



EARLY CAREER PSYCHIATRY - Jhilam Biswas, MD



Dr. Jhilam Biswas is an early career psychiatrist who is engaged in inspiring contributions to forensic psychiatry. Dr. Biswas received board-certified in adult psychiatry in 2014 following training at the Harvard Longwood Psychiatry Training Program. She subsequently completed a Forensic Psychiatry fellowship through the University of Massachusetts, resulting in her second board certification. Dr. Biswas began her attending career practicing at Bridgewater State Hospital, a secure forensic hospital for individuals with complex legal needs. Since 2018, she also engaged in clinical work as a staff psychiatrist for Simmons University Health Center and as a consultation-liaison psychiatrist at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Administratively, Dr. Biswas has served the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society as Chair of the Committee on Psychiatry and the Law since 2017. In 2018, she became the Director of the Psychiatry, Law, and Society. Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital and accepted the position of Co-Director of the Harvard Mass General Brigham Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship in 2020. Dr. Biswas received the Brigham and Women's Psychiatry Residency Faculty Mentorship Award for Excellence in Psychiatric Teaching in 2022, which is strong evidence of the impact that she has on future generations of psychiatrists in their early exploration of forensic psychiatry. Dr. Biswas leads a critical yearly training on use of the cultural formulation interview in the context of forensic assessments to expand the holistic view of individuals within the judicial system.

Clinically, Dr. Biswas specializes in mental health consultation with the legal system and focuses on the nuances of both criminal and civil law. Since starting her practice, she serves and leads on multiple psychiatric, forensic, and medical committees statewide and nationally. Dr. Biswas focuses her research on improving mental health laws to better serve patients and families and in criminal justice reform. While at Bridgewater State Hospital, she conducted research around adverse events incurred during the waiting period for court-ordered treatments.

Dr. Biswas has testified many times in the courtroom and maintains a special role in the state of Massachusetts as a Designated Forensic Psychiatrist (DFP), an accreditation required to conduct court-ordered evaluations. Her expertise is in serious mental illness, risk assessment, violence prevention, cultural competence, and consulting with social institutions and organizations.

In recognition of her expansive contributions within forensic psychiatry during the first 10 years out of training, Massachusetts Psychiatric Society is thrilled to honor Dr. Jhilam Biswas with the 2023 Early Career Psychiatry Award.