

January 21, 2019

Welcome to the first Digest of 2019, and to what promises to be a remarkably exciting year for our Department.

An early highlight promises to be the [Neuroscience Symposium](#) taking place on **Friday, February 8th** at West 5th, which coincides with celebrations marking the 5th Anniversary of the opening of the new West 5th facility. And the day before we will be hosting a visit from Pierre-Marie Lledo, Director of Neuroscience at the Pasteur Institute in France.

And join us at the Department Meeting on Wednesday, January 30th, which will include an important financial update.

Nick Kates

Important Dates:

January 21 and 29 (Hamilton)
January 31 (Waterloo)
CaRMS Interviews

February 8, 2019
*2nd Neuroscience Symposium
Neuroplasticity and Brain
Health*

St. Joseph's Healthcare -
West 5th
[*more info*](#)

May 1, 2019
Department Research Day
[*more info*](#)

[View the Department
Calendar](#)

Welcome To



Maiko Schneider who joined our Department on January 1, 2019 at the rank of Assistant Professor (GFT). Maiko completed his medical training and residency at the University of Pelotas in Brazil and then completed a fellowship here, working with Luciano Minuzzi. Maiko's clinical work will be within the Mood Disorders Program, including his interest in Gender Identity issues and in the Youth Wellness Centre.

Department News

Congratulations to:



Zena Samaan who has been selected as the incoming Program Director for the Faculty's Clinical Investigators Program (CIP), replacing Clive Kearon, effective July 1, 2019. She will transition into the role on January 1, 2019 and we will be starting a search for her successor as Coordinator of the Department's CIP.



Roberto Sassi on successfully passing the Royal College Child Psychiatry Subspecialty exam.



Sophiya Benjamin, from the Waterloo Regional Campus, who was recently appointed the Interim Medical Co-Lead for the Provincial Geriatrics Leadership Office.



The **Psychiatry Elves** had another successful year and raised \$2,500 in addition to a \$2,000 grant from St. Joes. The funds were able to provide gifts for 330 beds within the MH&A program and also large gift cards for units where individuals gifts were not feasible.

New PES Leadership Role

Congratulations to **Usha Parthasarathi** who has just started as the first Education Liaison for PES (Psychiatry Emergency Service at St. Joes) on January 1st. This newly created position will assist undergraduate and postgraduate students on rotations in PES with their learning needs and projects and will provide a two-way bridge between the students and the respective educational programs.

Media & Publication News

Catherine Munn had an article in [University Affairs](#) about the mental health struggles of University students.

[Guelph Today](#) spoke to **Margaret McKinnon** about how her experience interested her in PTSD.

Anthony Levinson spoke to [CBC's Ontario Today](#) and [CHCH TV](#) about, "*iGericare*", the online training tool that he helped create for family members struggling to care for a loved one suffering from dementia.

[The Spec](#), CHCH TV, and [CHML](#) radio covered an announcement about support for research by **Andrea Gonzalez** and **Harriet MacMillan** in evaluating the Triple P and related Baby Triple P programs.

James MacKillop spoke to [Chatelaine](#) about the effectiveness of treating chronic, non-cancer pain with cannabis.

Michael Amlung was quoted in an article in the [Orange County Register](#) about how legal cannabis has not slowed the illegal market in California.

Jean Clinton was featured in [Battlefords NOW](#) about the importance of building healthy relationships to foster children's well being.

Flavio Kapczinski and colleagues who recently published their book, "*Personality Psychiatry - Big Data Analytics in Mental Health*".

Gary Chaimowitz spoke to [The Spec](#) about how his research in the forensic program at St. Joes is using virtual reality to help understand the feeling of being in seclusion - hospital equivalent of solitary confinement in a jail cell.

Upcoming Conferences

Jane Foster and **Benicio Frey** will be presenting at this year's Canmat & Can-Bind Conference - *Depression in 2020: Biomarkers, Technologies and Novel Therapies* - February 2, 2019. [More details.](#)

Research News

Health Canada has approved a new collaborative grant to understand the clinical trajectories of individuals with concurrent disorders. The funding is for St. Joes Concurrent Disorders Program (CDP) and the **Peter Boris Centre** to collaborate with the Burnaby Centre and UBC to conduct the first large scale longitudinal study in this area. This is a tribute to the highly productive collaboration between the CDP and the Boris Centre over the last four years.

Noam Soreni is a 2019 recipient of a two-year HAHSO Award for \$120,880 to study the Cognitive and Behavioural Effects of Neuromodulation in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. **Michael Amlung** is a Co-Investigator.

Michael Amlung was featured in *Innovator*, St. Joes Quarterly Research Newsletter, discussing the future of medicinal and recreational cannabis research.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Jin**, undergraduate student of **Heather McNeely's** who was a silver poster winner at CMHA's Mental Health for All Conference held recently in Montreal. His poster was entitled, "*Metacognition, Shyness, and Quality of Life in Schizophrenia*".

And to **Alina Protopopescu**, PhD student of **Margaret McKinnon's** recently won the Editor's Choice Award (Best Poster at Forum) at the 2018 CIMVHR Forum (Canadian Institute of Military and Veterans Health Research) Forum in Saskatoon.

Bernice Downey who received the Indigenous Early Career Women's Heart and Brain Health Chair Award from CIHR and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. The goal of the project is to deepen our understanding about how Indigenous knowledge about well-being can help Indigenous women to understand and manage their heart illness. [More](#).

2019 Psychology Education Day

The Hamilton Health Sciences Psychology Practice Council will be holding their 4th Annual Psychology Education Day on February 13th at Carmen's Banquet Centre. This year's theme is, "*The Psychology of Trauma and the Path to Recovery*" and **Margaret McKinnon** will give the keynote address. [More info](#).

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