To all members of the Department:

We have an extremely busy month ahead of us, but I would like to begin this update by congratulating everyone who was involved with what was an outstanding Research Day two weeks ago. It was the first time Research Day focused on education and we were treated to some terrific presentations and discussion, while the scope and quality of the 128 posters on display (the largest poster display to date) almost all of which were produced by learners in our various programs, was really impressive. When seen together, they offered a remarkable snapshot of the amazing work that is taking place across the department, in all our program, services and divisions.

**Congratulations to our Research day Poster Competition Award Winners**

**UNDERGRADUATE - NON-Clinical**  
Savannah Kilpatrick: Tau Phosphorylation at the AT8/AT100 Sites has no Effect on Tau-Induced BDNF Down-Regulation in an in vitro model of Alzheimer's Disease

**UNDERGRADUATE - CLINICAL/EDUCATION**  
Umma Islam: Influence of Childhood Language Function on Adolescents Self-Esteem in Extremely Low Birth Weight Survivors and their Normal Birth Weight Peers

**GRADUATE - NON-Clinical**  
Omar Shawaf: Investigating PAOPA, A New Potential Antipsychotic for the Treatment of Schizophrenia: An In Vivo Microdialysis Study (A study in progress)

**GRADUATE - CLINICAL/EDUCATION**  
Chloe Law: Mentoring in Psychiatry: Preliminary findings on the effects of curriculum-guided mentoring on mentee personal development (study in progress)

**Residents - Psychiatry & Psychology**  
Katherine Holshausen: Closing the Gap in Social Connectivity in Major Depressive Disorder: An Evaluation of Shared Laughter

**Post Doctoral Fellows**  
Sarra Bahna: Altered stress reactivity to immune challenge in mice deficient of T lymphocytes

**CRC Tier 2 Chair**  
Congratulations to Ryan Van Lieshout on being awarded a CRC Tier II Chair, which will support his continuing research program in Perinatal Mental Health.

**Congratulations also to...**  
Jackie Hudson, recipient of the 2017 Research Staff Recognition Award. New this year, this award recognizes research staff who consistently contribute to the research success of their affiliated program.

**Ram Mishra** on successfully receiving 3 recent grants from SSHRC, CIHR-SSHRC and from McMaster, a tribute to the productivity of Ram and his lab.
Soyeon Kim, a postdoctoral student at the Offord Centre who has just received a 2 year EB EastBurn fellowship from the Hamilton Community Foundation.

Melissa Kimber who has been awarded a Postdoc Fellowship Award from CIHR.

Zena Samaan and James McKillop who have just been awarded a $100,000 Project Grant Grant from CIHR to study the Pharmacogenetics of Methadone Maintenance Treatment Response.

Kathy Georgiades who is now an approved supervisor in the Public Health Masters program.

Alex Drossos (PGYS) who will receive the McMaster Staff Association 2017 Award for the Outstanding Psychiatry Resident at HHS.

Michael Amlung and Holly Raymond who received a CARSTAR Automotive Research Innovation Fund for their proposal “Iterative development of a contingency management protocol for reducing smoking among patients with schizophrenia”.

Gary Hasey and Don Richardson who received a “BURST” grant from Federal Economic Development Agency of Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) to study treatment response in members of the Military with PTSD.

The Psychology Residency Program at St. Joes, which was recently, awarded a seven-year accreditation from the Canadian Psychological Association following last year’s accreditation visit. This is the highest accreditation rating that a program can receive.

10 years at McMaster
Congratulations to the following staff members who have recently celebrated 10 years at McMaster
Nicole Sloss, Irene O’Connor, Lisa Kennedy, Menika McKeegan and Beth Patterson

New Fellowships
Under the leadership of Alina Brotea, the Fellowship Committee approved fellowship programs in the following areas:

- ADHD
- Mood Disorders
- Advance Integrated Psychotherapy
- Women’s Health Concerns
- Schizophrenia
- Forensic Psychiatry

Thanks to everybody who was involved in the preparation of these programs and also to Alina for the enormous amount of work she has put into the organization of the fellowship Program, which has paved the way for these exciting new opportunities.

