

Division of Mental Health Services and Policy Research

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Overview

The Division of Mental Health Services and Policy Research helps bridge the gap between research and practice by developing public-academic partnerships between researchers in psychiatry and policy makers at the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and elsewhere. Conducting such policy-relevant mental health services research is important in its own right as the ultimate end of the translational research enterprise. The Division was designed in partnership with the State Office of Mental Health and focuses on supporting OMH in achieving its mission for the citizens of New York.

The Division's work is practical. Investigators examine the structure, content, and outcomes of services as they occur in real world settings. Researchers aim to gain an understanding of what interventions are most helpful in allowing people to maximize their recovery from mental illnesses. This includes examining what interventions work, how well they work, for whom they work best, the cost of these interventions, and the organizational and financing strategies that allow effective interventions to be implemented and sustained.

Policy makers should have research to guide them, yet too often the data needed are not available to inform decision making. Similarly, services researchers should address questions of high policy relevance to decision makers so that services issues determine research topics. Hence, the Division emphasizes research partnerships with public sector administrators and other payers.

Staff

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Jon Morgenstern, PhD, Associate Director, Substance Abuse Treatment Division, Research Scientist VIII
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Geraldine Burton, MA, Research Project Manager I
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Alissa Gleacher, PhD, Research Scientist III
Phuong-Trang Huynh, PhD, Research Project Director I

Carlos Jackson, PhD, Research Scientist V
Edith Kealy, MA, MSW, Research Scientist, II
David Kimhy, PhD, Research Scientist V
Christina Mangurian, MD, Psychiatrist I Hospital
Jennifer Manuel, PhD, Research Scientist III
Alice Medalia, PhD, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry (in Psychiatry)
Ilana Nossel, MD, Psychiatrist Research I
Serene Olin, PhD, Research Project Director I
Matt Perkins, MD, Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychiatry
Harold Pincus, MD, Psychiatrist II
Marleen Radigan, PhD, Research Scientist IV
James Rodriguez, PhD, Research Scientist III
Tom Smith, MD, Research Scientist VI
Thomas White, MD, MS, MA, Research Scientist V
Jennifer Wisdom, PhD, Research Scientist VI

Administrative

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Candace White, MEd, Research Scientist II
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Anthony Salerno, PhD, Mental Health Rehabilitation Program Director II

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Laura Grillo, BA, Research Scientist II
Riti Pritam, MA, Research Scientist I
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Meng Wu, MS, Research Scientist I

Current Research

Research and initiatives in the reporting period in the Division include:

The **Supporting Science Initiative** began in November 2007 with funding from a large contract from NYS OMH to the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. The components of this initiative, conducted at NYSPI, include the following.

- The **Evidence-Based Practices Technical Assistance Center (EBP-TAC)**, established to assist the OMH in promoting the widespread use of evidence-based practices throughout the state. The Center, under the direction of Dr. Susan Essock, works with OMH to identify and involve consumer, family, provider, and scientific/academic organizations as partners in supporting the goals of OMH and the Center. Topic-area planning days this past year included: Improving psychotropic prescribing practices; New York/New York III Housing Initiative; an evaluation of mental health parity legislation in New York State ("Timothy's law"); and cognitive remediation for persons with schizophrenia.

Division faculty have been involved in the following OMH projects being facilitated by the EBP-TAC: Clinical Alerts project (Drs. Thomas Smith, Carlos Jackson), Cardiometabolic Monitoring project (Drs. Christina Mangurian, Carlos Jackson, Thomas Smith), and the PC Transformation project (Dr. Carlos Jackson); review panel convened by the NYC Mayor and NYS Governor to examine issues related to violence and individuals with mental illnesses (Dr. Thomas Smith).

- The **Wellness Self Management (WSM)**. The Center has supported clinical supervisors, practitioners, and peer counselors receive training in conducting The Wellness Self Management (WSM) groups and/or supervision of staff conducting WSM groups.
- The **2008 Psychiatric Services and Clinical Knowledge Enhancement System (PSYCKES)**. The PSYCKES CQI project focused on improving the quality of psychotropic prescribing practices in Article 31 Clinics. These projects provide unique opportunities for faculty to develop research projects with immediate practical applications and to help enhance the impact of OMH initiatives, Psychiatric Services and Clinical Knowledge Enhancement System

(PSYCKES). The program has worked with its Scientific Advisory Board to identify quality concerns related to prescribing practices; successfully adapted PSYCKES, an award-winning, web-based application, for the Medicaid population; identified rates of psychotropic, antipsychotic, and antidepressant polypharmacy in the NYS Medicaid population; identified rates of the use of antipsychotics with high or moderate risk for metabolic disturbance among individuals with cardiometabolic conditions; and conducted a validation study of polypharmacy and cardiometabolic indicator sets by auditing charts.

