

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER: INNOVATION AND ANTI-RACISM
JANUARY 15, 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear All,

I hope that you had a restorative winter break and that you had the opportunity to get together with family and friends to celebrate. If you did not have the opportunity to take time off, I urge you to plan a vacation or break from work soon! This is a very important part of cultivating our well-being. I personally find it particularly helpful to plan time away when it is cold and snowy outside.

While we all know it is the deep of winter, (and indeed it is, and it is super cold!) the department is getting ready for our annual spring ritual: budget season! Although not everything about budget season is fun, it is always exciting to take stock of the many things that have happened over the academic year. Therefore, in the next few months, we will be asking you to tell us about your accomplishments so that they can be showcased in the departmental annual report to the Dean and CEO. The report provides a high-level review of the projects that the department is developing. This includes the creation, launching and expansion of new clinical programs, the initiation and conduct of new or ongoing research projects, the implementation and enhancement of novel or extant educational initiatives, and more. We will also discuss new faculty recruitments and new collaborations with other departments or schools in the report. Of course, this exercise also forms the basis for the “State of the Department” presentation that we typically provide in the early Fall. I look forward to hearing

about all your successes and then sharing them with the whole department in a few months' time!

As always, I want to thank you for all the work that you do. Each and every one of you makes an important contribution to the mission of the department. This is the case whether you are teaching the next generation of clinicians or researchers, taking outstanding care of our patients, working hard to discover the causes of or treatments for the illnesses that afflict such a large part of the population or working behind the scenes to make it all possible.

Never has it been more plain to the general public how important mental health is! That is why taking care of your own well-being is paramount. Make sure to take all your vacation days even if for a “stay-cation” and stick to your routines including exercise, sleeping and eating. These all help us build resilience, as does altruism, which many of you practice through your work and beyond.

Please take good care of yourself! You are important and we need you.

Warmly, m

President Biden Honors Nearly 400 Federally Funded Early-Career Scientists



Congratulations Melanie Pellecchia.

On January 15th, President Biden awarded nearly 400 scientists and engineers the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers early in their

careers.

Established by President Clinton in 1996, PECASE recognizes scientists and engineers who show exceptional potential for leadership early in their research careers. The award recognizes innovative and far-reaching developments in science and technology, expands awareness of careers in science and engineering, recognizes the scientific missions of participating agencies,

enhances connections between research and impacts on society, and highlights the importance of science and technology for our nation's future.

From Day One of his Administration, President Biden has recognized the important role that science and technology plays in creating a better society. He made historic progress, increasing federally funded research and development and deploying past research and development at an unprecedented scale through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act.

This year's awardees are employed or funded by 14 participating agencies within the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Interior, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency, the intelligence community, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Smithsonian Institution.

The newest PECASE recipients from the Department of Education includes Melanie Pellecchia, PhD. Dr. Pellecchia is an Assistant Professor in the Psychiatry Department. She received the PECASE award in recognition of her research funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, which is focused on developing strategies to improve the implementation of caregiver-mediated interventions for young children on the autism spectrum who receive publicly funded early intervention services.

Well done.



MEASUREMENT BASED CARE PROJECT

We are pleased to announce the launch of an important new initiative, Measurement Based Care, aimed at:

- Improved clinical outcomes
- More personalized, data-informed care
- Monitoring population health
- Supporting the academic mission of the department

Measurement-Based Care (MBC) is a systematic approach to healthcare in which objective data, typically from patient-reported outcomes, are used to inform clinical decisions and monitor progress.

A project team has been formed to deliver:

- A set of validated, evidenced based measurement tools tailored to common psychiatric conditions treated in ambulatory settings
- Customizable dashboards that aggregate and display MBC data
- Patient-facing materials explaining the role of MBC in their care

To ensure the project's success, we will kindly request collaboration and input from key stakeholders across the organization.

The Project Team leading this effort may reach out to you to request data or assistance. Your cooperation and timely support will be essential in helping achieve our goals. The team includes Drs. Olga Barg and Jeremy Tyler supported by our project management team, Ron Andujar and Rosalinda Lopez. Please contact anyone on the project team if you would like to learn more about the project.

Thank you in advance for your support. Together we will make this project a great success!

Warmly,
María & Patty

María Oquendo, MD, PhD and Patty Inacker, DSW, MBA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

Vision

Promoting health for the brain and mind to transform lives and the world.

Mission

Penn Psychiatry develops and implements new ideas to understand, prevent, and treat disorders of the brain and mind, through innovative research and discoveries, outstanding educational, world-renowned clinical services, and transformational public health policies.

Click [here](#) to access the Penn Psychiatry website.

Click [here](#) to access the CPUP Committee on Anti-Racism