As we anticipate 2024, it is important to reflect on the many accomplishments of 2023!

It has been wonderful to welcome new faculty, trainees, and staff members who have joined the Department of Psychiatry this past year, as well as to continue to work with all of you who started with us in years past. Each of you have contributed much to the department and to the people that we serve in 2023. Congratulations to all on your many individual and shared accomplishments, and your tenacity in the delivery of your daily efforts in support of our mission.

Now, we envisage all the potential and new opportunities that the new year may bring. I look forward to our ongoing collaboration, and am proud to count each of you as colleagues. Thank you for your commitment and partnership.

You and yours are wished a happy and healthy holiday season, and much joy and fulfillment in the new year.

Sincerely,

Anand Kumar, MD, MHA
Events:

Thanks for another successful Annual Research Extravaganza

Guest Speaker:

Dr. David Goldman
Senior Investigator
Laboratory of Neurogenetics
NIAAA

“Multiomic Approaches to Alcohol Use Disorder, a Multi-system Disease”

Moss Auditorium

Hot Topics Presentations:

Graziano Pinna, PhD
Olusola Ajilore, MD, PhD
Colleen Stiles-Shields, PhD
Faculty and Staff News

Institute of Juvenile Research Faculty Member Dr. Brittany Rudd was awarded a Small Business Innovation Research grant (R44) from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Dr. Brittany Rudd was awarded a NICHD R44 to develop and evaluate an online parenting intervention called Putting Children First for families experiencing high inter-parental conflict during divorce or separation. This project will leverage user-centered design to develop a prototype that will include evidence-based parent training and employ motivational interviewing to increase engagement. In partnership with the Indiana Supreme Court, Putting Children First intervention will then be tested to promote parallel parenting, minimize parental conflict, and mitigate negative health outcomes in their children.

Emmanuel Olaifa was elected the Vice-President (Global Operations) of the International Association for Psychiatric Nurses at the recently concluded 2023 Scientific Conference in Accra, Ghana, and also participated in the panel discussion on the Status of LGBTQ in Africa and Mental Health Implications at the conference.

Dr. Neil Smalheiser received a new R01 grant from NIH to automatically index articles according to their publication types and study designs. This continues work that was begun during the previous R01 grant period. Collaborators include Jodi Schneider and Halil Kilicoglu at UIUC.

UIC awarded major data science grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. In alignment with the HHS Overdose Prevention Strategy, this R61/R33 HEAL Data2Action Innovation Project proposal addresses primary prevention, harm reduction, treatment of OUD, and recovery support using a state-of-the-art data driven approach that will bring together elements of the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics (UI Health) and University of Illinois Chicago into a single, unified approach that is capable of reducing mortality and morbidity from OUD on the westside of Chicago. We will deploy a combination of machine learning (natural language processing of electronic health records data), state reported prescription monitoring data, and patient reported measures to determine individual and group-level OUD risk across the various UI Health care sites (Priority 2, Innovation Project). We will then use this data at both the individual level (to facilitate clinical care) and at the community/system level to support resource allocation and planning. The project is led by Dr. Niranjan Karnik and involves a number of UIC faculty and Drs. Zulueta, Holden and Smith from the Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Geri Fox was the invited Grand Rounds speaker at “Taking Action on Burnout.” Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Medical College of Wisconsin, November 1, 2023.

The American Medical Association conferred a 2023 AMA Inspiration Award on Teresa Sripada MD, nominated by her former UIC resident, Dr Sara Kashani. The AMA Women Physicians Section (WPS) Inspiration Award honors and acknowledges physicians who have offered their time, wisdom and support throughout the professional careers of fellow physicians, residents and students.

Dr. Niranjan Karnik was invited to give the Henrietta Leonard Academic Grand Rounds for the Brown University Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior.
Faculty and Staff News

Psychiatry Faculty Honored During Annual Ceremony!

The University of Illinois College of Medicine celebrated its Faculty Tuesday, November 14th, in the Faculty Alumni Lounge during the 2023 Faculty Recognition Ceremony.

The Department of Psychiatry faculty members who received awards are as follows:

**Department Rising Star:**
Ashley Mulvihill, MD, Psychiatry

**Department Faculty of the Year:**
Sally Weinstein, PhD, Psychiatry

**College Awards:**
Distinguished Faculty of the Year: Subhash Pandey, PhD
Faculty of the Year: Jaleel Abdul-Adil, PhD
Faculty of the Year: Liza Suarez, PhD
Faculty and Staff News (cont.)

CURB-2 Trial Open for Recruitment for Moderate/Heavy Cocaine Use Disorder Patients.

Researchers at the University of Illinois Chicago are studying whether treatment with injectable extended-release naltrexone (XR-NTX; Vivitrol®) and injectable extended-release Buprenorphine (XR-BUP; Sublocade®) is safe and effective for helping people to cut down or stop using cocaine. Researchers believe the combination of these medications may reduce cocaine withdrawal symptoms.