- **Clinic Plus Evaluation** is charged with examining the implementation of the Child and Family Clinic-Plus, a state-wide initiative to enhance access to and utilization of services and outcomes for children and adolescents through the early screening, evaluation, and treatment of mental health difficulties in the child's naturalistic settings. The evaluation is examining:
 - processes related to the enrollment, consent, screening, assessment, and treatment of youth at clinic sites, including challenges and successes associated with these components;
 - changes in agency practice and service delivery, including new linkages and agreements with other organizations and the adoption and provision of evidence-based and in-home treatment services since becoming a Clinic-Plus provider;
 - caregiver perceptions about Clinic-Plus, including how they were notified about these services, by whom, what they know about the initiative, and their opinions about service provision and its effectiveness; and
 - factors related to the decision to enroll youth in Clinic-Plus as well as concrete, perceptual, logistical, and other barriers to enrollment.

- **Timothy's Law Evaluation** is being conducted in response to a legislative mandate to determine the impact of New York State's legislation requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for individuals with mental illnesses. Under this new law, which took effect January 1, 2007, health insurance providers in New York State are required to provide comparable insurance coverage for mental illnesses as for other medical care ("parity").

- **Sexual Offenders Treatment Program.** Over the past year, scientists for the NYS Office of Performance Measurement and Evaluation have assisted in the preparation of an Annual Report to the NYS Legislature reporting on the demographic, offense, and diagnostic characteristics of offenders who were reviewed for civil management in the first year of the NYS Sex Offender Management and Treatment Act (SOMTA). Other evaluation activities include: estimating future bed capacity needs, conducting qualitative interviews with treatment and evaluation directors in the 18 other states that have civil commitment statutes, identifying predictors and correlates of recidivism among released sex offenders. OMH is collaborating with other NYS agencies in a Sex Offender Research Workgroup, whose first collaboration priority is to investigate the impact of sex offender residency restriction laws in NYS.

Dr. Kimberly Hoagwood continued to work advance knowledge about effective implementation strategies to improve the uptake of EBPs for children and families in the New York State public mental health system. Work included:

- **Evidence-based Treatment Dissemination Center (EBTDC)** focuses on EBT training and dissemination to clinicians and supervisors to improve the quality of clinical care for youth and families.
- **E3: Engagement, Empowerment, Evidence-based Practice.** The goal of the E3 project is to apply an empirically-based family support approach to the treatment of childhood depression and trauma. Preliminary findings thus far suggest that the structured protocols have been very effective in recruiting parents into the research. In addition, we are learning that indicators of organizational readiness to implement the E3 model need to be developed.
- **Readiness to Adopt EBPs in Schools (School PEP)** project has been completed and final analyses are being conducted and a final progress report is being compiled. The overarching goal of this project was to pilot a set of measures to assess readiness for adoption of EBPs within schools and examine intervention strategies (Parent Empowerment Program or PEP) for enhancing family involvement in school-based mental health services for their children.

Besides working on the PSYCKES initiative described above, Dr. Molly Finnerty and her group have been working on the following projects:

- **Assertive Community Treatment Recovery Spectrum of Services (ACT).** This project aims to address the unmet need to define and test a model for step down from ACT that has the potential for broad dissemination. In this past year, staff on this project have interviewed national and international experts on ACT to identify adaptations to the model to support varying levels of acuity of ACT enrollees, and to identify successful strategies for ACT discharge; and examined reasons for discharge from NYS ACT teams.
- **Family Psychoeducation (FPE).** Staff on this project completed a report to SAMHSA on the Adaptation of Family Psychoeducation in Three Diverse Communities: African American, Chinese, and Latino.

