



2022 MPS OUTSTANDING PSYCHIATRIST AWARDS

EDUCATION - Ricardo Vela, MD



Dr. Ricardo Vela did his premedical courses at Boston College and then studied at the University of Puerto Rico where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree (Magna cum Laude) and his MD degree.

He then moved to New York where he completed an internship in Social Pediatrics at the Montefiore Hospital and Medical Center, Bronx, NY and did residencies in both General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Bronx Psychiatric Center, Bronx, NY. (AECOM). He is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in both Adult Psychiatry and Adolescent Psychiatry. Later he was appointed Examiner for both boards.

Following his residency, Dr. Vela stayed on at the AECOM affiliate, Bronx Lebanon Hospital, where he directed the Child, Adolescent and Family Services. During his 15-year service there in the poorest congressional district in the country, he was able to increase the number of patient visits from less than 800 to 32,000 per year and to expand the clinical staff to 44 professionals creating one of the largest child and adolescent psychiatry outpatient programs in the U.S. In addition, Dr. Vela at first coordinated medical student training in child psychiatry, and then was appointed Director of Residency Training for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the Bronx-Lebanon Track of the AECOM residency Program. In 1981 he was appointed Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

In 1994 Dr. Vela moved to Brown University where he directed the outpatient service and did psychopharmacology research with adolescents until 1997. Following a brief period as director of the Adolescent Inpatient Unit at Somerville Hospital, Dr. Vela was recruited to the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine. There he was named Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Training Program. He also directed the University Hospital's psychiatric clinic for children and adolescents.

In 2001 Dr. Vela was recruited by Boston University School of Medicine to be Director of Pediatric Psychopharmacology. While at BU he, in collaboration with the Divisions of Pediatric Neurology and Neuropsychology, developed a neuropsychology/neuropsychiatry consultation service. He also developed a PGY 4 course in Advanced Psychiatric Neurobiology for which he received the Swartz Award for Teacher of the Year.

In 2010 he moved to the North Suffolk Mental Health Association as Director of Pediatric Psychopharmacology, Director of Child Psychiatry and Psychiatrist-in-Chief for Child and Family Services. In 2011 he moved to Massachusetts General Hospital where, although partially retired, he continues to teach in the MGH Child Psychiatry Fellowship Program on Pediatric Neuroscience and transcultural aspects in the treatment of Latino children and their families.

Dr. Vela is a distinguished life fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and of the American Psychiatric Association. He has been an APA/NIMH Minority Fellow and member of the Task Force on Transcultural Aspects of Ethnocentricity Among Psychiatrists, Task Force on Services to Children and Adolescents in Community Mental Health Centers and the Council on Children, Adolescents, and their Families, and Area 1 Representative to Hispanic/Latino Caucus.

Dr. Vela was a reviewer for the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, has published many abstracts, book chapters and peer reviewed journal articles. For many years he taught courses on "The Neuroanatomy of Emotions: from Brain to Clinical Practice" at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association and was commended as "gifted teacher."

Dr. Vela says he feels most proud and fulfilled in his over 40-year career by having helped an underserved minority patient population of children, adolescents and their loving, struggling families and of the opportunities he has had to teach residents to do likewise.

The Massachusetts Psychiatric Society is pleased to present Dr. Ricardo Vela with the 2022 Outstanding Psychiatrist Award in Education.



CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY - Marc Whaley, MD



Dr. Marc Whaley has been a backbone of psychiatry on Cape Cod for many decades. He received a BA from Johns Hopkins University. Subsequently, he completed medical school at Tufts receiving his MD in 1971. He then completed his residency in psychiatry in 1974 at Tufts New England Medical Center. After serving as staff psychiatrist and Assistant Medical Director at Westwood Lodge, he worked as staff psychiatrist and Medical Director at Norwood Hospital. After settling on Cape Cod, he practiced every aspect of outpatient psychiatry. He has provided service on the Cape in a myriad of ways. These include forensic psychiatry, disability evaluations, consultation to the courts and jails and a monthly television appearance on the WGBH Cape Cod affiliate WCAI. He helped found the Southeastern Mass Chapter of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society and served as its president for many years. He remains a mainstay of the organization.

