

Transformational and Strategic Plan Progress Report

2021–2025



Acknowledgements

Dalhousie University operates in the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati Peoples. These sovereign nations hold inherent rights as the original peoples of these lands, and we each carry collective obligations under the Peace and Friendship Treaties. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Canada.

We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

Our mission

To improve the mental health of society and advance the field of psychiatry through education, research, advocacy, and psychiatric care.

Our vision

Excellence and innovation in education, research, and psychiatric care.

Our values

Integrity

Creativity

Professionalism

Accountability

Collaboration

Compassion

Inclusivity

Message from the Department Head



Dear colleagues,

This year marks the conclusion of our current Transformational and Strategic Plan. As the Department of Psychiatry prepares to launch our new Strategic Plan for 2026–2030 in the coming months, I am excited to share progress we have made in the following key areas: transformative and inclusive leadership, valuing the health, well-being and professional development of department members, expanding access to clinical care and closing treatment gaps, extension of our research and education activities, and expansion of our global reach.

To highlight some key accomplishments, the past few years have seen the implementation of a distributed leadership model, establishing four new clinical-academic sections to add to our existing Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; appointing research directors and research assistants to each section and division; appointing directors of, and establishing committees to support, Social Policy and Advocacy, Wellness, and Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility; implementing the following new clinical services designed to address treatment gaps: the Transcultural Mental Health Program, the Neuropsychiatry Program, and the Rapid Access and Stabilization Program; a focus on distributed medical education; and, the establishment of several global mental health initiatives, culminating in the launch of the Centre for Global Mental Health.

I sincerely thank our department members who have contributed their time, energy, and talents to achieve progress in each element of our Transformational and Strategic Plan. I also thank our key partners within Faculty of Medicine, Nova Scotia Health, IWK Health, QEII Foundation, and the Government of Nova Scotia for their support for our department, and the many others who have contributed to the success of our Transformational and Strategic Plan.

As we move toward the next strategic phase, we remain committed to building on this foundation—advancing clinical excellence, education, research, and health equity, both locally and globally.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vincent I.O. Agyapong

Head, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

Head, Department of Psychiatry, Nova Scotia Health Central Zone

Transformative and inclusive leadership



Transformative and inclusive leadership

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated the Department of Psychiatry's strategic vision to include a Transformational Plan following extensive stakeholder consultation, and positive faculty survey and feedback Established four new clinical-academic sections, in addition to the existing Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, as part of a plan for distributed leadership and to deepen faculty engagement. These new sections are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section of Community Psychiatry Section of Forensic Psychiatry Section of Geriatric Psychiatry Section of Acute, Consultation, and Emergency Psychiatry Section Heads and Associate Section Heads have been appointed through transparent, competitive search and selection processes and have been in place since April 1, 2022 Several Clinical Academic Leadership roles have been established within the clinical-academic sections, and across community clinics and inpatient services, as part of a distributed, inclusive, engaging, and accountable leadership strategy Expanded the Department of Psychiatry Executive Committee to include representation from Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick, Saint John, New Brunswick—a distributed learning site for the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University First department leadership retreat which included leaders from distributed sites in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and was focused on equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and the Maritime role of the department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated the Centre for Emotions and Health within the Consultation-Liaison service Clinical Academic Co-Leaders were appointed for Integrated Services: Consult Liaison (CL) and Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) Hosted a second leadership retreat, inviting leaders from distributed sites in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to contribute to discussion of future directions for the department's next strategic plan <p>Celebrating 75 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024, the Dal Department of Psychiatry celebrated 75 years An Anniversary Planning Committee, chaired by Dr. Abraham (Rami) Rudnick, planned activities to commemorate the occasion To mark the milestone, the department hosted two community engagement events — a public talk about new mental health services and a mental health mini-conference for front-line staff of community-based organizations serving people experiencing homelessness. Read more about these two events Dr. Lara Hazelton led the development and was editor of a publication titled “Commemorating the Dalhousie Department of Psychiatry's 75th Anniversary: A Historical Retrospective 1999–2024” to mark the 75th anniversary. This publication is a follow up to the book edited by Dr. Patrick Flynn to mark the department's 50th anniversary. Dr. Flynn's book covered the first 50 years of the department's history (1949 to 1999), with the second publication covering the subsequent 25 years (1999 to 2024). The 75th anniversary publication is a compilation of reflections from past and current department heads, members, and poems Dr. Margaret (Leigh) Meldrum, medical humanities coordinator, led the development of a video to commemorate the department's 75-year history

**Valuing our faculty,
staff, and learners
and promoting
wellness and
personal
development**



Valuing our faculty, staff, and learners and promoting wellness and personal development