Dr. Alice Medalia continued her work on insight into cognitive functioning in people with schizophrenia; the interaction of motivation and cognition in schizophrenia; and the factors that predict improvement in cognition.

Dr. Harold Pincus continued his work as an Associate Director of the Irving Institute for Clinical Translational Research (ICTR) and Co-PI of two of the Resource Cores of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). He was also selected as Chair of the NIH National Steering Committee for the CTSA Evaluation. In addition, he continued to

lead the Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies. Recruitment of fellows began in this period. In his role as Director of Quality and Outcomes Research at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Dr. Pincus is developing a series of initiatives to enhance collaborative activities between the Hospital and the medical schools. Dr. Pincus has also been meeting with Directors/Core leaders for several of the department's clinical intervention centers and divisions (eg, Child, Homeless, Disaster) to assist them in strategizing for their planning and renewal of grants.

Education and Training

Eleven OMH Policy Scholars were identified, and they worked on their projects under the tutelage of a research mentor and a policy mentor. Awardees participated in a regular luncheon series which featured speakers on areas of interest, culminating in a final luncheon featuring Commissioner Michael Hogan.

Dr. Harold Pincus hosts a bi-monthly group mentoring dinner for residents interested in research. The resident planning committee has scheduled specific topics and invited guests. He also co-leads resident research seminar with Dr. Diana Martinez of the Substance Abuse Division and leads a year-long course for fellows and junior faculty preparing them to submit applications for K Awards.

Dr. Kimberly Hoagwood continues to mentor a number of junior investigators in child mental health services and evaluation.

Dr. Alice Medalia ran the first cross-campus Columbia Cornell training in cognitive remediation fall 2007. She oversaw the implementation and ongoing supervision of cognitive remediation programs at PI 5, Audubon and Inwood Clinics, Allen Pavilion, and Millstein 9 Garden North.

Katie Tobin, PsyD, is a post-doctoral fellow under Dr. Medalia.

Dr. Jennifer Wisdom started a Peer Mentoring Group for junior researchers in the Division.

Grants

NARSAD

* Dr. David Kimhy, "The Influence of Arousal on Paranoid Ideation in Schizophrenia: An Experience Sampling Study"

* Dr. Christina Mangurian, "Effect of Behavioral Therapy on Adiposity in Antipsychotic-Treated Hispanic Patients with Major Mental Illness: A Washington Heights Community Service Study"

National Institute of Mental Health

Dr. Jimmy Choi, "Motivation and Learning in Schizophrenia." (R03)
Dr. Kimberly Hoagwood, "Readiness to Adopt EBPs in Schools." (R34)
Dr. Kimberly Hoagwood, "Center on Implementation of EBPs for Children in a State System." (P20)
Dr. Kimhy, David, "Psychosis in Schizophrenia: Mechanisms of Recovery." (K23)

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcholism

Dr. Jon Morgenstern, "Naltrexone and CBT for problem drinking MSM" (R01)
* Dr. Jon Morgenstern, "Component Analysis of Motivational Interviewing" (R21)
* Dr. Jon Morgenstern, "NIH Support for Conference and Scientific Meetings" (U13)

National Institute on Drug Abuse

Dr. Jon Morgenstern, Jon "Club Drugs and Risky Behavior Among Men" (R01)
*Dr. Jennifer Wisdom, "Facilitating Adolescent Recovery from Drug Abuse during Transitions in Care" (K23)

New York State Office of Mental Health

* Dr. Sheila Donahue, "Supporting Science to Practice through Evaluation and Training: Sexual Offenders Treatment Program"
* Dr. Sheila Donahue, "Supporting Science to Practice through Evaluation and Training: Timothy's Law Evaluation"
Dr. Susan Essock, "Public/Academic Partnership in Mental Health Services Research"
* Dr. Susan Essock, "Supporting Science to Practice through Evaluation and Training: Evidence Based Practice Technical Assistance Center"
* Dr. Molly Finnerty, "Supporting Science to Practice through Evaluation and Training: PSYCKES"
* Dr. Kimberly Hoagwood, "Supporting Science to Practice through Evaluation and Training: Clinic Plus Evaluation"
* Dr. Molly Finnerty, "Supporting Science to Practice through Evaluation and Training: PSYCKES"
* Dr. David Kimhy, "The Influence of Arousal on Paranoid Ideation in Schizophrenia: An Experience Sampling Study"

