I hope you have started the new academic year with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

I have had the pleasure of seeing many of you in the spring and summer as I attended staff meetings and addressed each of the hospital sites – these have been excellent opportunities for me to share the results of the department survey, hear what you all had to say, and learn about your past achievements and current needs. I hope you have found these sessions as useful as I have and am looking forward to an ongoing dialogue.

Over the last several months, we have taken steps to continue improving operations of the department. We have worked to implement new procedures for recruiting clinical faculty. The new Recruitment Advisory Committee (RAC), chaired by Dr. Nick Casacalenda, has taken on this role to ensure a transparent and equitable process for all. We have already had our first RAC recommendation for a position at the JGH, and will soon have the results of the second RAC recommendation for a position at the DMHUI. In addition to the RAC, we have created a mentoring system for residents who are interested in positions with our Department. As a part of this effort, I have been meeting residents to guide them in their academic development.
As mentioned in previous communications, we have been exploring avenues to align programs across the McGill network. To this end, we had a stimulating and productive workshop on June 16 to discuss standards of care and outcome measures. This workshop was a pilot event focused on psychosis and mood disorders. The workshop was a success, with groups working together and discussing how to move forward. As a result, we now have task forces on psychosis and mood to examine possible ways to implement the suggestions made at the workshop. Although this event was focused on mood and psychosis, we plan to expand to other areas of clinical care, using what we have learnt from the experience with this pilot project.

In addition, we have a number of new appointments and promotions to announce. Effective January 1, 2017, we welcomed two new co-directors of the departmental CME program, Drs. Gabriella Gobbi and Marco Leyton. They have already demonstrated their enthusiasm and efficiency in this role, and we are lucky to have them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Tewfik Said, who stepped down from this position, for his memorable contributions over the years. Dr. Monica Ruiz Casares and Dr. Ashley Daniel Wazana also received promotion to Associate Professor, effective January 1, 2017, and June 1, 2017, respectively. Dr. Srividya Iyer and Dr. Mallar Chakravarty started new tenure track positions effective August 1, 2017. Congratulations to all!

McGill also organized a fundraising drive, McGill 24, which was held on March 15. This event clearly showed how much all of you care for our Department, as many of you contributed – thank you all for your generosity!

Over the past few months, we have hosted several events. Of note, the Graduate Student Association of Psychiatry held its First Annual Integrative Psychiatry Conference (AIPC), which attracted many attendees – congratulations! We also had the privilege of hosting Dr. Rudolph Uher (Dalhousie), recent Royal-Mach-Gaensslen Prize for Mental Health Research awardee, who delivered a public lecture, What can we do to prevent mental illness, on May 31, 2017.
Finally, we have a few important events on the horizon. On November 3-4, 2017, the Department will be holding a Departmental Retreat at Manoir St. Sauveur. We have so far received a very positive response with registration numbers rapidly exceeding expectations. Preparation for this event is the result of the work of a number of people who have been working very hard. I am extremely grateful to everyone involved in the planning committee for making this event possible. For those of you who have not managed to register, but who are interested in attending the retreat, it is still possible to attend daytime sessions, but unfortunately, there are no more rooms available.

Last, but not least, please mark your calendars for the annual Departmental Day, which will be held on November 30, and will be on the theme: Cannabis in Canada – What do we know? What can we do?

I would like to sincerely thank each of you for your excellent contributions to our Department. Your work is responsible for the great reputation of our Department nationally and internationally, and I look forward to another year of great accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Gustavo Turecki
Promotions

Monica Ruiz Casares  
Assistant Professor to Associate Professor  
Jan 1, 2017

Ashley Daniel Wazana  
Assistant Professor to Associate Professor  
Jun 1, 2017

New appointments

Dr. Rosemary Bagot  
Associate Member  
Jan 1, 2017

Dr. Tanya Bergevin  
Affiliate Member  
Sep 1, 2017

Dr. Marc Chammas  
Assistant Professor  
Jul 1, 2017

Dr. Julia Dornik  
Assistant Professor  
Jul 3, 2017

Dr. Nazlie Faridi  
Assistant Professor  
Aug 1, 2017

Dr. Chloe Paquin-Hodge  
Faculty Lecturer  
Jul 1, 2017

Dr. Melissa Pickles  
Faculty Lecturer  
Apr 20, 2017

Dr. Soham Rej  
Assistant Professor  
Feb 1, 2017

Dr. Andrew Ryder  
Adjunct Professor  
Apr 1, 2017

Dr. Oussama Sidhom  
Faculty Lecturer  
Apr 1, 2017

Dr. Samuel Veissiere  
Assistant Professor  
Jul 1, 2017

Awards, Grants and Recognitions

Dr. Brigitte Kieffer  
Insignes Officier de l’Ordre National du Mérite (France)

Dr. Srividya Iyer  
2017 Maude Abbott Prize

Dr. Eric Latimer  
Elected Member of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, Royal Society of Canada

Dr. A-Missagh Ghadirian  
2017 Royal College McLaughlin Gallie Visiting Professorship

