DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

2024 Psychiatry Research Retreat

January 22

10:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Virtual via WebEx

For additional information, please email nageladm@ohsu.edu

https://www.ohsu.edu/school-of-medicine/psychiatry-research

OHSU

General Information

This event will be recorded. Links to the recording, program event, and slides will be available on the Research Admin X:Drive. The program will be available on the Psychiatry Research public website.

For additional information, please contact Kristina Hernandez at nageladm@ohsu.edu

Schedule

10:00 – 10:05 a.m.

Introduction by Maya O'Neil, Deputy Vice Chair for Research, Psychiatry

---

Group 1 **10:05 – 10:40 a.m.**

Steve Dobscha, Ben Morasco, Belle Zaccari & Miles Evanisko,

Maya O'Neil, Kate Clauss, Jason Chen, & Robert Mealer

10:40 – 10:50 a.m. Discussion

10:50 – 10:55 a.m. Break

Group 2 **10:55 – 11:30 a.m.**

Jonathan Emens, Shannon Nugent, Jennifer Loftis, Chris Stauffer,
Atheir Abbas, Randy Torralva, & Suzanne Mitchell

11:30 – 11:40 a.m. Discussion

11:40 – 11:45 a.m. Break

Group 3 **11:45 – 12:35 p.m.**

Bonnie Nagel, Rebekah Huber, Angelica Morales, Kristen Mackiewicz Seghete, Alexander Dufford,
Elinor Sullivan, Hanna Gustafsson, Elizabeth Wood, Jeni Johnstone, & Hayleigh Ast

12:35 – 12:45 p.m. – Discussion

12:45 – 1:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Group 1

Steve Dobscha, MD

My research interests include suicide prevention; approaches to integrating psychiatric and primary medical care; treatment of chronic conditions including chronic pain in primary care, and patient engagement in care. I would like to continue to explore ways to support professional development for early career investigators working in these areas and who are interested in other health services topics.

Ben Morasco, PhD

Broadly interested in health services research related to improving the assessment and treatment of chronic pain, with specific focus on patients with co-occurring substance use disorders.

Belle Zaccari, PsyD & Miles Evanisko, BA

We are presenting two current studies in the Zaccari lab: 1) Facilitators and barriers to the implementation of virtual complementary integrative health approaches for veterans with chronic pain and PTSD (AHRQ K12 funded) and; 2) The Renew Study – a multisite RCT conducted at the Portland and Puget Sound VAs offering virtual group therapy for survivors of military sexual trauma (DoD funded). In the next year, the K12 project will convene panels of experts in the VA using a modified Delphi survey, while the Renew Study will continue offering virtual group therapy for eligible veterans until spring of 2025.

Maya O'Neil, PhD

My research focuses on the clinical topics of PTSD, TBI, and suicide prevention, but has an overarching methods focus on FAIR (Findable Accessible Interoperable Reusable) Data and related evidence synthesis, visualization, and dissemination methods. I work closely with the National Center for PTSD, AHRQ, NIH/DoD FITBIR, and VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to disseminate both findings and databases, and in the future I'm hoping to expand research collaborations and methods dissemination efforts to include additional operational partners and stakeholders who can make use of the methods and data products we generate.

Kate Clauss, PhD

Kate's research focuses on cognitive factors that influence trauma-related psychopathology (e.g., attentional bias, attentional control), with the long-term goal of improving adjunctive interventions for PTSD. In future work, she intends to examine a computerized Attention Control Training intervention for Veterans with PTSD and suicidality and is interested in creating a data repository of cognitive bias modification trials.

Jason Chen, PhD

My research focuses broadly on how to identify and support those at elevated risk for suicide through relational-, community-, and systems-level approaches. Research areas I am continuing to explore include suicide messaging, social networks impacts of suicide exposure, enhancing dissemination and implementation of suicide prevention best practices, and the role of identity in suicide risk.

Robert Mealer, MD, PhD

Dr. Robert Mealer investigates schizophrenia risk genes in the brain, with particular focus on enzymes involved in the addition of carbohydrates to proteins through glycosylation. In the future, Dr. Mealer hopes to expand his research of protein glycosylation in the brain to other neuropsychiatric disorders including substance use and dementia.

Group 2

Jonathan Emens, MD, FAASM, DFAPA

My research involves the study of circadian physiology and, in particular, on the circadian system's impact on psychiatric and cardiometabolic health. Areas for potential collaboration include assessment of circadian rhythmicity in the setting of psychiatric illness and manipulation of the circadian system and sleep to improve symptoms.

Shannon Nugent, PhD

Broadly interested in mental health promotion and symptom management among those with serious medical conditions, with a focus on cancer.

Jennifer Loftis, PhD

The Loftis lab conducts translational research that investigates immunological mechanisms and treatments for neuropsychiatric symptoms, particularly in the context of substance use disorders and chronic viral infections. Future areas of study and potential collaboration include investigating COVID-19 mental health effects and developing a treatment-focused addiction research center.

Chris Stauffer, MD

The Social Neuroscience & Psychotherapy (SNAP) Lab aims to maximize the benefits of therapeutic alliance and psychotherapy through the adjunct use of social psychopharmacology—such as oxytocin, MDMA, and psilocybin. Our clinical trials will inform implementation within the VA and elsewhere; we are excited to collaborate with implementation researchers and clinical partners.

