



PUBLIC SECTOR - Oliver Freudenreich, MD, FACLP



Oliver Freudenreich, MD has devoted his career to the treatment of patients with chronic schizophrenia and to Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry as a clinician, a teacher and a treatment innovator. Since coming to the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Department of Psychiatry 22 years ago, he has been associated with the MGH Schizophrenia Clinical and Research Program, which is located at the Freedom Trail Clinic. He became the Director of its Fellowship Program and its Medical Director in 2009 and Co-Director in 2015. He has held the Rank of Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School since 2011.

He was born in Winnenden, Germany and received his Medical Degree from Heidelberg University in 1993. He then spent two years as a research fellow at Duke University before completing a Psychiatric Residency at Rutgers Medical School (1995-99). He then completed a Fellowship in Psychosomatic Medicine and Consultation (CL) Psychiatry at MGH in 2000. He is board-certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (2002) with additional certification in Psychosomatic Medicine (2005).

With his expertise in CL Psychiatry, he served as the Director of the Infectious Disease Psychiatric Consultation Service at MGH for 12 years, addressing the psychiatric complications of infectious diseases, especially HIV. Furthermore, he has been quite active in the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, chairing the Best Practices Committee since 2007, the Evidence-based Medicine Committee (2013-16) and being named a fellow in 2008. He served as Assistant editor and then Deputy editor of the journal *Psychosomatics* (2010-20).

He has developed an international reputation for his expertise in treating individuals with schizophrenia, especially treatment resistant cases. In part, this derives from his extensive experience with over twenty clinical trials in schizophrenia of novel drugs sponsored by NIH, foundations and the pharmaceutical industry including on long-acting injectable atypical antipsychotics to prevent relapse, modafinil for negative symptoms and donepezil in treatment-refractory schizophrenia, to mention a few. He has co-authored over eighty peer-reviewed research articles, primarily on schizophrenia, another seventy peer-reviewed reviews, editorials, and clinical observations and over sixty book chapters. Noteworthy is his influential book, *Psychotic Disorders. A Practical Guide*, first published in 2007 and updated in 2020.

Over the last twenty years, he has had a substantial impact on the training, experience and future careers of the countless psychiatric residents and fellows in the Schizophrenia Fellowship Program. The nomination stressed his depth of knowledge and skill in communicating about the management of patients with serious mental illness, which has been recognized by teaching awards from MGH and Boston University. The nomination emphasizes the deep empathy for his patients that “builds trust and instills hope even in the sickest, most vulnerable patients.” Drawing on his CL expertise, “he performs reverse med-psych integration - bridging medical care to the public sector psychiatric patients, striving to treat the whole person.”

His deep knowledge, skillful empathetic care, and commitment to the serious mentally ill has drawn many trainees to careers in public sector psychiatry. For these reasons, Dr. Oliver Freudenreich was selected as the MPS 2022 Outstanding Psychiatrist Award for Public Sector Psychiatry.