

# Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience

Department Newsletter • University of Chicago

40

Q1 2026 Publications

5

New Faculty Joining

19+

Residents & Trainees Matched

3+

New Grants Secured This Quarter

## FROM THE CHAIR

Seth Himelhoch, MD, MPH • Professor and Chair



This quarter reflects the remarkable momentum our department has built across every mission area. Five exceptional new faculty join us this summer and fall, our researchers produced 40 publications in just three months — including landmark work on psilocybin, LSD, and novel addiction interventions — and we matched record numbers of trainees for 2026–27. Our new AI & Emerging Technology Committee models thoughtful adoption of tools reshaping academic medicine, while DCAMP ensures every faculty member has the mentorship and pathway needed to thrive. I am equally grateful to our DEI, Wellness, Recruitment, and Space Planning Committees and all division leaders whose dedicated work this quarter is reflected throughout this newsletter.

## SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Adult Clinical Psychiatry | Dr. Marie Tobin

- New TMS machine acquired; Epic referral order developed, expanding neuromodulation access.
- ED safety improvements; new Patient Access Specialist, clinic nurse, and medical assistant.
- Dr. Hardcastle launched inpatient neuropsychology service (January 2026).
- Dr. Collins & Dr. Belli launched CBT for Menopause pilot group.
- Dr. Vas (Warner-Reynolds grant): hosting Dr. Aosved for two-day Prolonged Exposure therapy training for faculty and trainees.

### Child & Adolescent Psychiatry | Dr. Karam Radwan

- Nine sessions chaired or presented at AACAP 2025 (Chicago, Oct 20–25): narrative medicine, family interventions, medical child abuse, and health equity.
- Dr. Dinizulu received RWJ Foundation funding for an anti-racist, trauma-responsive pediatric assessment model; chairs IL Children’s Mental Health Partnership.
- Dr. Ohanian appointed to EPPP item development committee; active international collaborations with Wuhan University and Berlin University Alliance.

### Education & Training | Dr. Deborah Spitz

- Graduation June 4; new residents, psychology interns/fellows, and Pritzker students arriving July.
- Residency curriculum review launching 2026–27: new faculty will help redesign inpatient, ER, and outpatient curricula across UCM and Ingalls.

### Research Section | Dr. Sarah Keedy

- Faculty produced 40 PubMed-indexed publications in Q1 2026 — a remarkable output for a single quarter.
- New biostatistician available for consultation; shared research space in development; Research Genius Bar ongoing — see Upcoming Events.
- 2026–2028 Research & Scholarship Grant call active — faculty deadline May 18; trainee grant announcement forthcoming.

## RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

- Shared research space anticipated within approximately one year; BSD collaboration underway to add research administrative support personnel.
- Department Research & Scholarship Grant for trainees: eligibility criteria under review by EAC; call for proposals forthcoming.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### AI & Emerging Technology | Dr. Karam Radwan, Chair

- Three meetings this quarter: barriers to AI adoption in clinical/research settings; hands-on use of Claude and Consensus AI for literature review and presentations; responsible-use policy development.
- Faculty AI attestation form and practical tip sheet forthcoming.
- Administrative staff AI training opportunities to be identified to modernize departmental workflows.

### DCAMP — Academic Affairs | Dr. Deborah Spitz, Chair

- Structured faculty meetings launched at key milestones: year 2 & 5 for Assistant Professors; two years pre-reappointment for Associate Professors.
- Box folder with model CVs, personal statements, and promotion examples open to all — contact Dr. Spitz with mentorship or promotion questions.

### DEI Committee | Dr. Candice Norcott & Ms. Jessica Haack, Co-Chairs

- New DEI Committee website launched — a dedicated hub for department resources, events, and committee updates.
- TIP Talks revitalized with sessions on Chicago history & community mental health, immigration policy and patient wellbeing, and gender-affirming care for adolescents.
- Joint subcommittee formed with the Wellness Committee to develop a departmental Climate Survey — identifying areas of strength and need; details forthcoming.

### Recruitment Committee | Dr. Jon Grant, Chair

- Offers accepted this quarter: Vice Chair for Clinical Operations, a forensic psychiatrist, two med/psych double-boarded psychiatrists, and one triple-boarded physician.
- Open searches continue for an inpatient psychiatrist and a sleep psychologist, plus targeted strategic hires.

