



Psychiatry Digest

February 24, 2021

I want to begin this Digest by highlighting a number of recent appointments.

Paul O'Byrne has been re-appointed as Dean and Vice-President of the Faculty of Health Sciences. On behalf of us all I want to congratulate Paul, who has been a great friend and supporter of our Department, and I look forward to continuing to working together.

I'd also like to congratulate **Lehana Thabane**, a part time member of our Department, who has been appointed as Vice President Research at St. Joe's, effective April 1st. Lehana is a highly respected academic leader and researcher with more than 20 years of healthcare experience including being a pioneer in health research and clinical trials methodology.

And if you hadn't seen the announcement yesterday, I am really excited about the creation of a **new Chair for our Department – the McMaster-HHS Chair in Autism and Neurodevelopment** – and there could be no better inaugural chair than **Stelios Georgiades**. Please join us at the virtual celebration on **Thursday March 11th at 16.00** when McMaster and HHS will formally announce the Chair and introduce Stelios.

This Digest also contains information (below) on our **2nd Annual Review Course in Psychiatry**, which is taking place at the end of May. Thanks to **Alina Brotea** and **Heather McNeely** for all their work in organizing the program.

And the **Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) Program** is seeking applicants for the position of Assistant Director. This position is open to full time faculty members only. Application deadline is March 8th. More info [here](#).

Nick

Department News

Congratulations to...



Flavio Kapczinski who received the prestigious **Desmarest Prize** research award from the **Pierre Deniker Foundation and Alzheimer Foundation** in France for his project, *"Inflammatory mediators of the progression of severe psychiatric disorders into cognitive impairment and dementia"*. This is a key accomplishment in our ongoing Franco-Canadian research collaboration with the Pasteur Institute.

Research News

Effective February 16th research has reverted back to **Phase 2** on campus and fieldwork research directives that were in place late last year, recognizing that remote working remains the preference. Phase 2 allows for Training of Research Personnel and the Involvement of Human Participants. Here, it is critical that faculty, staff, and trainees adhere at all times to the University's COVID **health and safety measures** and ensure that all **health and safety protocols** are in place, before returning to campus. Please click on the link above for more information.

Congratulations to...

Randi McCabe (PI), Brenda Key, Noam Soreni, Karen Rowa, and Margaret McKinnon (Co-I's) whose proposal was the **top ranked proposal in its competition** and received \$236,250 / year for four years for their project entitled, *"Mindfulness-Based Interventions for OCD: Efficacy, Mechanisms, and Biological Predictors of Outcome"*.

Benicio Frey (Co-I) who was part of a proposal that was also ranked **#1** in its competition, and received \$223,750 / year for four years for their project entitled, *"Perinatal Anxiety Disorders Screening Study"*.

Three members from the **Centre for Medical Cannabis Research** that received funding awards from the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. They are: **Jean Costello** from the Homewood Research Institute for her project entitled, *"Changes in Substance Use and Mental Health in Two Hospital-Based Addiction Treatment Programs Over the Course of Recreational Cannabis Legalization in Canada"*; **Benicio Frey** for his project, *"A Gender and Age Based Analysis of Cannabis Use for Pain and Mental Health in a Large Canadian Naturalistic Sample"*; and **Saara Greene** for her project, *"Wading through the Weeds: A Public Health Response to Supporting Pregnant and Breast/Chest Feeding People Who Consume Cannabis"*.

Education



Tea Rosic (PGY5) is the 2020 winner of the **Lillian Rose Stegne Memorial Fellowship Award**. Tea's two primary areas of research interest are: 1) the impact of psychiatric comorbidity in patients receiving treatment for opioid addiction, and 2) long term addiction and mental health outcomes for adolescents with substance use problems.



RESIDENT AWARENESS & APPRECIATION WEEK

Here are a few pics recognizing our amazing Psychiatry residents. Thank you to everyone who took an extra step to appreciate our residents last week.



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



The **9th Annual Chanchlani Global Health Research Award & Lecture** is taking place on **March 8th from 12:00-4:00pm**. The recipient of this year's award is **Nadine Caron**, Canada's first female First Nations general surgeon and also the founding First Nations Health Authority Chair in Cancer and Wellness at UBC.

Zena Samaan and **Harriet MacMillan** will also be speakers at the event. More info or to register [here](#).

Our **May 26th Department Rounds**, co-sponsored by the Department of Family Medicine, will feature a guest speaker, **Francoise Susset**, who will provide a presentation on transgender mental health in relation to the construct of minority stress. Her rounds will be followed by a two-hour workshop. More details to follow.

COVID-19 News

Here is an article featured in Nature with the latest evidence as to whether COVID-19 is spread through contact with surfaces. Full article [here](#).

From the Postgrad Office



In this week's **Resident Spotlight**, we are pleased to introduce Pgy-1 Resident: **Lia Bertrand**



Lia grew up in a small town outside of Montreal. After completing a DEC in basic sciences at John Abbott College, she trained in medicine at McGill University where she was involved in community outreach/mentorship programs and suicidology research.

We were thrilled to welcome Lia into the McMaster Psychiatry program this year. Currently, some potential areas of interest for Lia include psychosis, acute care psychiatry and pharmacology.

Outside of work, Lia enjoys exercising, spending time in nature and spending time with those close to her. As she is a certified spin instructor, she looks forward to the possibility of connecting with the local Hamilton community in that sort of setting once the pandemic settles.

Lia was the first of our residents to be redeployed to GIM, which she handled with incredible skill and grace.

Media News

Jane Foster's research work relating to gut microbes and how they could drive brain disorders was featured in the February issue of Nature. Full story [here](#).

Julia Kulikowski (PGY4) had a chapter, *"Chief Adverse Effects of Psychotropic Medications: Extrapyrmidal Symptoms, Catatonia, Serotonin Syndrome, and Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome"*, recently published in the McMaster Textbook of Internal Medicine. Full chapter can be found [here](#).

Andrew Nicholson and **Ruth Lanius** spoke to CTV News about their study involving a computer game that will help to reduce symptoms of PTSD in patients. Read more [here](#). Andrew was also a guest speaker on AM980.

Upcoming Events

The 2nd Annual Review Course in Psychiatry will be taking place, virtually, on **May 27th and 28th**.

Topics will focus on up to date clinical pearls in the field of mental health. Please visit the following link [here](#) for registration details and agenda.

Stay Connected

Humour over rumour? The world can learn a lot from Taiwan's approach to fake news. This is taken from an article published last week in The Guardian. Read more [here](#).



The Department recognizes and acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnabe and Haudenosaunee nations as part of the Upper Canada Treaty, and within the lands protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Covenant.