A warm welcome to our new faculty and staff!

Valeria Botero, Research Associate with Dr. A. Wawrzyniak
Yamila Carmona, M.S., Clinical Research Coordinator, Research Support
Jasmin (Gloria) Chen, Research Support
Wiladia Daniel, Research Assistant, Research Support
Glenda Harris, M.S., Senior Assoacipnunt, Courtiers Center
Ashley Johnson-Donahe, M.B., Senior Accountant, Couriers Center
Christopher Kaufman, M.D., Assistant Professor, JHH4 Emergency Room
Joyce Lin, Ph.D., M.B.A., Assistant Professor, Child Psychiatrist
Eve Medin Rodriguez, Ph.D., Post Doc with Dr. R. Jope
Farzaneh Maravani, M.D., Senior Research Associate, works with Dr. D. Loewenstein
Jennifer Montgomery, M.S.W., Sr. Clinical Research Coordinator, Research Support
Alyson Penale, Pay D., Postdocs with Dr. D. Loewenstein
Daniel Pinto, Research Associate, Center on Aging

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Eva Medina Rodriguez, Ph.D., Post Doc with Dr. R. Jope
Glenda Harris, M.S., Senior Acupuncturist, Courtelis Center
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Valeria Botero, Research Associate with Dr. A. Wawrzyniak

A Message from the Chairman

This is a very exciting time in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. We welcome Steven M. Altschuler, M.D., the new Senior Vice President of Health Affairs & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UHealth, the University of Miami Health System, who joins us from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. We look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead. In the space below, I briefly summarize just a few of the many recent highlights.

We were delighted to receive the annual National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding rankings of the departments of psychiatry nationwide. In 2015, our department climbed four slots to #27 of all medical school departments of psychiatry in the country. With the recent awarding of new grants to Drs. Czaja, Loewenstein, Brothers, Sartor, Wahlestedt, and Weiss since that ranking was compiled, it is highly likely that we will rise even higher next year.

Sympathetically, Charlie
Faculty Spotlight
Joseph Henry, M.D.
Assistant Professor

It’s been an interesting journey for Dr. Henry, from that of an intermittent radiologist to psychiatrist. After completing a fellowship in interventional radiology at the University of Miami and entering private practice, Dr. Henry found that it was not the type of medicine that he wished to practice. He applied, and was fortunately accepted to the psychiatric residency program at UM beginning in July 1989 and completed in June 1992. In July 1992, he accepted a position as a faculty member, which began his long career in our department.

Over the years, he never got out of the routine of awakening at 4 AM to be in his office by 6 AM to read texts, answer emails, review evaluations of patients who were admitted to his inpatient unit and begin his inpatient rounds at 6:30 AM. Some of his residents are still somewhat amazed at his stamina.

During the course of his time at the UM he has received numerous awards and accolades. He has received the Department’s Teacher of the Year Award on nine separate occasions, the George Pfeff Award from the UM medical students on two occasions and has been selected as a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He has also co-authored several articles published in various journals and been a contributor to the Textbook of Psychopharmacology by Doctors Schatzberg and Nemeroff for both the fourth edition as well as the upcoming addition to be published.

When asked to describe the most rewarding part of his illustrious career, he said unequivocally that it has been the relationships he has had with the residents and medical students. “It is gratifying to realize that I have been part of training a generation of psychiatrists who are now out in private practice or affiliated with UM”, said Dr. Henry.

Dr. Henry enjoys reading and keeping up with psychiatric literature, as well as being an avid reader of both fiction and nonfiction. Most people are unaware that he is a keyboard player of both the piano and the organ since childhood. His musical taste runs from Frank Sinatra to Led Zeppelin.

Dr. Henry is married and has three children. His granddaughter Mia has been a blessing. Their 3 cats add endless excitement to their household.

Spotlight on the Board: Shareef Malnik, Esq.

Shareef Malnik has been an entrepreneur for 25 years. He is the President & CEO of Shareef Management International which owns and operates the Forge Restaurant, a venerable piano and the organ since childhood. His musical taste runs from Frank Sinatra to Led Zeppelin.

