

PSYCHIATRY

News and Research
from the Department of
Psychiatry and Health Behavior

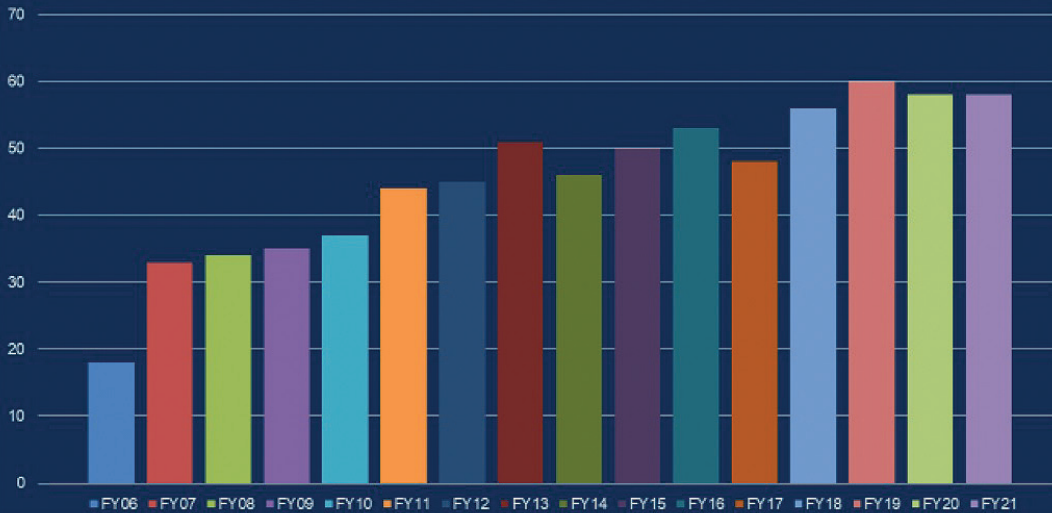
NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all the family members of the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior at the Medical College of Georgia. It is almost December of 2020 as I write this message to you, and as we close out the decade I thought you might find it interesting to see some statistical highlights of the department to which you have made such great contributions. The successes that I am about to share come as the result of the dedication and effort of many persons, including our staff, our trainees, our regular faculty, as well as our very-important community faculty.

Clinical Report

A robust faculty count is necessary to the success of our clinical, educational, and research mission, so I am happy to say that our faculty numbers grew over the last 10 years at a steady pace. Much of that expansion was made possible through growth of the department's off-campus clinical contracts, including our contract with East Central Regional Hospital - our state hospital here in Augusta. Of course, the big news in health care delivery has been the rise of telehealth. Our department had minimal telehealth experience prior to COVID-19, but we were forced to learn quickly when our governor submitted an Executive Order to shelter in place in early March.

