Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience

Department Newsletter · University of Chicago

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TMS Treatment Delivered Aug 31	Publications, 2026 to Date	New NIMH R01, First-Year Funding	New Faculty, July – September



FROM THE CHAIR

Seth Himelhoch, MD, MPH · Professor and Chair

In August we delivered our first TMS treatment, and the program already plans to expand to OCD and smoking cessation. At Ingalls Hospital, our Transition Care Team raised the share of early psychosis patients who were referred to and attended specialty outpatient care from 25% to 60%. 140 papers have been published by our faculty so far this year, and six new faculty joined us this quarter. Planning for our new clinical space at Lake Park is under way, and updates will be shared as it moves forward. I am grateful for the work behind every one of these results.

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Adult Clinical Psychiatry | Dr. Marie Tobin

- The first TMS treatment was delivered on August 31 by Dr. Alex Chang. Provider training is being scheduled, and the program plans to expand to patients with OCD and to support smoking cessation.

Child & Adolescent Psychiatry | Dr. Karam Radwan

- Dr. Dinizulu chaired a symposium on measuring and healing racial and historical trauma at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies annual meeting in September, and presented on a historical trauma assessment for African American adolescents and their caregivers.
- Dr. Radwan presented “Growing Up Online: Adolescent Mental Health Today” at the 48th National Medical Convention of the National Arab American Medical Association, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, on September 5.
- The REACT Program marks its tenth anniversary this year.

Education & Training | Dr. Deborah Spitz

- Interviewing has started for the Adult Residency and is well underway for the Child and Consultation-Liaison Fellowships.
- The Departments of Psychiatry and Medicine have developed a combined Medicine and Psychiatry residency, now led by Dr. Susan Padrino and Dr. Sarah Eckstein. ACGME conducted a site review over the summer and will consider the program for approval in February 2027. If approved, applicants will be interviewed for an initial class of two residents starting July 2027.
- Faculty with elective clinical or research opportunities for medical students are asked to contact Dr. Shivani Kumar, Director of Medical Student Education. These placements interest students in psychiatry and build long-term collaborations.

Research Section | Dr. Sarah Keedy

- Dr. King’s study of Blackout Rage Gallons drew 25 media mentions, including EurekAlert, Medical Xpress and The Hill.
- Department Research and Scholarship Grants for 2026 to 2028 were awarded to five faculty. See New Grants & Funding.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

AI & Emerging Technology | Dr. Karam Radwan, Chair

- On September 28 the committee hosted a town hall on the Claude platform, covering building presentations, signing up for an Enterprise account, and updating an academic CV. Further training and discussion sessions follow in the coming months.

DCAMP — Academic Affairs | Dr. Deborah Spitz, Chair

- The committee has been meeting to review and advise all recently appointed junior faculty, and will move to mid-level faculty in January. A survey on mentorship goes out this fall.

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

- Dr. Keedy and Dr. Chang joined the committee for AY2026–27.
- Maggie Ruble, LCSW presented at Grand Rounds in October as part of a collaboration between the DEI Committee and Grand Rounds.

COMMITTEE UPDATES (CONTINUED)

DEI Committee | Dr. Norcott & Ms. Haack, Co-Chairs (continued)

- The committee is co-sponsoring the psychology residents’ Obama Library outing. Requests for co-sponsorship can be submitted through the committee’s REDCap form.
- The TIP Talk series is underway for AY2026–27. The November session will incorporate a service project.

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

- No update this quarter.

Recruitment Committee | Dr. Jon Grant, Chair

- A clinical faculty search concluded this quarter. Dr. Gina Belli joins in December; see New & Incoming Faculty.

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

- Detailed plans for new clinical space at 5102 South Lake Park Avenue were shared at the August faculty meeting. The space is expected to open in eighteen to twenty-four months.
- A town hall for the full department on August 11 presented the planned clinical space at Lake Park.
- The committee completed a detailed survey of all space users at Hyde Park. The survey identified additional clinical space, particularly for the days of highest demand.
- A Space Sharing Etiquette Statement was drafted and approved by the EAC.
- The co-chairs took part in a four-hour conditions-of-need focus group on July 30 and in three planning sessions with architects, and helped develop an FAQ on the new Lake Park space.
- Brii Velazquez joins the committee. The co-chairs thank Paulina Ezparza for her continued administrative support.

Wellness Committee | Drs. Araújo & Anam, Co-Chairs

- The committee held its annual retreat in July and hosted a Night at the Ball Park at a White Sox game.

PRIORITY AREA UPDATES

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

- The Autism Working Group met through the summer to prepare a mini retreat, bringing together colleagues across disciplines with an invited speaker.

