

EMORY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES KUDOS  
MAY 2024

**REMEMBER**

**Please send me your accomplishments, program/team activities, and personal updates for the June 2024 Kudos**

**SAVE THE DATES**

**WRITING GROUPS: UPCOMING**

The Faculty Writing Group is the first Wednesday of every month from 8:00-9:00am. These meetings are on [Zoom](#). This group is for faculty including adjunct faculty.

**SPOTLIGHTS**

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Naadira Upshaw, PsyD**

Naadira Upshaw is a pediatric psychologist within the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), with a primary appointment as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and a secondary appointment within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She is the Clinical Director of the Aflac Psychology and Neuropsychology Department and Chair of the Aflac Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is also involved in multiple diversity-related efforts across the system including serving as a member of the Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Committee (DISC) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Winship Cancer Institute DEI Leaders Network; and active in Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Diversity and Inclusion efforts. A supervisor for the post-doctoral fellowship program, she is a member of the Emory School of Medicine Postdoctoral Residency in Health Service Psychology Steering Committee. Naadira has been involved in multiple efforts across the system including but not limited to co-developing a diversity dialogue training curriculum, co-developing a system-wide diversity training program for all 11,000+ employees within the CHOA system, and participating in the Women of Color Faculty Collective. Her most recent undertaking has been overseeing the moving and merging of the Psychology and Neuropsychology services to the new hospital campus in September. Beyond her service and leadership roles, she is the lead psychologist within the Cancer Survivorship Program where she is embedded in a multidisciplinary clinic and provides services on the hematology/oncology consultation/liaison service and brief outpatient therapy for kids impacted by cancer and blood disorders.

Outside of Emory, Naadira's most recent role was serving as the Chair of Division 54 of the American Psychological Association's Annual Conference, also known as the Society of Pediatric Psychology Annual Conference (SPPAC). This took place in April in New Orleans. She also co-chaired this conference in 2023. Within this role, she had an appointed role on the Division 54 board. Additionally, within Division 54 she has served on the Diversity Committee, within the Palliative Care, Hematology/Oncology and Diversity Special Interest Groups, and as a mentor to many up-and-coming pediatric psychologists. In addition, Naadira and colleague Justin Williams were awarded an anti-

racism grant from Division 54 to investigate the experience of the minority tax for URM academicians, and this ongoing work has been highly rewarding. She is often invited to give talks and lectures at conferences around social justice and diversity related matters as it relates to patients and families.

When people ask Naadira why she wants to work with kids who often experience suffering and end-of-life prematurely due to their illness, she expresses how much of a privilege it is for her to work with families during their most difficult and vulnerable times. She does not take this for granted that they allow her into their lives to walk with them on this journey. As a young child, her parents instilled the value in her of not suffering but living life with as much meaning, intention and enjoyment as possible. She is grateful she gets to bring these values along in her work and is deeply committed to all families being able to receive good care to reduce their suffering with as little bias, racism and harm as possible. Seeing families have differing healthcare experiences due to the identity demographic they belong to has been hard over her career, but this is one of the things that has sparked her to be so passionate about justice and equity work. Along with this, Naadira is passionate about training the next generation of pediatric psychologists. It was not until fellowship that she was ever trained by someone who looked like her. This had a huge impact on her career and the inability to imagine herself in the roles she has now. She is dedicated to changing this for learners who work with her, and seeing them feel inspired, learn something new or feel seen by her during supervision helps to keep her going.

There are two highlights of Naadira's career thus far. The first was winning the Emory University School of Medicine Diversity Award. While she is not someone who looks for accolades, this award was meaningful because her colleagues nominated her for the good work they perceive her doing in the diversity and justice space. She will always be deeply grateful for this. Second, chairing SPPAC this year where they had a record-breaking registration of over 1000 attendees was something she will always be proud of. Naadira was intentional about infusing aspects of the culture of New Orleans into the conference (e.g., second line band) to help attendees feel warm, welcomed and like the division is their home. The theme was defining what is next for the future of the profession. So many people during the conference gave such high praises for their experience and the positive shift this conference had for them. One student said to her, "On Tuesday I did not know where my career was going, and today, I have more connections and a clear path for me to see myself in this field. My life has been changed."

Looking to the future, Naadira would like to eventually become promoted within the School of Medicine and really tap into what her niche will be in the field of psychology so she can move towards opening a consulting business.

