December

Sandy Hook Anti-Gun Violence Video Goes Viral; Dr. Schwartz To Appear On ‘CBS Evening News’

A powerful new public service announcement by Sandy Hook Promise, a nonprofit formed by families of victims of the 2012 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, hopes to demonstrate that mass shootings are preventable if only people can recognize subtle warning signs. [https://hartfordhealthcare.org/about-hartford-healthcare/news-press/sandy-hook-anti-gun-violence-video-goes-viral-dr-schwartz-to-appear-on-cbs-evening-news]

IOL researcher receives award for pioneering work

David Glahn, Ph.D, director of Affective Disorders and Psychosis Laboratory in the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center at The Institute of Living, has received the prestigious Joel Elkes Research Award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) for his contributions to understanding the roles of genomics and biomarkers in the neurobiology of those with mental illness. The award is given annually to scientists under the age of 50 who have made outstanding clinical contributions to neuropsychopharmacology. Dr. Glahn received a monetary award and a plaque at the ACNP Annual Meeting in Hollywood, FL, December 4th-8th.

The IOL’s IDEA team is a finalist for Team of the Year

The IDEA team at The Institute of Living, which works to devise and implement innovative and humanistic ways to de-escalate extreme behaviors in psychiatric settings, was one of the finalists to be considered for Hartford Hospital’s 2016 Team of the Year Award. The annual award is presented to teams within the hospital that best demonstrate the organization’s core values of Integrity, Caring, Excellence and Safety. The IDEA team, which stands for Innovative Deescalation Emergency Assistance, has made tremendous strides in reducing the rate of seclusion and restraint among psychiatric patients over the past year, a major challenge throughout the field. The IDEA team was developed to enhance de-escalation initiatives, and was based on the belief that the earliest intervention focused on the best possible communication with the patient would provide the greatest chance for peaceful problem resolution and an effective means to improve and ensure patient and staff safety while supporting the patient’s own coping skills.
Free CBT course available for IOL staff

The Anxiety Disorders Center/Center for CBT is pleased to offer the Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Basic Proficiency Course. This course, instructed by David Tolin, Ph.D., is free to IOL clinical staff and trainees. The course will be held every Tuesday from 3-4 pm from November 29, 2016 - March 28, 2017 (16 sessions total). To register, contact Beth Pizzuto via beth.pizzuto@hhchealth.org or at extension 5-7578.

Dr. Sharfstein receives the 2016 Burlingame Award

The Institute of Living’s annual C. Charles Burlingame, MD, Award, one of the most prestigious annual psychiatric health awards in the nation, was awarded to Steven S. Sharfstein, MD, who earlier this year retired as president and CEO of the Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore after more than three decades as a leader and innovator in establishing modern and comprehensive centers for psychiatric care. As a leading voice and advocate for humane and effective psychiatric care, Dr. Sharfstein was selected as the 29th recipient of the Burlingame Award, with a dinner held in his honor on November 2nd at the Hartford Golf Club in West Hartford. The following morning, Dr. Sharfstein delivered a special lecture entitled “Mental Health System Change and Survival: A Case Study” at the IOL’s Grand Rounds.

IOL introduces new forensics service

The Institute of Living is launching a forensic psychiatry program that will offer psychiatric expertise in a variety of civil, criminal, and legislative areas. The new Forensic Consultation Service provides specialized services such as risk assessment, competency to stand trial evaluations, disability assessments, fitness for duty evaluations (including worker’s compensation evaluations), criminal state of mind evaluations, evaluations of sex offenders, determination of testamentary capacities, immigration and asylum evaluations, and independent evaluations of Habeas Corpus petitions. IOL psychiatrist John Bonetti, DO will serve as associate director of this new service.
October

