To all Members of the Department:

Once again, there’s a lot to catch up on this month.

I would like to begin by thanking all of you who participated in the recent CaRMS interviews, which went very well at both campuses. We have consistently heard from the applicants who visited us how welcoming people here were, the friendliness, and collegiality of the people that they met, the excitement they felt about both the program and the department and how well organized the days were.

I would particularly like to thank Carlos Lalonde and Ashley Koch, our Program Director and Administrator at the Waterloo Campus and Sheila Harms and Menika McKeegan, who oversaw all of the arrangements and planning of the interviews and helped them go in such a seamless and effective way.

**Geriatric Subspecialty Program**

We recently had an internal review of the newly established Geriatric Psychiatry Program, which also went extremely well. The many strengths of the program were highlighted and no major weaknesses were identified. Congratulations to Tracy Cheng, the Program Director, and everyone else involved with the new Program.

**External Review of the General Psychiatry Program**

And to complete the summary of postgraduate news, the external review of the General Psychiatry program will take place on Wednesday June 7th and Thursday 8th.

**Changes in our Administrative Staff**

Over the last month, there have been a few changes to our admin staff.

The first has been the departure of Michelle Allan, AFP Manager, for a position in Biochemistry and we wish Michelle well in her new position. Nicole Sloss has kindly agreed to fill in with the AFP on a temporary basis until a replacement has been recruited.

Rima Nikolajeviene, our Finance Manager, has accepted a position with the McLaughlin Institute and will be leaving the Department before the end of February. I would like to thank Rima for all she has done in helping us improve our financial situation and wish her well in her new role. We have already advertised for a replacement and Sid Stacey will be overseeing the finance office until a replacement is in place.

I would also like to welcome Anne Gaetan, Education Coordinator, who joined us last month replacing Linda Bondy. Anne comes to us from Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact (formerly CE&B) and will also be overseeing promotion and tenure. And thank you to Wendy Mattingly who has done a great job filling in with promotion and tenure over the last six months.
Welcome also to Gabriela Rivas, administrative assistant to Dr. Ellen Lipman, who joined the Department in December.

Research Day
Just a reminder about Research Day, which is taking place this year on Wednesday, May 3rd, at Mohawk College. The theme is “Innovations and Controversies in Education Research” and details about submission of Abstracts and registration can be found at: http://psychiatry.mcmaster.ca/research/research-events

Our 50th Anniversary
Planning for our 50th Anniversary is well underway and details can be found on our website as well as registration information at http://psychiatry.mcmaster.ca/news-events/50th-anniversary
It promises to be a fantastic weekend and amongst the people we have already heard from who are planning to come are Nate Epstein, Dave Dawson, Stan Eaman, Isaac Sakinofsky (Saki), Paul Cakuls and Gabor Keitner.

If you are a Facebook user, visit our site to look at some of the photos posted and see who you recognize, or to share photos or to follow us. https://www.facebook.com/deptofpsychiatry50th/

Congratulations to
Pri Weerasekera who was invited to give the very prestigious Jerome Frank Lecture this week at Johns Hopkins University.

Kathy Smolewska who has taken over as the Director of Training of our Neuropsychology Residency Program at HHS replacing Joanna Sue.

Tea Rosic (BCT resident) who was recently awarded the 2017 Pelling Scholarship in Psychiatry.

Ben McCutcheon (PGY4) who is this year’s recipient of the Lillian Rose Stegne Memorial Stipend and to Sabrina Syan, MiNDS student under the supervision of Luciano Minuzzi and Benicio Frey, who is this year’s recipient of the Lillian Rose Stegne Memorial Fellowship.

Catherine Munn, Allison Drew-Hassling, Allan Fein, Natasha Snelgrove and colleagues who were successful recipients of an eCampus Ontario award for Research and Innovation (2016-18) for their project, “Evaluating the effectiveness of an online mental health course for Faculty on their knowledge, willingness and confidence to act to support student mental health in the postsecondary setting”.

Susan Denburg who was recently nominated as one of Hamilton’s Women of Distinction for 2017.

Magdalena Janus and the EDI team and Rebecca Anglin working with Sonia Anand who were both runners up in the recent CIHR video conference competition. We will have a chance to see Magdalena’s 5 minute video at our upcoming Department Rounds on March 8th.

James MacKillop and the Peter Boris Centre were awarded a five year grant for $US 1.4M from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, one of the US National Institutes of Health, to support their longitudinal research investigating the developmental course of alcohol misuse among emerging adults. James is the Principal Investigator, with a Co-PI at the University of Memphis and several additional US and Canadian collaborators.
Sheryl Green has just received the St. Joseph’s Healthcare Professional Advisory Committee Research Award for the "CBT-Insomnia Study" that she is conducting in collaboration with the Firestone Clinic.

Our Website
There have been some problems viewing pictures on our website on different platforms, especially Apple products. Our web designer has corrected this problem, but please let Joanne Milne or Sid Stacey know if you are still encountering problems.

You will also shortly be receiving an email from Diana Dunell – our communication co-ordinator - asking you to make changes to your faculty profile, if you wish to do so to make the profiles more consistent. If you want to make any changes, or haven’t yet completed your profile please complete the template attached in the email and return it as quickly as possible so the website is comprehensive and up to date.

Recruitment Co-ordinator
Ryan Van Lieshout has kindly agreed to take on the role of Recruitment Co-ordinator, serving as a link and contact person for all potential recruits to the Department, and assisting with the organisation of recruitment visits.

Our Faculty in the News

Department Meeting
Just a reminder about the upcoming Department meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, February 15th from 9:00-10:00am in the Auditorium at West 5th, reviewing highlights from our 5 year report and going over plans for the implementation of Equity, Innovation and Partnerships (EIP) our Strategic Plan.

Nick