Dr. Whaley has provided psychiatric care for the highly underserved population on Cape Cod , both as a solo practitioner, and a founder/leader of a private group practice. He is an APA Distinguished Life Fellow and has previously been honored by the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society for Outstanding Service to the Profession. While Dr. Whaley has slowed his pace some, he continues to perform forensic evaluations and emergency room consultations via telepsychiatry. He remains active in assuring that quality care is delivered to the mentally ill on Cape Cod.

The MPS is pleased to present Dr. Marc Whaley with the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society 2022 Outstanding Psychiatrist Award for Clinical Psychiatry.



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.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT – David Osser, MD



Dr. David Osser received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Amherst College, Cum laude and his medical degree from the State University of New York at Syracuse. He then did his internship at LA County-University of Southern California Medical Center and his Psychiatry residency at the Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Mental Health Center residency program where he served as Chief Resident in the Somatic Therapy Program. To balance his training in psychopharmacology, he did the Adams House, Faulkner Hospital, now Brigham and Women's-Faulkner, Psychotherapy Fellowship. He is a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He received the Exemplary Psychiatrist Award from NAMI and was cited for compassionate and dedicated care of the seriously mentally ill by the Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Massachusetts.

Dr. Osser is also Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School at the VA Boston Healthcare System (Brockton Division), where he is the medical director for Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans, co-director of the VA National Bipolar Disorder Telehealth Program, and he organizes the didactic psychopharmacology training for their 32 psychiatry residents.

He has published over 150 academic products with various collaborators, including original articles, reviews, algorithms, lectures, and two books (*Psychopharmacology: A Concise Overview*, 3d edition 2020, Oxford University Press, and *Psychopharmacology Algorithms: Clinical Guidance from the Psychopharmacology Algorithm Project at the Harvard South Shore Psychiatry Residency Program*, 2021: Wolters Kluwer Health). The algorithms book (which is also available online) was an effort to put into one place the contributions he has made to psychopharmacology practice over several decades. The algorithms are also displayed (since 1996) on the non-commercial website *psychopharm.mobi*, of which Osser is the content editor. He is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*, *Psychiatric Times*, *Psychiatry and Clinical Psychopharmacology*, *Psychiatry Research*, and the *Model Curriculum for Psychopharmacology* of the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology. In the 11th (2020) edition of that curriculum, he contributed 14 lectures.

In the last decade, Dr. Osser has particularly focused on bipolar disorder. Through the VA National program, he has personally consulted over 1,500 veterans around the US via telemedicine. Updated algorithms for bipolar depression and bipolar mania were published in peer reviewed journals during these years. He has a regular column in *Psychiatric Times* called Bipolar Update and has contributed 25 short articles over the last several years.

The Massachusetts Psychiatric Society has been grateful for Osser's volunteer activities. He was elected counselor, secretary, and then president of the Society (2001-2), chaired the psychopharmacology update conference for the last 20 years, and heads the Education/CME committee for the past 8 years.

Dr. Osser was the recipient of the 2012 Research Mentorship Award of the American Psychiatric Association "...in recognition of substantial and formative contributions to the mentoring of students and residents throughout a distinguished career in psychiatric research," and the 2015 Stuart Hauser, MD Mentorship Award in Psychiatry of Harvard Medical School's Psychiatry Executive Committee. His Harvard South Shore residents have also voted teaching awards to him at their graduations 8 times in the last 25 years.

He also has an international reputation. Many clinicians in North and South America and Europe have heard his podcast lectures broadcast by the Psychopharmacology Institute, centered in Mendoza, Argentina. The Chinese Psychiatric Association and Beijing Institute for Mental Health have brought him to China six times to lecture in different cities, and he has spoken six times in conferences organized by the Turkish Association for Psychopharmacology (twice as keynote speaker), and also he had made appearances in programs at Oxford University in the UK, Yokohama, Japan, and Barcelona in Spain.

Dr. Osser is unusual, compared to many other experts who teach and produce academic products in psychopharmacology, in that he has no financial relationships with any pharmaceutical firms.

For his outstanding accomplishments to our field and the MPS, the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society is honored to present Dr. David Osser with its 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award.



