

EMORY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES KUDOS
MARCH 2022

REMEMBER

Please send me your accomplishments and personal updates for the April 2022 Kudos

SAVE THE DATES

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

Upcoming faculty development seminars, which will be held from 9:00-10:30a,
Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/6213030759?pwd=dzB1aWU5TFRVbTZwK2JFd3R6WTh2dz09>

- Wednesday June 15, 2022 - Difficult Conversations with Trainees and Colleagues
- Wednesday July 13, 2022 – Applying for a Clinical Distinction

WRITING GROUPS: UPCOMING

The Writing Group is the 1st Wednesday of every month from 8:00-9:00am. The next meeting is Wednesday April 6, 2022 and will be on [Zoom](#).

SPOTLIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Dimy Fluyau, MD

Dimy Fluyau currently an assistant professor for the Emory School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He is located at Grady Memorial Hospital, where he works full time in the Psychiatry Emergency Service (PES). Outside of Emory, Dimy is currently playing an active role in the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) of the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry in reviewing and selecting submissions for symposia, papers, posters, concurrent workshop sessions in addition to evaluating the quality and planning of the Annual Meeting.

Dimy's work allows him to evaluate psychiatric emergency crises such as acute and severe psychosis, mania, behavioral disturbance, drug withdrawal and intoxication. He also interacts and is involved in medical emergencies. He can provide brief psychotherapy, support and attempt to mitigate some socio-economic challenges by advocating for better services for his encounters.

Key highlights of Dimy's career include continuing to teach psychiatric residents, medical students, physician assistants and others. He also continues to provide treatment to patients with mental illness and substance use disorders.

Plans for the future include focusing on real-time application of the available medications to treat individuals with substance use disorders and mental illnesses. He also wants to develop new medicines for individuals with both substance use disorders and mental illnesses.

Outside of work, Dimy is actively involved in providing education (zoom meetings, online forum) on mental disorders to people in his country, Haiti, via a group of educated Haitians who live in the US, Canada and France. He is also actively involved in promoting democracy and social and economic development. Dimy plays basketball with his children and friends, and fixes things in his house (electricity, plumbing, painting, landscaping, etc.)

ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Ginny Chan, PhD

Ginny Chan is a forensic inpatient psychologist at Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta and works primarily with persons with serious mental illness and criminal justice involvement. She has continued her connection with the Emory Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in an adjunct position after graduating from the forensic postdoc fellowship. At Emory, she is involved with the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, the Psychiatry and Law Service research lab, and supervising residents in the OPTP program. She truly appreciates and enjoys partaking in projects and events promoting multicultural awareness in the department and working closely with the residents on psychotherapy.

Outside of Emory, Ginny is an active member with the Georgia Psychological Association and is currently on the membership committee.

Ginny has lived in the Atlanta area for about five years now and marvels at where life can bring you; she has come a long way since moving to New York City for graduate school. With knowledge gleaned from Hollywood's blockbusters and National Geographic features, she embarked on a long plane ride to the very large country that is the United States (3.8 million miles square! 6 time zones!) from Singapore. It has been a journey since. She has visited 21 states (shout out to the wonderful national parks of this land) and hopes to continue adding to this list.

In her leisure time, Ginny enjoys baking (a pandemic-fueled interest), hunting down walkable areas in Atlanta with her partner, grocery shopping at Buford Highway, and playing select video games. She also looks forward to being able to more frequently visit friends and family in other states and countries.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Cynetta Freeman

Cynetta Freeman has been in the HR Administrator role since July 2021. In this role, she serves as the HR leader and administers HR operations for the Brain Health Center and Orthopaedics. She serves as a key member of leadership within SOM HR and BHC. The BHC HR team is made up of a team of four HR Generalists, an HR Supports Ops Specialist and an HR Intern. In addition to her HR Administrator role, she is a Mentor with the Mentor Emory Program for the fifth year and also sits on Emory University's Hardship Fund committee and ODEI's Book Club Committee.

Besides being a mom of two young adult daughters, Cynetta is on the Women's Ministry Executive Board Committee of her church. Prior to taking on the HR Administrator role, she sat on Executive Board of a non-profit and committees within the Society for Human

Resource Management (SHRM) of Atlanta. She has currently stepped down to focus on her transition into her new role.

What Cynetta most enjoys about her job is solving business and human resources problems for departments and supervisors. She likes to work in a collaborative, consultative manner to help them reach a resolution or solution. It feels good to get people to the “AH HA” moment.

