

Psychiatry Service Spotlight

UMass Psychotic Disorders Program

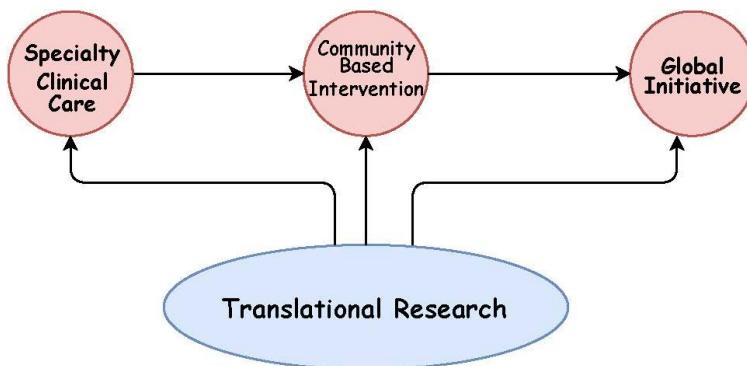


UMass Psychotic Disorders Clinical and Research Program

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The UMass Psychotic Disorders Clinical & Research Program includes four highly integrated major components: Specialty Clinical Care, Community-based Intervention, Global Initiatives, and Translational Research. Our program aims to better understand the mechanisms of illness, develop innovative interventions, provide the best quality of care, and ultimately improve the quality of life for those affected by psychotic disorders.

The Psychotic Disorders Program focuses on all three levels of healthcare: clinical, community, and global. Our research is the driving force for excellence on all three levels.



CLINICAL



As the Psychotic Disorders Program leader, Dr. Xiaoduo Fan provides clinical services for UMass Department of Psychiatry Outpatient Services, and for Community Healthlink at the Psychotic Disorders Specialty Clinic. In addition, Dr. Fan serves as the director of the Screening and Early Treatment of Psychosis (STEP) clinic. The STEP clinic aims to provide education, support and the highest quality medical care for patients experiencing early psychotic symptoms.

Xiaoduo Fan, MD, MPH



COMMUNITY

The Community Intervention Program (CIP) aims to improve the lives and wellbeing of individuals living with severe mental illness through meaningful community engagement. The CIP initiative hosts community events in three modules: Healthy Living, Arts & Music, and Early Detection and Intervention. The Healthy Living module presents an opportunity for individuals to establish healthy lifestyle changes via support-based discussions and activities focusing on healthy food choices and physical activity. Recently, CIP hosted a healthy baking demonstration in partnership with Tradewinds Clubhouse, Bean Counter Bakery, and UMass Memorial Nutrition Service! The Arts & Music module helps individuals express their creativity while offering a platform to cope with symptoms of severe mental illness and improve social interactions and daily function. In partnership with Lesley University, CIP ran a Dual Diagnosis Theatre drama therapy group for individuals with co-occurring severe mental illness and substance use. Participants were able to work with licensed drama therapists on a weekly basis to process their lived experiences and create a community performance showcasing perseverance and recovery. Lastly, the Early Detection and Intervention (EDI) module gives young individuals exhibiting early signs of psychosis the opportunity to collaborate with mental health care providers to improve access to treatment options. The EDI module is currently collaborating with the counseling center at WPI to host educational and screening events for early psychosis. CIP hopes to continue hosting these impactful community events on a monthly basis via our *Celebrating Beautiful Minds* public event series!



GLOBAL

As part of our global initiatives, the UMass China Mental Health Program works to build sustainable collaborations between mental health professionals in the U.S and China. This program includes: 1) mental health leadership training in which senior psychiatrist-researchers from select institutions in China are invited to UMass as visiting scholars, 2) collaborative research efforts, and 3) a global case conference series which includes live video conferences between UMass and academic mental health institutions in China. The goal of this conference series is to provide a platform for real-time, interactive, and critical discussion surrounding a psychiatric case presentation.

RESEARCH



Danielle LaPenta, Erin Beckham, and Mathew Chiang
Research Team

The Psychotic Disorders Research Program aims to elucidate the etiology of each facet of the triple jeopardy of psychosis: devastating mental illness, medical co-morbidity, and substance use. The goal of our research is to develop innovative intervention strategies combining pharmacological and psychosocial approaches to treat these conditions. The program is currently leading a multi-site, investigator-initiated trial for a recently FDA-approved antipsychotic medication, brexpiprazole. The purpose of this study is to see whether brexpiprazole may help reduce substance use in individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. Previous studies have explored areas such as refractory symptoms and comorbid obesity and metabolic problems. In the next few months, the Psychotic Disorders Program will begin recruitment for an effectiveness trial, which is supported by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), comparing social skills training and cognitive enhancement training in individuals with schizophrenia.

RECOVERY

Through these four integrated components, the Psychotic Disorders Program works towards one goal: recovery. Our hope is that through our clinical care, community engagement, global initiatives, and translational research, we can help individuals affected by severe mental illness improve their quality of life, and work towards a sustainable recovery.

The work we do would not be possible without our faculty and trainees (residents, medical students and interns), community partners and collaborators. If you are interested in working with our program, please feel free to contact MIND@umassmed.edu. To find out more about our program, please visit:

<https://www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry/psychotic-disorders-research-program/>

<https://www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry/globalinitiatives/chinamentalhealthprogram/welcome/>