Atheir Abbas, MD, PhD

My research is focused on using rodent models to better understand changes in neural oscillations associated with schizophrenia and classic psychedelic drugs. I am interested in collaborations with researchers interested in studying neural oscillations in psychiatric disorders and acute psychedelic states or those interested in characterizing interesting drugs.

Randy Torralva, MD

The primary goal of this project is to use a translational, preclinical model of fentanyl overdose to discover the key physiological mechanisms underlying fentanyl toxicity in overdose and identify new drug targets to inhibit or antagonize these fentanyl effects. The second major goal of the project, once a specific interventional drug class is identified, is to test combinations of these agents with naloxone in a range of dosing formulations that optimize reversal of fentanyl overdose effects and improve survival.

Suzanne Mitchell, PhD

Research in the Translational NeuroEconomics Lab seeks to identify genetic, neurobiological and psychological mechanisms underlying decision making. Future research will examine how decision-making processes are disrupted by substance use and mental health disorders, and whether these disruptions are predictive of features of recovery. My lab would like to collaborate with anyone interested in shared correlates (genetic, neurobiological, psychological, behavioral) amongst determinants of decision making and markers of psychopathology development and recovery.

Group 3

Bonnie Nagel, PhD

The research in my lab focuses on understanding biopsychosocial markers of risk for psychopathology (including addiction, depression, and suicide) and determining ways in which this understanding may inform risk identification, prevention, and intervention within the clinical care setting. As the Director of the Center for Mental Health Innovation, I am driven to pave a pathway for scientific discovery to inform meaningful change within our clinics and systems.

Rebekah Huber, PhD

My research program focuses on identifying cognitive and neurobiological risk factors for suicide to inform evidence-based interventions and suicide prevention for youth with mood disorders. Future areas of study and potential collaborations include implementing sleep interventions and cognitive control training to reduce suicide risk for youth with bipolar disorder.

Angelica Morales, PhD

My research uses multimodal neuroimaging to assess brain structure, function, and chemistry, with the goal of understanding the role individual differences neurobiology play in the initiation, escalation, and maintenance of substance use disorders. We also conduct mechanistic studies using pharmacological and behavioral interventions to assess whether changes in neurobiology are associated with corresponding changes in symptoms of substance use disorders.

Kristen Mackiewicz Seghete, PhD

My research is focused on perinatal mental health and substance use, with a particular emphasis on clinical trials (including mechanisms of action) of preventive interventions for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders. I am interested in extending multi-disciplinary collaborations in: measuring inflammation, and downstream markers of inflammation, in response to intervention; dissemination and implementation; and intergenerational transmission of psychopathology and trauma.

Alexander Dufford, PhD

The InterGenerational Neuroimaging (IGN) Lab focuses on understanding neurodevelopmental changes across two generations (parent and child) from conception to toddlerhood. The lab is focused on linking variations in brain structure/function, risk for psychopathology, and neural pathways underlying intergenerational transmission of psychopathology while adopting a transdiagnostic approach to anxiety. I would like to expand this work to include dense-sampling phenotyping including neuroendocrine, ecological momentary assessment, and actigraphy to support our goal of using neuroimaging to test perinatal mood disorder intervention efficacy across both parents and children.

Elinor Sullivan, PhD

My research focuses on examining the influence of environmental factors such as nutrition, stress and substance use on the physical and mental health of the birthing parent and on offspring neurobehavioral regulation. I am interested in learning and collaborating in the realm of early intervention research.

Hanna Gustafsson, PhD

My research investigates the impact of prenatal and early life stress on children's risk for psychopathology, with an emphasis on understanding the psychobiological (e.g., via inflammation) and family-level (e.g., via caregiver-child relationships) through which early life stress impacts long-term risk. I am interested in translating my research into early interventions to promote child mental health and family functioning.

Elizabeth Wood, PhD

My research examines the role of the intrauterine environment on programming child developmental outcomes, with a present focus on studying the association between prenatal diet and offspring behavioral health. I am currently working on elucidating the mechanistic role of placental inflammation. I plan to extend the scope of my work to include examining the impact of prenatal diet on offspring cardiometabolic health, with a concurrent emphasis on identifying the moderating role of infant sex.

Jeni Johnstone, PhD

The Science of Nutrition Affect and Cognition in Kids (SNACK) lab, currently focused on micronutrient supplementation for ADHD, emotional dysregulation, mood, and anxiety in children and adolescents, is working with community partners to understand barriers to research participation and offer culturally sensitive mental health education delivered by community members from the Black/African American and Latino/a/x communities who have been underrepresented in the micronutrient research previously. We are investigating the biological mechanisms of response to the micronutrients in hair, saliva, blood, urine and stool; collaboration is welcomed in any of these areas.

Hayleigh Ast, ND

Hayleigh is a post-doc studying potential biological markers of ADHD through the gut-brain axis. Future goals she hopes to address include variances in biological presentation of ADHD in children on medications, nutraceuticals, placebo, versus controls and collaboration on integrative medicine approaches such as micronutrients and their impact on the classroom environment.

Additional Research Descriptions

Alan Teo, MD, MS

I am a **health services researcher** who studies how our **social connections** shape and influence mental health outcomes, and my current projects focus on **loneliness** and **suicide prevention in military veterans** and their close supports. I welcome collaboration with individuals interested in education/training interventions that could leverage family involvement and/or community-based work.