



Department of
Psychiatry

Département
de psychiatrie



Psychiatry Weekly ~ January 23, 2023

LATEST NEWS

A Blood Test to Diagnose Alzheimer's Disease

In a scientific article published on December 27, researchers claimed to have developed a blood test to diagnose Alzheimer's disease. Until now, this disease could only be confirmed using two costly techniques, one of which is quite invasive. **Dr. Serge Gauthier**, Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Unit at the McGill University Research Centre for Studies in Aging is delighted by this advance, which makes a reliable and accurate diagnosis possible. Learn more by reading an interview he gave to [Le Devoir](#) on December 30.

Investing in Youth with the Help of Bell Let's Talk

The 13th annual [Bell Let's Talk](#) campaign takes place on January 25. The theme this year is Let's change this. The campaign encourages you to help create positive change and bring an end to prejudices against mental health issues. Have you heard of the Bell Let's Talk Diversity Fund? It provides financial support to projects that have a real impact in the community, such as [Les Ballons intensifs](#), an organization reaching out to disadvantaged youth in three Montréal boroughs through sports activities. The program also provides essential information on mental health that helps participants to access resources and support their peers.

KUDOS

Dr. Natasha Rajah named as Co-Lead of CCNA's Team 9

Dr. Natasha Rajah named as co-lead of Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA)'s Team 9, Biomarkers of



Aging and Neurodegeneration. She takes over from Pierre Bellec (Montreal), and will be sharing the lead with Roger A. Dixon (Alberta). Congratulations Dr. Rajah! [Read more](#)

OUR EXPERTS IN THE MEDIA

Dr. Simon Ducharme, L'Actuel Radio-Canada

Mois de la sensibilisation à la maladie d'Alzheimer. [Écoutez ici](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Linda Booij, Professor

In this issue's Spotlight, we welcome **Dr. Linda Booij**, who joined the Department of Psychiatry as full Professor, as well as Clinician-Researcher and Head of Research and Academic Development of the Eating Disorders Continuum at the Douglas Institute in January 2023.

Dr. Booij obtained her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Leiden University, in the Netherlands before she embarked on her post-doctoral training at McGill's Department

mainly focusing on depression and eating disorders. She is currently the principal investigator on a CIHR-funded nationwide longitudinal study on the neural and developmental mechanisms of Anorexia Nervosa.

Dr. Booij is supported by an FRQS senior research scholar award. She is also an active member of the Eating Disorders Association of Canada, where she is a member of the Board of Directors, and also co-chairs the Educational Programming Committee of the international Academy for Eating Disorders.

At the Douglas' Eating Disorders Continuum, Dr. Booij leads a research program that focuses on the biopsychosocial pathways of eating disorders. The work includes studies on the neurobiology of eating disorders, biopsychosocial predictors and trajectories of treatment response, as well as the development and application of virtual interventions.

The Spotlight is an on-going departmental news capsule that introduces new

of Psychiatry, where she was trained in human genetics and PET imaging.

Prior to her current faculty appointment at McGill, she was a Professor at Concordia University and a researcher at the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center. There, she conducted studies on the impact of early adversity on epigenetic processes, brain development and risk for psychopathology,

departmental members, provides updates on departures and retirements, and highlights a member's initiatives and accomplishments.

Should you wish to nominate someone for the series, please email

news.psychiatry@mcgill.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25 (11:00 - 12:00)

CIC Imaging Series

Brain networks and cognition by Stephanie Forkel, Donders Principle Investigator and Assistant Professor, Radboud University. [Read more](#)

January 26 (12:00 - 13:30)

Webinar

Webinar: *Medicine During the Holocaust and Its Contemporary Relevance: Perspectives from Health Professions Students*. Featuring presentations by Hedy S. Wald, PhD, Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Sabine Hildebrandt, MD, Harvard Medical School, the presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with health profession learners from four countries. [Details and registration](#)

January 27 (11:00 - 12:30)

Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds

Sleep meds and snags: New avenues and safe use of hypnotics 2023 by Dr. Fiore Lalla. This conference will be live and in-person in the South Seminar Room of the AMI and will be available by [Zoom](#)

January 27 (13:00 - 14:00)

Early Adversity,

January 30 (11:00 - 12:00)

Neuroscience for Mental Health Lecture

Spontaneous activity, memory replay, and default mode network by Dr. Majid Mohajerani, Associate Professor, Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience, University of Lethbridge. [Read more](#)

February 2 (15:00 - 17:00)

Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry and the Global Mental Health Speaker Series

LGBTQIA+ rights movement in India: Examining the crisis of care, values and ethics in psy disciplines and state mental health systems by Sudarshan R Kottai, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad, Kerala. [Read more](#)

February 16 (15:00 - 17:00)

Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry and the Culture, Mind & Brain Speaker Series

From rich(er) to lean(er) systems: Towards a formal theory of cultural-cognitive variation

Neurodevelopment and Mental Health Special Seminar

Social Buffering of Stress During Development

by Dr. Megan R. Gunnar, Regents Professor and a member of the University of Minnesota's Distinguished Academy of Teachers. [Read more](#)

across history and geography by Ivan Kroupin, PhD, Post-doctoral scholar, Depts. Human Evolutionary Biology & Psychology, Harvard University. [Read more](#)

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