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

- Planning continues for the opening of the AbbVie Cancer Pavilion, with site tours, planning meetings and multidisciplinary coordination to support a successful launch.
- Work is underway to establish Holistic Oncology as a central pillar of the Integrated Behavioral Health Initiative. Since joining in September, Dr. Jennifer Knight has been meeting with key stakeholders to build relationships and identify opportunities for collaboration.

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PRIORITY AREA UPDATES (CONTINUED)

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

- A three-month trial of the Transition Care Team approach for early psychosis patients admitted to Ingalls Hospital raised the share who both received an appropriate referral to specialty early psychosis outpatient care and attended that appointment from 25% to 60%.

Trauma | Drs. Jacobson & Jayan, Co-Leads

- Dr. Jayan was an invited speaker on a panel on adaptations of exposure-based therapy for trauma at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies annual meeting in San Antonio in September.

NEW GRANTS & FUNDING

- **Eisenlohr-Moul TA (PI)**
  NIH/NIMH. $719,592, first year (FY2026).
  Parsing the Idiographic NeuroEndocrinology of Suicidality (PINES): A Computational Pharmacologic fMRI Study. New award, R01MH140472.
- **Wolpert H, Weissberg-Benchell J (MPIs)**
  Breakthrough T1D. $1,444,533.
  Digital Health Model to Support Adoption of CKM By Underserved Adults with T1D: Evaluation of User Experience and Treatment Guidance.
- **Department Research and Scholarship Grants, 2026–2028**
  Awarded to Dr. Jennifer Schmaus, Dr. Kate Keenan, Dr. Andrea King, Dr. Hanna Molla, and Dr. Devi Jayan with Dr. Fabiana Araújo.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



John Lyons, PhD

- Dr. Lyons built the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths assessment, the CANS, because the field measured outcomes by service use, with readmission rates standing in for whether a child got better. His theory of communimetrics builds measurement into the clinical work itself.
- His current work pairs strengths and wellbeing with symptoms and functioning. The question, as he puts it, is less why people use substances than why they might choose not to.
- Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management, the framework built around the CANS, runs in nearly every state and worldwide, with more than 155,000 certified professionals. He calls it the biggest thing nobody has heard of, and came here to change that.
- He wants to hear from you when you have an idea to take to scale, feel professionally stuck, need data or help getting published, or want to explore nontraditional research funding.



Jill Weissberg-Benchell, PhD

- Dr. Weissberg-Benchell began her program of research to reduce depressive symptoms and build resilience and problem-solving skills in adolescents living with type 1 diabetes.
- Her current work develops and refines a set of interventions with a single goal: better psychosocial outcomes for youth with type 1 diabetes and the people who love them. Anything that helps families carry the psychosocial burdens of life with diabetes matters a great deal to her.
- She came here for the warmth, kindness and compassion of the faculty and staff. Here she can build an integrated behavioral health program embedded in medical subspecialty clinics across the lifespan, a program with great promise to expand access to behavioral health care for the people we serve.
- She wants to hear from you with any idea for improving psychosocial outcomes for the people we care for, in a clinical program or a research project.

PEOPLE NEWS

New & Incoming Faculty

- Tory Eisenlohr-Moul, PhD — Reproductive Health Research (July 2026)
- Susan Padrino, MD — Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs (August 2026)
- Sarah Eckstein, MD — Medicine and Psychiatry (September 2026)
- Jennifer Knight, MD — Director of Holistic Oncology (September 2026)
- Matthew Milleman, MD — Outpatient Psychiatrist (September 2026)
- Claire Walker, MD — Pediatric Psychiatry (September 2026)
- Sara Abell, MD — Forensic Psychiatry (October 2026)
- Mel McHugh, PhD — Sleep Psychologist (November 2026)
- Lindsay Wood, PsyD — Pediatric Neuropsychologist (November 2026)
- Gina Belli, PhD — OCD and Related Disorders Clinic (December 2026)

New Staff

- Uma Mylavarapu, MPH, MHA — Clinical Research Manager (October 2026)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Nov 6** Psychiatry Faculty Retreat
- **Nov** TIP Talk, incorporating a service project — watch for the date
- **Dec 2** DEI Committee Book Club and potluck; the book is announced in early November
- **Monthly** Research in Progress — 2nd Wednesdays, 11am–12pm, L-431, hybrid

PUBLICATIONS

Publications were retrieved from PubMed and verified against the departmental faculty roster this cycle. 140 peer-reviewed publications carry a departmental faculty author for calendar 2026 through September. The selection below covers July through September 2026. Full list available on request.

