

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Potential Expert Consultants and Research Mentors

Updated October 2023

Jonathan E. Alpert, M.D., Ph.D., chair and professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, neuroscience, and pediatrics

- General psychiatry, mood disorders, suicide, medical education, psychiatry research, ethics, novel pharmacological and neuromodulation treatments

Anita Autry, Ph.D., assistant professor, neuroscience and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Neurobiology of social and parental behavior

Dalal Badreddine, Ph.D., instructor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, clinical director, OnTrackNY@Montefiore

- First episode/early psychosis, prodromal symptoms, shared decision making, recovery model of mental health treatment.

Renata A. Batista-Brito PhD, assistant profess of neuroscience, genetics and psychiatry & behavioral sciences.

- Cortical development, visual processing, neurodevelopmental disorders

Joseph Battaglia, M.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director, Einstein Student Mental Health Service,

- Medical student mental health

Laurie Bauman, Ph.D., professor, pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Adolescent mental health, health disparities and mental health; adolescent sexual behavior/pregnancy

Yael L. Belinkie Ph.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director, Substance Abuse Treatment Program

- Addiction evaluation and treatment

Carol Bernstein, M.D., professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences and obstetrics & gynecology and women's health, vice chair Faculty Development and Wellbeing. Past president American Psychiatric Association

- Clinical mental health, burnout, women's mental health and workplace health, graduate and medical student education

Thomas Betzler, M.D., associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, executive clinical director, Montefiore Behavioral Health Center

- Community mental health, outpatient psychiatry, integrated treatment of mental illness and primary care, addiction psychiatry, emergency psychiatry, psychiatry and population health

Yash Bhambhani MD, assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy; LGBTIA+ mental health; addiction

Tyson J. Boudreaux, MD – assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director, Bronx Psychiatric Center

- Serious mental health, public psychiatry, mental health among diverse communities

Rahil Briggs, Psy.D. – founder of the Healthy Steps Program at Montefiore, now national director; clinical professor, pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Integration of mental health services in pediatric primary care; early intervention for children/families at challenging times, toxic stress, early childhood brain development, adverse childhood experiences

Aaron S Breslow, Ph.D., dual affiliation at the PRIME Center for Health Equity at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (assistant professor) and the Health Equity Research Lab at Harvard Medical School

- LGBTQIA+ health, gender identity, HIV+ stigma and criminalization, teens and emerging adults

Pablo Castillo MD PhD, professor of neuroscience and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Synaptic mechanisms in dementia, epilepsy, autism, schizophrenia and addiction; synaptic mechanisms of antidepressants

Minorva Ceide M.D., M.S., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Dementia, geriatric psychiatry

Earle C. Chambers PhD MPH, associate professor, family and social medicine; epidemiology and population health, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Social determinants of health; social epidemiology and social medicine

Rosy Chhabra, Psy.D., research associate professor, pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Community Health Director, Montefiore School Health Program

- Childhood mental health

Henry Chung M.D., professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Montefiore Care Management Organization

- Behavioral health integration, population health, digital health (e.g., use of mobile devices for monitoring and interaction with patients between visits)

Benjamin Le Cook PhD, adjunct associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director PRIME Center for Health Equity

- Health equity, multicultural mental health, public health, health economics

Nathaniel Z. Counts J.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, faculty in PRIME Center for Health Equity, director of policy at Mental Health America

- Mental health policy

Benjamin A. Ely PhD, assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director of neuroimaging, PRIME

- Neuroimaging in individuals with mental illness or addiction

Jonathan Feldman PhD, associate professor departments of pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Health psychology; behavioral interventions to improve medication adherence in children and adults with asthma; psychological treatment of anxiety in patients with asthma, depression, food allergies and other conditions.

