-Sin, the table spread of the 7 S’s of our new year. My mom used to put together a beautiful Haft-Sin. She had the colorful, woven runner full of intricate patterns and delicate silver bowls where she would put the Somagh, Senjed, Samanoo, Sabzeh, Sib, Sir and Sekkeh. She grew sprouted lentils every year and we would paint our eggs, a shared communion with our American brethren, an Easter tradition come early to our homes.

We didn’t have Christmas, not at my house anyway. Our Decembers were home together. We would have Christmas dinner with my parents’ friends and what small family we had in the US but it was to fill the space that the holidays left for us. Come March though, that’s when we shined. We had parties every weekend for weeks, either going to someone’s house or hosting at ours. Our community would seemingly grow overnight, everyone putting aside their busy lives to come together and celebrate. Immigration is filled with trauma and losses. We lost a family that we haven’t seen for decades, cousins that I will never really get to know. We shed our language and accents to fill the oversized American suit. We imported some of ourselves but left so much on the plane my parents brought us over on. But March was always ours, full of music and dancing and rituals that grounded us together.

**Ash Wednesday** – **Jessica Maples-Keller, Assistant Professor, and Tomina Schwenke, Assistant Professor** – Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, which is the six and a half weeks preceding Easter celebrated by some members of the Christian faith. Ash Wednesday is often observed with ashes, prayer, and fasting, and many will make a sacrifice during the season of Lent which has symbolism related to Jesus fasting for forty days in the desert. The name “Ash Wednesdays” refers to the practice of rubbing of ashes in the sign of a cross on the foreheads of participants, which may be prepared by burning palm leaves from past Palm Sunday festivities. The ashes have traditionally represented expressions of grief as well as sorrow for sins and faults.

**Lent** – **Jessica Maples-Keller, Assistant Professor, and Tomina Schwenke, Assistant Professor** – Lent is a solemn period in which Christians consider their sins, and traditionally if they were separated from the body of the faithful are reconciled by penitence and forgiveness and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Furthermore, it is a period in which converts to the faith prepare for Holy Baptism. Lent is marked by increased efforts towards self-examination, practices of self-denial, as well as, reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. Thereby, until the Eastertide, the whole congregation has a focus towards repentance and is set on a message of pardon and absolution and renewal of faith.
**Wellness Committee**

Ready to Move More? The annual [Move More Challenge](#) is back this spring and registration opens on Monday, March 1. Interested in being a Team Captain? Click [here](#) to register for a virtual Team Captain Training in February or an overview of Move More In March.

March 4th – 10am- 2 pm: Emory's Annual Camp and Learning Expo: Be on the lookout for an email regarding [Emory’s Annual Camp and Learning Expo](#), which will be held virtually this year. Learn about the variety of summer camps and learning programs offered throughout the Metro Atlanta area.

**FACULTY KUDOS**

**Major Leadership Appointments, Activities and Achievements**

Brian Cooke has been appointed to Associate Professor.

Scott Firestone has been appointed as Assistant Professor Emerita of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in recognition of his continuous distinguished service to Emory.

Adriana Hermida has been promoted to Director of Geriatric Outpatient Psychiatry.

Karen Howell has been appointed Assistant Professor Emerita of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in recognition of his continuous distinguished service to Emory.

Patricio Riva Posse has been promoted to Director of Treatment Resistant Depression and Neuromodulation Clinics.

**Education**


**Research**


**Honors, Awards, Rankings**

Dorian Lamis was named the 2021 recipient of the David Shakow Early Career Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions to Clinical Psychology from the Society of Clinical Psychology, Division 12 of the American Psychological Association.

**Presentations**

Andrew Furman gave a Grand Rounds for the Emory University School of Medicine Department of Surgery entitled, “Humanities Revisited: A Role for the Humanities in Surgical Education”. He also presented the Annual Diane Davis Lecture of the Georgia Society of Clinical Social Workers, entitled “Psychodynamics, Psychotherapy, and the Humanities: A Critical Interface.”

Nadine Kaslow presented a virtual workshop on mental health that was sponsored by the United States Department of State Speaker Program and the United States Embassy in Qatar. She also presented a Grand Rounds in the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Department of Psychiatry entitled Culturally Responsive Interventions for Abused, Suicidal Low-Income African American Women.

**Emory in the Media**
Toby Goldsmith (1) OBGyn-News – Perinatal Psychiatry Education Advocacy and Community Engagement.


Douglas Lewis (1) Psychology Today – What’s Stopping Me from Taking the COVID-19 Vaccine?

Erica Marshall-Lee (1) Psychology Today – Change is Gonna Come… O Yes It Will.


**ADJUNCT KUDOS**

Martie Thompson accepted the position as the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Distinguished Endowed Professorship in Public Health at Appalachian State University.


**TRAINEE KUDOS**


The Chief Residents for 2021-22:
- Karen Giles, MD, MS and Charlotte Van Hale, MD, Co-Chief Residents, Emory University Hospital
- Jennifer Grant, MD, PhD and Aniket Malhotra, MBBS, Co-Chief Residents, Grady Memorial Hospital
- Cody Overmyer, MD, Chief Resident, Atlanta VA Medical Center
- Erica Rymarczyk, MD and Sylvia Zou, MD, Co-Chief Residents Outpatient Psychotherapy and Psychopharmacology Clinic, Emory
- Benson Ku, MD, Chief Resident, Research Track

Philip Bowers received third place in the Joseph and Hope Skobba Memorial Award for Resident Research with Self-Enucleation in a First-Generation Immigrant: A Case Report and Cultural Management Recommendations.
Benson Ku received first place in the Joseph and Hope Skobba Memorial Award for Resident Research with Associations between Mental Health Shortage Areas and County-Level Suicide Rates among Adults in the USA, 2010 to 2018.

**STAFF KUDOS**
Arica Washington was selected as a participant in the 2021 Emory Mentor Program.