RESEARCH - Roscoe Brady, Jr, MD. PhD



Dr. Brady completed a combined M.D.- Ph. D (in Neurobiology) program at Columbia University and did his Ph.D. thesis in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Richard Axel, M.D. Subsequently, he pursued his psychiatry training at the MGH-McLean Hospital residency program. Post-residency, he worked in an outpatient clinic and taught, while pursuing research part-time. He subsequently received a NIMH K23 award to elucidate the brain circuit pathophysiology of bipolar disorder which started off his research career.

Dr. Brady is a physician-scientist whose research is focused on understanding the neural basis of psychotic disorders. He is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Vice-Chair for Research at Beth-Israel Deaconess Medical Center. In these roles, he conducts basic and translational research on psychotic disorders, supervises trainees and sees patients to advance our care for serious mental illness. In his early research in Dr. Dost Öngür's lab, he was the first to conduct longitudinal neuroimaging of bipolar disorder comparing mania to euthymia to identify brain-level differences between mood states. Yet as a psychiatrist who aims to improve the quality of life of his patients with these disorders, he became frustrated with the chasm that existed between neuroimaging research and actual clinical intervention. To solve this problem, he began to use neuromodulation interventions, such as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), to engage the brain circuit abnormalities which had gone awry in psychotic disorders. He used this approach in a landmark finding published in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, where he used a two-phased approach to target the brain-circuit basis of negative symptoms in schizophrenia. First, he identified a brain circuit strongly linked to negative symptoms in schizophrenia, then, he used TMS to engage that very circuit. The result: TMS improved connectivity in the negative symptoms circuit he identified and negative symptoms improved in the study participants. He has subsequently gone on to identify brain circuits uniquely linked to auditory hallucinations and will test administering TMS to this circuit to improve these symptoms as well. In this way, Dr. Brady's research has the potential to close the translational gap in psychiatry so that research findings have direct, actionable clinical impact. After decades of observational studies identifying brain abnormalities in schizophrenia, Dr. Brady's work has *both* illuminated the brain circuit-basis for individual symptoms in schizophrenia *and* used noninvasive neuromodulation interventions with actual therapeutic benefit.

Dr. Brady concurrently serves as Faculty at the Berenson-Allen Center for Noninvasive Brain Stimulation and is active Staff at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, Brigham & Women's Faulkner Hospital, and the McLean Hospital. He has published twenty peer-review research investigations and currently serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Affective Disorders*, and the *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*. He is currently the PI on two R01s to identify and then modify brain circuits responsible for treatment resistant symptoms of schizophrenia. He is also actively involved in teaching and supervision of Harvard medical students, clinical fellows, and peer physicians. He leads the research track of the BIDMC Psychiatry Residency Training Program and has been recognized with teaching and mentorship awards by BIDMC and Harvard Medical School.

In recognition of his contributions to neuroscience and our understanding of serious mental illness, Massachusetts Psychiatric Society is pleased to honor Dr. Roscoe Brady Jr., with 2022 Outstanding Psychiatrist Award in Research.



ADVANCEMENT OF THE PROFESSION - Renee Sorrentino, MD



Dr. Renee M. Sorrentino, MD received her undergraduate degree in neuroscience from the University Professors' Honors Program at Boston University. She continued on to Boston University School of Medicine as a member of the Modular Medical Integrated Curriculum early acceptance honors program. Dr. Sorrentino's clinical training began with an intern year in internal medicine at Cambridge Hospital followed by her residency at MGH/McLean where she served as chief resident of the inpatient psychiatric unit 2001. Dr. Sorrentino left Massachusetts to complete a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine.

Dr. Sorrentino's clinical practice is devoted to the treatment and evaluation of paraphilias and sexual offenders. In 2006, she opened the Institute for Sexual Wellness (ISW), one of the first national centers for the multidisciplinary treatment of sexual offenders. Her vision is to incorporate evidenced-based principles of recidivism into biological and psychological treatment modalities. Recognizing the impact of biological treatments on individuals with problematic sexual behaviors has been a central focus of her career to date.

