REMEmBER
Please send me your accomplishments and personal updates for the February 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.

- June 2, 2021 – TBD

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

CE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE
TBD.

SPOTLIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Maryam Hosseini, MD
Maryam Hosseini is currently an attending in Psychiatric Emergency Services. She is responsible for patient evaluations and resident supervision, as well as medical student supervision sometimes. She is involved in teaching lectures to residents as well. Dr. DeJuan White and Maryam started Diversity Dialogues with the interns where they provide space for the interns to process and discuss the racial disparities and racial trauma experienced by BIPOC, particularly as it pertains to the patient population. She also joined the Racial and Ethnic Minority Committee in 2019 and has participated in a few of the workshops. Since the pandemic she is mostly involved in homeschooling her three children, which takes up most of the time she has outside of work.

Maryam is very grateful for the opportunity to have a job she genuinely enjoys. She enjoys patient advocacy, and working in PES provides so many opportunities for advocacy. She loves having a multidisciplinary approach and working with team members. Emergency psychiatry provides a space to both advocate for patients and collaborate with other emergency room providers and with clinicians to provide patients with the best care possible.
Maryam started her career in Emory’s Student Health Psychiatry, which was a wonderful and supportive environment. Caring for students provided fulfillment and challenged her to grow as a new attending. She switched career paths in the midst of changes that were occurring socio-politically and in her personal life as her family’s needs grew. Emergency psychiatry has provided her with new challenges that allow her to strengthen new muscles as a psychiatric and a physician. She is incredibly lucky to have had two distinctly different jobs that have both brought fulfillment for her.

In terms of goals and plans for the future, Maryam has wanted to become more involved in community projects and these plans were thwarted by a global pandemic. Her hope is she can start to slowly add more of this work to her life while maintaining a work/life balance. She is also continuing to learn how to be anti-racist and would like to continue participating in REMC.

Outside of work, Maryam has been rowing recreationally for the last two years on the Chattahoochee River. It’s her mindfulness activity. She has an interest in nutrition and wellness and how it affects mental health. She has incorporated these interests in her daily life. Maryam has also worked in nourishing her relationships with friends and family at a time when we cannot connect in the ways we normally do. Other than that, she is mostly keeping three other smaller humans alive and mostly physically and mentally intact while they are home 24/7. That’s been its own fulltime job and has left little room for much else.

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Regina Williams**
Regina Williams is a Senior Financial Counselor/Business Office Coordinator for Emory Brain Health Center. Her responsibilities involve managing assigned ETM work file in GE and communicating to patients and sections the financial status and expectations for patients prior to the appointment. She provides EMR messages in Power Chart for new patient intakes, establishes cases for psychiatry patients, submits charge correction requests when required, and verifies insurance through GRP or approved methods (insurance websites). Regina enjoys helping patients with their billing and financial issues related to their accounts and assisting her co-workers and the providers as needed. She appreciates being part of the Emory Psychiatry family, which expands her own family. As she reminds us, teamwork makes the dream work…. One of the highlights of her career came last year. Last year, despite our being in the middle of the pandemic, she met all of her yearly goals for fiscal year 2020. In addition, she exceeded her collection goal by $46,000 for the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Regina is a wife, mother of two beautiful daughters, and grandmother of five loving grandkids. Her interests and involvements outside of the workplace include traveling the world and exploring different countries. She enjoys cooking and spending time with her family and friends. In addition, she is actively involved with her local church, Greater Travelers Rest/House of Hope and helps with both the food ministry and Tabitha’s House, which provides resources to young girls and women who are victims of sex trafficking.
Regina hopes that within five years she will be debt free and able to retire from Emory.

**TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Brandi Burke, MD, MPH**
Brandi is a fourth-year general psychiatry resident and this year’s Chief Resident of the Emory Outpatient Psychotherapy and Psychopharmacology Training Program (OPTP). In this role, she coordinates patient assignments and educational activities for residents and also serves as a liaison between staff and residents in the adult psychiatry clinics at the Brain Health Center.

In addition to her chief role, she is one of five psychotherapy track residents. With extra time devoted to psychotherapy training, she has had the opportunity to learn from many skilled supervisors and patients from a variety of backgrounds. She has also been able to explore more in-depth training in prolonged exposure as well as acceptance and commitment therapy.

One of the highlights of Brandi’s time at Emory has been her work as a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee and as a Diversity Dialogues co-facilitator. She maintains the racial justice resource list (always open to additions!), has facilitated multiple town hall meetings, and is helping to develop diversity engagement guidelines. She has found it quite meaningful to be a part of efforts that push the department toward becoming more equitable and accountable.