Howard L. Forman MD, associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Psychiatry and the Law, psychiatry in the medically ill, addiction psychiatry, pop culture and mental health

Peter Franz PhD, assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology

- Suicide, risk factors, prediction and prevention

Bryan Freilich, Psy.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director of Neuropsychological Assessment Service

- Cognitive functioning, neuropsychology, memory, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, cognitive rehabilitation/remediation, traumatic brain injury, neuropsychological screening and assessment of sickle-cell disease, lupus, and acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Miguelina Germán, Ph.D., associate professor, pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioral sciences, assistant director, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics & Department of Psychiatry Montefiore Medical Center

- Latino and immigrant mental health issues, child/family mental health treatment, integrated behavioral health treatment, suicidal behavior, trauma (and trauma-informed care)

Karinn A. Glover, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences **

- Integration of mental health services in Adult Primary Care (MMG), race-based trauma

Damara Gutnick MD, associate professor epidemiology and population health, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, family and social medicine

- Health behavior research and implementation science; community and population health

Jason Herrick MD, assistant professor psychiatry and behavioral sciences, pediatrics

- Behavioral health integration

Eric Hollander MD, professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director of the Compulsive, Impulsive and Autism Spectrum Disorder Program **

- Autism, OCD, anxiety and mood disorders, other developmental disorders such as Prader Willi Syndrome, body dysmorphic disorder, novel pharmacological treatments in children, medical marijuana and ASD, transcranial magnetic stimulation

Lisa Hutchison, M.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences and pediatrics, psychiatric director, Eating Disorders Program **

- Childhood and adolescent mental health, eating disorders, somatic symptom disorder, catatonia, delirium.

Bryen Jordan PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Neurobiology of neurodevelopmental disorders

Anita Jose, Ph.D., associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, attending psychologist, Director of Child Welfare Programs, University Behavioral Associates (UBA), Montefiore Medical Center

- intimate partner violence; relationship satisfaction/quality

John (Jack) Keefe PhD, postdoctoral fellow

- Short term psychotherapies for anxiety disorders, trauma, and insecure attachment

Gary Kennedy, M.D., professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, vice chair for education, director, division of geriatric psychiatry, Montefiore Medical Center **

- mental health care in nursing homes, primary care sites, and the community, late-life mental health

Andrea Kondracke MD, associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Director, Division of Psychiatry and Medicine

- CL psychiatry, addiction, transplant psychiatry

Bryan Kutner PhD, assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, psychologist, PRIME

- influence of behavioral interventions and social factors, like stigma, on engagement and retention in HIV services. Social determinants of health disparities, and factors related to the implementation of evidence-based practices, like motivational interviewing, in resource-constrained settings.

Herbert Lachman MD, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and medicine; associate professor of Neuroscience and Genetics

- Psychiatric genetics, induced pluripotent stem cells to study schizophrenia, autism and related development disorders.

Richard Lipton MD, professor of neurology, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, epidemiology and population health

- Migraine headaches, aging and dementia, population studies on stress, pain and cognition.

Simon Lucaj MD, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Esketamine; transcranial magnetic stimulation for MDD and OCD

Traci Maynigo, Psy.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, attending Psychologist, assistant professor, program Director Supporting Healthy Relationships Program

- Couples, couples therapy, relationships (e.g., communication, infidelity, sex, conflict, closeness, trust, commitment, etc.), cross-cultural/multicultural psychology, parenting, maternal mental health/reproductive psychology, cross-cultural therapy with diverse couples and families

Adam McGahee DNP, MBA, director of Quality Improvement, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Quality improvement; clinical administration; program development

Barbara Milrod PhD, professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director of psychodynamic psychotherapy research program, PRIME

- Psychodynamic psychotherapy

Moshe Moeller, Ph.D., instructor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, associate program director and Attending Psychologist at Supporting Healthy Relationships and HERO Dads

- Couples therapy, fatherhood, parenting

Sophie Molholm PhD, professor of pediatrics, neuroscience and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Attention, sensory and perceptual processing, executive function, autism, schizophrenia, 22q11 deletion syndrome and other developmental disorders.

Anne Murphy PhD, associate professor of pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Parent-child interaction; Group Attachment Based Intervention (GABI) program.