Outside of the workplace, Naadira is intentional about keeping work at work and home at home. Outside of work, she loves to go to festivals and concerts, travel anywhere that an airplane can take her, cook for her family and friends, ride the peloton non-competitively, binge watch good shows, listen to Beyonce, and pray. This year she has

been working on understanding the art of rest and engaging in restorative practices, and as such, sometimes you might just find her sitting on her couch in silence staring out the window.

### **ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Ashlee Zito, PhD**

Ashlee Zito is a licensed psychologist in Georgia and Alabama and holds the appropriate authority through PSYPACT to practice temporarily in-person or via telepsychology in 37 other states. She has a demonstrated history of working and/or receiving training in forensic, correctional, inpatient and community settings. While Ashlee completes non-forensic clinical assessments in her practice, she primarily specializes in completing forensic evaluations for adults involved in federal and state criminal and civil cases. She also offers forensic consultation services. She has been deposed as an expert witness and has provided expert witness testimony in multiple federal and state courts. She has been retained by prosecuting/plaintiff and defense attorneys, as well as appointed or requested by courts.

As an adjunct faculty member in the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Ashlee serves on the Adjunct Faculty Workgroup committee. She also assists in the training of residents in the Postdoctoral Residency Program in Health Service Psychology. She specifically provides mentorship and supervision to residents in the forensic psychology specialty, and has served as a panelist in postdoctoral seminars. Ashlee has also utilized her experience to help train law students by serving as an expert witness/guest lecturer at Emory University School of Law.

Ashlee has always had a passion for teaching. In fact, she initially entered college as an education major, where she wanted to be a high school English teacher. Though life and experience (including a semester studying abroad in London) changed her path toward psychology and law, her joy for teaching never subsided. She wholeheartedly enjoys mentoring and supervising residents and students.

Ashlee received her undergraduate degree (2010) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she double majored in Psychology and Legal Studies. She earned her master's degree in professional counseling (2012) and doctorate in Counseling Psychology (2016) from the University of Georgia. She completed her predoctoral internship in Clinical Psychology in the U.S. Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Prisons and postdoctoral residency in Forensic Psychology at Emory University School of Medicine. She was employed as a Forensic Psychologist for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities for over four years before moving into her own private practice, [A to Z Psychology LLC](#), full-time in January 2022.

Ashlee was born and raised in Minnesota where she was a competitive dancer throughout her childhood/adolescence. She has also visited more than 15 countries. She is the youngest of her siblings and cousins, all of whom are first-generation college graduates. Among the six of them, there are six bachelor's degrees, two master's degrees, an MD and PhD.

### **STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Danielle Mason**

Currently, Danielle Mason is the program coordinator for the Nia Project, which provides free mental health services and behavioral health initiatives to survivors of domestic abuse and suicide. She wears many hats in this role - some of her favorite include leading and training a team of 14 research assistants, managing the day-to-day needs and responsibilities of the program, collecting data for active studies, and assisting in writing research papers.

Outside of Emory, Danielle is a post-baccalaureate student completing medical school prerequisites, as well as a dog mom, sister, daughter and friend which are all titles that mean the world to her and view as a great privilege.

Danielle greatly enjoys the Nia patients and team members. The patients teach the team so much, which informs the care and alters the perspectives to make Nia better. She also finds their strength and vulnerability very admirable considering the immense trauma they have experienced and their bravery of sharing those experiences with the Nia Project. Also, having a great team makes all the difference. For Danielle, it has been a wonderful experience working with such phenomenal clinicians/future clinicians and she can honestly say that is one of the biggest factors in her ability to show up every day and give her best knowing she has a supportive team behind her.

Danielle's goal when she graduated college in 2022 was to gain more experience before applying to graduate school and do that by working with and creating change in underprivileged communities. When she graduated, she had no idea exactly how she was going to achieve that goal, but in the two years Danielle has been working in research at Emory's medical school and with Grady's patient population, she has been able to do just that. She had the privilege of working in gynecology for her first year and providing free long-term contraception during a time of monumental human rights and social changes. Now, for the past (almost) year in psychiatry, she has had the immense privilege of working with Black women that are survivors of domestic abuse and suicide. So, she would say creating tangible change, even on a small scale, has been a key highlight of her career, extremely rewarding for her, and has created a sense of pride to know she is getting closer to her long-term goals.