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Wellness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a departmental Wellness Committee, with membership including representation from distributed learning sites in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, graduate students, psychiatry residents, administrative staff, research faculty, and clinical faculty to plan and facilitate programs to promote and enhance the wellness of faculty and staff A Solutions for Wellness Survey was launched in May 2023. The survey results will provide direction of how the Wellness Committee, in partnership with leadership, can promote a culture of wellness, efficiency of work, and personal resilience Completed the Solutions for Wellness survey data in summer 2023 with about an 80% response rate. Wellness Committee members are working with their local leaders to action wellness solutions from the survey A subcommittee organized a department-wide Summer Recreational Event at Hatfield Farms on June 23, 2023 that was well attended and enjoyed A retirement survey to faculty and staff was completed in January 2024 and this data has been used to draft guidelines for celebrating our retiring faculty and staff Wellness events like the monthly wellness hike resumed in April 2024 and a Summer Celebration event was held on Sept. 6, 2024 at the Discovery Centre 	<p>Guidelines developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The directors of Wellness and Social Policy and Advocacy used faculty feedback to establish Retirement Celebration Guidelines that were approved by the head and executive in summer 2024. These guidelines ensure a consistent, inclusive, and equitable approach to celebrating faculty and staff retirements and other departures from the department The directors of Wellness, EDIA, and Social Policy and Advocacy used faculty feedback to create the Faculty Welcome Guidelines that were approved by the head and executive in October 2024. These guidelines are used to welcome new faculty (researchers and physicians) joining our department in a consistent, inclusive, and equitable manner <p>Solutions for Wellness data review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Psychiatry reviewed their Solutions for Wellness data in December 2024 which led to the creation of a working group in January 2025 which reviewed the 10% Protected Time policy. The working group suggested some changes to this policy which included making it accessible to part-time faculty on a prorated basis. These suggestions were approved by the head and executive in February 2025 Acute Care reviewed their Solutions for Wellness data in March and August 2025. This discussion led to the development of a faculty onboarding document and planned expansions to vacation coverage for inpatient psychiatrists <p>Social activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wellness hike was held in November 2024 and two wellness skates were held in January and February 2025 A Summer Celebration was hosted for department members and their families at the St. Mary's Boat Club on July 20, 2025 and was attended by over 90 people

Valuing our faculty, staff, and learners and promoting wellness and personal development

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee, with membership including representation from distributed learning sites, and appointed a director for EDIA Established EDIA representation on department committees. The department's EDIA director is serving on numerous committees, including the department's Executive Committee, and search committees for leadership positions within the department. In addition, members of the EDIA Committee are representatives on the department's Awards, Wellness, and International Fellows Program Committees In 2021, an EDIA survey was conducted by the Continuing Professional Development Committee, and the results were presented at ground rounds on Oct. 12, 2022. A poster on the EDIA survey results, titled "Educating for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Within the Department of Psychiatry: Results of a Needs Assessment," was presented at the department's Research Day on Oct. 21, 2022 The EDIA Committee is developing an orientation package for Newcomers, such as international medical graduates, entering the department as faculty, residents, or staff In April 2024, the EDIA Committee presented at Grand Rounds. Drs. Mutiat Sulyman and Sanjana Sridharan presented "Welcome Home to Nova Scotia: An EDIA Lens on Acculturation, Inclusion & Wellbeing in the Department of Psychiatry" A research scoping review on acculturation is ongoing Members of the committee attend the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia's Welcome Collaborative multiple times per year. In March 2024, members of the committee presented at a Dalhousie Mental Health Awareness Week event for international students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee continues to incorporate EDIA into the clinical, academic, and research activities in the department. The EDIA Committee has representation on all departmental committees The committee is working on a new initiative called the Newcomer Support Program in collaboration with Wellness and Social Policy & Advocacy Committees Members of the committee continue to provide educational content for members of the department/community on EDIA topics. This includes regular presentations at the College of Physician and Surgeons of Nova Scotia Welcome Collaborative to international medical graduates who have recently arrived in Nova Scotia Department members have been encouraged to complete the Faculty of Medicine anti-oppression modules on Brightspace There are two research projects ongoing on EDIA themes in the acute care section

Valuing our faculty, staff, and learners and promoting wellness and personal development

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Awards, Recognition, and Engagement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the Department of Psychiatry Dedicated Service Award to recognize the contribution of faculty and staff who have served the department for at least 10 years and are retiring or leaving the department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 total award recipients in three years Established the Department of Psychiatry Leadership Award to recognize the contribution of department leaders who have served for at least five years and are leaving their roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 total award recipients in three years Established the Department of Psychiatry Extra Mile Award to recognize faculty, staff, and teams who go above and beyond the regular call to duty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 total award recipients in first year the award was established Established the Department Head's Meet and Interact with small groups of faculty, staff, and learners in scheduled and unscheduled engagements to bring leadership closer to department members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with several faculty at their clinical work sites Lunch time meetings with small groups of staff Dinner meetings with residents by year group Instituted service milestone recognition for department members who have achieved 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30+ years of service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 70 department members recognized for a service milestone in December 2023 (most retroactively) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Psychiatry Dedicated Service Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 award recipients since last report 24 total award recipients in four years Department of Psychiatry Leadership Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 award recipients since last report 23 total award recipients in four years Department of Psychiatry Extra Mile Award <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 award recipients since last report 15 total award recipients in two years Terms of reference updated to include the areas of wellness and EDIA Service Milestone Recognitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 department members recognized for a service milestone in December 2024 Continued the Department Head's Meet and Interact with small groups of faculty, staff, and learners