### Space Planning Committee | Dr. Tina Drossos & Dr. Marie Tobin, Co-Chairs

- Established March 2026 with Dr. James C. Norton as facilitator; inaugural meeting March 24 during which Dr. Himelhoch presented the committee’s charter.
- Includes representatives from various disciplines and training levels; meets monthly with regular updates to the Executive Advisory Committee.

### Wellness Committee | Dr. Fabi Araujo & Dr. Seeba Anam, Co-Chairs

- Spring Picnic at the Point planned to welcome new members; bi-monthly lunch cart with UCWell finalizing details.
- Well-being Subcommittee formed for 2027 UCM Engagement Survey; Co-Directors joining CHARM consortium with Johns Hopkins Total Worker Health Center.

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## NEW GRANTS & FUNDING

### Fridberg DJ & King AC (MPI)

Chicago Drinking Project: alcohol subjective responses and risk across the lifespan. *NIH/NIAAA, 2026–2031.*

### Vas S (PI)

Advanced Prolonged Exposure therapy training for dept. faculty, staff, and trainees. *Warner-Reynolds Leadership Academy.*

### Lee R (PI)

Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy for Adjustment Disorder in Cancer. *Reunion Neuroscience.*

### Dinizulu SM (PI)

Anti-racist, structurally competent, trauma-responsive pediatric assessment model. *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.*

### Siston A (PI)

Technology for Cancer Supportive Care training, Denver (April 2026). *Psychosocial Oncology Program.*

## PUBLICATIONS

*Profiles RNS (profiles.uchicago.edu) was reviewed this cycle. Selected Q1 2026 publications listed below; this is a partial list. Full list available on request.*

### Selected Q1 2026 Publications

#### Afzal KI, Radwan K, et al.

Pharmacologic management of pediatric ADHD: evidence-based and CAM approaches. *J Altern Med Res. 2025.*

#### Atkinson EA, Fridberg DJ.

Expectations vs. reality: alcohol stimulation, sedation, and reward. *Exp Clin Psychopharmacol. 2026.*

#### Glazer J, et al.

Reward-related neural activity after low-dose LSD in depressed mood. *Psychopharmacology. 2026.*

#### Green ES, Volpe KA.

Disability inclusion infrastructure in graduate medical education. *Academic Medicine. 2025.*

#### Lavie KR, Lee R, Jacobson KC.

Psychiatrist decision-making and involuntary hospitalization. *PLOS Ment Health. 2026.*

#### Mehrtens I, Siston A.

Sexual health in AYA cancer survivors: feasibility of web-based program. *APOS Annual Meeting. 2026.*

#### Molla H, et al.

Acute and delayed effects of THC on stress memories in healthy adults. *Psychopharmacology. 2026.*

#### Radwan K.

Reopening developmental windows: psychedelics, safety, and autonomic flexibility. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2026.*

#### Anam S, Khan M, et al.

Media representation and intergenerational communication in immigrant families. *JAACAP. 2026.*

#### Erickson MA.

Time-frequency analysis bridging ERP biomarkers of psychosis and neural circuitry. *Biol Psychiatry Glob Open Sci. 2026.*

#### Grant JE, et al.

Open-label psilocybin for BPD with co-occurring MDD. *Clin Neuropharmacol. 2026.*

#### King AC, Fridberg DJ, et al.

BORGs: high-intensity drinking and consequences in college students. *J Stud Alcohol Drugs. 2026.*

#### Mehta TG, Dinizulu SM, et al.

Leaders@Play: community-academic collaboration for adolescent mental health. *J Prevention & Intervention Community. 2026.*

#### Miloslavich K, King AC, Fridberg DJ.

ENDS cue reactivity in adults who smoke and vape cannabis. *Addictive Behaviors. In press.*

#### Negi S, Wildes JE, et al.

Single-session interventions for eating disorders: meta-analysis. *Int J Eat Disord. 2026.*

#### Wang YZ, Afzal KI, et al.

Social anxiety prevalence and predictors in Chinese youth post-COVID-19. *2026.*

## BOOK CHAPTERS & ADDITIONAL WORKS

#### Afzal KI, Radwan K, et al.

ADHD: Pharmacologic Management in Children and Adolescents. *In: Clinical Aspects of Psychopharmacology in Childhood and Adolescence, 2026.*