Number of Psychiatry Faculty FY06-FY20 and FY21 1st Qtr

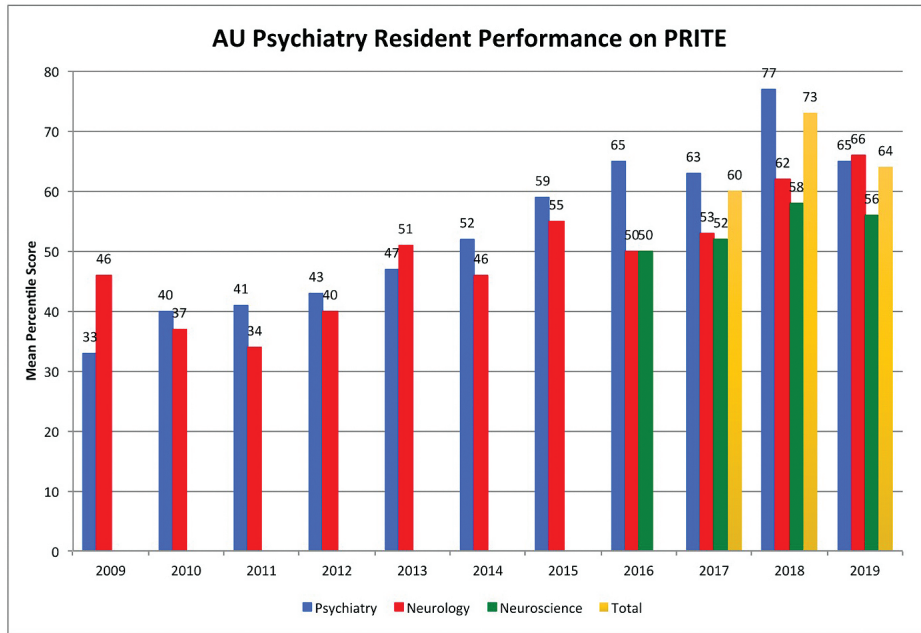
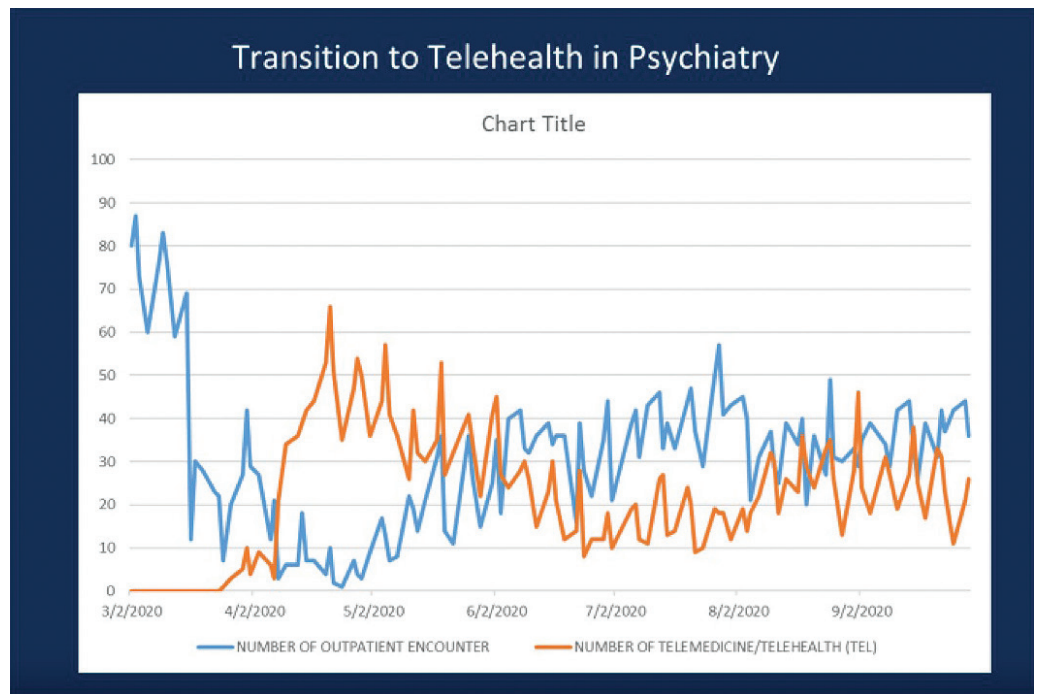


W Vaughn McCall

Dr. W. Vaughn McCall
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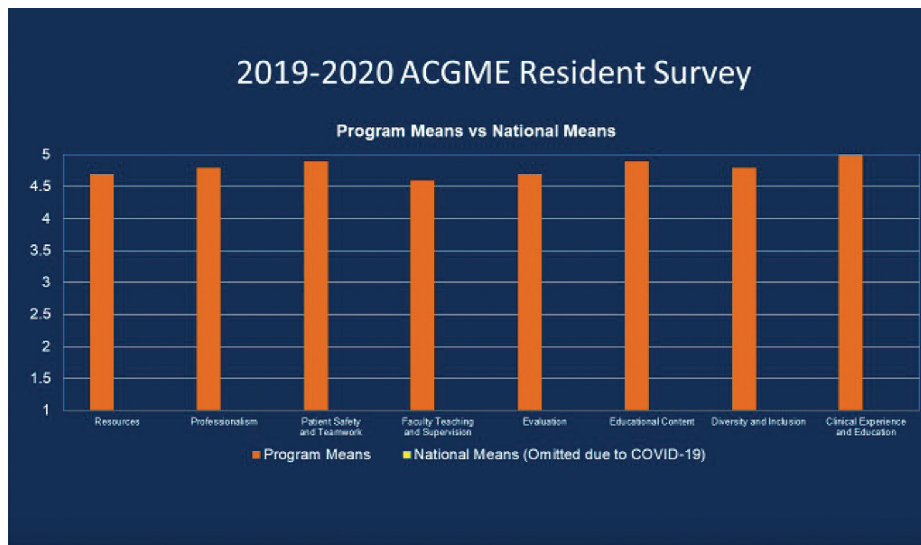


As you can see from the figure, our number of in person visits in our University outpatient clinic plummeted in March (the blue line) but the service needs of our patients were rapidly addressed by the rapid rise of telehealth service (the yellow line). Notice how the number of patients seen per day by telehealth versus in-person has bounced around some since March, but we have settled into an approximately 50-50 ratio.