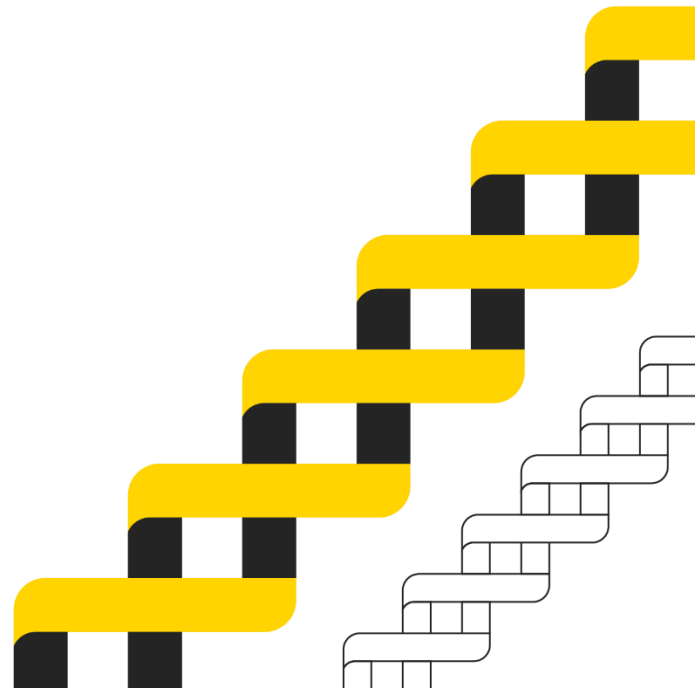
Valuing our faculty, staff, and learners and promoting wellness and personal development

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Professional Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a policy offering all full-time, clinical faculty at least 10 per cent protected time for pursuit of clinical and academic interests that align with the departmental mandate and priorities Overhauled the department's Faculty Development Fund, increasing the fund to over 100,000 dollars per annum from 25,000 dollars per annum, and shifting the fund allocation from a system that was inequitable and inaccessible, to one that is equitable and accessible by all Department of Psychiatry paid clinical and PhD faculty 21 faculty members have accessed the Faculty Development Fund since April 1, 2023 when the new policy was introduced 3 faculty members (emerging leaders) were sponsored by the department to complete a leadership course through Doctors Nova Scotia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of March 31, 2025, 37 faculty members have accessed the Faculty Development Fund since April 1, 2023 when the new policy was introduced Since 2021, the department has sponsored 7 faculty members to complete a leadership course through Doctors Nova Scotia

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Recruitment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruited record numbers of graduating residents to join the department in the last four years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An average of 4.25 graduating residents per year were offered appointments in the department from 2021 to 2024, compared with an average of 2.8 graduating residents per year appointed to the department in the five years leading up to the launch of the Transformational Plan 3 graduating residents were offered appointments with the department in 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 graduating residents were offered appointments with the department in 2025 An average of 4 graduating residents per year were offered appointments in the department from 2021 to 2025

**Expanded access
to care and
improved quality
of care**



Expanded access to care and improved quality of care

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central Zone Clinical Council was established and meets monthly to improve clinical administration and co-leadership within the Mental Health and Addictions Program• Instituted monthly leadership safety rounds to deepen the culture of quality and safety among clinical teams and improve quality of patient care across clinical programs in the Nova Scotia Health Central Zone• Our faculty co-leading and contributing to reforms at the East Coast Forensic Hospital• Several quality improvement projects and initiatives to expand access to psychiatric care across all sections/divisions• Recruited a Neuropsychiatrist and established the Neuropsychiatry Clinical Academic Program• Recruited a Concurrent Disorders Psychiatrist and established the Concurrent Disorder Clinical Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As part of its 75th anniversary celebrations, the department, in collaboration with Mental Health and Addiction Programs (MHAP) at Nova Scotia Health Central Zone and IWK Health, hosted a public event about new mental health services. The event was titled “Closing the gap: Expanding access to mental healthcare in Nova Scotia.” Presentations were made by psychiatrists and learners about the newest mental health services available for equity-deserving populations: the Transcultural Mental Health Program, Concurrent Addiction and Mental Disorders Program, Rapid Access and Stabilization Program, and the Neuropsychiatry Program