Private Grants

* Dr. Jimmy Choi, (Eli Lilly, Investigator Initiated Trial [IIT]) "Task Engagement in Schizophrenia"
* Dr. Molly Finnerty, (BMS Foundation) "Assertive Community Treatment Recovery Spectrum of Services"
*Dr. Christina Mangurian (APIRE/Lilly Research Fellow) "Effect of Behavioral Therapy on Adiposity in Antipsychotic-Treated Hispanic Patients with Major Mental Illness: A Washington Heights Community Service Study"

Dr. Alice Medalia, (Irene and Gustav Stern Foundation) “Funding to support career development of researchers in the area of cognitive remediation”

* Dr. Alice Medalia (Eli Lilly, IIT) Improving Awareness of Cognitive Dysfunction and Receptiveness toward Treatment for Cognitive Dysfunction in Schizophrenia

Dr. Harold Pincus, (The Atlantic Philanthropies) “Proposal to Develop a Clinical Geriatric Policy Scholars Program”

* Dr. Harold Pincus, (The Atlantic Philanthropies) “Implementing Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program”

* Dr. Harold Pincus, (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) “Evaluating Clinical and Economic/Systems Strategies to Improve the Quality of Depression Treatment in Primary Care Settings”

* Dr. Harold Pincus, (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation via subcontract) “New Orleans Primary-Behavioral Health Integration Project”

* Dr. Harold Pincus, (multiple sources) “Clinical Leads Mental Health Quality Measurement Project”

* Indicates new award in the reporting period

Awards and Honors

Dr. Alice Medalia, First honoree to receive the award for Outstanding Leadership in Psychiatric Rehabilitation that was presented at World Mental Health Day held in October 2007 in Portugal

Dr. Christina Mangurian, APIRE/Lilly Research Fellowship

Dr. Molly Finnerty, Appointed Director of the OMH Bureau of Evidence-based Services and Implementation Science

Highlights

The Division has been very productive working on the Supporting Science to Practice through Evaluation and Training initiatives funded by NYS OMH. Increasingly, Division faculty members are involved in the conceptualization and implementation of OMH’s major clinical initiatives.

Dr. Thomas Smith worked on a review panel convened by the NYC Mayor and NYS Governor to examine issues related to violence and the mentally ill. The panel released a report entitled "New York State/New York City Mental Health-Criminal Justice Panel Report and Recommendations" in June 2008, which the Mayor and Governor accepted.

Dr. Ilana Nossel received a two-year grant from the NYS Health Foundation to adapt Critical Time Intervention for frequent users of the NYPH CPEP. This is an outgrowth of her OMH Policy Scholar’s project.

Dr. Christina Mangurian interviewed the clinical directors of the state psychiatric hospitals to determine current practices around metabolic monitoring as a prelude to a state-wide initiative to improve such monitoring.

Dr. Alice Medalia developed a test to measure insight into cognitive impairment for people with schizophrenia and found that about half of people with schizophrenia are not aware that they have cognitive deficits, even though they score in the impaired range on cognitive tests. These findings have implications for cognitive enhancement strategies.

Dr. Molly Finnerty was awarded new grant funding for approximately \$3,345,000 over 5 years to study ACT models for community reintegration.

Dr. Harold Pincus is serving on several national committees including Behavioral Measurement Advisory Panel, National Committee for Quality Assurance; National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Scientific Council; Institute of Medicine Committee on Psychosocial Care for Cancer Patients and their Families; NIMH Loan Repayment Review Committee; and Vice Chairperson, Committee on Health Services Research, American Psychiatric Association.

Publication of Jensen, P. & Hoagwood, K. E. (2008). Improving children's mental health through parent empowerment: A guide to assisting families. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Dr. Wisdom co-authored: Green C.A, Polen, MR, Janoff SL, Castleton, DK, Wisdom, JP, Vuckovic N, Perrin N A, Paulson RI & Oken, SL. Understanding how clinician-patient relationships and relational continuity of care affect recovery from serious mental illness: STARS study results. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, 2008;32(1),9-22.

New Faculty

Mary Cavaleri, PhD, Research Associate
Paul Margolies, PhD, Assistant Professor (honorary)
Anthony Salerno, PhD, Assistant Professor (honorary)

Publications

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