Outside of work, she enjoys indoor and outdoor gardening, thrift shopping, and spending quality time with her (loving) spouse and (spoiled, grumpy, adorable) cat. She tries her best to be civically and politically engaged, and can occasionally be found attending protests or canvassing Metro Atlanta to get out the vote. She is extremely grateful for the welcoming and supportive communities that her move to Atlanta has brought into her life, and plans to continue practicing psychiatry in the city after residency graduation in June.

**FACULY COMINGS AND GOINGS**

**WELCOME NEW FACULTY**
None reported

**THANK YOU TO FACULTY WHO ARE LEAVING**
Cathy Rice – The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Human Development and Disability at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is pleased to welcome Catherine (Cathy) Rice, PhD, to the role of Branch Chief in the Disability and Health Promotion Branch. A developmental psychologist by training, Dr. Rice most recently served as Director of the Emory Autism Center (EAC) and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University. At Emory, Dr. Rice was honored to lead a team of faculty and staff supporting meaningful improvements in quality of life with people on the spectrum across the lifespan. Central to these services is the Early Emory Center for Child
Development and Enrichment (formerly the “Walden” preschool) and the myLIFE Social Engagement Groups, both models for inclusive behavior support programs. In addition, she oversaw a range of clinical, training, and research programs around assessment and behavioral supports, working closely with partners across the State of Georgia. At Emory, Dr. Rice established the first undergraduate seminar on Neurodiversity. She is not Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory.

Previously, Dr. Rice spent 14 years as a Behavioral Scientist and Epidemiologist with NCBDD. Her work included the establishment of the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network to estimate autism prevalence and describe the population of children with autism in multiple areas of the United States. Dr. Rice represented CDC on national and international committees and was the Autism Society of America Professional of the Year in 2008. She also worked with the Learn the Signs. Act Early. team to improve early identification and led the effort to collect data on the important safety issue of wandering among people with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Dr. Rice received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Emory University and her doctorate in Developmental Psychology from Boston College. She is a licensed psychologist in the state of Georgia and conducts specialized training on the assessment of autism. She has worked with people with an autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities through teaching, diagnostic assessment, program planning, consultation, training and research for 30 years.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Our departmental efforts related to diversity, equity, and inclusion have now been published in a paper jointly authored by members of the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee (DISC), Racial and Ethnic Minority Faculty Subcommittee (RECM), and Women Faculty Subcommittee.


**Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee (DISC)**

International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Stephanie Freitag, MS, Psychology Doctoral Intern). International Holocaust Remembrance Day is an annual memorial for the victims of the Holocaust, also known as "The Shoah." It falls on January 27th because on this day in 1945, the Jews were liberated from Auschwitz. This memorial is very personal for me because my grandma and her sister are survivors of Auschwitz. My grandfather and his two brothers were on Schindler's List. My step-grandfather and his siblings were survivors of Dachau in Hungary. However, most of my
family perished in the camps. Needless to say, a whole generation of my elders survived the atrocities of the Holocaust which has had an indelible effect on me. I realize that had I been born in a different time and place I would be denied the freedoms and liberties that have allowed me to pursue my dreams and goals. Hence, I have no choice but to never forget. I hope that during a time when we have all witnessed bigotry, police violence and tolerance of white supremacy, we can come together to stand against hatred in any form. We all must be students of history and make the collective choice to never forget the hardships of our fellow hu(man).