Expanded access to care and improved quality of care

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Rapid Access and Stabilization Program	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establishment of the Rapid Access and Stabilization Program (RASP) to address long-standing gaps in access to mental health support and psychiatric consultation for patients in Nova Scotia, and support for primary care providers <p>May to August 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">In the four months between May and August 2023, 250+ patients received direct access to a psychiatrist for a comprehensive psychiatric assessment for diagnostic clarification, medication initiation, or medication adjustment in comparison to an average of 100 patients who had direct access to a psychiatrist annually in the Central ZoneOn average, 115 people who accessed the program rated their overall satisfaction of the services received as a 9.51 out of 10 <p>May 2023 to April 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">RASP completed its first year of operation in April 2024 and continues to be a success960 unique patients received direct access to a psychiatrist through RASP for a comprehensive psychiatric assessment in the Central ZoneThere was a 1,226.67% adjusted increase in the number of new unique patients who gained direct access to psychiatrists after being referred by a primary care provider in the Central Zone in the 2023/2024 fiscal year (RASP implementation year) compared to the 2022/2023 fiscal year (pre-RASP implementation)There was a 102% adjusted increase in the number of unique patients who gained access to psychiatrists through either a transfer of care from a mental health clinician or referral from a primary care providerOne-year data shows a high level of satisfaction. On average, 435 people who accessed the program and completed the satisfaction survey rated their overall satisfaction of the services received as a 9.31 out of 10 <p>As of August 31, 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">RASP has also to date (August 31, 2024) offered comprehensive psychiatric assessments to 136 individuals who belong to ethnic minority groups, including 41 Indigenous People, 37 Black people, 16 people of Middle Eastern origin, 15 East Asians, 8 South Asians, 8 Latinos, and 11 people of other minority ethnic origins	<p>Key program impacts</p> <p>From April 26, 2023 (launch date) to July 31, 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">2,651 unique clients seen by RASP <p>From April 26, 2023 (launch date) to August 27, 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">On average, the 1,232 people who accessed the program and completed the satisfaction survey rated their overall satisfaction of the services received as an 8.94 out of 1092.9% of survey respondents would choose to come back to RASP if they needed mental health services again94.5% of survey respondents would recommend RASP to a family member or friendRASP offered comprehensive psychiatric assessments to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">951 males, 1,651 females, and 47 people of other genders303 individuals who belong to ethnic minority groups, including 77 Indigenous People; 81 Black people, 44 people of Middle Eastern origin, 30 East Asians, 26 South Asians, 16 Latinos, and 29 people of other minority ethnic origins <p>2024/25 fiscal year (April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1,673% increase in access: In Nova Scotia's Central Zone, access to psychiatrists for patients referred by primary care providers rose by 1,673% comparing the 2022/2023 (pre-RASP) and 2024/2025 (post-RASP) fiscal years25% of referrals seen by RASP: In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, one in four individuals referred—or self-referred—to the Central Zone Mental Health and Addictions Program were scheduled for an assessment with a RASP psychiatristExpanded access for complex cases: With a distinct and centralized RASP in place, 24% more patients with complex mental health needs were connected with psychiatrists through community mental health programs for ongoing care

Expanded access to care and improved quality of care

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Rapid Access and Stabilization Program	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In May 2025, the Rapid Access and Stabilization Program (RASP) received international recognition by being awarded the American Psychiatric Association's Bronze Psychiatric Services Achievement Award• RASP celebrated its second anniversary with an event hosted by the department and the Mental Health and Addictions Program at Nova Scotia Health Central Zone in May 2025. Speakers included Nova Scotia Health physician and operational leaders, representatives of community partner organizations, person with lived experience, RASP psychiatrists, and special guest speaker Dr. Jitender Sareen, Head, Department of Psychiatry, University of Manitoba; and Chair, Association of Chairs of Psychiatry in Canada (ACPC)• In May 2025, it was announced that RASP was expanding across the province

Expanded access to care and improved quality of care

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Transcultural Mental Health Program	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a Nova Scotia Transcultural Mental Health Program to provide mental health support for African Nova Scotians, Newcomers, and Indigenous people in Nova Scotia <p>2022/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 42 clients were seen between the Newcomer Health Clinic and Nova Scotia Brotherhood Initiative between March 22, 2022 and August 30, 2023 Based on EMR data at the Weji'winen, there was a total of 75 psychiatric contacts within the past six months, of which 40 were indirect consultations offered on site by Dr. Keri-Leigh Cassidy, and 35 were direct consultation in the adult mental health system. On site mental health consultation for children by IWK staff has also recently begun Secured new funding for a full FTE to hire Dr. Cinera States to support marginalized populations, including African Nova Scotians, Indigenous people, Newcomers, and homeless people <p>2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nova Scotia Transcultural Mental Health Program saw a total of 100 unique clients and 255 visits attended across all TMHP clinics from Aug. 31, 2023 to Aug. 31, 2024, including: <u>CMHA (Bayer's Road, Bedford/Sackville, Cole Harbour, and Dartmouth)</u>: 34 unique clients seen; 91 visits attended <u>Nova Scotia Sisterhood Initiative</u>: 20 unique clients seen; 52 visits attended <u>Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (Weji'winen)</u>: 29 unique clients seen; 51 visits attended <u>Newcomer Health Clinic</u>: 15 unique clients seen; 21 visits attended <u>Nova Scotia Brotherhood Initiative</u>: 14 unique clients seen; 40 visits attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nova Scotia Transcultural Mental Health Program saw a total of 151 unique clients and 393 visits attended across all TMHP clinics from Sept. 1, 2024 to Aug. 15, 2025, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>CMHA (Bayer's Road, Bedford/Sackville, Cole Harbour, and Dartmouth)</u>: 43 unique clients seen; 127 visits attended <u>Nova Scotia Sisterhood Initiative</u>: 21 unique clients seen; 43 visits attended <u>Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (Weji'winen)</u>: 49 unique clients seen; 121 visits attended <u>Newcomer Health Clinic</u>: 27 unique clients seen; 61 visits attended <u>Nova Scotia Brotherhood Initiative</u>: 18 unique clients seen; 41 visits attended <p>2022-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nova Scotia Transcultural Mental Health Program saw a total of 233 unique clients and 702 visits attended across all TMHP clinics from Apr. 7, 2022 to Jul. 30, 2025, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>CMHA (Bayer's Road, Bedford/Sackville, Cole Harbour, and Dartmouth)</u>: 56 unique clients seen; 220 visits attended <u>Nova Scotia Sisterhood Initiative</u>: 32 unique clients seen; 100 visits attended <u>Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (Weji'winen)</u>: 59 unique clients seen; 169 visits attended <u>Newcomer Health Clinic</u>: 56 unique clients seen; 102 visits attended <u>Nova Scotia Brotherhood Initiative</u>: 44 unique clients seen; 111 visits attended