On May 25th, we will be holding the second Jack Diamond Memorial Lecture in Neurosciences at 3:00pm in the Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Learning and Discovery, room 1105. The speaker is Bernardo Sabatini, the Alice and Rodman W. Mooread III professor of Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School.
On June 7th and 8th, we have the accreditation visit from the Royal College for our general psychiatry residency program.

**Department Dinner**
I would like to invite you to join us at the Department Dinner on Tuesday, June 13th when we will have a chance to say farewell to our graduating residents, acknowledge our 2016-17 award winners and celebrate our accomplishments over the last 12 months. This year we will be holding the event at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club. To register contact Joanne Milne milnejm@mcmaster.ca

**Jeremy Goldberg**
Unfortunately, because of continuing health problems, Jeremy has made the difficult decision to retire from the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences. Jeremy has been an active and contributing member of our department, particularly in our educational programs since he first arrived at McMaster almost 20 years ago. We will be taking time at our annual dinner to thank and acknowledge is many contributions to the Department and our learners.

**Our 50th Anniversary Reunion Weekend**
**June 2nd / 3rd.** Our reunion is going to be a fantastic weekend with a welcome reception, a nostalgia symposium, tours of the University and West 5th, a boat cruise of Hamilton harbor and our final celebratory dinner on the evening of Saturday, June 3rd. People from every decade of the Department’s life will be joining us, but it is particularly pleasing to see how many of the earliest members of the department will be coming to join us. Details can be found here: [http://psychiatry.mcmaster.ca/news-events/50th-anniversary](http://psychiatry.mcmaster.ca/news-events/50th-anniversary) and there is a reduced rate for current learners.

IF YOU HAVEN'T REGISTERED FOR THE DINNER OR RSVP'D FOR ANY OF THE OTHER EVENTS I WOULD ASK YOU TO DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AS WE NEED TO PROVIDE FINAL NUMBERS FOR THE DINNER TO LIUNA STATION EARLY NEXT WEEK.

**Nate Epstein Scholarship Fund**
As part of our reunion weekend, we will be establishing an McMaster psychiatry Alumni Group as well as an Innovation in Scholarship Fund in the name of our founding Chair, Nate Epstein. To contribute to this fund, follow this link: [https://secureca.imodules.com/s/1439/index-wide.aspx?sid=1439&gid=1&pgid=4190&cid=6885](https://secureca.imodules.com/s/1439/index-wide.aspx?sid=1439&gid=1&pgid=4190&cid=6885)

**Changes in Administrative Support**
We have had a number of changes in the Department’s administrative support team over the last month. I would like to welcome Lesley Wellington, who joins us from the MD Program Office and who will be providing additional support to all of our rapidly expanding educational programs.

I would also like to welcome Alison Kerff who joins us from the Offord Centre in a dual role supporting both our AFP offices and our Research offices. This also reflects a change in Nicole Sloss’ position who has become the Manager of both the Research and AFP offices and will be working closely with Alison in both of these areas.

I would also like to welcome Heather Angus-Lee who is the new communications coordinator for the Offord Centre.
We will also be saying farewell to Anne Gaetan, who has accepted a position in Emergency Medicine, effective June 5th. I would like to thank Anne for all her contributions during her time with our department in the time she’s been with us.

The McMaster Muskoka Seminars
Once again the McMaster Muskoka Seminars will be taking place at the Deerhurst Resort near Huntsville, allowing participants to combine a stimulating week of symposia with a vacation. Details of the program and accommodation can be found at http://psychiatry.mcmaster.ca/news-events/events/event/2017/07/24/default-calendar/21st-annual-mcmaster-muskoka-seminars-2017 or contact Maria Benoit mbenoit@mcmaster.ca

Our area at W 5th.
As part of the preparations for our 50th Anniversary we will be decorating the Department’s Administration Area with a variety of displays including pictures on Hamilton, collages of people and places who have been part of the department – my thanks to Pri for all her work and energy is preparing these – a pictorial history of the Department’s 50 years, a reorganization of parts of our space and much more. It will all be finished for June 1st.

Nick