Selected Publications, July – September 2026

- **Abadi MH, ... Himelhoch S, et al.**
  Integration of community-engaged research technology and methods to guide tobacco regulatory science in rural communities. Front Public Health. 2026 Jul. PMID: 42568597.
- **Aslan IH, ... Grant JE, et al.**
  Evidence-based measurement of gambling disorder: A review of instruments for different purposes. Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2026 Sep. PMID: 42732800.
- **Atkinson EA, ... Fridberg DJ, et al.**
  Expectations versus reality: Associations among anticipated, natural environment, and laboratory-derived alcohol stimulation, sedation, and reward. Exp Clin Psychopharmacol. 2026 Aug. PMID: 41785114.
- **Bedell A, McDermott AR, et al.**
  Ethical and Practical Considerations for Mental Health Screening in Adult Patients With Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Am J Gastroenterol. 2026 Sep. PMID: 41568822.
- **Bera K, ... Erickson MA, et al.**
  Modeling decision dynamics disentangles working memory, cognitive control and reinforcement learning and reveals clinical differences. PLoS Comput Biol. 2026 Sep. PMID: 42814756.
- **Boudewyn MA, ... Erickson MA, et al.**
  Distinct Attentional Control Profiles During Language Comprehension in Major Mental Health Disorders. Biol Psychiatry Cogn Neurosci Neuroimaging. 2026 Jul. PMID: 42413617.
- **Boutouis S, ... Grant JE, et al.**
  Hormonal Medication Effects on Trichotillomania and Skin Picking Disorder. Life (Basel). 2026 Aug. PMID: 42795299.
- **Chang L, ... Bedell A, et al.**
  Managing Complex Irritable Bowel Syndrome: A Multidisciplinary, Mechanism-Based Approach. Gastroenterology. 2026 Aug. PMID: 42551569.
- **de Beaufort C, James S, Weissberg-Benchell J, et al.**
  The Transition of Youth With Diabetes From Pediatric to Adult Diabetes Care Services: A Consensus Report of the Joint Working Group of ISPAD, EASD, and ADA. Diabetes Care. 2026 Sep. PMID: 42734244. Also published in Diabetologia and Horm Res Paediatr.

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PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Selected Publications, July – September 2026 (continued)

- **Glazer J, Molla H, Lee R, ... de Wit H**
  Reward-related neural activity after low doses of LSD in participants with depressed mood. J Psychopharmacol. 2026 Sep. PMID: 41529826.
- **Graham AK, ... Wildes JE, et al.**
  Feasibility and Preliminary Efficacy of a Guided Self-Help Digital Intervention for Adults With Food Insecurity, Recurrent Binge Eating, and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: A Pilot Trial. Int J Eat Disord. 2026 Jul. PMID: 41872056.
- **Grant JE, Boutouis S, O'Brien M, ... Ehsan D**
  An Open-Label Study of Single-Dose Psilocybin for Borderline Personality Disorder With Co-Occurring Major Depressive Disorder. Clin Neuropharmacol. 2026 Jul. PMID: 41973961.
- **Grant JE, Aslan IH, et al.**
  The relationship of gambling disorder to obsessive-compulsive disorder. CNS Spectr. 2026 Aug. PMID: 42558033.
- **King AC, Noone SM, et al.**
  Living Up to Their Name: Blackout Rage Gallons (BORGs) Marked by High-Intensity Drinking and Alcohol Consequences in College Students. J Stud Alcohol Drugs. 2026 Sep. PMID: 41636174.
- **Lacy MA, Mahmoud FMH, et al.**
  Memory outcome in patients with medically intractable epilepsy following stereotactic laser amygdalohippocampectomy. Epilepsy Behav. 2026 Sep. PMID: 42697045.
- **Li C, ... Erickson MA, et al.**
  Impacted and preserved sub-domains of cognitive control in schizophrenia. Neuropsychologia. 2026 Sep. PMID: 42184934.
- **Lyu Y, ... Molla H, et al.**
  Methamphetamine Modulates Functional Connectivity Signatures of Sustained Attention and Arousal. Biol Psychiatry Cogn Neurosci Neuroimaging. 2026 Aug. PMID: 41297882.
- **Mansfield ME, ... Himelhoch S, et al.**
  A qualitative investigation of tobacco use and cessation experiences among people living with HIV in Botswana. Discov Public Health. 2026 Sep. PMID: 42763466.
- **Martinez RL, ... Molla H, et al.**
  The empathogen 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, but not methamphetamine, increases feelings of global trust. J Psychopharmacol. 2026 Sep. PMID: 40958371.
- **Mascia P, ... Vezina P, et al.**
  Amphetamine produces enhanced behavioral responding in sensitized male rats: Parallel changes in AMPA receptor surface expression and PKC signaling in the NAcc. Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry. 2026 Aug. PMID: 42448170.
- **McGuinn LA, ... Keenan KE, et al.**
  Using mobile sensing and wearable technologies to assess the impact of ambient temperature on mental health among low-income black women in Chicago: a study protocol. BMJ Open. 2026 Jul. PMID: 42386298.
- **Mueller MG, ... Griffith JW, et al.**
  Content Validity of a Patient-Reported Measure of Postoperative Recovery. Urogynecology (Phila). 2026 Sep. PMID: 41687037.
- **Muralidharan S, ... Schmaus J, et al.**
  Beyond Burnout: Recognizing and Reframing the Heartsink Response in Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists. Gastroenterology. 2026 Jul. PMID: 42486341.
- **Murray MF, ... Wildes JE, et al.**
  Virtual eating disorder support group utilization is associated with lower eating disorder symptoms and multiple types of social support. Eat Disord. 2026 Jul. PMID: 40079247.
- **Noone SM, ... King AC, et al.**
  Predictors of treatment engagement in a group-based, telehealth smoking cessation program. Prev Med Rep. 2026 Aug. PMID: 42375166.

PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Selected Publications, July – September 2026 (continued)

- **O'Dwyer K, ... Mehrtens I, et al.**
  American Society of Hematology 2026 guidelines for management of relapsed/refractory acute lymphoblastic leukemia in adolescents and young adults. Blood Adv. 2026 Jul. PMID: 41670624.
- **Pettorruso M, ... Grant JE, et al.**
  Dopaminergic dysfunction in substance-related and behavioral addictions: Evidence from SPECT imaging in alcohol and gambling disorders. Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry. 2026 Jul. PMID: 42361955.
- **Radwan K**
  Reopening developmental windows: Social play, safety, autonomic flexibility, and the therapeutic potential of psychedelics. Neurosci Biobehav Rev. 2026 Jul. PMID: 42044753.
- **Rida L, ... Grant JE, et al.**
  Validation of the comprehensive online sleep monitoring scale in a large population sample. Front Psychol. 2026 Aug. PMID: 42682492.
- **Shapiro JB, ... Weissberg-Benchell J**
  Subgroups of pre-adolescents with type 1 diabetes based on profiles of resilience-supporting resources and risk factors. J Pediatr Psychol. 2026 Aug. PMID: 41983495.
- **Stolbach BC, ... Anam S, et al.**
  Structurally competent care for families facing the continuous traumatic stress of community violence and systemic racism. J Trauma Stress. 2026 Aug. PMID: 42555413.
- **Timmer-Murillo SC, ... Jayan D, et al.**
  Hospital-based psychological consultation relates to post-discharge treatment engagement following violent injury. J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2026 Sep. PMID: 41983720.
- **Türközer HB, ... Keedy S, Gershon ES, et al.**
  Family-Level Brain Pattern Similarities and Their Clinical Significance in Young Offspring of Individuals With Psychotic Disorders. Biol Psychiatry Cogn Neurosci Neuroimaging. 2026 Aug. PMID: 42119943.
- **Wakeman M, ... Brett EI, et al.**
  No Smoker Left Behind: Evaluation of a Population-Based, Opt-Out Smoking Cessation Program for Patients With Cancer Who Smoke. J Clin Oncol. 2026 Aug. PMID: 42202244.
- **Wells-Di Gregorio S, ... Siston A, et al.**
  The American Psychosocial Oncology Society's Psychosocial Oncology Virtual Academy: Enhancing Access to Specialized Psychosocial Oncology Care. Psychooncology. 2026 Jul. PMID: 42463988.
- **Winsler K, ... Erickson MA, et al.**
  Reliability of computational versus noncomputational metrics of working memory and episodic memory in serious mental illness. J Psychopathol Clin Sci. 2026 Sep. PMID: 42765980.
- **Wong MK, ... Chasson GS, et al.**
  Pharmacological and sensorimotor mechanisms linking obsessive-compulsive symptoms and cigarette smoking: A clinical laboratory study. Exp Clin Psychopharmacol. 2026 Aug. PMID: 41843456.
- **Zhang L, ... Keedy SK, et al.**
  Brain-derived extracellular vesicle (BDEV) abundance and BDEV protein associations with clinical phenotypes and treatment response in untreated first-episode psychosis. Brain Behav Immun. 2026 Jul. PMID: 42437583.

NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK



The Wellness Committee brought the department together for a White Sox game.