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Message from our Chair

On Thursday, September 19th, we are hosting a Memorial Service for Carl Bell who served the Department, University and Chicagoland community for several decades. Carl was very committed to the under-served and was an effective spokesperson for their mental health needs that were often unrecognized and inadequately treated. Presentations honoring Carl will be held in Moss Auditorium in the COMRB followed by a reception in the Moss vestibule. On Tuesday, the 17th of September, our Research Extravaganza will occur with NIAAA Director George Koob as the keynote speaker. That will be a busy week!

Cathy Ellyin, our new Director of Administrative Operations, officially started on July 22nd, and has a sound knowledge of our admin needs and requirements. She is actively meeting with our faculty and admin staff in the COM. She is a great addition to our Team.

Eight new clinician educators joined our department in the new academic year as did our new trainees – residents and psych interns. This will be a busy, but very interesting Fall.

Upcoming Events:

Psychiatry Grand Rounds for September 2019

9/11/19 Refining the Translational Medicine Pipeline in Neurodevelopmental Disorders. Craig Erickson, MD

9/25/19 Objective Methods for Assessing Invalid (Neuro) Psychiatric Symptom Reporting and Neurocognitive Test Performance. Jason Soble, PhD, ABPP

The Department of Psychiatry's 10th Annual Research Extravaganza!
Tuesday September 17th, 2019

Key Note Speaker: George F. Koob, PhD
Dr. Koob is an internationally-recognized expert on alcohol and stress, and the neurobiology of alcohol and drug addiction. He is the Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA).

COMWT Room 106: 1pm to 3pm
Reception and Poster Presentation Student Center West: 3pm to 5pm
Upcoming Events (Cont.)

Remembering Dr. Carl Bell

Thursday, September 19th, 2019
9:00am – 12:00 pm
Reception 10:30am to noon

College of Medicine Research Building (COMRB)
Moss Auditorium

Save the Date!
Department of Psychiatry’s Annual Holiday Party 2019

Happy Holidays

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
Wolf Point Ball Room (15th Floor)

Friday, December 20th
6:00pm : Cocktail hour
7:00pm to 10:30pm : Dinner, dancing and free raffles!

Plan now to come celebrate the holidays with your co-workers!

See you on the dance floor!

All guests MUST RSVP!
Please look for your emailed invite soon!
Faculty and Staff News!

Dr. Carolyn Rodriguez, vice-chair of the Council on Research, is one of the recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE): see https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-announces-recipients-presidential-early-career-award-scientists-engineers/! The PECASE is the highest honor bestowed by the US government to outstanding scientists and engineers who are beginning their independent research careers and show exceptional promise for leadership in science and technology.

Dr. Sally Weinstein received media coverage of Dr. Weinstein’s Child Asthma and Family Chaos study published online in The American Academy of Pediatrics on the Public News Service (www.publicnewsservice.org) the national newswire service.

The Public News Service story was published July 11, and has been picked up by various media outlets nationally over the past two weeks. Click link for more information: https://www.publicnewsservice.org/20190711/health/il-research-links-severe-child-asthma-and-family-chaos/a67130-1

Dr. Sean M. Blitzstein - Promotion to Clinical Professor of Psychiatry.

Dr Martin Harrow has been selected by the faculty in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Indiana University to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The segment below featuring Dr. Graciano Pinna’s research on PTSD biomarkers was released for the National PTSD Awareness Day 2019: https://www.newsy.com/stories/how-a-blood-test-could-detect-ptsd-in-pregnant-women/

Dr. Mark Rasenick, Distinguished Professor of Physiology & Biophysics and Psychiatry at UIC, is quoted in a New York Times article about mysterious group of mysterious vertigo-like illnesses that overcame U.S diplomats in Cuba in 2016. A study published in JAMA on brain imaging from 40 of the diplomats concludes that some kind of brain damage has occurred, but the cause remains a mystery.

The article reads, in part:

"It’s good work, but there’s just not enough here to come to any conclusion," said Dr. Mark Rasenick, a neuroscientist at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Medicine. Dr. Rasenick is a member of the Cuban Academy of Science and has close ties to scientists there who have been skeptical that invisible weapons were involved. “I think the only reason it’s going in JAMA is that it’s such a politically charged topic.”

Read the full article here: https://nyti.ms/2JNl1wa

Dr. Lisa Razzano and her colleagues presented the poster, “Results of a Longitudinal Study of Health Literacy among People with Serious Mental Illness” at the American Psychological Association (APA) convention in Chicago, IL. This poster received the Research Award from APA Division 18 (Psychologists in Public Service). Dr. Razzano also chaired the APA symposium, “Physical Health Interventions for People with Serious Mental Illness in Community-Based Services.”

Dr. Tory Eisenlohr –Moul received an R01 grant from NIMH.

Dr. Emma Childs was invited to speak on “Human Laboratory Procedures to Study Drug Conditioning” at the Annual Retreat for the Northwestern University Information Storage Training Program (NISTP, T32MH067564) in Lake Geneva (29-30 July).

Dr. Amy Lasek received a new R01 grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) entitled “Compulsive alcohol drinking and cortical extracellular matrix”.

Dr. Amy Lasek has been approved to be a standing member of the Neuroscience Review Subcommittee of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Initial Review Group (AA-4).
Dr. Tory Eisenlohr-Moul, assistant professor of psychiatry at UIC, is quoted in a Chicago Tribune story about her study on hormone stabilization and risk for suicide among women. Eisenlohr-Moul has a $3.1 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to study how stabilizing certain hormones that fluctuate over the menstrual cycle in women at risk for suicide can keep suicidal thoughts at bay. Read the story here: https://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/ct-life-uic-study-suicide-women-hormones-tt-20190815-apnwz46ovbdm3p5m6u6zr3fec4-story.html

Dr. Carl Bell’s NPR segment: https://www.npr.org/can-2019/08/18/752221085/i-just-tell-you-remembering-dr-carl-bell

Dr. Ed Cook was selected as an International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) Fellow in May 2019. This award is the highest honor given by the International Society for Autism Research. It recognizes the sustained international research contribution to autism science that a person has made in their career, and the effect that it has had internationally on autism science.

Dr. Stevan M. Weine, has been awarded the 2020 Abraham L. Halpern Humanitarian Award by the American Association for Social Psychiatry. Dr. Weine, the Director of Global Medicine and Director of the Center for Global Health in our COM, works on displacement, violence, mental health and resilience. He will receive the award and deliver a lecture at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in Philadelphia in May 2020. The Abraham L. Halpern Humanitarian Award is bestowed by the American Association for Social Psychiatry for extraordinary achievement in advancing human rights. The Award is named after the forensic psychiatrist and human rights activist Abraham L. Halpern, M.D. (1925-2013). Prior awardees include Robert Lifton, Carl Bell, former Surgeon General of the United States Vivek Murthy, and Nada Stotland.

Dr. Olu Ajilore is interviewed about Digital Mental Health.
Two Residents, Drs. Martin Hinrichs and Surya Sabhaphathy, as well as one child fellow, Dr. Amber May were nominated for Resident/Fellow of the year!

Resident of the year nomination photos!

Dr. Amber May

Dr. Martin Hinrichs

Dr. Surya Sabhaphathy

Dr. Kathleen Kelly (to the left) and Dr. Amber May
Publications


