Institutional Faculty Development Program XXII

The Institutional Faculty Development Program XXII (IFDP) commenced in October 2023 and will end in May 2024. The IFDP XXII curriculum consists of four domains: Teaching Block, Research Block, Clinical Skills/Simulation Block, and Leadership Development Block. The Leadership Development Block is ongoing with asynchronous and synchronous sessions. All eLearning activities are open to the general faculty via self-enrollment, and many of them will provide CME and NCPD.

To register for any upcoming teleconference events, please visit our calendar; click here or for online offerings.

Visit the Office of Faculty Development Event Calendar to view the sessions:
https://elpaso.ttuhsc.edu/som/facdevelopment/fdEventsCalendar.aspx

Spring 2024 | elpaso.ttuhsc.edu/som/facdevelopment/default.aspx
PROFESSIONAL CORNER

Faculty Development Course Graduates Collaborate on Study of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Submitted by Silvina Tonarelli, M.D.

The Department of Psychiatry at TTUHSC El Paso is participating in The Latin American Trans-ancestry Initiative for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder genomics (LATINO, latinostudy.org). This research study is funded by the National Institutes of Health. It seeks to identify factors contributing to the development of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) in individuals who identify as Latino/Hispanic. This study is being conducted by a network of researchers throughout the United States, Canada, and Latin American countries (14 countries) who have begun to collect DNA and clinical data from 5000 richly phenotyped OCD cases of Latin American ancestry in a culturally sensitive and ethical manner.

OCD is a common mental health condition that affects 2-3% of the US population and usually has an onset in childhood, adolescence, or early adulthood. OCD is characterized by persistent intrusive thoughts, images, or urges (obsessions) that lead to unwanted repetitive behaviors or mental rituals (compulsions). People with this condition experience an elevated sense of distress whenever they experience intrusive thoughts, images, or urges, which trigger compulsive behaviors or avoidance to alleviate that distress. It becomes a vicious cycle, as the obsessions often become more frequent and severe when people engage in compulsions/avoidance.

Genomic studies of OCD are beginning to reveal long-sought risk loci, but >95% of the cases are of homogenous European ancestry. If not addressed, this Eurocentric bias will result in findings for individuals of European ancestry than other ancestries. In this project, trans-ancestry genomic analyses are used to accelerate the identification of OCD risk loci and fine-map putative causal variants and improve the performance of polygenic risk scores in diverse populations. A variety of clinical data is gathered to examine the genetics of treatment response, biologically plausible OCD subtypes, and symptom dimensions. LATINO study will help elucidate the diversity of the clinical presentations of OCD across cultures through various trainings developed and offered in collaboration with Latin American Investigators.

Our site is actively recruiting patients between 7 and 89 years old who experience symptoms of OCD currently or in the past (even if the patient did not seek treatment) and have at least one parent or Grandparent who identifies as Latino/Hispanic. A complex of questionnaires, in addition to the saliva sample, is required. TTUHSC El Paso, Texas, is currently among the top 5 centers in the USA regarding recruitment!
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Please note that the Principal Investigators for the LATINO project are Eric A. Storch, Ph.D., at Baylor College of Medicine (latinostudy@bcm.edu) and James J. Crowley, Ph.D., at The University of North Carolina. The Site Principal Investigators at TTUHSC El Paso are Silvina Tonarelli, M.D., and Co-PIs Melanie Longhurst Ph.D., M.Ed, Guadalupe Vidal, Ph.D. and Javier Vargas Medrano, Ph.D.

Editor’s note:

Dr. Silvina Tonarelli is the J. Edward Stern Endowed Professor in Psychiatry, Associate Professor and Residency Program Director in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Tonarelli is a graduate of the Office of Faculty Development’s Faculty Development Course (now called the Institutional Faculty Development Program [IFDP] XVI, and the Writing Interest Group III. Dr. Melanie Longhurst is Assistant Professor and Psychology Training Director in the Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Longhurst is a graduate of the Faculty Development Course XVIII. Dr. Guadalupe Vidal is a Senior Research Scientist, and Dr. Javier Vargas Medrano is a Research Lab Manager in the Department of Psychiatry.

Melanie Olivas Longhurst, Ph.D., M.Ed.
Interventional Neurology Fellowship

Alberto Maud, M.D.

Alberto Maud, M.D., Professor of Neurology and Clinical Professor of Radiology (Neurointervention), will direct a new two-year interventional Neurology fellowship. The purpose of the training program is to prepare physicians for independent practice in Interventional Neurology. The training will be based on supervised clinical work, increasing patient care responsibilities, and transitioning to independent practice as the trainee advances through the fellowship. One fellow will start the Interventional Neurology fellowship on July 1, 2024.

Dr. Maud is a graduate of the Institutional Faculty Development Course XII.
Are you new to teaching? Would you like to learn how to teach professionalism? How can you help develop a resident physician’s teaching skills? These and other important topics in medical education are addressed by content that is available at the TeachingPhysician.org website. As a faculty member, you have free access to the resources found at www.teachingphysician.org. Please contact the Office of Faculty Development at ElPasoFacultyDevelopment@ttuhsc.edu to request a TeachingPhysician.org account.

Marcella A. Frausto, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, is one the heroes of the pre-clerkship Community Health Experiences coordinated by the Medical Education Department’s Society, Community, and the Individual Course team (SCI). Each week, in her Eastside pediatric practice, she welcomes our first and second year medical students to assist her and learn from her in her solo practice, where she accepts CHIP, TRICARE, Medicaid, and most major insurances. While she offers newborn care, children’s health care, and sports physicals, our students get the opportunity to interact with her patients and their families, turning all their medical school theories into practice.

This year, for the first time, Society, Community and the Individual (SCI) got to acknowledge and honor one of their own. The Office of Outreach and Community Engagement presented Dr. Frausto the Students’ Choice for Pre Clerkship Recipient.

Dr. Frausto, serves as a community–based faculty member; she received her medical degree from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and has practiced in El Paso for nearly two decades.

In preparing for medical school, most of our students have shadowed in a physician’s office---but to show up and serve in their white coats and take a break from the classroom, flashcards, and study groups revives our students and reinforces all they are studying. Dr. Frausto and the young patients she serves to show our medical students the pathway to their future. They get a glimpse, now as future peers, of the world ahead.

We congratulate Dr. Frausto on her AY 23-24 teaching Award- it is truly deserved! We also commend SCI preceptor Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, who received an award for being an outstanding preceptor on campus.

Most of all, we say thank you to Dr. Frausto, Dr. Ocaranza, and all our SCI clinician Preceptors, who take the time to teach our medical students and put excellence in education here at the Texas Tech Health El Paso.
Have you heard about the Faculty Factory? It is a community of leaders in academic medicine who work in the area of faculty development. The Faculty Factory (facultyfactory.org) is sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Office of Faculty Development.

The Faculty Factory Podcast is hosted by Kimberly A. Skarupski, Ph.D., M.P.H. Dr. Skarupski is Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Development with John Hopkins University School of Medicine. She is also Professor of Medicine (Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology) and Professor of Epidemiology in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. This innovative podcast focuses on faculty development and can be accessed at facultyfactory.org/podcast/.

The Faculty Factory recently published an eBook entitled The Academic Medicine Starter Kit: Timeless Tips & Guidance for Early-Career Faculty Members. This handy reference showcases over five years of interviews on the Faculty Factory podcast. To download this free book, please visit facultyfactory.org/ebook/.