The CURB-2 Study is a phase 2, randomized, placebo-controlled trial. Individuals may be eligible to participate if they:

- Are between the ages of 18 - 65
- Use cocaine regularly and interested in cutting down or stopping cocaine use
- Are able to attend in-person appointments on the UIC campus for approximately 16 weeks

There is no cost to participate in this study. The time and contribution of participants will be of tremendous value to public health research. Eligible individuals will be compensated up to a total of $968 for completed study activities.

Potential participants can call 312.355.4055 or follow the link below to learn more about the study and apply for potential participation:

https://redcap.link/curb2

Principal Investigator: Dr. Niranjan Karnik, Department of Psychiatry, UIC IRB Protocol #2022-0905


Dr. Lisa Razzano has been invited to serve as a member of the SAMHSA Evaluation Advisory Panel for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic-Expansion program. The initiative includes services and patient-level evaluation systems for the 301 clinics participating nationally in the SAMHSA CCBHC expansion program.

Dr. Mark Rasenick presented a lecture on Depression Biomarkers at McClean Mental Health Center (Harvard)

Dr. Geri Fox and Josh Nathan MD were invited guest speakers on the topic of “Taking Action on Burnout.” Illinois Psychiatric Society, 2023 Annual Meeting: “Commitment to Patients, Commitment to Life.” Oak Brook, IL, October 7, 2023.
Faculty and Staff News (cont.)

Dr. Judith Cook and colleagues present 2 workshops at the 28th Annual Conference of the National Association of Case Management.

Dr. Judith Cook is a co-investigator of the new NIDILRR-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging Among Adults with Serious Mental Illnesses located at Boston University (M. Farkas and Zlatka Russovina, Co-PIs, 2023-2028). This RRTC is generating new research-based knowledge on aging among older adults with long-term serious mental illnesses to impact services, practices, and policies.

Throughout the month of September, Dr. Judith Cook's Center hosted a national slow-motion X/Twitter chat on disability employment research, moderated by Dr. Sally Rogers of Boston's University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation. Available here: https://twitter.com/TalkMHResearch.

Dr. Mark Rasenick is installed as president of the American Brain Coalition. Dr. Rasenick was also quoted in a Wired Magazine article "Why does it take so long for antidepressants to work--a possible solution" https://www.wired.com/story/why-antidepressants-take-so-long-to-work/

Dr. Subhash Pandey received distinguished faculty award by UIC, the College of Medicine on November 14, 2023. This award is presented to a senior faculty member in the College of Medicine in recognition of excellence in research, service to the profession, or distinction as an educator.

Dr. Colleen Stiles-Shields and colleagues presented at the Annual Conferences of the American Psychological Association (APA), the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), and the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT). Dr. Colleen Stiles-Shields was also quoted in "News You'll Use" in First for Women Magazine.

Dr. Dana Rusch served as a panelist at the November 7th UIC Child Migration Across the Americas Symposium that was co-sponsored by the Dept of Anthropology, Gender and Women's Studies, and Institute for the Humanities She presented on "Evidence-based practice within the context of structural violence: Advocacy-centered and empowerment-based clinical care."

Dr. Dana Rusch received the NCCIH UG3 subaward entitled "Can A Youth Civic Leadership, Engagement and Mindfulness Program Reduce Structural Racism, and Support Functioning and Well-being for Youth of Color?"

Dr. Brittany Rudd was just awarded a new NIMH Alacrity Center pilot grant to work with Dr. Elizabeth McGuier (PI; University of Pittsburgh) and Dr. Christina Yuan (Co-I; Johns Hopkins) to increase suicide prevention in rural Children Advocacy Centers!
Dr. Erika Gustafson was Awarded the Sinai Urban Health Institute Equity Research Fellowship. The Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI) Equity Research fellowship supports partnering with colleagues at Sinai around health equity focused research. Dr. Gustafson will be focused on the development of community health worker (CHW) mental health models.

See below for a full list of CAPACITY Lab’s recent presentations:


Dr. Mayra Gaona receives the SCCAP Child Mental Health in Action (CMHA) Award!


Dr. Maki was featured in a NY Times piece on women’s mental health. The article referred to a recent publication showing a link between hot flashes and blood-based biomarkers of Alzheimer’s disease. See below.


Dr. Erika Gustafson presented at the University of Illinois Mexican and Mexican American Students Initiative (I-I-MMÁS) Symposium on Mental Health and Well-Being Among Latino/a/e Immigrant Communities. Presentation titled “Community Health Workers for Latine Mental Health”
Publications


Dr. Lisa Razzano colleagues publish study on employment services enhancements. The study, conducted with community health provider, Thresholds, demonstrates the use of virtual reality enhancements for evidence-based supported employment. This study found that Virtual Reality Job Interview Training (VR-JIT) provided needed exposure and practice with job interviewing in a safe environment for unemployed individuals with serious mental illness. VR-JIT has the potential to enhance the IPS model of supported employment for this population. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2023 APA, all rights reserved)