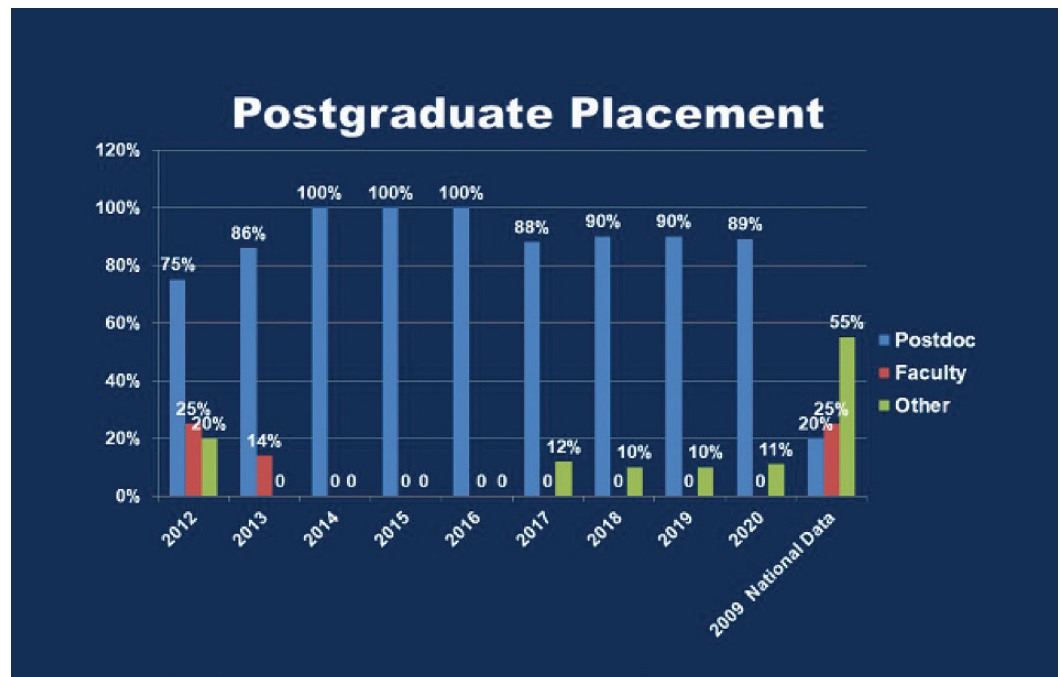
Education Report

There are many good things to report regarding our education mission, including the receipt of a 2.5 million dollar federal grant that has allowed us to relaunch our Addiction Medicine Fellowship as of this past summer. But I wanted to share with you a few amazing statistical feats the department has achieved over the last decade. First, the performance of our general psychiatry residents on their in-service training exam (called the PRITE) has shown remarkable improvement such that our department is now a ‘top performer’. Notice how our residents’ scores on this exam have risen over 10 years. Our trainees “average” performance is now between the top 56-66th percentile.



Our child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship has been a strong performer over all of the last 10 years, with the program receiving very high marks from the trainees each year. The figure depicts the fellows’ views of the program on a 1-5 scale (5 is best) on a variety of dimensions from the last year.... Many dimensions ranked very close to a perfect score!!

Our psychology internship program has always been stellar, as we graduate nine or more interns each year. A remarkable number of these graduates go on to post doc positions for additional training - a mark of a superior psychology trainee who has received great training. This figure shows what a large percentage of our psychology interns are selected to go on to post docs - usually 90-100% - in comparison with national statistics showing only 20% go on to receive this advanced training.



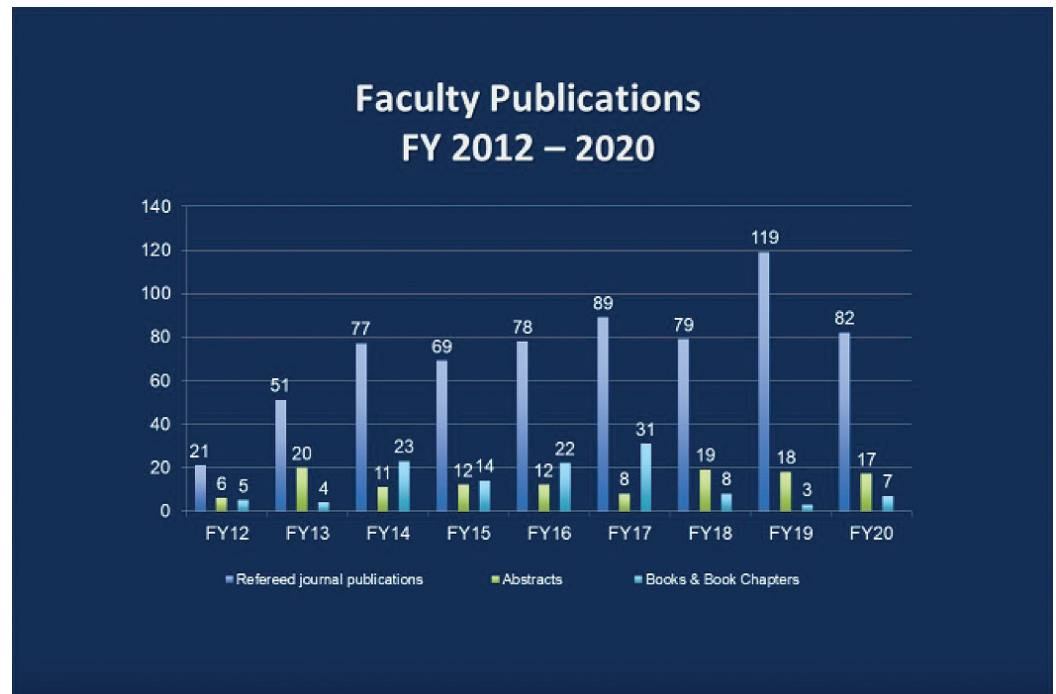
Psychiatry as a Career: MCG@AU Students Declaring Psychiatry