#### Payne AD, Ohanian DM, et al.

Myelomeningocele. *In: Neuropsychological Interviewing of Children. Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Psychology, 2026.*

#### Mithila TT, Green ES, Lyons JS.

Cultural responsiveness in assessment for people with intellectual and developmental challenges. *Child Adolesc Behav. 2026.*

#### Mehrtens I, et al.

ASH 2026 Guidelines for relapsed/refractory disease in *Schistosoma* and young adults with ALL. *Blood Advances, ASH. 2026.*

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Seeba Anam: featured in AACAP News 'Honor My Mentor' (Mar/Apr 2026).
- Emily Atkinson: accepted tenure-track position, University of Toledo, Dept. of Psychology.
- Maggie Collins: became an AASECT Certified Sex Therapist.
- Brittany Goldstein: named an ACLP Webb Fellow.
- John Grant: appointed Ellen C. Manning Endowed Professor of Psychiatry.
- Shivani Kumar: awarded a Faculty MERITS Fellowship.
- Marie Tobin: inducted into the Academy of Clinical Excellence (ACE).
- Shona Vas: elected Fellow of APA Division 12 and of ABCT.
- Shona Vas: inducted into the Academy of Clinical Excellence (ACE).

## PEOPLE NEWS

### New & Incoming Faculty

- Jill Benchell, PhD — Clinical and Research Psychologist (July 2026)
- Sarah Eckstein, MD — CL Psychiatry and Hospital Medicine (September 2026)
- Tory Eisenlohr-Moul, PhD — Reproductive Psychologist (July 2026)
- Jennifer Knight, MD — Director, Holistic Oncology and CL Psychiatry (September 2026)
- Susan Padrino, MD — Vice Chair of Clinical Operations (August 2026)

### Trainee Recruitment — Class of 2026/27

- 7 Adult Psychiatry residents, 1 C-L Psychiatry fellow, 5 psychology interns (across four APPIC-credentialed tracks), 7 postdoctoral fellows, and 71 psychology doctoral externs joining July 2026.
- Chief Residents 2026/27: Dr. Alice Li (MERITS Resident Fellowship) and Dr. Julia Purks (Ethics Fellowship).

### New Staff

- Whitney Tyrone — Patient Access Specialist
- Otisha Morrison — Clinic Nurse
- Raven Bender — Medical Assistant

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 6** DEI Book Club Potluck — 12pm; 'Minor Feelings' by Cathy Park Hong
- **May 13** Research in Progress Seminar — 11am–12pm, L-431 / Zoom
- **May 14** 3rd Annual Child Mental Health Hub Meeting — Wuhan, China
- **May 18** Dept. Research & Scholarship Grant deadline (faculty)
- **May 27** Research Genius Bar — 11am–12:30pm, Zoom only
- **Jun 4** Departmental Graduation — 5pm, Quad Club Cloister Room
- **Jun 5** Psychedelic-Assisted Psychotherapy in Adolescents Workshop — UChicago
- **Jun 8** Faculty Town Hall — 12–1pm (Resident research & training)
- **TBD** Department Spring Picnic at the Point — welcoming new faculty and staff
- **TBD** CHARM Consortium launch — Johns Hopkins Total Worker Health Center
- **Nov 6** Faculty Retreat 2026 — save the date
- **Monthly** SOM Scholarship Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 12–1pm, L-431 & Zoom
- **Monthly** Space Planning Committee meetings — watch for scheduling updates
- **Ongoing** Writing Sessions (3-hr hybrid blocks) — watch for email announcements

## LOOKING AHEAD

### New Faculty Onboarding & Mentorship

- DCAMP will conduct a department-wide mentor assignment review as five new faculty join this summer and fall, better matching faculty with senior mentors.
- Box folder being expanded to include profiles of successfully promoted faculty — a practical resource open to all.

### DEI Committee — Expanding Community Engagement

- TIP Talks returns in September 2026 — watch for the new season's schedule.
- 2026–27 DEI programming will expand with a greater emphasis on community engagement alongside existing events centered on belonging and inclusion.

### Psychosocial Oncology & Sexual Health Programming

- Following the successful CBT for Menopause pilot, Dr. Collins and Dr. Belli plan to evaluate expansion of the program for broader patient access.