Expanded access to care and improved quality of care

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	
<p><i>Clinical Initiatives/capacity building</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transforming services in ambulatory care—allocating psychiatric and non-physician clinical resources based on need/capacity data—Dr. Abidi, Dr. Sharon Clark, IWK APL CAPA, Amos Hundert, IWK Continuous Improvement Lead Continued initiatives to increase capacity such as the Youth Addictions Conference and Gender Care Annual Conference. These conferences have increased access to training and evidence-based treatments for physicians and clinicians across the province Conducted a needs assessment in January 2024 to determine if primary care practitioners are interested in education sessions and earning continuing medical education credits on topics in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and how this could best be delivered. Received quality improvement project funding with Department of Psychiatry to support this project development over the next year Co-created a continuing medical education program for our maritime pediatric colleagues and the success of the pediatric seminar and case consultation sessions resulted in a national presentation at the Canadian Pediatric Society annual conference in June 2024 African Nova Scotian service (launched in 2023), Integrated Youth Services (planned initial sites launch in 2025 with 8 sites funded across the province) <p><i>Focus on equity-deserving populations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IWK Mental Health and Addictions and IWK Department of Psychiatry continued its focus to improve supports for equity-deserving children, youth and families who face barriers in accessing mental health and addictions services <p><i>Quality Improvement/Knowledge Translation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenspace—launch of outcome measurement online tool for patients/clinicians across Mental Health & Addiction Program—launched with psychiatry and specialty services in 2023—Dr. Bagnell/Dr. Abidi psychiatry, Dr. Debbie Emberly, IWK APL Research and Outcomes 	<p><i>Clinical and Community</i></p> <p>Anchor Youth Space (Integrated Youth Services Nova Scotia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Integrated Youth Services site (Anchor Youth Space NS) opened in Amherst in April 2025. The Nova Scotia government has committed to funding eight IYS sites across the province primarily in rural communities and IWK is the backbone for these sites These new sites will bring together a community-based integrated network of partners offering low-barrier access to services for youth aged 12 to 25 in one location Sydney and North end Halifax are opening in late summer 2025 IWK research faculty led by Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health have received over \$17 million in CIHR and Health Canada funding to support research in IYS NS and the national network <p>Intensive Services Transformation (Provincial)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catalyzed by \$25 million donation from Garron family in September 2024 (largest one-time gift in Maritime health care history), IWK Intensive services, led by psychiatry co-leaders, have been engaging in service review and design work with senior IWK MHA leadership to re-envision this provincial service The goal is to better meet the needs of children, youth and families in Nova Scotia requiring more intensive MHA care IWK children's intensive services launched their service improvements in January 2025 and adolescent intensive services will be implementing improvement work in fall 2025

Expanded access to care and improved quality of care

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Section of Community Psychiatry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service integration between subspecialty services and Community Mental Health teams to build skills and expertise in community services • Redistribution of FTEs among CMHTs to correct the imbalance and shortage in psychiatry resources • Active recruitment of psychiatrists to fill vacant FTEs and improve service provision and access to psychiatric care • Developing the Transcultural Psychiatry Services to provide a fast-track access to mental health services to marginalized, visible minority, and Indigenous populations • Working in collaboration with the Forensic Section to streamline the referrals from forensic services to civil community mental health services • Appointment of Clinical Academic Leaders across all Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) • Hiring new doctors for CMHTs, including two psychiatrists with subspecialties in Transcultural Psychiatry (serving marginalized populations) and Addiction Psychiatry/Concurrent Disorders (establishing the Concurrent Disorder Clinical Academic Program) • Launched comprehensive initiatives to address service gaps in community psychiatry. The section's focus includes exploring the potential to advocate for a care model that incorporates physician assistants and case managers for patients requiring such services • The Nova Scotia Operational Stress Injury (OSI) Clinic is extending mental health services to the Western Zone and providing ongoing support for the PEI OSI clinic 	<p>Strengthened Leadership and Workforce Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Clinical Academic Leaders across all CMHTs improved collaborative decision-making, mentorship, and service integration, while active psychiatrist recruitment and new subspecialty roles in Transcultural and Addiction Psychiatry expanded clinical and academic capacity <p>Advancement of education, cultural competency, and program development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ongoing work on a Cultural Competency Training Program and planning for the first Annual Community Psychiatry Education Day reinforced the section's commitment to high-quality, inclusive, and future-oriented professional development <p>Robust research growth and collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple funded and in-progress studies, ranging from psychiatric rehabilitation and primary care integration to innovative treatment adaptations and service evaluation, demonstrate a strong research culture with direct community impact

Expanded access to care and improved quality of care

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Section of Forensic Psychiatry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCNA: Major project of Patient Care Needs Assessment is completed. The data are being reviewed to impact on the Model of Care development• Established the new Model of Care Goals and Principles after exhaustive discussion and feedback• Although a bit delayed, we recruited a psychiatrist to work in Forensic who is anticipated to start in October 2023• Established an international fellowship program and welcomed a new fellow. The section is preparing to welcome two more• Restarted an elective international residency for senior residents• Continued to work on developing a database to support research within the section• Starting elements from the new Model of Care that involve qualitative measures and measured based care (MBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the Model of Care started in December 2024• Preliminary data collected and presented at the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services conference in Dublin in June 2025• As a result of the efforts with NSH and DOP, we are welcoming two new forensic psychiatrists starting in August 2025

