August 31, 2021

Dear URMC Alumni,

Greetings friends and alumni of the University of Rochester's (UR) Department of Psychiatry. I'm excited to connect with you at this time as we prepare for our upcoming 75th Anniversary of the Department in 2022. We are proud of the many fellows, interns, residents, and post docs that have attended our department's programs across multiple disciplines including psychiatry, marriage and family therapy, and psychology. Many of you have been connecting with us already and I hope to talk with many more of you this coming year. We are planning various activities throughout 2022 and ask that you save the dates for our Anniversary Soirée on Friday, September 9, 2022 and Alumni breakfast the morning of Saturday, September 10, 2022 in Rochester. These events will follow the 26th World Congress of the International College of Psychosomatic Medicine Conference (September 7-9, 2022), which I hope you are able to attend as well.

Built on the shoulders of notable alumni leaders in our field, our department continue to strive toward excellence in our training, patient care, and research efforts. Grounded in the biopsychosocial model and with a spirit of innovation, we are poised to address the most critical needs of our community. While this year had its challenges, it also presented us with opportunities to be ever better. Some of our highlights this year include:

1. Expansion of Mental Health Service during COVID-19: We celebrated the opening of the Golisano Pediatric Behavioral Health and Wellness Center and Adult Ambulatory Behavioral Health Center last year, and we are busy renovating our Geriatric Mental Health and Memory Care Center. Our total ambulatory care volume this year is on pace to reach 400K encounters.

2. Leading Integrated Care: Medicine in Psychiatry Service had the ribbon cutting last month for addition of the 12-bed SUMMITS med-psych unit for addiction patients with acute medical issues. We now operate 32 med-psych beds for our patients.

3. URMC Recovery Center of Excellence: Department of Psychiatry is the home of the HRSA-funded program that provides technical assistance and training to the rural community in response to opioid epidemic. The grant provides 3-years of funding totaling $12.3M.

4. Geriatric Telepsychiatry: Our Division of Geriatric Mental Health and Memory Care oversees one of the largest telepsychiatry program in the country that provides behavioral health support for more than 80 nursing homes in our region in collaboration with NY Office of Mental Health.

5. Psychiatric Neuroscience: Under leadership of Steve Silverstein, PhD, Associate Chair of Education, we opened the Center of Eye and Brain Health with support from NYFirst Grant last spring.

6. Search for Cure for Alzheimer's Disease: Our AD-CARE clinical trial program under leadership of Anton Porsteinsson has continued to expand. Dr. Porteinsson was one of the leading investigators for the recent Aducanumab trials that led to FDA approval.

I would encourage you to visit our alumni page often as it will be continually updated, and read our Department newsletter to keep up with the news from our Department including special programming throughout our anniversary year at (urmc.rochester.edu/psychiatry/alumni).

One lesson we learned from COVID, it the importance of connections. We would like to stay connected to you and hope to hear from you directly. Please use the enclosed form to share what you are doing or fill out electronically on the alumni webpage.

Warm Regards,

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