Recent poster presentations by IOL staff

On October 21st, the following poster was presented at the APNA annual conference: “Reduction of Seclusion and Restraint in an Inpatient Psychiatric Setting: A Pilot Study”, Ellen W. Blair, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, Stephen B. Woolley, DSc, MPH, Bonnie L. Szarek, RN, Theodore F. Mucha, MD, Olga Dutka, MSN, MBA, Harold I. Schwartz, MD, Jeff Wisniowski, MPH, John W. Goethe, MD. And on October 14th, Jamie Santaniello MSN, RN-BC, Cathy Chance, RN, Kathryn DePucchio, RN, Cynthia Belonick, APRN, and K. Burns RN, PhD presented their poster at the CT Alliance for Nursing Research Conference. Their poster titled, "Using the Zero Suicide Safety Plan on an Inpatient Psychiatric Unit: A Quality Improvement Initiative" can be viewed here https://instituteofliving.org/File%20Library/Unassigned/SafetyPlanPosterOct142016.pdf.

September

Famous Hartford Hospital surgical case featured on WNPR radio show

Leaders at The Institute of Living recently took part in a discussion on WNPR's “The Colin McEnroe Show” focusing on a new book about a famous surgical case that took place at Hartford Hospital in the 1950s. The book, called “Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness and Family Secrets,” explores the profound impact of a case in which noted surgeon William Beecher Scoville removed sections of a patient's medial temporal lobes bilaterally. The book’s author, Luke Dittrich, took part in the discussion along with Harold I. Schwartz, MD, Psychiatrist-in-Chief at the IOL, and David Glahn, a neuroscientist at the Olin Center at the IOL. Dr. Schwartz said cases such as this helped lead to much stricter regulations and guidelines regarding the provision of informed consent for medical treatment and surgical procedures especially regarding discussion of risks and benefits necessary in the consent process.

IOL researcher, Dr. Winokur recently published in the American Journal of Psychiatry

Institute of Living psychiatrist Andrew Winokur, MD, Ph.D., co-authored an article on ketamine clinical trials for treatment-resistant depression that was featured in a recent issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry. The study, which gathered positive results, represents a novel mechanistic approach to depression treatment that has not been utilized since the advent of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) in the late 1980s.

HHC Expert Weighs in on QU’s Snapchat Incident

The Snapchat photo gone bad at Quinnipiac University in Hamden shows the power, and risks, of social media, says Institute of Living child psychologist Laura Saunders. (https://hartfordhealthcare.org/about-hartford-healthcare/news-press/hhc-expert-weighs-in-on-qu-s-snapchat-incident)
Honoring World Suicide Prevention Day

On Friday, September 9, 2016 at 10:30 AM, Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living and the Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network invite the public at large to a flag lowering ceremony in front of the main hospital at 60 Seymour Street, Hartford. (https://hartfordhealthcare.org/about-hartford-healthcare/news-press/world-suicide-prevention-day)

Hartford HealthCare Recognizes Suicide Prevention Week with Several Events

Nearly 30,000 Americans commit suicide every year. In observance of Suicide Prevention Week September 5 through September 9 The Institute of Living has planned events for clinicians and the public. (http://hhcbehavioralhealth.org/about-us/news-press/hartford-healthcare-recognizes-suicide-prevention-week-with-several-events)

August

Anxiety Disorders Center Director, Dr. Tolin, publishes new CBT textbook

Dr. David Tolin's new book, "Doing CBT: a comprehensive guide to working with behaviors, thoughts, and emotions" was published by Guilford Press in August. Also in August, Dr. Tolin was appointed by state Senator Bob Duff to the Connecticut task force to study hoarding. And according to Researchgate in June, Dr. David Tolin was the most cited researcher at Hartford Hospital.

When Kids Say No To School: What Parents Can Do

As summer draws to a close, the new school year can stir up mixed emotions for parents and children alike. But for some, the transition can be especially difficult. (https://hartfordhealthcare.org/about-hartford-healthcare/news-press/when-kids-say-no-to-school-what-parents-can-do)

From Summer to School

Everyone needs time to adjust to summer’s end and the start of school - teacher, parents and especially kids. (https://hartfordhealthcare.org/about-hartford-healthcare/connect-to-healthier/health-essentials/from-summer-to-school)