Key highlights of Cynetta’s career trajectory to date includes early in her career she was able to raise her family, work full-time and obtain her Masters of Science in Human Resources Development. With that degree, she gained professional experience working with university students in the career services and program offices of three universities. Cynetta taught university students for about 10 years both in the classroom and online. Most recently at Emory University, she was able to climb the HR career ladder from an HR Generalist to HR leader, being promoted a few times along the way, in eight years.

Professionally for Cynetta, she would like to continue to develop into a leader within the organization. She hopes to be able to rejoin the board of the non-profit and be more active in professional organizations. Personally, she plans to travel more now that it seems like the COVID cases are reducing. She should also say she will get back to a workout routine but...

Outside of the workplace, Cynetta enjoys participating in community service activities through the women’s ministry and committees she is a member of. For fun, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, visiting restaurants, different cities and countries, museums and attending shows/concerts.

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Shoshana Krohner

Shoshana Krohner is an intern in the general track of the Emory University School of Medicine Internship in Health Service Psychology. She is currently completing her third and final rotation in the general track program. Her current elective rotation is at the Grady Infectious Disease Primary Care clinic, where she provides individual psychotherapy to young adults living with HIV, and at the Grady Behavioral Health Center, where she provides group psychotherapy services for individuals living with serious mental illness, as well as individual psychotherapy and diagnostic assessment services. As part of her elective, she is completing a scholarship project, writing a paper with several program faculty that advocates for a relational approach to treatment for young adults living with HIV.

Shoshana is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at Wayne State University and a member of the Stress & Health Lab. This April, she will be defending her dissertation project that tested a single-session psychodynamic intervention for individual with chronic musculoskeletal pain and histories of childhood adversity.

It is in her work as a psychotherapist that she finds the most meaningful rewards. It is an incredible privilege to be trusted with patients' stories and it is deeply gratifying to witness patients transform. Being a psychotherapist is also personally transformative—there is a never-ending need for self-reflection and inner work to be an effective therapist. There are many other fields like this, that demand its practitioners grow as humans by doing the work, and Shoshana finds this aspect of clinical psychology highly compelling.

A key highlight of Shoshana's career so far was when she was introduced to psychodynamic theory and practice during graduate school. She was fascinated by the get-go, and then attended some immersive trainings in short-term dynamic psychotherapy and was highly impressed by what she saw. This was a turning point for Shoshana in her training, and one that ultimately led to her dissertation project. Shoshana was also thrilled to match with the Emory clinical psychology internship. She feels that her year here thus far has been full of learning and new challenges, and has helped to solidify her professional identity as a clinical psychologist.

Next fall, Shoshana will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at the New School for Social Research in New York. She will be teaching courses in the psychology department and will be joining a research lab that studies the effects of chronic or complex trauma, with a focus on psychophysiological mechanisms that link these experiences with adult psychopathology. In the longer term, Shoshana hopes to obtain a position that allows her to be involved in trauma-focused research, psychotherapy research, as well as psychotherapy training. She also plans to pursue formal psychoanalytic training sometime down the road.

Outside of work, Shoshana enjoys running, reading, and cooking elaborate meals for people that she loves. She's always sought out creative outlets, and most recently that has involved working with clay and throwing pottery. Social justice and advocacy are important to her as well, and she is involved with the If Not Now Movement, that aims to end American Jewish public and political support of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. She is also a proud auntie, eleven times over!

DISC UPDATES

Maha Shivaratri (March 1, 2022) (Sobha Fritz, PhD, Assistant Professor – Pediatrics)—“The Great Night of Shiva” tends to occur in February or March. What makes this celebration unique is that it occurs at night with fasting and meditation. It is a celebration of the night Lord Shiva performed his sacred dance regarding creation, preservation, and destruction. Devotees engage in prayers during an all-night vigil format.

Holi (March 18, 2022) (Sobha Fritz, PhD, Assistant Professor – Pediatrics) – Holi signifies the triumph of good over evil and is a celebration of springtime and love. This light-hearted and playful Hindu festival occurs in the month of March on the day of the full moon. There are many mythological stories that signify these themes as part of Holi. Festival goers celebrate Rangwali Holi in which people throw and smear colorful

powders on each other, squirt each other with water, and share food and drink with friends and family.

