

# Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience

Department Newsletter • University of Chicago

177

June Admissions,  
Wyman Gordon

\$5.3M

Grant Awards,  
FY26

58%

Trainee Posters to  
Abstract or Manuscript

6

New Faculty Joining



## FROM THE CHAIR

Seth Himelhoch, MD, MPH • Professor and Chair

This was another quarter of outstanding achievement across the department. Ingalls admitted 177 patients to Wyman Gordon in June, the highest month in program history. Department grant awards reached \$5.3 million in FY26, 58% of trainee posters from Research Day have advanced to abstracts or manuscripts, and six new faculty arrive across the summer and fall. Khalid Afzal was promoted to Professor, and Jennifer Wildes was elected 2027 to 2028 President of the Academy for Eating Disorders. My thanks to every committee and division leader whose work you will find throughout this newsletter.

## SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Adult Clinical Psychiatry | Dr. Marie Tobin

- The Trauma Recovery Clinic (TRC) is a collaboration between Dr. Devi Jayan (REACT Clinic), Dr. Diane Haddad (Trauma Surgery), and the Violence Recovery Program, and is a multidisciplinary follow-up clinic for firearm injury survivors, integrating mental health, physical therapy, social work, peer support, and research within a single trauma surgery follow-up care setting.
- Dr. Bean appointed Assistant Program Director for the Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Fellowship.
- TMS launches September 1.

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

- Drs. Afzal, Radwan, and Young presented in Hong Kong and at Wuhan University's Child Mental Health Hub in May, coinciding with the Hub's third annual meeting.
- Section faculty delivered 13 invited presentations and workshops across China, Spain, and the UAE.
- Work spanned trauma-informed care, psychedelic-assisted therapy, youth suicide prevention, and cross-cultural psychotherapy training.

### Education & Training | Dr. Deborah Spitz

- A new Medicine/Psychiatry residency has been developed: a five-year combined program admitting two trainees per year, beginning June 2027, supported by incoming double-boarded faculty Dr. Padrino and Dr. Eckstein. The ACGME site visit is July 29, 2026.

### Ingalls | Dr. Carolyn Shima

- June 2026 saw the highest number of admissions to Wyman Gordon in one month in program history, at 177.
- The Ingalls ECT program has a go-live date of September 1.
- CAREPATH, providing wraparound services to patients with early psychosis, has begun data collection and shows a positive impact on completion of outpatient follow-up appointments.

### Research Section | Dr. Sarah Keedy

- Annual Research Day featured 30 posters; 58% of trainee posters have since been submitted as abstracts or manuscripts.
- Contract, budget, and IRB approval obtained for the Reunion Neuroscience-funded trial of a psilocybin analogue for adjustment disorder in cancer.
- Cures Within Reach funding and contract completed for a study of stimulant medications in social function and symptom severity in PTSD.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

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

- The committee met monthly from April through June. Meetings move to a new time in September and are open to all faculty — see Upcoming Events.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

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

- A committee website and Box folder are live, carrying resources for using AI tools in scholarly and educational work, including a guide to updating your CV.
- The committee is leading department communication on Claude Enterprise integration, sign-up, and HIPAA considerations.

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

- The committee is meeting with all junior faculty this summer and fall, and will meet with faculty approaching promotion in January.
- Mentor reassignment is on the agenda for the next committee meeting: clinical mentors assigned individually, with scholarship mentoring delivered in groups.
- Profiles of successfully promoted faculty are in development for the Box folder.

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

- The second departmental book club was well attended: 'Minor Feelings' by Cathy Park Hong.
- A well-attended TIP Talk on gender-affirming care was led by Dr. Mehrtens and Dr. Lemelman of Endocrinology.
- Dr. Spitz completed two years of service and transitioned off the committee; Dr. Keedy and Dr. Chang join.

### Grand Rounds Committee | Drs. Erickson & Lee, Co-Chairs

- Preparations are under way for the next academic year: space and audiovisual improvements, boxed lunches at all in-person presentations, and an expanded external speaker lineup that includes overlap with Neurology.