Even Olympic Athletes Struggle with Depression

It was January of 2015 when Allison Schmitt hit rock bottom – not that you could guess by looking at her. At just 24-years-old, Schmitt was already a two-time Olympian with six medals under her belt including a gold medal performance in the 200-meter freestyle.
But Schmitt had fallen into a depression following the 2012 Summer Games. After the interviews and celebrations had ended, Schmitt returned to the University of Georgia to continue her collegiate swimming career. Over time, she became increasingly withdrawn, missing classes and practices, and her swimming performances began to fall off. At her lowest point, as she drove to watch her sister play hockey, Schmitt thought of driving off the road and ending her life. (http://hhcbehavioralhealth.org/about-us/news-press/even-olympic-athletes-struggle-with-depression)

The IOL/HH Psychology Recognition Day to be held on August 16th

The Psychology Department at The Institute of Living and Hartford Hospital will hold their Fourth Annual Psychology Recognition Program on August 16th. The IOL, Hartford Hospital, and CCMC employ over thirty five doctoral level Psychologists, as well as support essential internship and postdoctoral training programs throughout our healthcare system. As a requirement for graduation from the Postdoctoral Fellowship programs, the Fellows plan and conduct a research and/or scholarly project related to their training programs. This year, the presentation of the Fellows’ research projects will be held on Tuesday August 16th from 12-3 PM in the Commons building on the IOL campus.

Please visit https://instituteofliving.org/File%20Library/Unassigned/PsychologyDayPresentations2016.pdf to view the schedule of presentations. All IOL/HH staff, especially those staff members working with the Trainees, are encouraged to attend the Recognition Program.

Unlike many health professions, the field of Clinical Psychology has never established a day, during which the work of Psychologists is recognized on a national level. Psychology has had a long history here at the IOL, dating back to the early 1950’s when Karl Pribram and Mortimer Mishkin (a recent winner of the National Medal of Science) established their Psychophysiology Laboratory here in the Research Building where they conducted some of the earliest research on brain circuitry. During that same time period, our Clinical Psychology Internship Program was established and accredited in 1956, making it the second accredited program in the state of Connecticut and one of the earliest in the country. The IOL continues to provide strong support for Psychology’s involvement in both basic and applied research, training in and provision of the psychotherapies, and in the development and utilization of state-of-the-art Psychological and Neuropsychological Assessment protocols across all of the services in the hospital. Currently there are seven interns and nine Fellows working in multiple programs and units within the IOL/Hartford Hospital/CCMC network.

July

How To Handle Smart Media Overindulgence On Family Vacations

So, kids, how did you spend your summer vacation?
Did you take a few keepsake pictures with your smartphone while you were away with your parents, or did you go away determined to pump photos all day onto Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter?

“Vacation time isn’t always about taking a picture instead of creating a memory,” says Dr. Laura Saunders, a clinical psychologist working in Young Adult Services at the Institute of Living, during an appearance on WFSB’s “Better Connecticut.” “Memories are what we carry with us forever.”

Sometimes, though, it seems as if it’s the smartphone we carry with us forever. The typical teen spends nine hours a day consuming media, according to a report last year by Common Sense. That’s more time than teens devote to sleep, school or their parents.

Kids often feel they have to maintain social media postings to keep up with their friends, says Saunders.

“It creates conflict in the area of peers,” she says. “So for kids, they’re always worried. Are they keeping up with their peers? I tell my kids and others, ‘Do not judge your self-worth by likes and friends and comments.’ That’s not how you judge your self-worth. Look at the substance and monitor what your kids are doing. That’s absolutely critical.”

Saunders says she limits smartphone time in her household the way parents used to restrict overexposure to television programming.

“In our house,” she says, “we have a phone table where all phones go on the table. With the parents as role models, showing their kids, ‘This is what we do – my phone’s going there, too. Parents are powerful role models.’”

Parents could probably use the downtime, too. A Nielsen study released in June revealed that adults spent more time than ever consuming media – 10 hours, 39 minutes each day – in the first quarter of 2016 because of a spike in smartphone and tablet use. (The study included hours spent watching television.)