Ramadan (Zainab Delawalla, PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor) – Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is considered to be the most sacred month in Islamic culture, as it is during Ramadan that the Holy Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad by the angel Gabriel. In 2022, Ramadan is predicted to commence on April 2, after the sighting of the new crescent moon. It is customary for Muslims to fast from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan. In Arabic, the word for fasting is “sawm” which means “to refrain.” Thus, Muslims refrain not only from eating and drinking but also from smoking, gambling, gossiping, and other ‘sinful’ behaviors, while increasing their focus on family, charity, and prayer. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam and obligatory for all adults, except those who are elderly, ill, traveling, menstruating, or breastfeeding.

Ramadan emphasizes spiritual development and community service, making it a time for many Muslims to engage in self-reflection and prayer. Meals are opportunities for Muslims to gather with friends and family and engage with the broader community. A pre-dawn ‘breakfast’ is consumed before the first prayer of the day and the evening meal, known as “iftar” can begin after the sunset prayer has been recited. Many Muslims break their daily fast with dates, a nutritious desert fruit and staple of middle eastern cuisine.

“Eid-al-Fitr” is observed on the last day of Ramadan as a celebration of breaking the fast with communal festivities involving large prayer gatherings. Families gather to feast together, exchange gifts, and pay respects to deceased relatives. As the month of Ramadan draws to a close, Muslims are also obligated to share their blessings by giving the “Zakat-ul-Fitr”, a prescribed amount of money, based on one’s income, to help the poor.

Laylat-al-Qadr (Zainab Delawalla, PhD – Adjunct Assistant Professor) – Laylat-al-Qadr is known as the “night of power” and is considered by Muslims to be the holiest night of the year. The first verses of the Quran are believed to have been revealed to Prophet Muhammad by the angel Gabriel on Laylat-al-Qadr and Muslims commemorate the event by praying the entire night, from dusk until dawn. Although the exact date of the revelation is unknown, it is thought to have occurred on an odd night during the last 10 days of Ramadan. Some Muslim cultures observe Laylat-al-Qadr on the 23rd night of Ramadan while others observe it on the 27th night of the holy month. Some spend all of the last 10 days and nights of Ramadan in prayer and worship, as it is believed that during this period Allah’s blessings are abundant, and those who pray with pure intentions will be absolved of all previous sins.

WELLNESS RESOURCES

Resources from Healthy Emory and a link below to the ACPH.

- [Benefits](#)
- [Rewards](#)

- [Career](#)
- [Learning](#)
- [Wellness](#)
- [Work Life](#)
- [Employee Assistance](#)
- [Employee Assistance – Physician Wellbeing Conference](#)

Healthy Emory resources including the Sharecare platform for Move More, Refresh from Stress and more! Open to University and Healthcare Employees

[Healthy Emory Connect | Emory University | Atlanta GA](#)

Wellbeing and mental health support for Emory University Employees [Faculty Staff Assistance Program](#) and for [Emory Healthcare Employees](#) username EHC (800 327 2251)

Graduate Medical Education Well-being [Resident Well Being | Emory School of Medicine](#)

International Conference on Physician Health (alternates years with American Conference) [International Conference on Physician Health™ | American Medical Association \(ama-assn.org\)](#)

[Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes Foundation | Dedicated to Protecting the Well-Being of Physicians and Health Care Professionals \(drlornabreen.org\)](#)

Office of Well- Being established for Woodruff Health Sciences
[Emory’s Woodruff Health Sciences Center establishes Office of Well-Being | Emory University | Atlanta GA](#)

FACULTY KUDOS

Major Leadership Appointments, Activities and Achievements

Wendy Baer will be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective September 1, 2022.

Jordan Cattie will be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective September 1, 2022.

Chanda Graves will be promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective September 1, 2022.

Mikle South was appointed to the rank of Professor.

Education

Bentman A, De Golia S, Schwartz AC, Spitz D. “Changing self and systems: Effective use of the disciplinary process.” American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training Annual Meeting, 2022 (virtual workshop)

Frank A, Frew J, Ruble A, Schwartz A, Zaman T. "Enhancing competency and equity in addictions education: Resources and best practices for a "post"-Covid world." American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training Annual Meeting, 2022 (virtual workshop).

Frank A, Oakman S, Frew J, Schwartz A, DeJong S. "Creation of a collaborative visiting scholars program for addiction psychiatry." American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training Annual Meeting, 2022 (poster).