Regina Musicaro, PhD, assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director THRIVE

- Trauma informed therapies; integrative treatments (e.g., neurofeedback, yoga)

Saleem Nicola PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Neural basis of reward-seeking behavior, decision-making and drug seeking behavior

Rachel Noone MD, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Mood disorders, emergency psychiatry, autism, schizophrenia and OCD

Ana Ozdoba, M.D., associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Director, Adult Psychiatry Residency Training Program, founding chair, Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- General psychiatry, diversity, equity and inclusion, multicultural mental health, first-episode psychosis

Ana Ortin Peralta PhD – clinical assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences; assistant professor, School-Clinical Child Psychology Program, Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Yeshiva University Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology

- Risk factors for suicidal thoughts and behaviors among children and adolescents. Familial transmission of suicide risk and its connection to emotion regulation difficulties. Understanding the concept of death among children who are thinking about suicide.

Sandra Pimentel, Ph.D., associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, chief of Child and Adolescent Psychology

- Child and adolescent anxiety/mood/mental health, trauma, emerging adulthood, youth development, self-injurious behaviors in children and adolescents, cognitive behavior therapy and other psychotherapies in children and adolescents

Lillian Polanco-Roman PhD – adjunct assistant prof, psychiatry and behavioral sciences; assistant professor, New School

- Sociocultural context of the development of psychopathology as well as in the promotion of mental well-being among racial/ethnic minority and immigrant youth; mental health consequences of experiences of culture-specific stress in its various forms including racial and ethnic discrimination; understanding causes for the elevated risk of suicidal behaviors in racial/ethnic minority youth

Jelena Radulovic MD PhD, professor of neuroscience and psychiatry and behavioral sciences, neuroscience director, PRIME

- Neurobiology of stress and trauma

Natalie Rasgon MD PhD professor, psychiatry & behavioral sciences; OB GYN & Women's Health

- Neuroendocrinology and psychiatric disorders; women's mental health

Marianne Reddan PhD, instructor, psychiatry & behavioral sciences

- Neuroimaging, impact of social determinants of health on pain processing and neurobiology

Simon Rego, Psy.D., professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, chief of Psychology Division, director, psychology training

- General psychology, anxiety, depression, stress, insomnia in adults, social media, cognitive behavior therapy and other psychotherapies in adults

Usman Riaz MD, assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Sleep medicine; addiction psychiatry

Caryn Rodgers PhD, research associate professor, pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Resilience among adolescents of color in Impoverished urban communities

Rachel Ross MD PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, neuroscience and medicine

- Neurobiology of feeding and metabolism; anxiety disorders; neuroendocrinology; sex differences; systems neuroscience, stress

Merrill Rotter, M.D. associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director, Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship

- Law and psychiatry, violence, prison system, social determinants of health, violence risk assessment, mental health and criminality

Tamar Rubinstein MD MS, assistant professor of pediatrics and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Psychosocial factors and mental health in youth with rheumatological conditions

Stephanie Rudolph PhD, assistant professor of neuroscience and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Behavioral neurobiology of the cerebellum

Diane A. Safer PhD, assistant professor, department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Career and professional development, particularly for graduate students and postdocs

Ayol Samuels, M.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- “Functional” neurological/psychiatric disorders, particularly in children and adolescents, such as unexplained seizures, paralysis or other symptoms with negative medical work-ups

Alessandra Scalmati, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- trauma-informed care, medical education, employee burnout, geriatric psychiatry

Matthew Schneider, M.D., associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, vice chair for Clinical Services,

- Quality metrics, Joint Commission and other regulatory visits

Bruce Schwartz M.D., deputy chair and professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, past president American Psychiatric Association

- mental health care financing, legislation and lobbying on behalf of mental health constituencies, behavioral health service delivery, affective disorder and psychopharmacology, bipolar disorder.