Focus on both the Books of Law and the法律的Justice, he has been a busy lawyer who has written books on genes and expanding his horizons.

He has run with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain; ice climbed the glaciers of the Cascades; As an expert “tech” diver he has conquered ocean depths greater than 500 feet. He is a licensed helicopter pilot, avid skier, documentary film executive producer, practitioner of ji-jitsu, and an adept racer of cars and powerboats.

Marla Fonseca

Marla Fonseca has been a proud member of the Canes family for over 22 years. Marla is greatly committed to her passions for research and civic engagement. She supports outreach programs and community coalitions to help people with HIV/AIDS and victims of domestic violence. Marla’s long-term professional determination have afforded her many opportunities at the UMMiami.

She has been with our Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences for almost 9 years and currently holds the position of Project Coordinator in Dr. Mahendra Kumar’s research laboratory. She is responsible for overseeing all clinical activities for various NIH funded projects dealing with HIV/AIDS and drug addiction.

When Marla wears her white lab coat, she is reminded of how far she has come and how much farther she will go. She was born in Cuba and at a young age, she left her family and friends behind and journeyed to the United States, alone. Once settled in Miami, she began working for UM in the Department of Medicine Comprehensive AIDS Program where she had the challenging and humbling opportunity to provide counseling to HIV/AIDS patients in our community. While working with this population, Marla discovered her dual passion for community outreach and research. In 2008, she graduated Cum Laude from UM with a degree in Business Administration. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to make meaningful contributions to society through clinical research. According to Dr. Kumar, “Marla is highly trained in all aspects of medical research. Because of her outstanding contributions, she co-authored on four research publications. It can be said that Marla is a great asset not only to our team, but to our department in general”.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Marla is also a mother of three talented boys and a devoted wife to her husband and friends. She enjoys engaging in stimulating hobbies like teaching, gardening, dancing, and vigorous exercise. She is also a proud donor to the National Coalition of Women against Domestic Violence and to the Miami Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, which provides support groups for Hispanics with AIDS.

Our department has reaped the benefits Marla has sowed. She is a hard working asset that has expanded her horizons in all things related to research.

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Dr. Henry enjoys reading and keeping up with psychiatric literature, as well as being an avid reader of both fiction and nonfiction. Most people are unaware that he is a keyboard player of both the piano and the organ since childhood. His musical taste runs from Frank Sinatra to Led Zeppelin.

He also quickly added that the most rewarding part of his (non-work) life is his relationship with his beautiful and wonderful wife Celeste and his pride in both of his children. Glenn, who is a Lt. Col. in the United States Air Force and Alexa who is an attorney in Fort Lauderdale. The addition of their granddaughter Mia has been a blessing and a joy. Their 3 cats add endless excitement to their household.

According to Dr. Henry, “The years have flown by. I still enjoy what I do and I am happy to do it all over again - I wouldn’t change a thing”. Thank you Dr. Henry for all that you do and congratulations on being this month’s honored faculty member.

Spotlight on the Board: Shareef Malnik, Esq.

Shareef Malnik has been an entrepreneur for 25 years. He is the President & CEO of Shareef Management International which owns and operates the Forge Restaurant, a venerable icon of South Florida. By day, Mr. Malnik is the Chairman of Nextwave Funding, a financial institution funding small and mid-size companies across the U.S.

Shareef is a magna cum laude graduate from the University of Miami School of Law. He is on the Board of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and has been elected as Chairman of the Board Elect. He also has been Chairman of the Make-A-Wish Ball for the last 11 years and has raised over 11 million dollars during his tenure. Shareef has been the recipient of the Keys to the City of Miami Beach 6 times and was awarded “Citizen of the Year” by the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Shareef sits on the Board of the Police Athletic League and on the External Advisory Board of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. We are all grateful to leverage Shareef’s expertise. A quote from Dr. Nemeroff says it best; “Shareef’s passion about mental health parity and research support is invaluable as we work together to accomplish our goals of breaking down stigma and advancing treatment options”.

In his spare time, Mr. Malnik is an avid adventurer and has spanned the globe in search of new and exciting experiences. He has run with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain; ice climbed in the Alps; scuba dived; as an expert “tech” diver he has conquered ocean depths greater than 500 feet. He is a licensed helicopter pilot, avid skier, documentary film executive producer, practitioner of ji-jitsu, and an adept racer of cars and powerboats.