Schwartz AC, Crowell A, Stern M, & Cotes RO (2021). Revisiting an anonymous suggestion box. *Academic Psychiatry*, 45, 244-245. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40596-020-01391-x>

Research

Gregory N, Tan A, Hershenberg R, Chatham A, McDonald WM, Kittay B, Riva Posse P, Hermida AP. (2022). Rapid improvement of suicidal ideation with ultrabrief right unilateral ECT. JECT ISEN, Published Abstract.

Hampton-Anderson, J.N., Watson-Singleton, N.N., Mekawi, Y., Dunn, S.E., & Kaslow, N.J. (2022). Intimate partner violence, existential well-being, and Africultural coping in African American women. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*.

Ochije S, Hershenberg R, Hermida AP. (2022). Maintaining robust service utilization in geriatric psychiatry during the pandemic: Support for the feasibility of telemedicine. *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 30(4, Supplement), S102. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2022.01.236>

Park, S, Patrick R, Seiner S, McClintock S, Petrides G, Nykamp L, Hermida AP, Lapid M, Harper D, Forester B. (2022). A new cognitive safety monitoring plan for interventional studies involving patients with advanced dementia: Insights from the ECT-AD Study. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 30(4, Supplement), S57-S58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2022.01.049>

Powers A, Hinojosa CA, Stevens JS, Harvey B, Pas P, Rothbaum BO, Ressler KJ, Jovanovic T, & van Rooij SJH. (2022). Right inferior frontal gyrus and ventromedial prefrontal cortex activation during response inhibition is implicated in the development of PTSD symptoms. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*.

Powers A, Petri JM, Sleep C, Mekawi Y, Lathan EC, Shebuski K, Bradley B, & Fani N. (2022). Distinguishing PTSD, complex PTSD, and borderline personality disorder using exploratory structural equation modeling in a trauma-exposed urban sample. *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, 88. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.janxdis.2022.102558>

Schwartz AC, Dunn SE, Simon HFM, Velazquez A, Garner D, Tran DQ, Kaslow NJ. (Advanced online publication, 24 March 2022). Making family-centered care for adults in the ICU a reality. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2022.837708>

Tan AC, Kitay BM, Hermida AP, McDonald WM, Riva Posse P, Hershenberg R. (2022). Working to address access to care via telemedicine: A retrospective comparison of patients in a treatment resistant depression (TRD) clinic seen in-person and via telemedicine. JECT ISEN, Published Abstract.

Vierthaler, J.M., & Elliott, E.R. (2022). A shared lived experience of a psychologist battling a mental health crisis. *Psychological Services*, 19 (1), 46-48.
<https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000489>

Voisin DA, Wakeford A, Nye J, Mun J, Jones SR, Locke J, Huhman KL, Wilson ME, Albers HE, Michopoulos V. (2022). Sex and social status modify the effects of fluoxetine on socioemotional behaviors in Syrian hamsters and rhesus macaques. 2022. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior*, 215.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pbb.2022.173362>

Honors, Awards, Rankings

Anjan Bhattacharyya was recognized with a 2022 Physician Hall of Fame Award from Emory Healthcare.

Charles Gillespie selected to receive this year's Educator Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry.

Brandon Kitay received Faculty Development Funds to support his attendance at the 2022 American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, where he will be an invited speaker for the session titled "Real World Solutions to Implementing and Sustaining the Collaborative Care Model."

Laura Mee was selected to receive the SPP Carolyn S. Schroeder Award for Outstanding Clinical Practice Award.

Abigail Lott's proposal for the Program for Retaining, Supporting, and EleVating Early-career Researchers at Emory (PeRSEVERE) was competitively reviewed and selected to receive supplemental funds.

Meghna Patel received Faculty Development Funds to support her participation in the American Psychological Association's Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology.

Laura Watkins received Faculty Development Funds to present her work entitled "Clinical effectiveness of a two-week intensive outpatient program for integrative treatment of comorbid alcohol use and mental health disorders" on a symposium at the Research Society on Alcoholism in Orlando, FL.