Next year, Danielle will be applying to MD-PhD programs to pursue her goal of becoming a physician scientist. While she is uncertain which specialty she will pursue, she is certain it will be in trauma related work, and is very excited for the experiences in medical and graduate school that will shape her choice of practice.

Outside of work, Danielle loves to cook! She also has a five-year-old dog she rescued in college who is her entire world. So, anything that has to do with him, food and exploring new restaurants and places are non-career related interests. She also enjoys doing volunteer work when she can and supporting underprivileged communities. Lastly but most importantly, Danielle's faith in Jesus is the foundation of her life, incredibly important to her and her main factor in being the best person she can be and ensuring she leads with empathy, kindness, respect and compassion in her life and career.

### **TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Martha Fiskeaux, PsyD**

Martha Fiskeaux is a current postdoctoral fellow at Emory Healthcare Veterans Program at the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. As part of her role, she provides individual and group evidence-based intervention to Veterans and active-duty service members and their families. Specifically, she specializes in the delivery of Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD and utilizes other forms of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to treat other mood and anxiety conditions. In addition, she offers healthy behavior sessions to individual's seeking to establish a new relationship with substances and provide skill-based family intervention to couples and families seeking to improve and enhance their relationships and communication. More recently, Martha joined Emory's Live Supervision Family Therapy Seminar, where she has enjoyed offering co-therapy couples therapy and participating in rich discussions about the art and science of couples and family therapy with fellow peers and expert faculty members. She also recently sought additional training and experience in the assessment and treatment of OCD and trichotillomania using Exposure and Response Prevention and Habit Reversal Training.

Outside of Emory, Martha works part-time offering psychological and psychoeducation assessment to children, adolescents and adults seeking diagnostic clarification for ADHD, learning disabilities, autism, among other psychiatric conditions and co-morbidities (e.g., personality disorders, anxiety spectrum disorders, depression). Prior to her current role at Emory, she completed an advanced practicum and APA accredited internship in Health Service Psychology at the Bay Pines VA in Bay Pines, Florida. Her responsibilities included provision of individual and group therapy within several specialty clinics (e.g., Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Center for Sexual Trauma Services, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Clinic, Whole Health). In addition, she completed a training rotation in clinical neuropsychology, where she conducted comprehensive neuropsychology assessment of cognitive, behavioral and personality functioning with Veterans commonly presenting with a variety of known or suspected neurological disorders and psychiatric comorbidities.

Martha loves having the opportunity to build trust and develop a strong therapeutic alliance with folks from so many different backgrounds, cultures and walks of life. It's such a joy and privilege to be invited into her patients' world and to be able to walk alongside them as they discover the courage and strength to step into a life that is honoring to their values and filled with greater purpose and meaning. Additionally, she is so grateful to work with such an incredible interdisciplinary team of professionals who demonstrate so much care, compassionate and thoughtfulness in their work. Key highlights of Martha's career include being selected for a postdoctoral fellowship in Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology at the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program, where she has had opportunities to enrich her clinical training through working alongside an incredible team of experts in the field of PTSD treatment and research. Additionally, she completed Emory's Prolonged Exposure Consulting Program this year, where she has been able to assist other clinicians in building exposure-based skills,

exploring clinical identity in the context of exposure treatment and help them find opportunities for creativity in the utilization of manualized treatments.

For the future, Martha would love to continue working at Emory, providing culturally responsive and evidence-based care to underserved populations. She is excited to stay in the Atlanta area and continue to explore opportunities to get back into cycling and join some group hikes.

Outside of the workplace, Martha enjoys running, hiking, true crime TV, a good cup of coffee and spoiling her dog Luna through any means necessary (park time and pup cups!). She also loves exploring Atlanta with her partner by taking their scooters out on the beltline!

### **PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Project ARROW**

Project ARROW (Achieving Recovery through Resilience, Optimism, and Wellness) is a Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) team for young adults in Fulton or DeKalb counties between the ages of 18 and 30 who have experienced a recent first episode of psychosis. The program's ultimate goal is to help young people get back to school, get a job, develop relationships and live their fullest life. CSC is an evidence-based, recovery-oriented model that provides integrated care for a critical time-limited period, usually for two to three years after a first episode. The American Psychiatric Association Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Schizophrenia recommend that people with a first episode of psychosis be treated in a CSC program.