Expanded access to care and improved quality of care

Key accomplishments

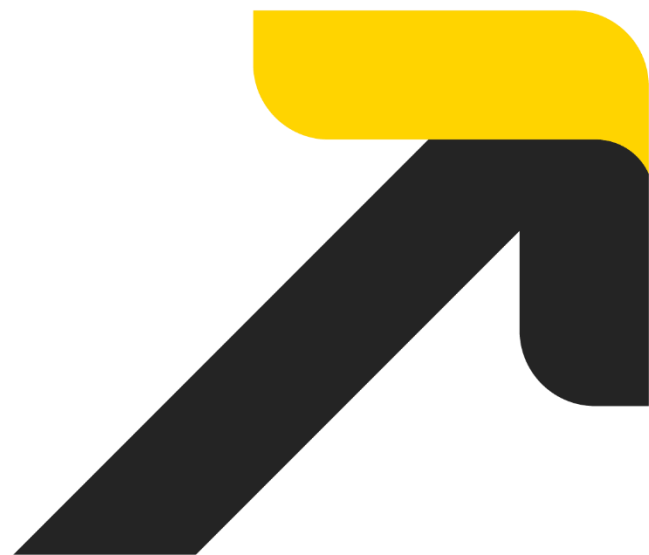
2021 - 2024	2024/25
Section of Geriatric Psychiatry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, the two geriatric psychiatry teams (at the Abbie Lane and NSH) had different approaches to triage, leading to inconsistent application of referral criteria. As of July 2023, the section now has an identified allied health professional who reviews all referrals prior to triage for both teams, and collaborates with Central Intake and Geriatric Medicine to ensure patient referrals are properly vetted and sent to the most appropriate clinical service for expedient care Several staffing changes have occurred on the Geriatric Psychiatry Acute Inpatient Unit, including addition of trained caregiver staff to increase support for patients, and moving to a model in which one psychiatrist (instead of two) provides psychiatric care to inpatients The section has started a collaboration with the North End Health Clinic and MOSH to facilitate easier access to Geriatric Psychiatry consultation for marginalized individuals The Geriatric Psychiatry Web Education Series, delivered monthly to physicians and allied health professionals in Nova Scotia, has undergone redevelopment under the direction of Dr. Meagan MacNeil. The series now has a 24-month blueprint, to ensure core topics are routinely presented, and is being recorded to ensure access to those who cannot attend live sessions. Recordings can now be accessed via the Atlantic Seniors Mental Health Network website, providing broader access to clinicians in other Atlantic provinces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Section of Geriatric Psychiatry started officially tracking the average patient wait time for a new assessment/consultation with the outreach teams. Wait times are now tracked for the entire section, as well as for the two individual teams (located in Dartmouth and Halifax). Ongoing collaboration with the Decision Support Team will occur to modify the current approach to identify wait times for different types of assessments (outreach vs. inpatient vs. LTC) and data will be used to identify barriers to care Dr. Keri-Leigh Cassidy and Dr. Amy Gough received ethics board approval to proceed with a RCT looking at effectiveness of a modified CBT group therapy approach for seniors with depression. This will be the first study of its type and is representative of the innovative scholarly work being done by the Section of Geriatric Psychiatry

Expanded access to care and improved quality of care

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Section of Acute, Consultation, and Emergency Psychiatry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Day Hospital Program has increased patient capacity and has expanded its interdisciplinary team to include an occupational therapist• Psychiatry Emergency Services (PES) now has three dedicated psychiatrists• The section has filled five Clinical Academic Leader (CAL) positions in 2023• The Section of Acute, Consultation, and Emergency Psychiatry has been working to fill vacancies, has increased patient capacity through the Day Hospital program, and has begun several research projects• The section recruited a Neuropsychiatrist and established the Neuropsychiatry Clinical Academic Program. It also recruited a new staff psychiatrist for the Rapid Access and Stabilization Program (RASP)• RASP completed its first year of operation in April 2024 and has been successful in improving access to psychiatric care for adults in the Central Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On Feb. 12, 2025, the section was pleased to welcome the Honourable Brian Comer, Minister, and Kathleen Trott, Deputy Minister, Office of Addictions and Mental Health, to our department to visit the Rapid Access and Stabilization Program• A Neuropsychiatry Education Day Workshop, organized by the Department of Psychiatry in collaboration with Queen's University, successfully convened residents from Neurology and Psychiatry departments of both institutions. The event, held on Oct. 26, 2024, also included doctors from various specialties affiliated with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and the University of Ghana's Department of Psychiatry• Dr. Mark Paramlall, a Neuropsychiatrist, organized a monthly Neuroradiology/Psychiatry meeting to collaborate and discuss complex cases with CT and MRI findings with a Neuroradiologist. Residents have enjoyed presenting in this meeting and the feedback from faculty that attended was very positive• The Neuropsychiatry Special Interest group presented five abstracts at the American Neuropsychiatry Psychiatry Association meeting in Montreal and received very positive response on the ongoing projects

