



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
JUNE NEWSLETTER

JUNE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

- June- Alzheimer's Awareness Month
- June- Pride month
- June- PTSD Awareness Month
- June 19th- Juneteenth

SILVERMAN AWARD

*"The purpose of the award is to "support a chosen outstanding faculty member who shows exemplary skills in teaching the next generation of mental health providers." I am delighted to let you know that **Joel Silverman, MD** has been aptly selected as the recipient of this year's Silverman Award.*

It is great to see outstanding contributions in educational endeavors are recognized. And Dr. Silverman's long-standing commitment to teaching acknowledged.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Silverman for a job exceptionally well done!"

Robert L. Findling, M.D., M.B.A.
Chairman, Department of Psychiatry

WAY TO GO!

According to ScholarGPS, **Michael Neale** of the VIPBG has achieved 2 noteworthy accomplishments. He is ranked # 4 in the world in "Genetic analysis" and was also named a "Highly Ranked Scholar- Lifetime". Highly ranked scholars are in the top 0.05% of all scholars.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Kelsey Hagan received the VCU Institute for Research on Behavioral and Emotional Health (IRBEH) Pilot Grant.

The grant title is "Deciphering the Cognitive Mechanisms of Risk-taking in Emerging Adults with Eating Disorders in the Spit for Science Study: A Computational Approach."

The project's funds support a Spit for Science spin-off study that will provide detailed neurocognitive phenotyping of risk-taking among VCU undergraduates with eating disorders and also provide mechanistic insights into other risky behaviors (including substance use, suicidal thoughts, and behaviors) that are common among this group. The IRBEH grant will also serve as a platform for mentorship for research trainees, particularly undergraduate research interns.

TOWN HALL EVENT, TOP STORY!

"Top drug control official impressed with research and treatment of opioid addiction at VCU Health"

Check out the full article below!

<https://www.vcuhealth.org/news/top-drug-control-official-impressed-with-research-and-treatment-of-opioid-addiction-at-vcu-health>

CONGRATULATIONS!

PGY-1, Parker Booren, D.O. for winning this year's Syed Mahtab Ahmed Resident Research Award! Dr. Booren's research project focuses on aggressive behaviors in children and adolescents. The project aims to understand the phenotype of aggression in this population and its effects on negative outcomes, such as increased length of stay in the hospital, incidents of seclusions and restraints, and receiving PRN medications. Dr. Booren's mentor is Ekaterina Stepanova, MD, Division Chief, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.



OPIOID ABATEMENT | DR. MOELLER

VCU Psychiatry Addictions Division Chief, Dr. F. Gerard Moeller, Leading Creation of Virginia Opioid Abatement Toolkit to Aid Localities in Fight Against Overdose Crisis

To see full story, visit [Mind Matters - Newsroom - Department of Psychiatry - VCU School of Medicine](#)

NEW AWARD HT9425-24-1-0509

Mechanism: DoD Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health Research Program (TBIPHRP) award with Ananda Amstadter, other VIPBG/Psychiatry department colleagues, and PM&R department colleagues. Three-year Investigator-Initiated Research Award (IIRA)

Objective: The study aims to characterize the genetic architecture of persistent post-concussive symptoms (PPCS), PTSD, and AUD and to examine the gene-environment interplay (for example, blast exposure, cumulative trauma) over time in service members and veterans.

For more information, please reach out to Christina Sheerin-Smith christina.sheerin@vcuhealth.org