



CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY - Alexandra Pinkerson, MD



Dr. Alexandra Pinkerson received her MD from Boston University School of Medicine (cum laude), where she also completed a Residency in Adult Psychiatry, a Fellowship in Consultation Liaison Psychiatry, and an Advanced Fellowship in Geriatric Neurology. During this training, she also completed a Fellowship in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at the Boston Psychoanalytic Institute and was a Faculty Scholar at the Center of Excellence in Geriatrics at Boston University Medical Center.

Dr. Pinkerson has dedicated much of her medical career to working with patients suffering from severe mental illness, trauma and social stressors. Following her training, she has worked in Quincy, Massachusetts as a Staff Psychiatrist at the South Shore Mental Health Center's Clinic for Outpatient Services and as an Attending Psychiatrist on a Department of Mental Health inpatient psychiatry unit. She had a concurrent private practice in adult psychiatry. Since 2009, she has been an Attending Psychiatrist for the Veterans Administration Boston Healthcare System (VABHS). She currently serves as Medical Director of Inpatient Psychiatry for VABHS. Her clinical skills in psychopharmacology, psychotherapy and inpatient milieu management have helped move the inpatient service in its constant refinement of veteran-centered care, evidenced-based treatment, multi-disciplinary care, and safety. She created a transparent on-line rotation for acute inpatient admissions, which ensured staff fairness in workload and improved the system of clinical handoffs between services. During this COVID 19 pandemic, she led our clinical staff in providing in-person care for patients in crisis. She participated in policy-making as the inpatient service formulated and implemented the changing rules and protocols in partnership with Infectious Disease to provide safe inpatient care e.g., opening and closing Covid positive units and constantly educating our patients about best practices to keep everyone safe. Although meetings and classes moved on-line, she and the clinical staff were able to provide in-person masked care in the inpatient service. In addition to her clinical work, she has worked on many committees and work groups focused on improving patient care and safety.

In addition to her clinical and administrative duties, she is a dedicated teacher, working with residents from the Boston Medical Center and Harvard South Shore psychiatry residency programs and medical student clerks from Boston University. She has won multiple awards for her teaching at the Harvard South Shore Psychiatry Residency Training Program and in 2022, was awarded as Mentor of the Year. Her completion of a Master's in Fine Arts has allowed her to integrate art into her teaching of both residents and peers. She has used art to increase awareness of and develop new skills in clinical supervision. Each year, she would facilitate field trips for psychiatry residents to the Museum of Fine Arts and other art museums during our Residents' Program Day to focus on looking at art and addressing the role of the clinician.

For her consistent efforts to provide clinical care to our most needy citizens and her dedication to constant improvement in the provision of the best clinical care, the MPS is pleased to present Dr. Alexandra Pinkerson with the 2023 MPS Outstanding Psychiatrist Award for Clinical Psychiatry.