

## DEPARTMENT COVID-19 UPDATE #16 - May 25, 2020

*On behalf of Nick Kates, Chair, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences –*

We're now starting to plan for the **beginning of a return to research activities** that were put on hold in March, while knowing that this will need to be very gradual. **Margaret McKinnon** has prepared a comprehensive summary of the stage we are currently at, and what is being planned, and this will be circulated in a separate Update this afternoon.

All these activities will be guided by the policies of the University and the 2 hospitals, who are working together to ensure a consistent return to former activities. For the most up to date details on the University's plans, and for log-in information for 2 webinars in which Karen Mossman, McMaster's Vice President Research, will be outlining the plan, click [here](#).

And this McMaster site provides guidance from the University as we begin to return to our former places of work – [site](#).

### EDUCATION

#### MD Program

We are also preparing for a resumption of the Clerkship on Monday, July 6th. We will have two 4 week psychiatry blocks this summer (July 6-31 and Aug 4-28). For a variety of reasons, including the reduction in in-patient beds, we are faced with a potentially significant shortage of supervisors in Hamilton for the July / August period, even with a shortened clerkship rotation. While a number of you have already indicated your availability – and thank you to all of you who have – as a Department we want to ensure we can provide the best possible experiences for medical students at all stages of their training.

This has been a difficult and unpredictable time, and many uncertainties still lie ahead of us this summer, but I'd like to ask all our clinical supervisors to look at your availability over the two summer months and to make whatever changes you can to help us accommodate those clerks who we have not yet been able to place. If you are able to take a clerk, even for less than full-time, and haven't yet let **Claudia Castellanos** know, can you email her at [castell@mcmaster.ca](mailto:castell@mcmaster.ca) no later than Wednesday, May 27th at 17:00, which is when the MD Program needs final information on placements. And thank you, in advance, for helping out not only the Department but also the MD Program.

But even as we plan for a return to some of our former activities, we remain aware that we are not yet "out of the woods" clinically, and our services, faculty and residents could yet face further demands and pressures. This is amplified in the message below from JoAnn Corey.

#### Postgraduate Program – A message from JoAnn Corey

"Thank you to all of our faculty who have continued to be incredibly supportive and flexible in their supervision of our residents during this ever-changing time. Thank you as well to those of

you who have created unique learning opportunities for our residents. The ongoing efforts of our faculty have been vital to the ongoing education of our residents. They are truly appreciated.

With the influx of patients from the Rosslyn Home, the increase in patients admitted to GIM has again raised the possibility of redeployment of Psychiatry residents to assist in General Internal Medicine. It is possible that this call could come with very short notice. The education leads in our department continue to plan for various possible scenarios should this happen, including coverage of the resident call schedule as best as possible. Our residents continue to maintain a back-up schedule, and the subspecialty residents will also be enlisted for the back-up schedule, if needed, as a short-term measure. Should redeployment of psychiatry residents to GIM occur, depending on the number of residents that are redeployed, there may be a need for review of the clinical coverage in PES.

Our postgrad program is also busy getting ready to **welcome our Incoming Pgy-1 Residents**, adjusting the Transition to Discipline Classroom series as creatively as possible to virtual and small group learning. Thank you to all of the faculty who have stepped up to facilitate classroom sessions and supervise our new residents' first clinical experiences. We are excited to be hosting a virtual info session for our incoming residents this Friday."

### **HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

On June 1<sup>st</sup> you are invited to join an exciting **Webinar on "Prioritising Well-being", organized by Faculty Affairs and the Program for Faculty Development** in which 4 panelists – **Karen Saperson, Bode Akintan, Randi McCabe** and Mark Walton, will discuss the impact of the pandemic on our mental health as health care practitioners, as teachers, and as researchers. Amongst other things it will cover 1) the tools and supports are available to help manage your own health and well-being from McMaster, Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare, 2) Insights into the value of peer support, how to get it, and how to provide it and 3) innovations happening across FHS to support our faculty. Details can be found [here](#).

### **DEPARTMENT NEWS**

Just a reminder to let me know if you are interested in participating in our **working group looking at how we can utilize new technologies in the future**. This group will be meeting in the next two weeks.

**I would also like to welcome** the following GFTs who have joined our Department over the last 2 months. **Noemie Praud**, is a psychiatrist, originally from France, who will be working in PES and CPC at St. Joe's, **Jenna Boyd** is a psychologist who is working in the ATRC at St. Joe's, **Taylor Hatchard** is a psychologist working in the Youth Wellness Centre at St. Joe's, and **Laura O'Neill** is a social worker and psychotherapist who will be working in the new Psychotherapy Master's Program.

And I'm also really pleased to announce that **Flavio Kapczinski** has changed his plans, and rather than returning to Brazil he will be staying at McMaster, which is great news.

### Department Summer Celebration

We will be holding our virtual Department summer celebration on Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>. from 19.00 to 20.30. This will allow us to thank our graduating learners, acknowledge our 2019-20 award winners and say thank you and farewell to **Michael Amlung**, who will be leaving Hamilton to take up a position at the University of Kansas at the end of June. We will also be able to express our appreciation to **Pri Weerasekera**, who will be stepping down on June 30<sup>th</sup>. after leading our Psychotherapy Training Program for almost 30 years. Login details for this zoom celebration will follow shortly.

### Congratulations to

**Jennifer Couturier** who has just received a grant from CIHR to develop Practice guidelines for children and adolescents with eating disorders in the CoVID era.

**John Weekes**, an adjunct member of our Department currently working as Director of Research and Academics at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care and the Director of the Waypoint Research Institute who has just been appointed as **Director of the Homewood Research Institute**, taking over from Roy Cameron on September 1st.

**Shuang Xu**, REL at Waterloo, and his wife Rebecca, who welcomed their new son Owen on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Kazim Mirhadi** (PGY1) and his wife who recently welcomed their first child, a daughter Marziyeh.

### A CoVID Review Summary

This is a brief summary of findings from the recent literature about CoVID-19 - [article](#).

### And finally....

I'd like to wish a Happy Eid to those of you who are celebrating the end of Ramadan today, and to your families.

Nick