**Extended the
department's
research frontiers**



Extended the department's research frontiers

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the Department of Psychiatry Research Management Committee The establishment of research directors for the five sections/divisions in the department. This will allow frontline clinical staff involvement in research, answer their clinical questions, and further Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance projects in their sections/division. These section/division research directors meet with the departmental Research Director on a regular basis Appointing research assistants for each clinical section/division to support clinical faculty engaged in clinical translational research and quality improvement initiatives. There has been success in hiring two of the five RAs (to date) specific to the section/division, that will help the section/division research directors/leadership in their research mandate There has been success in distributed research to include zones outside of Central Zone in Nova Scotia as well as New Brunswick. Most zones in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick now have a research lead Great success from our early-career and established researchers with securing externally-funded research grants in the last year, and with publications in peer-reviewed journals in the last two years Unprecedented new research projects initiated or involving our frontline clinical faculty Engagement of frontline clinicians (Central Zone and in distributed sites) in research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the work of the sectional/division research directors and the research assistants, as seen in projects initiated and DPRF grant requests; and, Through the availability of seed funding for our distributed sites, with Fredericton region being the first to access Successful research grants being awarded at many levels of granting agencies as well as publications. Of note in the last year were our successes with our early career and new faculty in grants being awarded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2024, we welcomed Dr. Lori Wozney as the new Sun Life Chair in Youth Mental Health Our research productivity remains quite high, with successful grants and publications The sectional/division research directors and research assistants have made significant gains in research projects over the last year. They are very productive and are engaging our frontline clinicians With research assistant support, in June 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section of Community Psychiatry: 8 research projects either in progress or under consideration Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: 10 research projects either in progress or under consideration Section of Geriatric Psychiatry: 4 research projects either in progress or under consideration; 1 completed Section of Forensic Psychiatry: 3 research projects either in progress or under consideration Section of Acute, Consultation, and Emergency Psychiatry: 16 research projects either in progress or under consideration <p>Summer studentships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued the Psychiatry Summer Studentship Program, designed to provide qualified undergraduate students with an opportunity to become involved in research in the Department of Psychiatry over the summer This program offers students an opportunity to learn new research techniques as they acquire hands on experience in running experiments and analyzing data In summer 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 students participated and will be presenting their projects at the department's Research Day in fall 2025. Of the 5 students, 2 began their MSc in Psychiatry Research with the department, and 2 are joining the department as research assistants From 2021-2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The department has had 21 successful summer studentships

Extended the department’s research frontiers

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
<div><p>Research Day</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">Resumed in-person Department of Psychiatry Research Day Conference in 2022, with record numbers of abstracts received and conference registrantsA successful Department of Psychiatry Research Day held in 2023 that includes records set for the number of abstract submissions and attendance, and for increasing attendance at the public facing panel discussion the evening prior to Research Day</div> <div><p>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">Incorporating scholarly research work in clinical and education practice: <i>As part of an academic department who values and supports scholarship, faculty members advance, synthesize, and translate knowledge to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of children, adolescents, and their families.</i>In December 2023, the division incorporated the above statement of support for scholarship in the NS child and adolescent psychiatry mandate. With the support of Director of Research and Integrated RA for the Division (supported by Department of Psychiatry) a comprehensive list of faculty projects and research areas of expertise was compiled. In January 2024, there were 14 division faculty involved in at least one scholarly project across 5 research areas (quality and evaluation, technology, health systems, clinical trials and medical education)</div>	<div><p>Department of Psychiatry Research Fund (DPRF)</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">20 successful DPRF Grants funded by the department in the last four years</div> <div><p>Research Day</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">68 abstracts were submitted for the upcoming Research Day in fall 2025A total of 250 abstracts were submitted from 2021 to 2024 (48 in 2021, 67 in 2022, 69 in 2023, and 66 in 2024) with a total of 235 abstracts accepted</div> <div><p>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</p></div> <div><p>Learning Health System (IWK MHA and Psychiatry)</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">IWK MHA and Psychiatry are working closely together in advancing a Learning Health System, which integrates data, research, and practice to continually improve care and outcomesMeasurement based care—collecting, sharing, and acting on data collaboratively with clients and families at the point of care—is a foundation of our LHS. We have established structures to ensure data is interpreted with appropriate context and used alongside other important sources of informationLeadership and governance of LHS includes the Psychiatry Chief and Associate ChiefOur LHS approach was recently highlighted at the Children’s Healthcare Canada conference in May 2025 and will be featured by Women’s and Children’s Healthcare Australia in September</div>