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day** (Erica Marshall-Lee, PhD, Faculty). Dr. Martin Luther King Jr was one of the most revered and influential leaders of the 1950’s and 60’s Civil Rights Movement. He was a powerful advocate for nonviolent activism and social justice whose accomplishments were numerous. He was Time Magazine’s 1963 Man of the Year and at 35, the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize at the time (10/1964). Dr. King Jr. was the founder and first President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) that eventually joined with leaders from 6 other civil rights organizations to March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963. He led and organized countless marches for essential civil rights: fighting desegregation, promoting voting right of blacks, and labor rights. He was instrumental in the passing and enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In fact, from 1957 until his assassination, Dr. King Jr. led protests, wrote 5 books and multiple articles, and traversed more than six million miles speaking on over twenty-five occasions wherever unjust situations occurred. Four days after his tragic assassination on April 4th, 1968, Michigan Representative John Conyers advocated for establishing Dr. King’s birthday as a federal holiday by introducing a bill to Congress. While the bill gained little traction in Congress, blue collar union workers, often supported by Dr. King Jr., took up the charge. Union protests on his birthday grew until some organizations in New York, Chicago, and Indianapolis were able to obtain compensated time off. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter supported the day as a holiday and ordered a commemorative stamp honoring Dr. King’s 50th birthday. The bill was reintroduced to Congress in 1983 by Indiana Representative John Conyers where it was opposed by North Carolina Senators Helms and East. Helms indicated that Dr. King Jr. was unpatriotic due to opposing the Vietnam War and went so far as to submit a document to the Senate claiming that Dr. King Jr had Communist ties. President Regan, who initially endorsed designating the day as one of remembrance instead of a “costly federal holiday”, signed the bill into law accompanied by Dr. King Jr’s widow, Coretta Scott King, on November 2nd, 1983. Unfortunately, it still took 3 years for the bill to take effect and even then, not all states recognized the day as an official holiday. States such as Arizona, had an extremely infamous path to ratifying the day and, prior to the year 2000, South Carolina residents had the choice of celebrating one of three different Confederate holidays or Martin Luther King Jr Day. Indeed, Martin Luther King Jr Day was not officially observed by every U.S. state until 2000, 32 years after initially introduced as a bill. Though Dr. King Jr’s birthday is January 15th, Martin Luther King Jr Day is generally recognized on the third Monday in January. It is not only a national holiday, countries such as the Netherlands and Israel also pay tribute to Dr. King Jr. on this important day.
Faculty Development Committee
Ambassador Program – In order to help all new faculty feel welcome and prepared to thrive in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, the Faculty Development Committee created a new initiative – the Ambassador Program – to assist with their transition to the Department and Emory University. Rachel Ammirati and Nadine Kaslow coordinate this program. By pairing more experienced faculty with new faculty based at the same site/within the same system, we aim to begin immediately the process of promoting each individual’s personal and professional development and wellbeing. Ambassadors answer any questions the new faculty member might have, including (but not limited to) questions about site/department/School of Medicine/university-related policies, networking, professional resources, etc.

Multiple faculty members already have volunteered to help with this new initiative! We are grateful to the following individuals for agreeing to serve as Ambassadors:

Allison Lopilato; Andrea Crowell; Andrew Sherrill; Erin Jones; Heather Greenspan; Kallio Hunnicutt-Ferguson; Lauren A Schmidt; Leigh Ann Dooley; Liza Zwiebach; Marsha Stern; Matt Segall; Rachel Ammirati; Ray Young; Sarah Cook; Toby Goldsmith

Faculty interested in serving as an Ambassador can contact Dr. Rachel Ammirati at rammira@emory.edu. For more information, please see http://psychiatry.emory.edu/faculty/development/ambassador_program.html

FACULTY KUDOS

Major Leadership Appointments, Activities and Achievements
Erica Lee and Telsie Davis, both of whom serve as Assistant Vice Chairs for Faculty Development – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, have now been appointed as co-chairs of the department’s Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee (DISC).

Education
Michelle Casimir was selected to participate in the national Virtual Aspiring Supervisor Program through the VA.


Research
The Atlanta VA Medical Center has been selected as one of the 6-12 VHA inpatient sites that will participate in the upcoming VA SOLID (VA SOLID: Support, Outreach, and Linkage following Inpatient Discharge) study. The Atlanta VA local leads include Sheila Rauch, Edward Vega, Kelly Skelton and Viorica Pencea.


**Honors, Awards, Rankings**
Michelle Casimir was a featured clinical researcher in the Atlanta VA Health Care System’s MHSL Research and Program Evaluation Newsletter.

Brian Cooke has been elected to Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

Negar Fani was awarded an R01 grant entitled Neural Mechanisms of Vibroacoustically Augmented Breath Focused Mindfulness for Dissociative Traumatized People from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

Rebecca Schneider received the ADAA Child and Adolescent SIG Student/Early Career Award.

Michael Treadway received the 2020 Award for Distinguished Scientific Early Career Contributions to Psychology from the American Psychological Association.

**Presentations**
Schneider RL & Browning M. How sad is too sad? When to be concerned about your child’s mental health. Community education presentation at Mattapoisett Library. Mattapoisett, MA (virtual presentation)

**Emory in the Media**
Erica Marshall Lee (1) Psychology Today – *Our Pain is Endless*.

Margaret Martinez (1) Psychology Today – *2020: A Year to Remember*.

Justine Welsh (1) AMA – *Georgia Public-Private Partners Seek Statewide SUD Treatment Network*.

**ADJUNCT KUDOS**


Salley Jesse was approved as a Lifetime Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

Yudit Jung gave three CEU Ethics Workshops on treating Borderline Personality hosted by Avant Training: Education for Therapists.


Association, 68(4): 721 – 736, August 2020 and was elected as one of three representatives from North America to the College Executive of the International journal of Psychoanalysis.

Speanburg: (1) Stefanie Speanburg was appointed as an EUPI Training and Supervising Analyst. (2) She presented at the International meeting of the Comparative Clinical Methods Group in October 2020.


**TRAINEE KUDOS**


Paulina Kaiser and Heather Greenspan presented on catatonia to the Emory University Hospital hospitalists.