“We need to take a little time to just put it down, put it away,” says Saunders. “Because otherwise we’re modeling for our children, ‘You’re not important because my device is more important than you are.'”

So the family that vacations together should also give their smart devices a timeout together, at least during designated periods each day.

“Time and attention are the greatest gifts you give your children,” says Saunders. “If you spend all your time with media – phones and other devices – in front of us, we’re not interacting. It’s really the interaction that’s the benefit of time and attention.”
Jennifer Zajac, DO joins the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry faculty at the IOL

Dr. Jennifer Zajac was recently announced as the latest addition to the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division faculty. Dr. Zajac is a graduate of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine where she received her Doctor of Osteopathy degree. She did her Psychiatric training at Millcreek Community Hospital and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA and her Child and Adolescent Psychiatric training here at the IOL. For the past year Dr. Zajac has been employed at the Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT along with having her own outpatient private practice. And, for the past three years, Dr. Zajac has continued her involvement with the CT Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. She retains a variety of interests in the mental health field, but especially in the areas of early infant attachment and parent-infant psychotherapy. Dr. Zajac's roles at the IOL will include work in the Eating Disorders program, the Young Adult program, and the CCMC emergency department. She will also collaborate with Dr. Mary Gratton in developing an infant-parent psychotherapy program and in early intervention work.

The IOL's Dr. Schwartz and Jeanne Kessler honored as Healthcare Heroes

Harold I. Schwartz, MD and Jeanne Kessler, RN have been named Healthcare Heroes by the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA). They were selected from hundreds of nominees from hospitals throughout the state. Dr. Schwartz, Psychiatrist-In-Chief at The Institute of Living and Vice President of the Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network, was recognized for his state and national leadership in crafting public policy and launching a national dialogue on mental health following the Sandy Hook tragedy. Kessler, a nurse manager at the IOL, was recognized for a variety of work, including her studies and treatment of dementia patients and her extensive work with and education of volunteers, including establishing a patient safety/fall prevention program (resulting in an 80 percent decrease in falls), a geriatric visitation program for those with dementia, and the Meal Mates program.

The IOL's Dr. Robert Sahl honored as a Distinguished Fellow

Dr. Sahl, Assistant Medical Director of Child & Adolescent Services here at the IOL, recently received the honor of being named a Distinguished Fellow of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Please download https://instituteofliving.org/File%20Library/Unassigned/RobertSahlPublications2016.pdf to view a list of Dr. Sahl's recent publications, book reviews, and presentations.

June

The IOL recognizes employees with annual awards

The Institute of Living held its annual Employee Awards and Recognition Day on June 14, 2016. Please download https://instituteofliving.org/File%20Library/Unassigned/IOLEmployeeAwards2016.pdf to see the complete list of awards and this year's recipients.
The IOL’s Dr. Teitelbaum named CT Psychiatric Society president

Dr. Caren Teitelbaum, an attending psychiatrist at The Institute of Living, has been named president of the Connecticut Psychiatric Society, a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association. The association’s goals include fostering the science and progress of psychiatry and promoting high-quality care and professional standards, as well as advocating for patients and those who treat them. Teitelbaum said, “I view the presidency as providing me with an opportunity to further the mission of the organization and to help shape public policy.” Teitelbaum also said that two areas of particular interest to her are advocating for patients with psychiatric illnesses who are homeless and advocating for the enforcement of mental health parity legislation. Dr. Teitelbaum, who has been at the IOL since 2009, graduated from the School of Medicine at Stony Brook University Medical Center and completed her residency and a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine.

Anxiety Disorders Center Director, Dr. Tolin, to publish new CBT textbook

Dr. David Tolin’s textbook, Doing CBT: A comprehensive guide to working with behaviors, thoughts, and emotions, is scheduled to be published by Guilford Press in August 2016. The book is available for pre-purchase go to https://www.amazon.com/Doing-CBT-Comprehensive-Behaviors-Thoughts/dp/1462527078?ie=UTF8&*Version*=1&*entries*=0. In addition, Dr. Tolin recently gave the following invited lectures:

May

The IOL’s Joe Pedemonti awarded as Employee of the Year

Joe Pedemonti has been named the 2016 Hartford Hospital Employee of the Year. Pedemonti is an educational coordinator at The Webb Schools, the therapeutic day school at The Institute of Living. Pedemonti has been at The Webb Schools for 21 years in a number of roles, including assistant teacher, student support coordinator, and special education teacher. Currently, Pedemonti also coordinates summer programming that provides extended school year education and recreation experiences for students.