Gary J. Schwartz PhD, professor of medicine, neuroscience and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- feeding and energy balance; gut-brain neuroendocrine communication

Jenny Seham, Ph.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, psychologist, Moses campus Child Outpatient Psychiatry Division , director, Arts and Integrative Medicine Program,

- Dance, yoga, and the creative arts in psychiatry, trauma-based interventions

Scott Shaffer, M.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences and pediatrics (adolescent medicine), Director Psychiatry Consultation Service, CHAM

- Psychiatric consultation on pediatric inpatient units (medical, surgical, ICU)

Rachel Sheffet, Psy.D., assistant professor, pediatrics, Acting Mental Health Director, JE & ZB Butler Center for Children and Families Behavioral Health Services, The Children's Hospital at Montefiore

- Sexual abuse in children, treatment of problematic sexual behavior in school age children, trauma focused treatment, and trauma-focused CBT

Robert Shochet MD, professor, medicine and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Patient experience; doctor-patient communication

Ginette Sims PhD, post-doctoral research fellow, PRIME Center for Health Equity

- Health equity; LGTQIA+ mental health

Lucas L. Sjulson MD PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, and neuroscience

- Decision-making and drug addiction in rodent models; optogenetics; systems, computational and molecular neuroscience

Joanna L. Starrels MD MS, professor of medicine and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Opioid management for patients with chronic pain, collaborative care models; opioid use disorder

Michael Tau MD, (incoming) assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, and neurology

- Neuropsychiatry; psychiatric symptoms in epilepsy; functional neurological disorders

Lisa Teh PhD, assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Psychological evaluation and treatment of organ transplant candidates and patients

Kristine E. Torres-Lockhart MD, assistant professor of medicine and psychiatry and behavioral sciences

- Substance use disorders, medical education, opioid and alcohol use disorders

Rubiahna Vaughn MD MPH, assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director of consultation-liaison psychiatry and emergency psychiatry, Weiler Hospital

- Perinatal/reproductive psychiatry, consultation-liaison psychiatry, psychiatric conditions among the medically ill

Janira Vega, Ph.D., assistant professor, pediatrics and supervising psychologist, Behavioral Health Integration Program (BHIP), Montefiore Medical Center , Montefiore Einstein Psychiatry Associates**

- ADHD, anxiety, brief, evidence-based care, depression, integrated behavioral health, suicide/risk assessment, trauma, Asian Mental Health

Audrey Walker, M.D., associate professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences and pediatrics, chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division, Director, Medical Student Education in Psychiatry

- Child and adolescent psychiatry, medical student education

Scott Wetzler, Ph.D., professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, vice chair for Population Health, CEO of University Behavioral Associates

- Population health, care management, health homes, health care financing, relationship issues, personality disorders and passive-aggressive behavior, utilization of mental health and substance abuse services, child abuse and child welfare, disability and Employability, anxiety disorders.

Lauren Yadlosky, PhD, assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, clinical director of the Eating Disorders Program at Montefiore (EDPM)

- Eating disorders (including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, avoidant restrictive food disorder)

Amanda Zayde, Psy.D., assistant professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, director, Mentalization-Based Parenting Program, Associate Director of Psychology Training **

- Emerging adulthood, parenting, program development in low-income communities, intergenerational transmission of trauma, post-secondary planning for emerging adults living in poverty.

Areas of Expertise:

Addiction: Clinical/policy: Andrea Kondracke MD, Joanna Starrels MD, Melissa Stein, MD, Julia Arnsten, MD, Merrill Herman, MD, Yael Belinkie, PhD; Kristine Torres-Lockhart MD, neurobiology of addiction: Saleem Nicola, PhD, Lucas Sjulson ,MD, PhD

Behavioral Health Integration: Henry Chung, Michelle Blackmore, Jason Herrick

Caregiver Support: Randi Kaplan (Director Caregiver Support Program),

Cognitive Aging & Dementia: Richard Lipton, Gary Kennedy, Joseph Verghese, Minorva Ceide MD, Jessica Zwerling MD

Diabetes and Mental Health: Stephanie Leung PhD; Sean Pereira PhD

Eating Disorders: Lauren Yadlosky; Rachel Ross; Melanie Fox

Emergency Psychiatry: Melissa Rooney MD, , Rubiahna Vaughn MD MPH, Rebecca Klein MD