Responding to an unmet need in the community, Project ARROW was started in 2019 as a collaboration between Grady and Emory. It is funded by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities [Light-ETP initiative](#). The program is staffed by an interdisciplinary team consisting of psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed therapists, case managers, substance use counselors, supported employment and education specialists, peer specialists and nurses. Emory team members include Beth Broussard, MPH, CHES, Keith Wood, PhD, Benson Ku, MD, Aparna Das, MD, Robert Cotes, MD and multiple psychology and psychiatry trainees. Services include individual and group therapy; medication consultation; education and employment support; substance use counseling; peer support; and family therapy. Within Project ARROW, Dr. Wood leads a novel Goal Attainment Group program that combines the evidence-based interventions of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Social Skills Training.

Currently the largest specialized, early intervention program in Georgia, the team is trained in CSC and inspired by principles of [Open Dialogue](#). Project ARROW has also been expanding services to individuals who are at clinical high risk for psychosis. To learn more about Project ARROW or place a referral, please visit its new Emory webpage [here](#).

### **NEW FACULTY**

**Jennifer Dean, PhD** – Jennifer Dean earned her PhD in Counseling Psychology from Georgia State in 2008. She has worked in collegiate mental health and psychology training before beginning her career at the VA Medical Center in 2016. She began in the

General Mental Health clinic serving Veterans with mood disorders before finding her home in Palliative Care. At the VA, she is involved in diversity training, as the Acting Chair of the Diversity Education - Psychology Training Committee, serving as a Diversity Rotation Supervisor, and facilitating the Diversity Supervision Post-Doctoral Seminar. She serves on the Atlanta VA's Health Equity Committee, Emory Brain Health Center's DEI Committee, has chaired the GPA Continuing Education Committee, has served on the Women's Council and has served as the GPA Liaison to the APA Deep Poverty Initiative. She enjoys presenting to mental health and medical providers about poverty/classism, grief, self-compassion and end-of-life concerns.

## **WELLNESS COMMITTEE**

### **Wellness Resources:**

Healthy Emory is bringing back the [Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less](#) program in September.

Challenges with Healthy Emory are ongoing - the Sharecare app is the platform and incentive dollars are available!

[Operation Eat Right](#) encourages you to improve your nutrition and boost your well-being using Healthy Emory Connect!

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 \(drlornabreen.org\)](http://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](#)

**DISC COMMITTEE: GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

**Betsy Gard, PhD, Adjunct Professor**

Please share a fun fact about you related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

- I worked with the Red Cross as a Disaster Mental Health responder and had the opportunity to travel around the country and then internationally and I continue to learn more about about the needs of those who are from diverse backgrounds or have different challenges in accessing care.

Please share a celebration important for you/your family's identity and/or a favorite/personally meaningful celebration in your identity and upbringing.

- The High Holy Days Passover Purim

Please share a microaggression you have witnessed or experienced, how it impacted you or others and how you/they coped.

- I had a teacher in high school who mocked me for being Jewish... using the stereotype that all Jews were rich and snobby. As a woman psychologist-in-training, I was sexually harassed by my major professor and sexually attacked by a psychologist who interviewed me for a position after graduation. I had no person to talk to about any of these experiences.

Please share a clinical encounter related to a particular holiday/celebration in which you learned something related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

- Listening to member's individual stories helped increase my understanding of the challenges one of my patient's has had coming from South Asia.

Given your intersectionalities, please share your point of view as you encounter the world/what do you want people to know (consider) about your unique point of view (frame of reference).

- Jewish identify while living in the US can be complicated; religion and Zionism are conflated; the experience of being persecuted and homeless for eons impacts greatly my sense of security and belonging in the world. The recent War in Israel highlights some of these very challenging concerns, feelings and issues. Being a woman and doing my training when women were underrepresented and harassed has made me sensitive to how gender impacts one's sense of safety.

What types of adjustments to professional activities have arisen due to your diversity status (addressing identity differences with patients)/ professional interests/efforts



specifically sought in areas of teaching, service, or clinical work as a result of your diversity status or commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- I believe in a Jewish value called Tikkum Olam, which means healing the world- it guides and highlights what I need to be doing and can be doing both professionally and personally.

How has your diversity status helped you develop greater resilience? work.

- I like looking at the concept of Post Traumatic Growth; experiences that are difficult which can help heighten one's choices after a crisis and help you be both more resilient and more vulnerable.

