I. Greetings from the Chair

Documentary filmmaker, Keith Famie, and his crew were filming at Tolan Park, Friday, December 11, 2015 for a PBS Documentary "Death is Not the Answer". The documentary focuses on depression and suicide. The team at Wayne State was interviewed regarding expertise in pediatric depression, particularly Dr. Vaibhav Diwadkar’s innovative functional MRI studies of brain network function. http://deathisnottheanswer.com/151211.html. Additional information will be sent out as it’s available.

I just want to congratulate everyone for a successful 2015 and my sincerest wishes for a safe and wonderful holiday!

II. News from the Faculty

- Jeffrey Stanley, PhD, will be chairing and presenting at this year’s Society of Biological Psychiatry's 71st Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, May 12-14, 2016.
- Steven Ondersma, PhD and Bella Schanzer, MD, who worked together on a grant to develop a computer-based brief intervention for the Veterans was accepted for funding by the The Veteran Experience Board (VEB). This exemplifies the importance of how the VA and Wayne State can partner together to improve the mental health of our shared populations.

III. Research Activities

- After years of protesting the devastating cuts sequestration wreaked on medical research, The National Institute of Health will receive a $2 billion increase and an increase of over $300 million for the Centers for Disease Control. The NIH funding includes $350 million specifically for Alzheimer’s disease research and an increase of $85 million for the brain mapping initiative that is studying the underlying causes of Alzheimer’s and other brain diseases.
- Congratulations to TNP student, PhD, Eric Woodcock in Dr. Mark Greenwald’s lab, who had two articles published; Eric A. Woodcock, BS, Leslie H. Lundahl, PhD, Margit Burmeister, PhD,Mark K. Greenwald, PhD Functional Mu Opioid Receptor Polymorphism (OPRM1 A118G) Associated With Heroin Use Outcomes in Caucasian Males: A Pilot Study and the second article; Mark Greenwald, Eric Woodcock, Dalal Khatib, Methadone maintenance dose modulates anterior
cingulate glutamate levels in heroin-dependent individuals: A preliminary in vivo 1H MRS study. This involved pharmacogenetic analysis (American Journal on Addictions; flagship of the American Academy on Addiction Psychiatry) and use of high-field MRS to measure frontocortical glutamate during methadone maintenance dose variation (Psychiatric Research: Neuroimaging). This is sophisticated work by a highly productive neuroscience student with the assistance of Dr. Stanley on the MRS paper, and Dr. Margit Burmeister (psychiatric geneticist) at UM.

IV. Office of Education and Training

- PG-3 - Dr. Rami Abukamil’s manuscript, “The Right of Psychiatric Patients to leave AMA” has been accepted in the American Journal of Psychiatry - Residents’ Journal
- Congratulations to our former residents Heather Helzer, Angela Kallis, Shana Kirby, Yedistra Naidoo, Sean Prabhu, Jennifer Robinson, Meha Saxena, Benjamin Williamson, and fellows Fahd Syed, Hanna Saad, Shama Faheem and Divya Vemuri all passed their ABPN Boards!

V. Clinical and Administrative

Warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy and healthy holiday!!!
Julie and Michelle

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."
- Oprah Winfrey