The following individuals was recognized by the Emory School of Medicine on Doctor's Day – March 30, 2022

- Danielle Brown
- Michelle Casimir
- Jocelyn Cox
- Sarah Debrey
- Mary (Beth) Hammons
- Tamara Haynes
- Rachel Hershenberg
- Karen Hochman
- Kallio Hunnicutt-Ferguson
- Nadine Kaslow
- Laura Jane Miller
- Alainia Morgan-James
- Justin Palanci
- Katie Ragsdale
- Phyllis Rosen
- Rebecca Schneider
- Andrew Sherril
- Kara Snead Brendle
- Kelsey Sprang Jones
- Yilang Tang
- Laura Watkins
- Stephanie Winn
- Rebecca Woo

The Neuromodulation Clinic at Emory Wesley Woods was one of five areas throughout Emory Healthcare to consistently score within the 90th percentile of national benchmarks for patient experience throughout FY2021.

Community

Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard's children's book entitled *Something happened in our town: A child's story about racial injustice* (2018) served as the basis for a Minnesota Children's Theater Company production entitled *Something Happened in our Town*. The book and the play do a powerful and effective job of addressing and confronting the challenge of talking to children about police officers killing unarmed Black men and boys. The play received excellent [reviews](#).

Media

Negar Fani (1) [Biological Psychiatry podcast](#).

Jennifer Holton (1) Emory Medicine Magazine – [Dinner with a Doctor: Parenting During a Pandemic](#)

Nadine Kaslow (1) The Epoch Times – [Internet Forums Increase Self-Harm Among Teens](#)

Barbara Rothbaum (1) NPR – [A Nurse's Death Raises the Alarm About the Profession's Mental Health Crisis.](#)

ADJUNCT KUDOS

Anderson KN, Radhakrishnan L, Lane RI, Sheppard M, DeVies J, Azondekon R, Smith AR, Bitsko RH, Hartnett KP, Lopes-Cardozo B, Lee RT, van Santen KL, Carey K, Crossen S, Dias TP, Woitz S, Adjemian J, Rodgers L, Njai R, & Thomas C. (2022). Changes and inequities in adult mental health-related emergency department visits during the COVID-19 pandemic in the US. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Doi: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2022.0164

Melanie Bliss - interviewed/quoted in - March 1, 2022. [MarthaStewart.com](#). Daylight Saving Time is around the corner- Here's how to prepare your body and mind for losing an hour of sleep. By Madeline Buiano.

Florez IA, Mekawi Y, Hunnicutt-Ferguson K, Visser K, Clunie A, Dunn SE, & Kaslow NJ. (2022). Low-income, African American women, alcohol misuse, childhood abuse, posttraumatic stress disorder. *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse, 21*(1), 174-196. doi: 10.1080/15332640.2020.1725707

TRAINEE KUDOS

Bowers P, Rosenkrantz B, Palanci J, et al. A slow, cautious, and successful clozapine rechallenge after myocarditis. *Prim Care Companion CNS Disord.* 2022;24(2):21cr02976.

Leyla Eghbalzad is chairing a symposium at the Anxiety and Depression Association of America conference: The impact of environmental deprivation and threat on pathological disorders related to emotion and cognition--a neurodevelopmental perspective.

Forbes CN, Tull MT, Lavender JM, Dixon-Gordon KL, & Gratz KL. (2022). Development and Initial Validation of the Body-focused Self-damaging Behavior Expectancies Questionnaire. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment, 1-23.*

Krohner S, Holmes HJ, Yamin JB, Lumley MA. (In press). Psychological symptoms in Arab American women: Adverse childhood experiences, racism, and religion. *Psychology of Religion & Spirituality.*

Shoshana Krohner had a brief paper/oral presentation entitled "Single-session psychodynamic interview for people with chronic musculoskeletal pain and childhood adversity: A randomized controlled trial" accepted to the upcoming Society for Psychotherapy Research conference in July.

Benson Ku was awarded the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology New Investigator Award and plan to attend this annual meeting/workshop with the future goal of becoming an independent clinician-scientist.

STAFF KUDOS

Del Hanson was promoted to the role of Supervisor Business Operations.

Toni Thomas was selected by Emory University for the Award of Distinction, which is a special honor reserved for members of the Emory community who go above and beyond to carry out the mission of the University.

PERSONAL

Carissa Balderas and her husband, Matt, welcomed their first baby, Naomi Luna Shedd, on 11/6/21.

Kandi Schmidt and her husband, Mark, welcomed their first baby, Sydney Jean Schmidt, on 11/22/21.

Joseph Vinson and his wife, Kalie welcomed their baby girl, Audrey Blake Vinson, on 10/28/21.