Class of 2015	Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020	Class of 2021
9	7	6	9	11	8	11

Our department's undergraduate medical education efforts in our psychiatry clerkships have led to a remarkable increase in the number of MCG medical students who have declared psychiatry as their specialty of choice in this year's Match. Historically, the national average percentage of medical students going into psychiatry has hovered between 4-5 percent. We are happily surprised to see that this year, out of 230 fourth-year students, 14 have declared psychiatry as their first choice – 6 percent!

Research Report

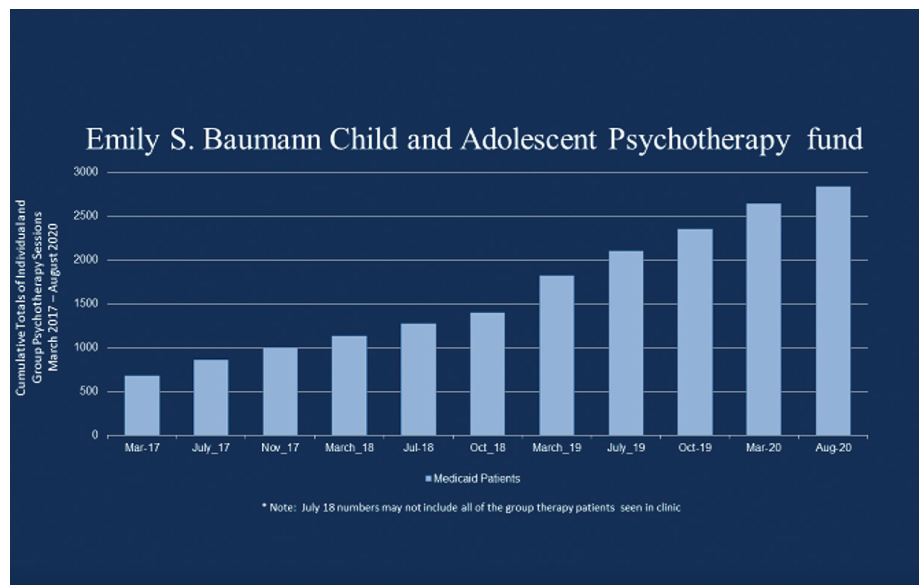
Our department's research productivity, as measured by the number of published peer-reviewed journal articles per year, has steadily grown. Happily, many of these papers included either a medical student, a psychology intern or psychology post-doc, or a psychiatry resident or fellow as an author.



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Philanthropy Report

Our department has received more gifts than we can list here, so I have picked the Emily S Baumann Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy Fund to detail. Georgia Medicaid will not pay for psychotherapy services delivered by trainees to children with Medicaid. So this problem is solved by the generous gift from the Bauman Fund, which has very recently been endowed, and provides support to our department to provide psychotherapy services not covered by Medicaid. Both our young patients and our trainees benefit from this arrangement. The figure tells the tale of the large number of psychotherapy sessions that been supported by this gift.



This decade has been a good one for the department, and as we enter a new decade we thank all of those who have made it possible.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CLINICAL, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING MISSIONS.

Please designate your gift:

For more information or to support this fund, contact Eileen Brandon at 706-721-2515 or ebrandon@augusta.edu.
To give online, visit mcgfoundation.org.

- Williard E. Quillian, III, MD Professorship in Psychiatry, supports a faculty member with teaching expertise in psychodynamically-oriented psychotherapy.
- Emily S. Baumann Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy Fund supports psychotherapy services for uninsured kids and teenagers.
- Department's Greatest Need