

Psychiatry Digest

September 29, 2020



I want to congratulate **Catharine Munn** on her appointment as Assistant Dean, Resident Affairs. Catharine is also currently the Lead for McMaster's Student Mental Health and Well-being Strategy, part of which has involved the development of Professor Hippo - [here](#).



Congratulations also to **Iris Balodis** who is the new Associate Director of the PBCAR (Peter Boris Centre for Addictions Research). One of Iris's priorities will be the promotion of faculty and trainee engagement.



I was very pleased to be invited to a meeting that took place a few days ago where members of MacART led by **Stelios Georgiades** and **Caroline Roncadin** showcased their work to the Board of the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA). The range and quality of the work underway here at McMaster was truly impressive.

And finally, a reminder that tomorrow (Sept. 30th) is **National Orange Shirt Day**, when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to Canada's Indian Residential Schools by wearing orange shirts. While statistics only tell part of a story, it is still shocking to realize that an Indigenous child who was sent to a residential school had a great likelihood of dying there than a Canadian soldier who went off to fight in the First World War.

Nick

COVID News and Updates

Margaret McKinnon has been invited to speak at Research Canada's Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Virtual event entitled, "*A RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK: Canadian Mental Health Researchers Stand Up to COVID-19*", on November 4th. This is an opportunity to present to MPs and Ministers some of the work that is taking place at both the Health Research Institute and McMaster.

Flavio Kapczinski who had his paper, "*The assessment of lifestyle changes during the COVID-19 pandemic using a multidimensional scale*" accepted for publication in *Revista de Psiquiatria y Salud Mental*. Full article [here](#).

Department News

Congratulations to...

Margaret McKinnon who is the inaugural Chair of the new federal PTSD Centre of

Excellence's Research Reference Group, a wonderful extension of the work of her Homewood Chair in Mental Health and Trauma.

Vanessa Lentz who is the new **Chair of the CBD Competence Committee for the General Psychiatry Residency Program**, taking over from **Joe Ferencz** as of November 1st. Thanks to Joe for all his work in setting up and leading this Committee over the last 3 years.

Laura Rosato and **Jennifer Couturier** (co-author) who won the Award for best poster at the September Canadian Academic of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry conference and **Tea Rosic**, PGY5, who received the Award for best poster by a member in training. Her poster was entitled, *"Time to repeat ED visit for pediatric mental health concerns,"* and other contributors include **Laura Duncan, Kathy Bennett, Paolo Pires, Bode Akintan, Roberto Sassi** and **Ellen Lipman**.

Taiane Cardoso, postdoctoral research fellow under the supervision of **Flavio Kapczinski** who received the Postdoctoral Fellow Publication Award from the 2020 Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Plenary: *A Celebration of Research and Professional Excellence* This award is a recognition of outstanding publication achievements of postdoctoral fellows training in areas of health science research.



Those members of the **Peter Boris Centre for Addictions Research** team who participated in the "Run for Women" that was held this past weekend and were ranked #3 top fundraiser, surpassing their fundraising goal.



Dante Duarte and his wife Jennifer on the arrival of their twin boys, Ben and Tom on September 24th.

Welcome to...

Jasmine Tsang and **Andrew Gonsalves** both of whom joined our Department on September 1st as part time adjunctive faculty. Jasmine will be working in the Cambridge and Grand River hospitals and Andrew in the Guelph General as an ER psychiatrist.

Admin staff changes...

Congratulations and best wishes to **Alison Kerkhof** who, on October 9th, will be taking a LOA prior to her 18 month maternity leave and congratulations and welcome to **Dana Waldern** who will filling in during Alison's leave.

Farwell and best wishes to **Connie Boffa** who will be leaving our department on October 8th to take a Program Coordinator position with the Department of Medicine's Infectious Disease Residency Program. Thanks go to Connie for all her work and support in the Psychotherapy and Postgraduate Programs.



Orange Shirt Day is September 30th. It is a day when we wear orange shirts to recognize and remember the survivors of the residential schools, and to promote awareness about the Indian residential school system and the impact this system had on Indigenous communities in Canada.

The wearing of orange shirts is inspired by the story of Phyllis Webstad. Full story [here](#).

Alison Shea, associate member of our Department, spoke to the Hamilton Spectator about a study she led that showed women who experience an early menopause are at a significantly higher risk of depression. Full article [here](#).

Education News

Thank you to **Laura Rosato** and **Sandra Westcott**, PGY4, for all their work and time with re-envisioning the Transition to Discipline curriculum to meet all the demands and restrictions of the pandemic conditions. The Transition to Discipline is an 8-week orientation to psychiatry and our program for all incoming residents.

Thank you to **Natasha Snelgrove** for her outstanding presentation at last week's Department meeting on, "*Teaching and Supervision in the Virtual Era*" and to **Sandra Westcott**, PGY4, for creating the virtual teaching and supervision guides. Copies of the slides and guides can be found [here](#).

Interested in education? Not sure where to start? Done some teaching and not sure where to go next? Come and join **Sandra Westcott**, **Sheila Harms**, **JoAnn Corey** and **Anita Acai** for an evening to discuss opportunities in Health Professions Education!

November 10, 2020

7:00-8:30pm

Registration is required and can be found [here](#). Contact Sandra Westcott, PGY4, for more information - sandra.westcott@medportal.ca

This event is open to all faculty and psychology and psychiatry residents.

Other Events

Jenn Brasch is this year's **Co-Chair of the ISAM-CSAM 2020 Conference**, an international addiction conference based in Canada, which is taking place from November 12-14. **James MacKillop** is one of this year's plenary speakers. More details about the conference or to register can be found [here](#).

Stay Connected



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.