



Division Reports 2020-21

Division of Geriatric Psychiatry

Submitted by Dr. Carole Cohen, Director, Division of Geriatric Psychiatry

The new PGY 3 mandatory geriatric psychiatry rotation was launched in July 2020 with an innovative 3 day case-based series which is being evaluated. The subspecialty program has been preparing for the introduction of Competence by Design in July 2021. Division members continue to be very active providing continuing education and coordinating important national continuing education programs for health care professionals wanting to improve their care of older adults. Two of the three inaugural city-wide Department of Psychiatry rounds in this academic year were given by members of the division.

Members of the division are involved in developing and supporting innovative models of care in collaboration with Ontario Health Teams, Behavioural Supports Ontario, community agencies and the Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto. They have continued to provide much needed outreach services to support older adults living in long term care homes across the Toronto region. They have been active in leadership positions in Provincial Geriatrics Leadership Ontario, the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, Mental Health Working Group and the Toronto Dementia Research Alliance. The division has named an EDI coordinator and has representation on the Equity and Inclusion Council of the Department of Psychiatry and the RGP Health Equity Leadership Coalition.

The Division of Geriatric Psychiatry continues to be extremely active in the research realm with new grants, grant renewals and publications exploring the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms of dementia, late life depression, driving and older adults, gait and falls in dementia, and caregiver interventions. The division had the highest number of posters at the Department of Psychiatry Research day (19/63). Three papers authored by division members were chosen as featured monthly ImPACT articles by the Department of Psychiatry this year.

