

SAVE THE DATES

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

Upcoming faculty development seminars, which will be held from 9:00-10:30a, [Zoom](#) link:

- Wednesday February 21, 2024 – Trainee Feedback: Faculty Perspective
- Wednesday May 22, 2024 – Promotion: DEI Section of CV, Service Portfolio

WRITING GROUPS: UPCOMING

The Writing Group is the 1st Wednesday of every month from 8:00-9:00am. These meetings are on [Zoom](#).

SPOTLIGHTS

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Katie Ragsdale, PhD

Katie Ragsdale is a board-certified licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She treats the invisible wounds of post-9/11 veterans and service members within the two-week Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) at the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program (EHVP), using evidence-based cognitive behavioral treatments. She also leads the EHVP IOP Traumatic Brain Injury track and serves as the Associate Director of Training of the thriving training program of clinical psychology doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. Outside of EHVP, she is currently serving her third year on the Women's Faculty committee.

Outside of Emory, Katie supports the Wounded Warrior Project as a member of the Clinical Practices Committee and the Traumatic Brain Injury Work Group. She also serves as a Review Editor for Virtual Reality in Medicine and as an Editorial Board Member for Contemporary Clinical Trials.

Katie is so fortunate to work with an extraordinarily talented, kind and brilliant team at EHVP and collaborating with them on patient care, research and training is the best part of her job. She is also so honored to serve as the EHVP Associate Director of Training and find great joy in playing a part in the growth and development of the next generation of evidence-based treaters. The trainees are a large part of what makes the team at EVHP so wonderful; plus, she loves the administrative and organizational piece of leading a training program. Finally, being able to give back to military men and women by way of effective, holistic and rapid treatment is extremely rewarding!

Some of Katie's key highlights include collaborating with her talented colleagues on the creation of the TBI track, which met an important clinical need in military psychiatry. She is also proud to have achieved board certification in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology, as it felt like it really solidified her identity as a cognitive behavioral provider. She was also thrilled to be selected for the Distinguished Mentor Award: Service and Education from the Emory School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences this year.

Katie is excited to continue growing the EHVP training program and continue optimizing evidence-based treatments for PTSD and other invisible wounds. She recently completed the 2023 MDMA-Assisted Therapy Researcher Training and looking forward to being able to put that training into practice to maximize Prolonged Exposure treatment outcomes.

Katie is happiest spending time with her husband, Stan, and eight-year-old daughter, Sophia. She also enjoys watching college football (Go Noles!), eating at all the amazing restaurants Atlanta has to offer and when possible, vacationing at the beach!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Syreese Fuller

In Syreese Fuller's role, she oversees research projects for the Emory veterans and trauma anxiety and recovery programs. This includes tasks such as hiring and onboarding new staff, ensuring regulatory compliance and managing logistics for multiple research studies. She is grateful to be part of a collaborative team working towards a meaningful purpose—providing treatment to veterans, a community close to her heart.

Throughout Syreese's career, she has had the privilege of being exposed to diverse research areas, including oncology, trauma and psychiatry. Recognized as a strong leader, she has experienced rapid promotions, reflecting the dedication she brings to her work.

Looking ahead, Syreese's aspirations involve continuing her journey in clinical research and contributing to the growth of a diverse research team at Emory.

Outside of Syreese's professional life, she is an active member of various tennis leagues in the metro Atlanta area, participating in tournaments and matches throughout the year. She also values quality time with friends and family, most especially around the holiday seasons.

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT: Christina Michalski, PhD

Christina Michalski joined Emory in summer 2022 to pursue postdoctoral training under the mentorship of Dr. Zhexing Wen. In Dr. Wen's lab, she is combining her training in immunology with his expertise in neuroscience to study neuroimmune interactions in psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders. Her main project is funded by a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Translational Medicine from the PhRMA Foundation and focuses on the role of neuroinflammation and microglia in schizophrenia. Additionally, she serves as PI on a Georgia CTSA funded project on "Leveraging iPSC technology to study SARS-CoV-2 mediated neuroinflammation" in collaboration with Dr. Wen and Dr. Julia LeCher (Department of Pediatrics).

What Christina loves most about research is it never gets boring. Particularly in academia, being a researcher means having the opportunity to think outside the box and pursue novel ideas. She especially enjoys projects combining innovative basic molecular biology techniques, cutting-edge bioinformatic approaches and clinically

relevant patient samples with the goal to understand human disease phenotypes and identify novel therapeutic avenues. Emory is a fantastic place for postdocs because it provides ample opportunities for collaboration, exploration and innovation.

One of the most enriching experiences throughout Christina's training has been the opportunity to work with and mentor undergraduate students. Seeing students grow personally and professionally and help them reach their potential has been tremendous.

Christina hopes to complete her postdoctoral projects over the coming years and transition into a faculty position in academia. She is planning to draw on her experiences from graduate and postdoctoral training to develop her own research program in the field of neuroinflammation.

Outside of work, Christina enjoys spending time outdoors, particularly finding new mountains to hike or lakes to swim in. At home, she likes trying out new recipes or reading a good novel.