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

- Recruitment for Interdepartmental Translational Neuroscience faculty begins this fall.
- A search is under way for clinical faculty, including an adult psychologist, to build clinical and scholarly work in impulsive and compulsive disorders.

### Space Planning Committee | Drs. Drossos & Tobin, Co-Chairs

- The committee reviewed sensor data and data generated at the 2025 faculty retreat, and made direct inquiries to faculty about their space use.

### Wellness Committee | Drs. Araujo & Anam, Co-Chairs

- The annual retreat set the AY27 agenda: community building events for the department, outcomes and evaluation of wellness initiatives, and interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaborations.
- New members: Dr. Sarah Keedy and Dr. Alex Chang, with Dr. Anameeka Singh and Dr. Sam Battalio joining as trainee members.

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## PRIORITY AREA UPDATES

### Autism & Neurodevelopmental | Drs. Radwan & Gao, Co-Leads

- A four-hour Autism Working Group retreat is planned for fall 2026, with a national speaker to be invited; date, time, and location are being finalised.

### Impulsive & Compulsive | Drs. Grant & de Wit, Co-Leads

- Working with the Neuroscience Institute and affiliated faculty, the group developed the Neuroscience Research Strategic Plan.

### Psycho-oncology & Integrated Care | Drs. Tobin & Siston, Co-Leads

- A three-session cognitive behavioral therapy intervention for pediatric oncology patients at Comer has relaunched and is in the recruitment and intervention phase.
- The AbbVie Cancer Pavilion opens April 2027. Dr. Knight will provide psychotropic medication management for outpatient oncology patients there.
- Dr. Eckstein will care for hospitalized oncology patients on the hospitalist service.
- Community engagement will emphasise culturally responsive outreach, education, and collaboration in the communities we serve.

### Serious Mental Illness | Drs. Erickson, Keedy & Shima, Co-Leads

- With Baer Foundation funding and IRB approval in late April, 17 individuals have consented to the Transition Care Team study at Ingalls, generating data on engagement in outpatient services after inpatient discharge for first-episode psychosis. Year one of that funding is now closing.
- A Letter of Intent to the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation was invited and submitted in June; three further funding sources are identified for application this year, including a re-application to Baer.

### Trauma | Drs. Jacobson & Jayan, Co-Leads

- Dr. Vas and Dr. Jayan hosted Dr. Allison Aosved of the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System for a two-day prolonged exposure workshop on July 16 and 17, attended by 17 people: 6 faculty, 3 social workers, and 8 trainees. Both workshops carried CME credit.
- Dr. Jayan hosted Dr. Terri deRoos-Cassini of the Medical College of Wisconsin on July 21 for a clinical skills workshop on recognizing and diagnosing trauma, attended by 34 people: 7 faculty, 22 psychology trainees, 3 medical residents, and 2 staff.
- The department's first didactic series devoted to adult trauma, for psychology trainees and medical residents, began its second year in July.
- Group members completed a manuscript with collaborators in other University of Chicago departments and divisions, with submission planned by the end of the summer.

## NEW GRANTS & FUNDING

- King AC (PI)**  
NIH/NIAAA. \$699,952 direct.  
Alcohol Stimulation and Sedation in Binge Drinkers. Competitive renewal of R01AA013746, active through March 2031.
- Lyons JS (PI)**  
South Carolina Department of Social Services. \$135,981.  
Executed contract, March to December 2026.
- Lyons JS (PI)**  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the State of Tennessee. \$218,400.  
Executed contract, January 2026 to June 2029.
- Ghandhi J (PI)**  
BSD Values Grant, Warner Reynolds Endowment. \$3,000.  
Immersion training in Accelerated Experiential Dynamic Psychotherapy and longitudinal training in Intensive Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy.
- Jayan D (PI)**  
Urban Health Initiative. \$56,000 total.  
BRIDGE (Brothers for Reclaiming Integrity and Direction after Gun-violence Exposure), supporting male survivors of gun violence. \$11,000 initial award and a \$45,000 follow-on after the first round.