Anxiety Disorders Center receives funding for virtual reality system

Through the generosity of the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary, the Anxiety Disorders Center at the IOL has been awarded funding for a new virtual reality system. The program will allow the Anxiety Disorders Center to continue to treat patients with phobias using virtual reality and will enhance treatment options with programs for relaxation, mindfulness, and biofeedback.

Webb School Director, Anne B. Sheffield, receives prestigious arts education award

Anne B. Sheffield, director of the Grace Webb School at The Institute of Living, has been given the Connecticut Special Needs Art Educator Award for 2016 by the Connecticut Art Education Association for her work in getting students involved in the art community and showcasing their work at prominent exhibits. Sheffield, who will receive her award at a ceremony on May 1st, was recognized for the numerous field trips and exhibits in which she has involved students at the Grace Webb School, which provides educational services to students with mental health issues from kindergarten to 12th grade. In recent years, Sheffield has led field trips to museums across the state including the Wadsworth Atheneum, Mattatuck Museum, Florence Griswold Museum, and the New Britain Museum of Art. She also showcases student artworks in the Hartford HealthCare annual calendar as well as exhibits such as Youth Art Celebration, Art Slam at the Legislative Office Building and NAMI. Sheffield is also involved with the Arts for Learning program through the Kennedy Center Arts Integration Conference and has trained at the Guggenheim Museum Creativity Symposium.
April

Dr. Jensi George named Child/Adolescent Psychiatry Chief Fellow

Jensi George, MD has been selected as the Child/Adolescent Psychiatry Chief Fellow for the 2016-2017 academic year. Dr. George is currently completing her first year of Child/Adolescent fellowship at the IOL. Dr. George obtained her medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine in St. Maarten and did her Adult Psychiatry training at Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan before coming to Hartford. Her interests include individual psychotherapies and residency education.

IOL announces the winners of the 2016 BrainDance Awards

Twelve Connecticut high school students were named winners of The Institute of Living’s 13th Annual BrainDance Awards at a ceremony held at the IOL on April 21st. The awards are a state-wide high school academic, artistic, and mixed-media competition that encourages students to learn about psychiatric diseases and develop a more tolerant perspective toward people with psychiatric problems. The competition is also held to encourage student interest in careers in mental health. The winning students were:

- Patricia Brosseau, RHAM High School, Hebron: 1st place, Art
- Stanislav Yarmoussik, Fairfield College Preparatory School: 2nd place, Art
- Riley Trowbridge, Bristol Eastern High School: 3rd place (tie), Art
- Joseph Hopkins, Fairfield College Preparatory School: 3rd place (tie), Art
- Emma Grimaldi, Coventry High School: 1st place, Academic
- Alexandra Smith, Norwich Tech High School: 2nd place, Academic
- Cheyenne Johnson, Norwich Tech High School: 3rd place (tie), Academic
- Shelline Jeanty, Norwich Tech High School: 3rd place (tie), Academic
- Emily Denote & Hannah Grabowski Bristol Eastern High School: 1st place, Mixed Media
- Catie Allison, New Fairfield High School: 2nd place, Mixed Media
- Morgan Martin, Bristol Eastern High School: 3rd place, Mixed Media

Grace Webb students to participate in art field trips

Selected students from the Grace Webb School at The Institute of Living will go on field trips to the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury this spring, featuring an art show tour and related activities funded by a Kennedy Center access grant. Students at the Webb School at Cheshire will experience the Vasarely (“father of Op Art”) exhibit in April. Students at Grace Webb in Hartford will see a show titled, “Marking Her Mark” by diverse women artists in May. This is the second year that teacher Anne Sheffield’s art classes have been invited to visit the museum at no charge. Sheffield has also selected artworks by her students for display at the Youth Art Celebration in Farmington. The Grace Webb School offers programming for kindergarten through 12th grade. Besides the locations in Hartford and Cheshire, a new branch called Webb in the Valley recently opened in Avon.
March

