



Erika F.H. Saunders, MD

**Gerald B. Shively and Robert Y. Tan Professor of Biological Psychiatry
Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health
Chair, Board of Directors, Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute
Co-Director, Addiction Center for Translation
Director, Mood Disorder Program
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Dr. Erika Saunders earned her medical degree from the University of Iowa, completed a Howard Hughes Research Fellowship at Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and completed residency training in psychiatry at the University of Michigan. She subsequently was awarded the Heinz C. Prechter Research Fellowship in Bipolar Disorder.

Dr. Saunders joined Penn State University in 2008 and has led the department since 2015. She serves as the co-director of the Penn State College of Medicine Addiction Center for Translation and has led the Mood Disorders Program. During her tenure, the department has grown in size and scope, doubling the number of faculty and adding services including a hub-and-spoke model addiction treatment program, integrated psychiatric and behavioral health care in primary care, telepsychiatry, state-supported consultation programs for rural and underserved areas in child and perinatal psychiatry, a funded community psychiatry residency track, and a behavioral health de-escalation response team for the academic hospital. On the national stage, Penn State joined several national networks including the National Network of Depression Centers (NNDC), the Bipolar Action Network and the National Network of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Access Programs.

Dr. Saunders has been elected to serve on the board of several national organizations, including the American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry (Past President), the International Society for Bipolar Disorders (Vice President for Governance) and the American Society for Clinical Psychopharmacology. Dr. Saunders has been a fellow of The Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (ELAM) and the American Association of Medical Colleges Council of Deans.

Dr. Saunders is an expert on improving the delivery of care for psychiatric and behavioral illnesses and studying outcome of mood disorders based on neural, biological and social mechanisms. Dr. Saunders' work has been recognized nationally, and she has presented at meetings including the International Society for Bipolar Disorders, the Society for Biological Psychiatry, American Society for Clinical Psychopharmacology and the American Psychiatric Association.