Spring is in the air! Covid numbers are falling, the CDC just relaxed its mask guidelines and Chicago is opening up. In our department, two of our faculty members, Drs. Ed Cook and Olu Ajilore, received the COM Distinguished Faculty Award and Faculty of the Year Awards respectively. KUDOS to them. We are transitioning our ambulatory telepsych practice to face-to-face encounters and our clinicians will return to the NPI and IJR/WROB over the next several weeks. Incoming residents will enter our program in June and our senior/outgoing residents, psychology interns and other trainees have their virtual graduation on Friday, June 4th. Congratulations to them on their successful graduation and we wish all of them the best in their future endeavors. The Costa lecture was very successful with Dr. Kendler’s comprehensive and well received presentation on psychiatric genetics. We are planning and looking ahead to the Annual Research Extravaganza in October where Holly Lisanby, from the NIMH, will be our keynote speaker.

Clinical and research faculty and post-doc recruitments are ongoing, and we will have new faculty join our programs in the fall. All our internal seminars, affinity groups and centers and related academic programs continue to meet regularly via video. Hopefully, we will transition several if not most of these activities to face-to-face formats soon.

Stay safe, and enjoy the Spring!

Anand Kumar, MD, MHA
Recent and Upcoming Events

**Virtual Grand Rounds**

5/12/2021  
“Metformin and Prevention of Antipsychotic Induced Weight Gain in Children and Adolescents”  
*Jorge Castillo-Gonzalez, MD, Susan Colegrove, MD and Jessica Gardiner, MD*  
Child and Adolescents Chief Fellow  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Medicine

5/26/2021  
“Criminalization of Motherhood: Maternal OUD in Peripartum Period”  
*Alexia Copenhaver, MD*  
Chief Resident  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Seminars**

5/13/2021  
*Psychiatric Institute & Center for Alcohol Research in Epigenetics*  
Virtual Neuroscience Seminar  
*Lalith Kumar Venkareddy, PhD*  
“Modulation of Dynorphin/Kappa opioid receptor in the amygdala after adolescents and Adult alcohol exposure”  
Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Medicine  

*Aashutosh Shetti, PhD*  
“Role of Caveolin-1 in the development of Alzheimer’s disease in Type 2 Diabetes”  
PhD Candidate  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Medicine

5/20/2021  
*Addiction Affinity Group presents a discussion with:*  
*James A Swartz, PhD*  
“Overview of ongoing studies to address the state opioid epidemic & assess the effects of IL Cannabis Tax Act”  
Professor  
Jane Addams College of Social Work  
University of Illinois at Chicago
Recent and Upcoming Events

5/27/2021  
*Psychiatric Institute & Center for Alcohol Research in Epigenetics*
*Virtual Neuroscience Seminar*
*Patricia Molina, MD, PhD*
Richard Ashman, PhD Professor and Chair Department of Physiology Director, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center of Excellence
Department of Physiology
LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA

6/3/2021  
*Psychiatric Institute & Center for Alcohol Research in Epigenetics*
*Emerging Techniques in Neuroscience Journal Club*
*Mark Maienchein-Cline, PhD*
Director, Research Informatics Core
Research Resources Center
University of Illinois at Chicago

Events

6/4/2021  
Department of Psychiatry Graduation (Virtual)
Virtual Zoom Celebration
12:00pm-1:30pm
Faculty and Staff News

Congratulations!

Olu Ajilore, MD, PhD – 2021 COM FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Excerpts from Dean Rosenblatt’s letter to Dr. Ajilore: ‘You were chosen for this honor by your peers in recognition of your stellar reputation as a pioneering scientist studying the pathophysiology of major depressive disorder in the context of medical comorbidities and late life, as well as for your outstanding record of commitment to medical education and dedication to mental health care for vulnerable populations.’

Ed Cook, MD – 2021 COM DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Excerpts from Dean Rosenblatt’s letter to Dr. Cook: ‘You were chosen for this honor by your peers in recognition of your extensive contributions to education and clinical research overall, and in particular your international stature as a leader in autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopmental disorders. We commend you for your exemplary record as an inspiring mentor and teacher to junior colleagues and trainees, and for the monumental impact you have had on your discipline through your unique leadership skills and commitment to excellence. You are widely acknowledged by your peers as a gifted teacher, clinician and scholar, and are recognized as one of the most respected medical researchers and child psychiatrists in the world.’
Faculty and Staff News!

Congratulations!

Dr. Joseph Cooper was named a Co-Chair of the National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative (NNCI). The NNCI (<https://www.nncionline.org>) is a collaboration between educators and neuroscientists dedicated to the integration of modern neuroscience into every facet of mental health, with the goal to decrease stigma and enhance patient care and outcomes.

Dr. Joseph Cooper was named a Fellow of the American Neuropsychiatric Association (<https://anpaonline.org>).

Dr. Lisa Razzano and research partners at Thresholds have been selected to receive the 2021 Health Literacy Innovation Award from the Institute for Healthcare Advancement. The award recognizes a library of health literacy materials developed to promote physical wellness among individuals with serious mental illness. This collaboration between the UIC Center on Mental Health Services Research and Policy and Thresholds is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research/Administration for Community Living.

Geri Fox MD, MHPE received the 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Rockford Campus.

Geri Fox MD, MHPE was one of the keynote speakers at the 4/27/21 Spring Quarterly Meeting of the Association of Directors of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry. “Beyond Yelp Reviews: Understanding and Managing Hostile Feedback from Learners” was presented by Dr. Fox, with co-presenters Judy Lewis MD from University of Vermont COM, and Marty Drell MD from Louisiana State University SOM.

Dr. Luana Martins de Carvalho, a postdoctoral research associate in the laboratory of Dr. Amy Lasek, was awarded a travel and her abstract was selected for a talk at the International Behavioral and Neural Genetics Society annual meeting that took place from May 12-15, 2021.

Tara Mehta (Co-PI), Marc Atkins (Co-PI), and Dana Rusch (Co-PI) recently received a 5-year, NIMH R01 grant titled Patient Navigators for Children’s Community Mental Health Services in High Poverty Urban Communities. The study examines the effectiveness of paraprofessional navigators to facilitate Black and Latinx families’ access to and retention in mental health services, given their familiarity with the community and their ability to relate to families’ challenges.

Virginia Gallagher, a Psychology Intern, was selected as this year’s Dissertation Award honoree by the Sports Neuropsychology Society.
**Publications**


Publications (cont.)


Nicholas Senese and Mark M. Rasenick is in press in Molecular Pharmacology: “Antidepressants produce persistent Gαs associated signaling changes in lipid rafts following drug withdrawal”


This work was featured on WBEZ Morning News on Monday 05/10/2021, as well as on UIC Today https://today.uic.edu/uic-researcher-finds-possible-novel-migraine-therapy


Presentations


**Weinstein, S.M., Gruhn, M., & West, A.E.** (2021, May). *Suicide Risk and Response to Psychosocial Treatment for Pediatric Bipolar Disorder*. In B. Birmaher (Chair), Addressing Suicide Risk Among Young Youth With Bipolar Disorder: From Neurobiology to Prediction and Treatment. Live symposium presented at the 23rd Annual Conference of the International Society of Bipolar Disorders (Virtual Conference).


This work was featured on WBEZ Morning News on Monday 05/10/2021, as well as on UIC Today [https://today.uic.edu/uic-researcher-finds-possible-novel-migraine-therapy](https://today.uic.edu/uic-researcher-finds-possible-novel-migraine-therapy)