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 \(drlornabreen.org\)](#)

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

Ann Schwartz was elected Secretary of the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry.

Research

Carter S, Packard G, Coghlan C, George JR, Brown AJ, Ching THW, Julian J, Maples-Keller JL. (in press). Perceptions of psychedelic-assisted therapy among Black Americans. *Journal of Mood and Anxiety Disorders*.

Freitag S, Au JS, Liu DY, Mekawi Y, & Lamis DA. (2023). Do bipolar symptom profiles matter for suicide risk? A latent class approach to investigating differences in suicidal desire and acquired capability. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. doi: 10.1111/sltb.13013

Haller OC, King TZ, Mathur M, Turner JA, Wang C, Jovanovic T, Stevens JS, Fani N. White matter predictors of PTSD: Testing different machine learning models in a sample of Black American women. (accepted, *Journal of Psychiatric Research*).

Welsh JW, Sitar SI, Parks MJ, Patton SC, Braughton JE, Waller LA, Ngo QM. Association Between Clinician-Level Factors and Patient Outcomes in Virtual and In-Person Outpatient Treatment for Substance Use Disorders: Multilevel Analysis. *JMIR Hum Factors*. 2023 Nov 3;10:e48701. doi: 10.2196/48701. PMID: 37921853.

Honors, Awards, Rankings

Negar Fani received the Phi Beta Kappa, Faculty Recognition for Excellent Teaching.

Allison LoPilato (1) received a \$1.2 million grant from the Sparks Foundation to develop and implement brief and culturally responsive mental health services for youth in rural

Georgia and (2) was appointed to the ADAA Board of Directors and will serve a two-year term as the early career board seat member beginning January 2024.

Allison LoPilato and Rebecca Schneider (1) were awarded a grant through Jack Mental Health Advocacy and the International OCD Foundation to develop a summer camp for youth with OCD and (2) presented a workshop entitled "Moving Toward Meaning & Fulfillment: Leveraging Values in Adolescent Treatment" at ABCT's Annual Conference.

Sheila Rauch been selected as an Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA) 2024 Jerilyn Ross Clinician Advocate awardee. This award honors the memory and lifework of Jerilyn Ross, cofounder of ADAA and president from 1985 to 2010 and acknowledges an ADAA member professional who exemplifies excellence and outstanding advocacy for patient education and care, training and research.

Rebecca Schneider was selected to participate in the 2024 School of Medicine Junior Faculty Development Course.

Presentations

Negar Fani (1) "Taking a Load Off (the Brain): Applications of Augmenting Neuro-technologies for Chronically Trauma-exposed Populations. Emory University, Department of Neurology Grand Rounds Lecture Series. November 3, 2023. (2) "Racism in Healthcare." Partners in Health. November 1, 2023.

Rebecca Schneider (1) gave a talk on "Applying ACT-based ERP for Adolescents" for the ACT and OCD Special Topics Series hosted through the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science and the International OCD Foundation and (2) was part of a talk and panel discussion titled "Technology, Anxiety, and Teens – A Program for Parents" at The Temple.

Schneider RL & LoPilato A. (2023, November). Moving Towards Meaning and Fulfillment: Leveraging Values in Adolescent Treatment. Workshop presented at the 57th Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Seattle, WA

Education

Ann Schwartz participated in a symposium, "Get the work out! Teaching scholarly proficiency in CL Fellowship Programs" at the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Community

Rebecca Schneider spoke about "How to speak with your preschoolers about the situation in Israel" at the Weinberg Early Learning Center preschool.

Media

Claire Coles (1) Rural Health Information Hub – [MotherToBaby Gives Rural Pregnant and Breastfeeding Moms 'Fingertip Access' to Exposure Experts.](#)

Elizabeth McCord (1) Atlanta Journal Constitution – [Georgia in Dire Need of Mental Health Resources.](#)

Rebecca Schneider (1) OCD Family Podcast – [Misophonia: A Case for an Emerging OCD with Dr. Rebecca Schneider](#)

ADJUNCT FACULTY KUDOS

Kisha Holden (1) Psychology Today – [Cultivating a Strong Social Support Network](#)

TRAINEE KUDOS

Catherine Bennett presented a poster at the annual AMP conference entitled “Second-Generation Antipsychotics and Medical Comorbidity: A Retrospective Study in an Urban Outpatient Psychiatry Clinic: Clozapine Analysis.”

Abigail Clark presented a poster at the annual AMP conference entitled “A Case of Psychosis in OCPD.”

Jaleh Davari-Dhariwal and Rupinder Dhariwal gave birth to a daughter, Soraya Kaur Dhariwal, on Wednesday, November 8.

Jordan Hildenbrand presented a clinical vignette in the clinical vignette competition at the annual AMP conference entitled “First Episode Psychosis: What are we Missing?”

Limbaugh L, Gordon MR, Nguyen PT, Porter M, & Coverdale J. (2023). [Methods Used to Control the Reproductive Choices of Women Who Are Sex Trafficked: Considerations for Health Care Providers.](#) *Journal of psychiatric practice*, 29(6), 439–446.