

## Psychiatry Digest

March 8, 2021

We received extremely good news this week about our collective research productivity in 2019-20. Not only is the funding held by McMaster that our faculty have received up by 28% over the year before – with 31 faculty and 10 students leading or being part of those grants - but we were the second most productive clinical department in the Faculty (after internal medicine). Congratulations and thanks to all our researchers, research staff and to **Margaret McKinnon, Nicole Sloss, Alison Kerkhof** (currently on MLOA), and **Dana Waldern** in the department's research office.

A quick reminder that we will be celebrating the announcement of the new Chair in Autism and Neurodevelopment and its inaugural Chairholder, **Stelios Georgiades**, this Thursday, March 11th at 4:00pm (virtually). If you would like to attend, please register [here](#) to receive the webinar link.



And today, on **International Women's Day**, I want to acknowledge not only the extraordinary contributions made every day by our female faculty, staff and learners but in particular the leadership our female colleagues provide, in every aspect of our work. All of our associate and vice chairs are women, as are 3 of our 4 program directors, 3 of our 6 academic division heads, our undergraduate director, our director of administration, and the leaders of our Indigenous mental health, Anti-Black racism, LGBTQ2+, mentoring, fellowship, psychotherapy, psychotherapy masters, psychology residency and new faculty programs. My thanks to each and every one of you.

Nick

## Department News

### *Welcome to...*



**Tracy Bear.** Tracy, who will be the new Director of McMaster's Indigenous Research Institute (MIRI) as of July 1st, and will hold a joint appointment in our department and the department of sociology was featured in an article in the Spectator last week [here](#). She is currently the director of the Indigenous Women & Youth Resilience Project and the academic lead on 'Indigenous Canada,' and assistant professor of Native Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Alberta. Her current research includes social justice, prison abolition, body sovereignty, sexuality and gender, contemporary Indigenous art, and Indigenous literature.

## Research News

### *Congratulations to...*

**Mercy Lillian Gichuki**, a Global Health PhD student, co-supervised by **Melissa Kimber** and **Harriet MacMillan**, and Program Manager at Family Life Resource Centre, a Violence Against Women (VAW) crisis shelter for



women and children, was recently recognized with the **Emerging Academic Award** from the African Alumni Association at the University of Toronto, which was presented at the annual "The GOWN: African Scholars Awards" event. In 2018, she was also gifted a Sash by the Metis Nation of Ontario for her work as an ally to the community.

All department members are invited to attend **Research Town Hall sessions on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:00-10:00am**. There is no need to RSVP. Join Zoom meeting [here](#); meeting ID: 989 1374 0560; passcode: 457059. Find your local number [here](#).

## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The Hannah History of Medicine and Medical Humanities Speaker on March 24th, 1:30-3:30pm is **Maureen Lux**, Professor and Chair, Department of History at Brock University, who will be presenting on "**Race, Medicine, and Healthcare: Indian Hospitals in 20th Century Canada**". If you wish to join this virtual talk, please register [here](#).

MERIT is hosting a virtual event, "**Academic Mentorship: Fostering Equity, Diversity and Inclusiveness**" on March 24th and 25th. Topics include: the evidence for 'what works' with mentorship, mentorship & power, mentoring trainees, and health systems & mentorship. Learn more or to register [here](#).

**Kwame McKenzie**, the CEO of the Wellesley Institute; a research and policy think tank based in Toronto which works to improve health and health equity in the GTA, will be presenting at **Department Rounds on March 24th, 9:00-10:00am**. following which he will lead a workshop on **Community Engagement and Research involving Racialized Communities** from 10:00-Noon. Kwame is a psychiatrist and professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, and Director of Health Equity at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health More details about the workshop will follow.

Attached is an article written by leaders in 7 major academic Departments of Psychiatry in the US regarding diversity in leadership roles in academic medicine and guidelines for success. Full article [here](#).

## New Faculty in Psychiatry (NFIP)

The **New Faculty in Psychiatry (NFIP)** Working Group met again on February 24th to discuss **Educational Hours and Teaching Opportunities and Expectations** in the Department. Please contact Lisa Kennedy ([lkenne@mcmaster.ca](mailto:lkenne@mcmaster.ca)), Natasha Snelgrove ([snelgrnm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:snelgrnm@mcmaster.ca)) or Iris Balodis ([balodisi@mcmaster.ca](mailto:balodisi@mcmaster.ca)), if you would like a copy of the slides or a link to the recorded session. The next NFIP session planned for later this year will focus on how to make a **MacCV** as well as **Promotion and Tenure**.

## Media News



In an article in the latest edition of Wired Magazine, **Margaret McKinnon** shares how she and 305 other passengers and flight crew survived an August 2001 Air Transat flight that lost fuel and ultimately engine power over the Atlantic and made an emergency landing on an island in the Azores, and how that incident changed her research career. Her story, "*How to Remember a Disaster Without Being Shattered by It*", can be found [here](#). Margaret's research was also featured in The Verge. Article [here](#).

**Jeremy Devine (PGY3)** was interviewed by Alex Pierson from ON Point