In her role as ISW medical director, Dr. Sorrentino has consulted multiple local and state agencies. She serves as fellowship director for the Massachusetts Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders, Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, Clinical Associate Professor at University Oklahoma School of Medicine and Adjunct Associate Professor at University of Massachusetts Medical School. In 2021, Dr. Sorrentino served as the Chairperson for the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Annual Conference Program and is an elected representative to the American Psychiatric Association 2021-24.

In addition to her groundbreaking clinical work in the areas of paraphilias and sexual offences, Dr. Sorrentino has been a consistent teacher of residents and medical students in her forensic subspecialties regionally, nationally, and internationally. Six of the Massachusetts Psychiatry training programs have been the direct beneficiaries of her curriculum on paraphilias. In addition to didactic curricular development, she welcomes trainees to rotate within her clinical practice. She is the author of 32 clinical commentaries that contribute significantly to continued education of mental health providers on best practices in forensic psychiatry.

For her academic leadership in the forensic subfield of paraphilias, for her clinical treatment of individuals with sexual offences and problematic sexual behaviors, for her mentorship to trainees regionally and globally, and for her leadership within psychiatry, the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society is pleased to honor Dr. Renee Sorrentino with the 2022 Advancement of the Profession Award.



EARLY CAREER PSYCHIATRY - Jessica Isom, MD



Dr. Jessica Elizabeth Isom MD, MPH is an inspiring early career community psychiatrist who has accomplished a tremendous amount in the three short years she has been in Massachusetts. Her work has ranged from providing exemplary mental health care to patients as chief psychiatrist at the Codman Square Community Health Center, to her work at the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society as member of the MPS Council and of the Anti-Racism Committee, and to the work she has done on a national level at the American Psychiatric Society as a representative on the Area 1 Council since 2017.

Dr. Isom's medical career began in 2010, when she pursued combined degrees in medicine and public health at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and the University of North Carolina Gillings School of Global Public Health, respectively. While in medical school, she was a member of the Eugene S. Mayer Community Service Honor Society and Student National Medical Association (SNMA) National Co-Chair in Health Policy and Legislative Affairs.

Following her graduation, Dr. Isom pursued a psychiatry residency at Yale University. As a resident in the Yale Department of Psychiatry, she was selected Chief Resident of Medical Education and Chief Resident of Diversity and Inclusion. During her time at Yale, her professionalism, diversity and inclusion expertise, and educational skillset were honored through awards and department-wide recognition. She was also a faculty track leader for the Social Justice and Health Equity Curriculum. Dr. Isom's strong training background and leadership experiences inform her current role as Chief Psychiatrist in Boston, MA at the Codman Square Health Center since 2019.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Isom has become a sought-after public speaker and inspiring national leader in identifying and eliminating health disparities and in helping organizations learn how they can do the work to create an antiracist organization, both in values and behaviors. She has led numerous presentations at the APA national meetings, and she has recently produced educational materials, reading lists, and has led multiple national seminars on topics such as: *Does One Size Fit All in Addiction Treatment? When Anti-Racism Becomes Trauma Mental Health in the Black Community*

Dr. Isom has been a gift to the members of the APA and Massachusetts Psychiatric Society because she draws on her psychiatric training and humble background to connect across differences in power, education, and perspective to foster a collaborative approach to achieving racial justice and equity in medicine and beyond. Her style in doing this work has been universally acclaimed as empathetic and patient, with a unique willingness to teach those of us many physicians who may not understand the true scope of racism in health care, in our society, and in the lives of Black psychiatrists. Dr. Isom has stated at the APA:

"The Association needs to lead by example. Not only must we individually reject bigotry, but we must also collectively condemn it as an organization; we must explicitly name mental health equity and elimination of mental health disparities as an organizational goal in public forums; and we must commit to supporting psychiatrists in the expansion of their roles as advocates for social change, champions for inclusion, and adjuncts to policymakers in order to achieve mental health equity."

It is for Dr. Isom's exemplary clinical work, her comprehensive list of professional activities, her informed leadership on racism and its consequences, and all the while mothering her young daughter Amara, the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society is pleased to honor Dr. Jessica Isom with the 2022 Early Career Psychiatry Award.