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In addition to her professional accomplishments, Marla is also a mother of three talented boys and a loving wife to her family and friends. She enjoys engaging in stimulating hobbies like teaching, gardening, dancing, and vigorous exercise. She is also a proud donor to the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. We are grateful to leverage Marla’s expertise. And her continued hard work that continues to demonstrate her intelligence and her dedication to research and to aiding those in need. We are thrilled to recognize her passion and devotion as this edition’s Staff Star.

Stories of Interest

Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Randomized, Double Blind, Placebo- Controlled Trial of the Safety and Efficacy of Gabapentin Enacarbil (Horizant®) Extended-Release Tablets in the Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder (Dr. J. Lewis, jlewis2@med.miami.edu)
- A Phase 3, Randomized, Double-Blind Study to Evaluate Efficacy, Safety, and Toleration of 2 Fixed Doses of Trazadone (PDP-36770) in the Treatment of Major Depressive Disorder with Associated with Dementia of the Alzheimer Type (Dr. E. Crocco, ecocco@med.miami.edu)
- Novel Detection of Early Cognitive and Functional Impairment in a Family (Dr. D. Lowenstein, dlowenstein@med.miami.edu)
- A Prospective, Matched-Control, Randomized Trial to Evaluate Efficacy, Safety, and Toleration of 2 Fixed Doses of Trazadone (PDP-36770) in the Treatment of Major Depressive Disorder with Associated with Dementia of the Alzheimer Type (Dr. E. Crocco, ecocco@med.miami.edu)
- Pharmacotherapy for Alcohol Use Disorder with Extended-Release Gabapentin Enacarbil (Horizant) (Randomized Trial) (Dr. J. Lewis) (jlewis2@med.miami.edu)
- A Double-blind, randomized study of IV administration of various subcutaneous drugs in a crossover design in male and female volunteers with treatment (Dr. D. Lowenstein, dlowenstein@med.miami.edu)
- Pharmacotherapy for Alcohol Use Disorder with Extended-Release Gabapentin Enacarbil (Horizant) (Randomized Trial) (Dr. J. Lewis) (jlewis2@med.miami.edu)

Selected Studies of Interest

- Association of HIV-1 Predictive Biomarkers of CVD Risk in HIV-1 Infection in Methamphetamine Abuse (Dr. P. Harvey)
- A Prospective, Matched-Control, Randomized, Open-Label Phase II OCS Study in Subjects with Recent-Onset Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective Disorder: Progression Disease Modification Following Treatment with Paliperidone Palmitate (Dr. M. Martin, mmartin@med.miami.edu)
- Pharmacotherapies for Schizophrenia/Cognition
- A Phase 2, Randomized, Double-Blind Study to Evaluate Efficacy, Safety, and Toleration of 2 Fixed Doses of Trazadone (PDP-36770) in the Treatment of Major Depressive Disorder with Associated with Dementia of the Alzheimer Type (Dr. J. Lewis)
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In an effort to bring awareness to the approximately 61.5 million Americans who experience some form of mental illness each year, a first-of-its-kind gala was held to benefit the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Over 150 guests were in attendance and included business and community leaders, along with mental health professionals. Highlights of the evening included a luxury silent auction and a performance by comedian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Dave Barry. The inaugural Shatter the Stigma gala was held at the de la Cruz Collection in Miami’s Design District to support the department’s research and programs, and to help get the conversation started about mental health.

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We have just received our annual psychiatry residency match results and my congratulations to Radu Saveanu, M.D., Professor and Executive Vice Chair for Clinical Services and Education and Director, Psychiatry Residency Training Program and our Residency Training Committee for an outstanding match. We will be welcoming 16 new first year residents in July who join us from a wide assortment of medical schools.

This year was remarkable in recruiting almost all of our top candidates—indeed, the number one match among all of the departments in the School of Medicine. The large number of University of Miami medical students who, once again, chose psychiatry as a specialty is a testament to the phenomenal performance of Ana Campo, M.D., Associate Dean and Director of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

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