Emerging Adulthood (Transitional Age Youth ~ ages 16-24): Amanda Zayde, PhD, Melissa Dackis, PhD, Sandy Pimentel, PhD, Amy Kranzler, PhD

First Episode Psychosis: Dalal Badreddine PhD

Forensic Psychiatry: Merrill Rotter, Maryam Jahdi, Howard Forman

Geriatric Psychiatry: Gary J. Kennedy, MD, Alessandra Scalmati MD PhD, Minorva Ceide MD

Health Disparities, Social Determinants of Health, and Mental Health: Benjamin Le Cook PhD; Caryn Rodgers PhD, Aaron Breslow, PhD, Bryan Kutner PhD, Lillian Polanco-Roman, PhD, Earle Chambers PhD,

Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma: Anne Murphy PhD, Rahill Briggs PhD, Sandy Pimentel PhD, Regina Musicaro PhD, Laurie Gallo PhD, Jenny Seham PhD, Katrina McCoy PhD

Inpatient Psychiatry: Sharon Spitzer PhD, Rachel Noone MD

Law and Psychiatry: Merrill Rotter MD, Maryam Jahdi MD MPH, Howard Forman MD

LGBTQ Health: Aaron Breslow PhD, Ginette Sims PhD

Medical Education: Ana Ozdoba MD, Lisa Hutchison MD, Audrey Walker MD, Gary Kennedy MD, Jon Alpert MD PhD

Medical Student Mental Health: Joseph Battaglia MD; Michelle Blackmore PhD, Ryan DeLapp, PhD

Mental Health Policy: Nathaniel Counts JD, Bruce Schwartz MD

Mood Disorders: Jonathan Alpert MD PhD, Vilma Gabbay MD MS, Eric Hollander MD

Neurobiology of Psychiatric Disorders: Vilma Gabbay, PhD, Pablo Castillo MD PhD, Lucas Sjulson MD, PhD, Kamran Khodakhah ,PhD, Herbert Lachman, MD, Jon Alpert, MD, PhD, Sophie Molholm, PhD (autism, schizophrenia, 22 q deletion syndrome), Bryen Jordan, PhD

Neuroimaging: Benjamin Ely PhD, Marianne Reddan PhD, Vilma Gabbay MD MS; Michael L. Lipton MD, PhD;

Neuromodulation/neurosurgical approaches to psychiatric disorders: Emad Eskandar MD, MBA (Chair, Neurosurgery; Professor of Neurosurgery, Neuroscience and Psychiatry); Eric Hollander, MD, Jon Alpert, MD, PhD; Simon Lucaj MD

Neuropsychology Assessment (e.g., cognitive testing): Bryan Freilich, PsyD

Neuroscience: Anita Autry, Pablo Castillo, Rachel Ross, Luke Sjulson, Stephanie Rudolph, Saleem Nicola, Renata Brito-Batista, Bryen Jordan, Gary Schwartz

Physician Wellness: Carol Bernstein, MD, Jessica Eisenberg MD

Professional development: Diane Safer PhD (graduate students), Carol Bernstein MD (residents and clinicians)

Psychiatric Genetics: Herbert Lachman, MD,

Psycho-Oncology: Alyson Moadel, PhD, Director, Psychosocial Oncology Program; Meghana Medavaram MD

Reproductive Psychiatry: Rubiahna Vaughn MD MPH, Natalie Rasgon MD PhD, Julie Vileisis MD

Quality Improvement: Adam McGahee DNP, MBA; Matthew Schneider MD

School Health: Rosy Chhabra PsyD,

Smoking: Shadi Nahvi, MD, MS; Yael Belinke, PhD

Suicide research: Peter Franz PhD, Lillian Polanco-Roman; Ana Ortin Peralta; Vilma Gabbay MD MS, Jonathan Alpert MD PhD

Transplant Psychiatry: Lisa Teh PhD, Andrea Kondracke MD

Trauma: Barbara Milrod MD, Laurie Gallo PhD, Jelena Radulovic MD PhD

Violence, risk assessment: Ali Khadivi, PhD, Merrill Rotter, MD