

**MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER: INNOVATION AND ANTI-RACISM**  
AUGUST 16, 2023



**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Faculty, Staff and Trainees,

I hope you are enjoying the summer and either planning, enjoying or reminiscing about a vacation this summer! We have just welcomed a new class of outstanding psychiatry residents, a new class of amazing psychology interns, and fabulous new classes of post-doctoral fellows into our clinical and research fellowships. Welcome to Penn, trainees! The summer is always a fun time at PSOM because of the infusion of new trainees who bring new ideas and new energy to our community. Make sure to say hello when you see them around!

You may have heard that we are opening a new Crisis Response Center at HUP Cedar on 54th and Cedar Avenue. Most of the construction is done with only the punch list left to address and we are getting ready for the required inspections that will allow us to open, ideally this September. As some of you know, Mercy Philadelphia operated a CRC at that location but closed it a few years ago, before UPHS acquired the space. This is a sorely needed resource in West Philadelphia and I am grateful to the expansive team that has come together to make this happen so we can serve our community and our neighbors. I will talk about the CRC more during the town hall tomorrow.

As always, I want to urge you to please take care of yourself. Make sure to build your resilience by practicing altruism and gratitude. Few things make us stronger than knowing that we have done something to

help others, whether it is an individual, a community or an organization. We are lucky (I know I say this a lot!) because the whole point of PSOM in general and Penn Psychiatry in particular, is to improve health. And never has mental health care been more important and more in demand. So, our work to take care of patients, educate the next generation of clinicians and researchers, or conduct research to find causes and cures for psychiatric conditions, or better, to prevent them, is of absolutely paramount importance. Our work is all about altruism and that includes those of you working behind the scenes on the finances and operations that make it all possible. So, thank you for all your work. I also encourage you to find the things in your life that you are grateful for, whether they are large or small. I am thinking about the relatively cool August we have had as an example. And yes, take a vacation to recharge. It will do you a world of good!!

Warmly, m

---

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TAMI BENTON**

On July 30, 2023, our DCAPBS Chair, Executive Director and CHOP Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Dr. Tami D. Benton, was awarded the 2023 Service Award presented by the Council on Concerns of Women Physicians (CCWP) of the National Medical Association (NMA). Each year at the NMA Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly, the CCWP hosts the Annual Muriel Petioni, M.D. Awards Luncheon “to honor women physicians and organizations, who through research, community service and activism, strive to eliminate health care disparities and provide people of color with quality health care.” This year, CCWP celebrated its 40th year as a Council within the National Medical Association.

Congratulations, Dr. Benton on this incredible and well deserved honor!



---

## **APPOINTMENT OF PATTY INACKER AS VICE PRESIDENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, PHILADELPHIA REGION**

We are very pleased to announce that Patty Inacker, DSW, MBA, LCSW, will become our first Vice President of Behavioral Health Services for the Philadelphia region, effective July 26, 2023. In this new position, Patty will report to UPHS Chief Operating Officer Michele Volpe and Maria A. Oquendo, MD, PhD, Chair of Psychiatry.

Patty will provide administrative leadership for all behavioral health services provided at our downtown hospital campuses (HUP, HUP Cedar, PAH, and PPMC). She will work closely with the leadership team at each hospital to synthesize care across different sites. She will oversee the crisis response, inpatient, and outpatient services at each hospital campus. In close collaboration with Katharine Dalke, MD, MBE, Vice Chair for Clinical Operations in Psychiatry,

and Abigail Mulhern, MHA, BSN, RN, Director of Integrated Services in Psychiatry, she will work to expand services to best support the needs of our Philadelphia communities while keeping a sharp focus on quality, safety, and evidence-based services that produce robust clinical outcomes. In addition to Patty's expanded role, she will continue to have oversight over PAH's behavioral health programming, reporting to PAH's Chief Nursing Officer Melissa Zak.

Patty's three decades of clinical and managerial experience in mental health services make her an ideal match for this new role. She began her career with Penn Medicine in 1991, first as a case manager and then as director of intensive case management at Hall Mercer Community Mental Health Center, located on the Pennsylvania Hospital campus. Since 2000, she held a series of director-level positions with increasing responsibility, serving most recently as administrator of the PAH behavioral health service line where she spearheaded the reorganization of psychiatric services. Patty has made an impact on improving our interface with the City of Philadelphia, including collaborating on pilot projects with Community Behavioral Health and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities. She also played a key role on the interdisciplinary team managing the transition of the former Mercy Hospital into the HUP Cedar campus.

Patty earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Neumann College. She also holds a Master of Social Work from Rutgers University, a Master of Business Administration from Arcadia University, and a Doctorate in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the Council on Social Work Education. She also serves as a volunteer with the Philadelphia Medical Reserve Corps.

Please join us in congratulating Patty and supporting her in this important new role.

---

## **FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOR OF DAVID F. DINGES**

You're invited to view the virtual collection that celebrates the many milestone contributions to science and to the scientific community of David Dinges, MSc, MA, PhD. Dr. Dinges is internationally renowned for his extensive studies of the effects of sleep loss and work hours on the neurobehavioral and physiological regulation of human performance and health, with particular emphasis on demanding, stressful, safety-sensitive settings, such as health care, first responders, transportation, and space flight.

---

## **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