Dr. Schwartz recently featured in the Hartford Courant

On March 24th, Harold I. Schwartz, MD was featured in the Hartford Courant’s “Hometown Heroes” section. Download [https://instituteofliving.org/File%20Library/Unassigned/SchwartzCourant032416.pdf](https://instituteofliving.org/File%20Library/Unassigned/SchwartzCourant032416.pdf) to read the article, entitled “On Psychiatric Front Lines at Institute Of Living”.

Recent Presentations, Publications and Recognition

- The IOL’s Robert Sahl, MD, Assistant Medical Director Child & Adolescent Services and Lisa B. Namerow, MD, Director of Consultation Psychiatry Service at CCMC were recently named to Connecticut Magazine’s "CT Top Docs" list for 2016.
- Lisa B. Namerow, MD, Director of Consultation Psychiatry Service at CCMC and Christine Skurkis, MD, Associate Training Director and hospitalist at CT Childrens recently presented grand rounds on a 15-year collaborative care experience with an eating disorders clinical pathway referencing the medical and psychiatric guidelines for admission and stabilization. QI/QA data from the last 5 years on admissions, readmission rates, length of stay and average age was reviewed as well.
- The following manuscript was recently accepted and published in Psychiatric Quarterly: Reduction of Seclusion and Restraint in an Inpatient Psychiatric Setting: A Pilot Study. Authors: Ellen W. Blair, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, Stephen B. Woolley, DSc, MPH, Bonnie L. Szarek, RN, Theodore F. Mucha, MD, Olga Dutka, MSN, MBA, Harold I. Schwartz, MD, Jeff Wisniowski, MPH, John W. Goethe, MD

February

Dr. Schwartz presents at prestigious Maryland institution

Institute of Living Psychiatrist-in-Chief and Hartford Health-Care Vice President Harold I. Schwartz, MD, spoke before a packed auditorium at the prestigious Sheppard Pratt Health System in Maryland earlier this month on the psychology of Adam Lanza, who carried out the 2012 mass shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School.
Dr. Schwartz’s presentation, called “The Sandy Hook Murders: Adam Lanza and the Mind of a Mass Shooter,” was delivered at Grand Rounds at Sheppard Pratt, which is located in Towson, Md., and is known as one of five “Ivy League” psychiatric institutions in the country which was established in the 19th Century. The IOL is also considered among those five institutions. Dr. Schwartz spoke about the mental health and psychiatric factors that contributed to Lanza’s horrific actions, which led to the deaths of 26 people including 20 school children and Lanza’s mother.

Dr. Schwartz is expected to deliver similar presentations to the Capital Region Education Council (CREC) and the Connecticut Association of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in the near future.

January

Dr. Schwartz Leads Discussion on Art and Trauma

Harold I. Schwartz, MD, Psychiatrist-in-Chief at The Institute of Living and Hartford HealthCare Regional Vice President, took part in a discussion about the impact of war trauma in a special production at the Hartford Stage featuring award-winning photojournalist Paul Watson and playwright Dan O’Brien. The discussion was held on Monday, January 11th and was open to the public. Dr. Schwartz served as moderator in the discussion, while also offering insight on the psychological consequences for those who experience trauma, particularly in a war setting.

APA Presentations

IOL researchers will make two presentations at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. This year’s meeting will take place at the Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia, from May 14-18, 2016. The titles of the presentations are listed below:

- Physical and Cyber Bullied Adolescents: Associations with Suicide Feelings and Behaviors in Private School Students - Stephen B. Woolley, John W. Goethe, Julia Golden, Bonnie L. Szarek, Peter H. Wells, Rosemary C. Baggish
- Predictors of Length of Stay and Readmission in Inpatients with Mood Disorders - John W. Goethe, Bonnie L. Szarek