## NEW GRANTS & FUNDING (CONTINUED)

- Jayan D (PI)**  
Urban Health Initiative. \$5,000.  
Consultation and supervision for the Adult REACT program, funding a clinical skills workshop and a year-long program for adult trauma psychology externs, with a further \$500 for CME credit.

## PEOPLE NEWS

### New & Incoming Faculty

- Sarah Abell, MD — Forensic Psychiatrist, UChicago Ingalls (October 2026). She will work with the DHS population and in the Ingalls emergency department.
- Sarah Eckstein, MD — CL Psychiatry and Hospital Medicine (September 2026)
- Tory Eisenlohr-Moul, PhD — Reproductive Psychologist (July 2026). She brings research leadership in reproductive psychiatry, directing an NIH-funded clinical trials laboratory on how cyclical hormone changes drive risk for suicide and severe premenstrual disorders.
- Jennifer Knight, MD — inaugural Director of Holistic Oncology, University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center (September 2026)
- Susan Padrino, MD — Vice Chair of Clinical Operations (August 2026)
- Jill Weissberg-Benchell, PhD, CDCES — Clinical and Research Psychologist (July 2026). A national expert in diabetes and health psychology, she is a co-author on the Knauff study listed below.

### Trainee Recruitment — Class of 2026/27

- New residents: Miriam Hill-Odom, MD, MS; Mahesh Kumar, MD, MBA; Nicholas Leahy, MD; Fae Nova, MD, PhD; Victoria Ogunniyi, MD; Isaiah Selkridge, MD; and Christina Shin, MD.
- New Consultation-Liaison fellow: Lia Deroin, MD.
- Seven psychology postdoctoral fellows join the department this summer. Four of the positions are net new this fiscal year.
- Sarah Hassan named the inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow in Psychosocial Oncology for 2026–27.
- New Child & Adolescent fellows, Class of 2026/28: Ji In (Vivien) Choi, MD; Anne Lajari, MD, MPH, MS; and Ananya Munjal, MD.
- New psychology interns: Anna Wiese and Kendall Poovey (Adult/Health); Matthew Pilgrim (Adult Neuropsychology); Elizabeth Martinez-Charleston (Child/Pediatric); and Mitra Kumareswaran (Pediatric Neuropsychology).

### Trainee & Fellow Placements

- Monique Harris completed the department's child trauma postdoctoral fellowship and accepted a position at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine.
- Kaleigh Wilkins, a previous trauma psychology fellow, is at Rush developing a trauma-informed care program for infants in collaboration with pediatrics.

### New Staff

- Brianne Guzouskis — Regulatory Manager, supporting IRB and faculty research needs
- Hannah Casey — Regulatory Manager, supporting IRB and faculty research needs

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 21** Chicago Mahogany Bus Tour — 10am; guided by historian 'Dilla', hosted by the DEI Committee
- Sep** TIP Talks return — watch for the new season's schedule
- Sep** Research in Progress resumes — 2nd Wednesdays, 11am–12pm, L-431, hybrid
- Sep** Wellness Night at the Ballpark — support the White Sox with your department
- Oct 20** Psychiatry State of the Department Meeting — 12–2pm, Ida Noyes Hall, Cloister Club

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## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- **Nov 6** Psychiatry Faculty Retreat — 8am–1pm, David Rubenstein Forum
- **Monthly** Research Genius Bar — 4th Thursdays, 11am–12:30pm, Zoom only
- **Monthly** AI & Emerging Technology Committee — 4th Fridays at noon from September, open to faculty

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Khalid Afzal: promoted to Professor, effective July 1, 2026.
- Khalid Afzal: received the Donald C. Liu Award for Collaborative Achievement from the Department of Pediatrics.
- Fabiana Araújo: selected as the 2026–2028 MOLA Michael Reese Foundation Faculty Scholar.
- Greg Chasson: invited to deliver a TEDx Talk on compulsive behavior (Naples, Florida, March 2027).
- Jennifer Wildes: elected 2027–2028 President of the Academy for Eating Disorders.