### **Christyn Hosking, PsyD, Postdoctoral Resident**

First, I think it is important to list my identities to have an idea of the complexities in my frame of reference. I am a white, cisgender, 28-year-old woman with German and Irish heritage. I am bisexual and married to a man. I have an invisible disability, am coming to acknowledge potential neurodivergence, and have a high ACEs score. I was raised Irish Catholic, and now consider myself agnostic. I was raised for many years of my life impoverished and in a very rural community in Ohio. I am a first-generation college student and the first to receive my doctorate in my immediate and extended family.

When I think about this question of my unique point of view, one of the things that remains salient for me is the hidden nature of many of my identities that has led many to make assumptions about who I am, what my experiences have been, or what I believe. It has long created a sense of “less than” or “not enough of.” For example, I will soon be a licensed psychologist upon completion of my postdoctoral residency, and there is a large assumption about the way we should show up and engage in our profession. However, I did not have models for “professionalism,” networking, navigating systems, engaging with power differences, advocating for myself and the numerous things that come with this career.

I grew up around factory workers and farmers. There were very few people that had the ability to build out careers in the “traditional” sense, such as lawyers, doctors, psychologists, accountants, etc. Due to this and my intersectionalities, for much of my career and probably much of my life, I have felt an imposter syndrome that is hard to describe. It goes back to this deep sense of “less than” or “not enough of.” Though these circumstances have been challenging, I am really grateful to have identified colleagues and friends across my life that have been loving, affirming and celebrated the many facets of diversity. Their influence and my journey in the last few years to embrace my identities has been a huge confidence boost, allowed me to find more spaces that are accepting, and helped to solidify my values.

Though there have been many challenges that I have faced as a result of my diversity factors, I am so glad to have these identities to inform my world view and frame of reference. It allows me to celebrate diversity, connect with a wide range of individuals, and prioritize seeing the whole person and the impact of all of their intersecting identities, which I have found to be helpful in my clinical work and in my life.

## **FACULTY KUDOS**

### **Major Leadership Appointments, Activities and Achievements**

Michelle Casimir was elected to serve on the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives from Division 18 (Psychologists in Public Service).

Robert (Rob) Cotes will be promoted to the rank of Professor effective September 1, 2024.

Joseph (Joe) Cubells will be promoted to the rank of Professor effective September 1, 2024.

Julie Kable will be promoted to the rank of Professor effective September 1, 2024.

Erica Marshall-Lee was elected to serve as Education and Training Domain Representative for Division 29 (Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy) of the American Psychological Association.

Jeffrey (Jeff) Rakofsky will be promoted to the rank of Professor effective September 1, 2024.

Naadira Upshaw was elected as member-at-large for Division 54 (Society for Pediatric Psychology) of the American Psychological Association

### **Research**

Bekhbat M. Glycolytic metabolism: Food for immune cells, fuel for depression? (accepted) Brain, Behavior, Immunity - Health

Borst B, Jovanovic T, House SL, Ressler KJ, Stevens JS, van Rooij SJH. Sex differences in response inhibition-related neural predictors of PTSD in recent trauma-exposed civilians. Biological Psychiatry CNI, in press.

Frew J, Balasanova AA, Rakocevic DB, Ruble AE, Schwartz AC, Frank A, DeJong SM. "Charting a new course for addiction education in general psychiatry residency training." Academic Psychiatry, 14 May 2024.

Hatfield O, Bresin K, Mekawi Y, Michopoulos V, Fani N, Bradley B, & Powers A. (2024). Impact on aggression: Examining unique and interactive roles of PTSD and emotion dysregulation. Aggressive Behavior.

Lathan EC, Langhinrichsen-Rohling R, McAfee E, Sonu SC, Haynes T, & Powers A. (2024). Health care providers' comfort caring for trauma-exposed patients in the primary care setting: A mixed methods approach. Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care.

Lipschutz R, Powers A, Minton S, Stenson A, Ely T, Stevens JS, Jovanovic T, van Rooij SJH. Smaller hippocampal volume prospectively predicts anxiety symptoms in high-risk Black youth. *Journal of Mood and Anxiety Disorders*, in press.

Nemeroff CB, & Craighead WE. (Eds.) (2024). *Patient guide to mood and anxiety disorders*. American Psychiatric Association Publishing.