Dr. Pedro Rosa Neto  
50-Year Distinguished Life Fellow

Dr. Ashok Malla  
Merck Award & 1.5 M from Weston Foundation

Dr. Kieran O’Donnell  
Canada Research Chair—Tier 1 (Renewal)

Dr. Michael Meaney  
CIFAR Azireli Global Scholars

Dr. Gustavo Turecki  
Margolese Prize from UBC Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Alan Evans  
Prix ACFAS Léo-Pariseau 2016

Dr. Brigitte Kieffer  
Prix du Québec: Wilder-Penfield Prize for Biomedical Research
CIHR Fall 2016 Project Grant

Dr. Diane Boivin  Dr. Gabriella Gobbi
Dr. Mark Brandon  Dr. Lily Hechtman
Dr. Nicolas Cermakian  Dr. Marco Leyton
Dr. Megha M. Chakravarty  Dr. Judges Poirier
Dr. Anne Crocker  Dr. Natasha Rajah
Dr. Carl Ernst  Dr. Pedro Rosa-Neto

CIHR Fall 2016 Bridge Funding

Dr. Giamal Luhehi  Dr. Brett Thombs

FRSQ Competition 2017-2018

Chercheurs-bousiers  Chercheurs-bousiers cliniciens
Dr. Xiangfei Meng  Dr. Michael Bodnar
Dr. Jamie Near  Dr. Eduardo Chachamovich
Dr. Brett Thombs  Dr. Tuong-Vi Nguyen

Établissement de jeunes chercheurs  Dr. Soham Rej
Dr. Xiangfei Meng  Dr. Pedro Rosa-Neto
Dr. Jamie Near
Dr. Michael Bodnar
Dr. Tuong-Vi Nguyen
Dr. Soham Rej

SSHRC August 2016 recipients

Dr. Marie-Josée Fleury  Dr. Monica Ruiz-Casares (co-applicant)
Partnership Development Grant  Partnership Development Grant
Insight Grant  Connection Grant

Dr. Jaswant Guzder (collaborator)  Dr. Eric A. Latimer
Partnership Grant  Insight Grant

Dr. Rob Whitley  Insight Development Grant
Graduate and Postdoctoral Awards

Amanda Chalupa  
SSHRC Storytellers Top 25 Finalist—Rebuilding Community & the Lives of Child Migrants

Anthony Gifuni  
FRQS formation Phase I Clinicien

Daniel Hoops  
FRQNT Postdoctoral

Danilo De Gregorio  
FRQS Postdoctoral

Laura Kerzezee  
FRQS Postdoctoral

Michael Verwey  
Leyton Addiction Research Prize

2016 Leo and Rachel Hendliz Award

1st Richard Boyce (Dr. Sylvain Williams and Dr. Antoine Adamantidis’ lab)  
2nd Elsa Isingrini (Dr. Bruno Giros Lab)  
3rd Angélica Torres-Berrio (Dr. Cecilia Flores’ lab)

Graduate student FRQS Competition Results 2017-2018

Masters  
Sarah McIlwaine  
Tatiana Sanchez  
Johnson Ying  
Jishian Ravinthiran

Doctoral  
Nevecia Case  
Manal El Deb  
Kathleen MacDonald

2017 Research Day Awards

Douglas Institute Students:  
Oral Presentations:  
1st Prix d’excellence du FRQ-S: Scott Bell from Dr. Carl Ernst’s lab  
2nd: Chloé Nobis from Dr. Nicolas Cermakian’s lab  
3rd: Santiago Cuest from Dr. Cecilia Flores’ lab  
Poster Presentations:  
1st: Abdelhalim Elsiekh from Dr. Natasha Rajah’s lab  
2nd: Lauren Reynolds from Dr. Cecilia Flores’ lab

McGill Graduate Program in Psychiatry:  
Oral Presentations:  
1st Marion Birmingham/Trevor Dennis Award: Randy Elgendy from Dr. Norbert Schmitz’s lab  
2nd: Gerald Jordan from Dr. Ashok Malla’s lab  
Poster Presentation:  
1st: Kira Riehm from Dr. Frank Elgar’s lab
Welcome Incoming Residents 2017-2018

Couture Vincent
El-Housseini Arwa
Ferland Alexandre
Garel Nicolas
Greenway Kyle
Jetté Pomerleau Vincent
Lafontaine Jonathan
Mallett Samantha
Meierer Klara
Parisien-Dubuc Fabie
Picado Jennifer
Pérousse Marie-Eve
Thiffault Anne-Charlotte

2017 Graduating Residents

Dr. Gaëlle Bélanger
Dr. Michelle Cicalo
Dr. Laura Freedman
Dr. Anthony Gifuni
Dr. Kenneth Huang
Dr. Vincent Laliberté
Dr. Sofie Mauger
Dr. Katerina Nikolitch
Dr. Marie-Christine Noël
Dr. Zoë Thomas
Dr. Ching Yu

Questions, comments or contributions?
Please contact communications.psychiatry@mcgill.ca