Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
November 2023

In this newsletter, we aim to provide you with the latest updates related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in our Department of Psychiatry.

Message from the Department Head, Eric Lenze, MD

This week, the department welcomed, Jillian Peterson, PhD, a forensic psychologist, Professor of Criminology at Hamline University and author of, The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting. In addition to Grand Rounds, Dr. Peterson led a community-focused presentation on mental illness & gun violence in which she discussed solutions, including holistic violence prevention, crisis intervention and de-escalation, and the promotion of mental wellness. Dr. Cynthia Rogers and Dr. Kristen Mueller (Division of Emergency Medicine and Physician Liaison for Life Outside of Violence program) served as panelists to address questions related to the work that WashU is doing to address the intersection of mental illness and gun violence. Thank you to all who participated! Serving our community by improving outreach, increasing access, and engaging stakeholders is an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in this area.

High School Founded with Help of Med School Leader Receives Accolades by Kristina Sauerwein

Hamza Jalal, a first year student at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, tours the Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience in south St. Louis with his mentor and the high school’s co-founder, Will Ross, MD, the medical school’s associate dean for diversity. Jalal was part of Collegiate’s inaugural class in 2012 and is the first alumnas to enroll at Washington University School of Medicine. Read more here.

Medical Student-led Community Screenings Help Address Health Inequities by Kristina Saurewein

Dispensing health-care advice and offering information about community resources at the Greater St. Louis Hispanic Festival in September was Joshua McPhie, a fourth-year medical student at Washington University in St. Louis. McPhie, along with 10 other Spanish-speaking medical students, screened patients in the Kids Express Can, a mobile health-care clinic used by Washington University Physicians and operated by St. Louis Children’s Hospital. Read more here.

Coming to Psychiatry in January 2024: Understanding Systemic Racism Training

In our continuing effort to uphold our commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Racial Justice, we are offering Psych-wide virtual training on Understanding Systemic Racism. Attendance is strongly encouraged for all faculty and staff. Trainees are welcome to attend although you are receiving this training in your curriculum.

Trainings will be delivered in a Zoom only format.

Dates:
January 23, 2024 @ 9:00 AM
January 24, 2024 @ 11:00 AM
January 30, 2024 @ 9:00 AM
January 31, 2024 @ 11:00 AM

Learn more about the curriculum and see a list of FAQs here.
Mayor Tishaura O. Jones Appoints Gilberto Pinela to Lead City’s First Office of New Americans

by Nick Dunne

Gilberto Pinela has been appointed the new Director of the Office of New Americans. This new office has been created to streamline resources to welcome immigrants and refugees making their way into the city. “Gilberto’s experience and deep roots in the community will strengthen our partnerships so we can welcome more families who want to make St. Louis their home.” Pinela’s first day in office was November 5, 2023. Read more here.

Healthcare Advocate Brenda Battle Keynotes

HG Phillips Lecture

by Ashley Winters

Brenda Battle returned to St. Louis to deliver the Homer G. Phillips Public Health Series keynote address and she offered a stirring message urging the region to reduce its healthcare disparities. The annual event carried the 2023 theme if “Anchoring Communities: A roadmap to Equity and Transformation in Marginalized Communities. Battle, who serves as Community Health Transformation Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at the University of Chicago, discussed best practices to transform underserved communities into health-thriving neighborhoods. Read more here.

Reducing Ableism in Medicine and Research

Recently, NIH designated people with disabilities as a population with health disparities. The designation formally recognizes the importance of research advances to better understand the disparate health outcomes experienced by people with disabilities and to develop strategies to reduce these disparities. Read more here.

NAACP St. Louis County Jazz Brunch

December 16, 2023 11:00 AM-2:00 PM at 191 West Port Plaza Drive St. Louis, MO 63146

Join the St. Louis County NAACP for their annual Soulful Jazz Brunch Extravaganza! Buy tickets here.
"According to the National Association of Minority Auto Dealers, fewer than 2 percent of Ford Dealerships have a Black owner; barely 5 percent are owned by any minority. A recent paper by three economists looked at discriminatory hiring within Fortune 500 companies. They found that five of the top 10 discriminatory firms were auto retailers. These days, of course, many firms and institutions are trying to undo and reverse the discrimination that’s been the standard operating procedure for most of history. Many institutions have adopted a DEI program. This can often include a diversity mandate, with set targets for minority hires. This suggests a fundamental question: If discrimination can be costly to firms, what sorts of benefits can be created by diversity?" Hear more here.

Recommended by James Reddy (he/him)
Professional Rater for the Department of Psychiatry