April 2023

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Chair's Message

I hope you are enjoying the sights and sounds of Spring, as warmer weather is upon us in Connecticut, and our flowers and trees are blooming again at last. I also hope those of you who celebrate recent holidays including Easter, Passover, and Ramadan have enjoyed time together with family and friends – something we all missed and craved two and three years ago.

With just two months left in our academic year, the center is quite busy with activities, events, and more, some of which are highlighted below. Also around the corner is Administrative Professional's Day, on Wednesday, April 26 – and while I'm grateful to the many wonderful administrative professionals in our department year-round, it is a lovely time to shine a light on their important work.
I’m also delighted to welcome Una Casey to this group, as she just joined the center as senior administrative assistant in the chair’s office, following Rosemary Serra’s retirement in January. You can learn a bit about Una below, along with several other new members of our community who joined us from the former Haskins Laboratories – indeed, it has been a busy month!

Linda Mayes, MD
Arnold Gesell Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology;
Chair, Yale Child Study Center

Departmental News & Updates

New Staff Spotlight Series & IBO Insight

In the third of a new series launched in February to feature integrated business operations (IBO) and administration staff at the YCSC and Department of Psychiatry, meet Stephen Healy and Lisa Grivalsky. Read more.

Welcoming new community members

A warm welcome goes out to several new community members who have joined the YCSC recently including Una Casey in the Office of the Chair, Julian Hinz in the Chawarska Lab, and several former Haskins Laboratories faculty and trainees.
Announcing 2023 trainee pilot research awardees

Made possible by a generous gift from the Obstler Family Fund, the second YCSC Trainee Pilot Research Awards were announced on March 29, 2022. Learn more.

Marking Women’s History Month 2023:
Stories of being a woman academia

On April 5, 2023, 50 YCSC community members came together by Zoom to extend and honor Women's History Month with a special community meeting to lift the voices of five faculty members who volunteered to share their experiences as women in academia. Learn more.

Kudos and Honors

Chawarska selected as 2023 INSAR Fellow

Aslin receives prestigious Dickson Prize in Science
News You Can Use

On Service Leadership: Q&A with Linda Mayes

Launched in September 2022, the YCSC blog *On Leadership* is led by Daryn H. David, PhD and this month’s column features the second in a two-part Q&A series on Service Leadership with YCSC Chair Linda Mayes, MD.

WTNH-8 Health Headlines: Interview with James McPartland

April is Autism Awareness Month, and a new CDC report shows a rise in the number of children diagnosed with autism. WTNH channel 8 interviewed YCSC Professor James McPartland about the report and important autism research.
Adoption study highlights impact of young children's genetic makeup on their parents

New partnership announced to expand access to trauma-focused therapy across U.S.

Commentary: The Black Youth Mental Health Epidemic: A Crisis in Its Own Right

Study Probes Connection Between Excessive Screen Media Activity and Mental Health Problems in Youth

Upcoming Events

YCSC Grand Rounds

Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 p.m.

April 25, 2023

Viola Bernard Special Lecture

*Imperative Resilience: What Latina Migrant Mothers Can Teach Clinicians about Trauma and Recovery*

Jessica Cerdena, PhD

MD Candidate and Medical Anthropologist at Yale

May 2, 2023

Max Ritvo ‘13 and Alan B. Slifka ’51 Program for the Medical Humanities Special Lecture

*Transformation Through Art: A Personal and Professional Perspective*
Eva Ritvo, MD
View session flyer for additional information

May 9, 2023 (VIRTUAL)
Just Breathe
Priya Narayanan, MD
Psychiatrist, Sky Recovery Program

May 16, 2023
Translating developmental social neuroscience advances into solutions for the early diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder
Ami Klin, PhD
Director, Marcus Autism Center
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University School of Medicine

PBS Documentary: Terror and Hope - The Science of Resilience
April 19, 2023 7 p.m. & April 20, 2023 12 & 8 a.m.
This documentary follows scientists and humanitarians as they join forces to combine cutting-edge research with informed care to heal Syrian refugee children traumatized by the devastating stress of war. Learn more and tune in live on PBS World Channel on April 19 at 7 p.m. EST or on April 20 at 12 a.m. or 8 a.m.

Webinar: Putting Mental Health Back in Infant Mental Health
April 25, 2023 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Led by YCSC faculty members Arietta Slade and Heather Bonitz Moore, this session is part of a series offered by the Minding the Baby™ (MTB) National Office. On-line registration is available for one session at a time at $60 per person per training, or at $600 to access all 12 sessions in the series. Discounted rates are available for students. Learn more, and send an e-mail to mindingthebaby@yale.edu for additional information.

Hybrid Mini Symposium: Somatic mosaicism and neurodevelopmental disorders
May 3, 2023 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
This event is co-organized by the Vaccarino lab, the Bordey lab, and the Paris Brain Institute or Institut du Cerveau – ICM (Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle épinière). View the event flyer for additional information and to register.
Touching Lives Affected by Autism: Literacy, Learning, and Representation

May 8, 2023 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

The Collaborative for Child and Family Resilience is hosting this discussion with a groundbreaking clinical researcher and one of the nation's foremost autism awareness advocates — both of whom are dedicated to improving the lives of those living with ASD. Moderated by award-winning children's book author Andrea Davis Pinkney, this in-person event will include a Q&A with the panelists. View the event flyer for additional information.

Webinar: Grief in families with children experiencing complex medical needs

May 11, 2023 12-1 p.m.

When a child has complex medical needs or a life-limiting condition, families often experience grief. Join Dr. Amanda Chiapa for a webinar in which she will offer a grief framework that should help healthcare professionals understand and meet the emotional needs of families who have children experiencing medical complexities or life-limiting conditions. Learn more and register.

Postponed: Yale Autism Center of Excellence Summer Institute

April 2024 - date and details TBA

This event has been cancelled for July 2024 and will be rescheduled in April 2024 as a one-day forum for pediatricians and providers. Additional details will be announced soon, and posted to the YCSC website.

In the Media

APA Monitor: Preventing intimate partner violence by focusing on abusers

BioSpace: SciSparc Receives Final Approval to Commence its Phase Ib Clinical Trial for

MQ Mental Health Research:
Job Opportunities

A variety of opportunities for talented individuals seeking to improve the lives of children and families through research, service, and training are currently open at the YCSC, including four pediatric psychology positions. Several excellent benefits and rewards packages are offered for faculty and staff.
Giving to the YCSC

The groundbreaking work of the YCSC would not be possible without the gifts and grants that support our research, clinical care, and educational missions. YCSC donors are essential in helping us to serve children and families in need of care. For more information about planned giving, or how to make a gift, please contact Zsuzsanna Somogyi at 203-436-8559 or at zsuzsanna.somogyi@yale.edu. Thank you!

Donate On-line