Upshaw NC, Lim N, Graves CC, Marshall-Lee ED, Farber EW, & Kaslow NJ. (2024). Training psychology and psychiatry diversity dialogue facilitators. *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings*, 31, 292-303. doi: 10.1007/s10880-023-09978-w

van Rooij SJH, Santos JL, Hinojosa CA, Stevens JS. [Defining the r factor for post-trauma resilience and its neural predictors](#). *Nature Mental Health* (2024).

Wakeford AGP, Nye JA, Morin EL, Mun J, Meyer JS, Goodman M, Howell LL, Sanchez MM. [Alterations in adolescent brain serotonin \(5HT\)1A, 5HT2A, and dopamine \(D\)2 receptor systems in a nonhuman primate model of early life adversity](#). *Neuropsychopharmacol.* (2024).

### **Honors, Awards, Rankings**

Rachel Ammirati has been awarded the Senior Psychologist Clinical Distinction.

Mandy Bekhbat (1) was awarded a K01 grant entitled “The role of monocyte metabolism and migration in inflammation-related reward circuit deficits and symptoms of anhedonia in people with HIV” from NIMH. (2) received a URC award from Emory to examine the role of monocyte immunometabolism in brain-immune communication and anhedonia in depression.

Beth Hammons is Board Certified in Addiction Psychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology.

Adriana Hermida received the Provost’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Education

Kallio Hunnicutt-Ferguson has been awarded the Senior Psychologist Clinical Distinction.

Erica Marshall Lee was named a fellow of the Georgia Psychological Association.

Justin Palanci has been awarded the Senior Physician Clinical Distinction.

Barbara Rothbaum was elected a fellow of the Georgia Psychological Association.

Zhexing Wen received an R21 grant for “Leveraging iPSC technology to understand neuro-immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 variants.”

## **Presentations**

Mehta M, Hellman N, Chrysoferidis J, & Sherrill AM. (2024, May). *Massed delivery of transdiagnostic treatment for military servicemembers and veterans*. Workshop presented at the Evidence-Based Psychotherapy Conference for the Center for Deployment Psychology in Bethesda, MD.

Jeffrey Rakofsky was a panelist for a presentation titled, "Strengthening Sibling Relationships - ADMSEP, COUPE, MHELANZ" at the annual Mental Health Education Leads of Australia and New Zealand conference.

Sanne van Rooij (1) van Rooij SJH. Testing the variability and stability of individualized TMS treatment targets for PTSD using resting state functional connectivity. European Brain Stimulation, Lisbon, Portugal, 2024. (2) van Rooij SJH. Targeting the amygdala in a TMS clinical trial for PTSD (3) Sanni and Jenni Stevens will be in a symposium at Society of Biological Psychiatry: Translating Targets Into Treatments: Neuroimaging Informed TMS Clinical Trials, Austin, TX, 2024 – Stevens JS. Validating Amygdala Reactivity to Threat Cues as a Potential Target for PTSD Treatment

## **Community**

None reported.

## **Media**

Negar Fani (1) AJC – [Link Between Racial Discrimination and Heart Disease Gaining Acceptance](#).

Jennifer Wootten (1) Law360 | Pulse – [Workload, Trauma, Isolation Impacting Judges' Mental Health](#).

Larry Young (1) New York Times – [Larry Young, Who Studied the Chemistry of Love, Dies at 56](#).

## **Education**

Marsha Stern and Alejandra Grullon were selected to attend the American Psychiatric Association's Collaborative Care Model Residency Education Conference in Washington, DC.

Schwartz AC. Association of Academic Psychiatry medical student and resident-fellow curriculum vitae bootcamp. American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, 2024 (workshop).

## **ADJUNCT FACULTY KUDOS**

Ayman Fareed (1) was selected to serve as a committee member for the standard setting meeting for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology Addiction Psychiatry certification examination. (2) received funding from Indivior Pharmaceutical company, the manufacturer of monthly injectable Subcutaneous buprenorphine. (3) will be the site principal investigator at the Atlanta VA Medical Center.

Kisha Holden published a co-edited book entitled Black Women and Resilience: Power, Perseverance and Public Health. It was published by State University of New York Press.

### **TRAINEE KUDOS**

Sydnee Akubuiro received the competitive APA Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. This is a two-year fellowship designed to develop and enhance interest among general psychiatry residents pursuing careers in CAP.