## PUBLICATIONS

*Profiles RNS, faculty pages, publisher sites and PubMed were reviewed this cycle. Selected publications, July 2025 to June 2026; a partial list. Full list available on request.*

### Selected Publications, July 2025 – June 2026

- **Anam S, Khan M, Adiba A, Shaligram D.**  
Media Representation and Intergenerational Communication in Immigrant Families. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2026 Jan. PMID: 40188868.
- **Bunting SR, ... Ehsan DA, Hazra A.**  
Preferences for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Implementation and Engagement in the HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Care Continuum Among Patients Receiving Psychiatric Care in an Ending the HIV Epidemic Priority County. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2025 Aug. PMID: 40192780.
- **Castiello S, ... Erickson M, et al.**  
Delusional Unreality and Predictive Processing. *Biol Psychiatry Cogn Neurosci Neuroimaging*. 2025 Jul. PMID: 39710316.
- **Chalmers K, ... Norcott C, Chor J.**  
Abortion experiences of individuals with a history of trauma(s): A qualitative study. *Contraception*. 2025 Sep. PMID: 40412593.
- **Erickson MA.**  
Looking Under the Hood: Using Time-Frequency Analysis to Bridge the Gap Between Event-Related Potential Biomarkers of Psychosis and Underlying Neural Circuitry. *Biol Psychiatry Glob Open Sci*. 2026. PMID: 41969956.
- **Erickson MA, Li C.**  
Oscillatory alpha and aperiodic neural correlates of visual working memory and attention. *Cereb Cortex*. 2026. PMID: 41955293.
- **Feizy S, ... Himelhoch S, Rose SW.**  
Tobacco marketing exposure and lifetime and current nicotine pouch use among US youth, 2022. *Prev Med*. 2025 Aug. PMID: 40451438.
- **Ging-Jehli NR, ... Erickson M, et al.**  
Model-based EEG phenotyping uncovers distinct neurocomputational mechanisms underlying common learning impairments across psychopathologies. *Biol Psychiatry Glob Open Sci*. 2026. PMID: 41659278.
- **Goldstein BN, Goldstein S, et al.**  
Decision-Making Capacity: A Curriculum and Evaluation Checklist for Medical Students. *Acad Psychiatry*. 2026 Feb. PMID: 40457039.
- **Green EA, ... Wildes JE, Graham AK.**  
Exploring Drivers of Binge Eating in Individuals With Food Insecurity and Recurrent Binge Eating: A Qualitative Analysis. *Int J Eat Disord*. 2025 Jul. PMID: 40171837.
- **Hahn EC, Molla H, ... de Wit H.**  
Effects of methamphetamine on human effort task performance are unrelated to its subjective effects. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)*. 2026 Jan. PMID: 40627130.

## PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

### Selected Publications, July 2025 – June 2026 (continued)

- **Hardcastle C, Sarmiento IJK, et al.**  
Comprehensive Neuropsychological Assessment of Confirmed Xeroderma Pigmentosum a Variant with Neurological Manifestations: Case Report. *Arch Clin Neuropsychol*. 2025 Oct. PMID: 40413789.
- **Knauff KM, ... Drossos T, Ellis D.**  
Blood Glucose Levels and Diabetes Family Conflict in Black Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Behav Med*. 2025 Aug. PMID: 40859913.
- **Kromenacker B, ... Keedy S, et al.**  
Evaluating the Exosome Score for Schizophrenia in a Transdiagnostic Psychosis Cohort: Associations With Psychosis Risk, Symptom Severity, and Personality Traits. *Schizophr Bull*. 2025 Sep. PMID: 39777534.
- **Lam T, Grant JE.**  
Predictors of clinical trial discontinuation in trichotillomania: a secondary analysis of previous clinical trials. *BMC Psychiatry*. 2025 Sep. PMID: 40898133.
- **Liu A, ... Lee R, ... Laiteerapong N.**  
Suicide prevention ECHO: Evaluating a tele-education program to increase suicide prevention knowledge and skills in adolescent and adult providers. *J Telemed Telecare*. 2025 Jul. PMID: 40686370.
- **Liu TH, ... Kellman J, Radwan K.**  
Pediatric Heart Rate Variability During Play and Neurocognitive Testing: The Influence of Parental Attitudes Towards Play. *Dev Psychobiol*. 2026. PMID: 41194518.
- **Meda SA, ... Keedy SK, et al.**  
Neural fingerprints of data driven cognitive subtypes across the psychosis spectrum: a B-SNIP study. *Transl Psychiatry*. 2025 Jul. PMID: 40603295.
- **Mehta TG, ... Dinizulu SM, et al.**  
Leaders@Play out-of-school time program: Community-academic collaboration to promote adolescent mental health. *J Prev Interv Community*. 2026. PMID: 41685409.
- **Miloslavich K, Brett EI, et al.**  
Reactivity to electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) cues in adults who smoke cigarettes and vape cannabis. *Addict Behav*. 2026 Jan. PMID: 40997552.
- **Molla H, DeBrosse J, Keedy S, et al.**  
Effects of methamphetamine on two measures of reward: Euphoria and neural activation to reward cues. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 2025 Jul. PMID: 40269142.
- **Myles PS, ... Lee R, Gibbons RD, et al.**  
Antidepressant Effects of Nitrous Oxide in Major Depressive Disorder: A Phase 2b Randomized Clinical Trial. *Biol Psychiatry Glob Open Sci*. 2025 Jul. PMID: 40503328.
- **Norcott C, Mbayiwa K, et al.**  
Listening to the Perspectives of Black Women on Perinatal Health Disparities: Reversing the Tide and Improving Outcomes. *J Racial Ethn Health Disparities*. 2025 Dec. PMID: 39294487.
- **O'Neill J, ... Grant JE, et al.**  
Morphometric brain MRI findings in hair-pulling and skin-picking disorders in youth. *Psychiatry Res Neuroimaging*. 2025 Sep. PMID: 40701113.
- **Parker DA, ... Keedy SK, et al.**  
Differentiating biomarker features and familial characteristics of B-SNIP psychosis biotypes. *Transl Psychiatry*. 2025 Aug. PMID: 40813865.
- **Siston A, Collins M.**  
When Terror and War Supersede Cancer: A Case Study of a Ukrainian Cancer Survivor and Application of Trauma-Informed Care. *J Clin Psychol Med Settings*. 2025 Aug. PMID: 40779232.
- **Siston AK, Jacobson KC, Tobin MB.**  
COVID-19, a natural experiment. Did it create an opportunity to reduce racial disparities in psychosocial oncology and change how we deliver care? *J Psychosoc Oncol*. 2025. PMID: 39912525.

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## PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

### Selected Publications, July 2025 – June 2026 (continued)

- **Vanzhula I, ... Wildes JE, et al.**  
Examining eating pathology and psychosocial functioning across subjective eating disorder recovery stages in sexual and gender minority individuals. *Eat Disord.* 2026 Jan-Feb. PMID: 39825604.
- **Warren HC, ... Keedy S, Gershon E, et al.**  
The BASic NeuroCognitive Continuum (BANCC): Delineation of dimensional and categorical features for etiological and treatment investigations of idiopathic psychosis. *Psychiatry Clin Neurosci.* 2025 Nov. PMID: 40855769.
- **Yassin W, ... Keedy SK, et al.**  
Exposotypes in psychotic disorders. *Sci Rep.* 2025 Aug. PMID: 40781464.