**Extended the
frontiers of the
department's
education
programs**



Extended the frontiers of the department's education programs

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department Head toured distributed learning sites in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (Moncton, Saint John, Fredericton, Truro, Cape Breton, Bridgewater, the Annapolis Valley, and Yarmouth) to interact with faculty and staff as part of efforts to increase their connectedness to the department in preparation for expansion of distributed residency education to these sites Established the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Academic Council as an enabler for the expansion of medical education at distributed learning sites across the two Maritime provinces. This is in preparation for the creation of a new rural psychiatry residency training stream and expansion of the International Fellowship program Concluded a survey for all psychiatrists at distributed learning sites in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to assess enablers and barriers to the expansion of medical education to the sites Extension of residency training to Cape Breton Enhancing distributed medical education by including distributed site representatives on the Education Management Team and adding new training sites at the PGME and UGME levels Strengthening the new education leadership structure by engaging section education leads in recruitment of teachers and other administrative tasks Heading up a working group to make recommendations to the Department Head which will address issues related to Psychiatric Emergency Services as identified in the PGME internal review The Cape Breton site finished its first year as a core rotation for PGY-2s Following the environmental scan survey for all psychiatrists at distributed learning sites in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the research was published in three papers. The first paper, outlining the protocol for the environmental scan, was published in 2023. Two subsequent papers based on the results of the environmental scan survey, one exploring engagement in teaching activities at distributed medical education sites, and the other engagement in research activities, were published in 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the first time, the Med 2 Psychiatry Component Head for the Neurosciences Unit is a department member located in Saint John, New Brunswick The department began offering clinical placements to Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) students in 2025 A paper describing the Cape Breton R2 rotation has been accepted for publication in the Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine <p>Psychiatry Research Graduate Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2025, two student awards recognizing outstanding achievement in the MSc and PhD Psychiatry Research programs were introduced <p>MSc in Psychiatry Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 MSc students have successfully defended their theses/graduated in 2025 A total of 27 MSc students have successfully defended their theses/graduated over from 2021 to 2025 (6 in 2021, 5 in 2022, 5 in 2023, 6 in 2024, and 5 in 2025) <p>PhD in Psychiatry Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a successful dissertation defence, the PhD in Psychiatry Research program saw its first graduate in October 2024 3 of PhD students have successfully defended their dissertations/graduated in 2025 A total of 4 PhD students have successfully defended their dissertations/graduated from the program (the first in 2024 and 3 in 2025)

Extended the frontiers of the department's education programs

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Subspecialty training	
<p><i>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed learning sites—Truro and Kentville established as core rotations in child and adolescent subspecialty residency program in 2021, Sydney site visit in fall 2023 with hopes of sites in all zones by 2024—Dr. Lovas/Dr. Propper A site visit in Sydney Cape Breton was held in 2024, and the training site was approved for rural rotations for subspecialty child and adolescent psychiatry residents. There is now an established site across all zones in the province and rural psychiatry is mandatory rotation for all subspecialty residents The Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry will welcome its first international fellow in September 2024 <p><i>Geriatric Psychiatry</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Geriatric Psychiatry Residency Program continues to train and graduate highly-competent geriatric psychiatrists, with geriatric psychiatrists now available for consultation in all zones in Nova Scotia The Geriatric Psychiatry Subspecialty Program will welcome its first international fellow in September 2024 for six months 	<p><i>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2025, program director, program assistant, and psychiatry chief attended PEI site visit, leading to establishing PEI as Maritime site for rural training in subspecialty program. This is the fourth rural site in the child and adolescent psychiatry subspecialty program The Dalhousie Department of Psychiatry supported a request for additional one-time funding of third subspecialty resident for first ever rural track stream starting July 1, 2025. The goal is to train, recruit and retain child and adolescent psychiatrists rurally In August 2025, there will be six child and adolescent subspecialty residents in the program, the most in program history Our first international fellow completed six-month rotation in 2024-2025 and we will welcome next fellow September 2025 <p><i>Geriatric Psychiatry</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The geriatric psychiatry subspecialty residency program welcomed its first international fellow, Dr. Winnifred Twum. This initiative was viewed as a great success, allowing current residents, faculty, and allied health professionals an opportunity to both teach and learn from an international trainee. Strong relationships were developed, fostering enthusiasm for ongoing engagement with the International Fellowship Program Dr. Eileen Burns' research project "The Dementia Simulation Experience," was added to the mandatory curriculum for PGY-3 Psychiatry residents at Dalhousie University. Dr. Burns received the Canadian Academy for Geriatric Psychiatry Geriatric Psychiatry Subspecialty Resident Award for the project

Global leadership and influence



Global leadership and influence

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Social Policy & Advocacy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Established a Social Policy & Advocacy Committee with representation from community-led organizations to plan and execute programs geared towards advocating for resources and the rights of patients with mental illness and their familiesThe committee has advertised for and welcomed lived experience representatives to its membershipThe Social Policy & Advocacy Committee developed a “Policy Document” and “Strategic Action Plan.” Together, these documents define and guide implementation of the committee’s mandate. The Action Plan included developing a SP&A fund application process. SP&A funding is available to members of the Dal Department of Psychiatry. Visit the Social Policy & Advocacy webpage for more informationWorking groups focused on evaluations development, decolonized positive reinforcement, and communications are being formed and will help the committee implement its Action PlanAn Academic Leadership Retreat was held on May 10, 2024, convening leaders in the Dal Department of Psychiatry to engage in strategic planning. In preparation for the retreat, Dr. Keri-Leigh Cassidy, Director of SP&A, worked closely with Drs. Mutiat Sulyman, Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, and Zenovia Ursuliak, Director of Wellness. The retreat included a special focus on SP&A, EDIA, and wellness, with orientation information about supporting these areas provided to leaders before the retreat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In 2024/25 Social Policy & Advocacy (SP&A) Committee members continue to strive to serve as examples of advocacy in our department, and as a resourceIn this context, SP&A Committee member, Dr. Alex Whynot is spearheading the Two-Eyed Seeing Psychiatric Assessment for use in the Transcultural Mental Health Program, together with Dr. Keri-Leigh Cassidy, SP&A Director, in collaboration with key partners at the Wije’winen and Mi’kmaw Native Friendship CentreIn January 2025, our department signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Wije’winen Health Centre to provide access to more culturally safe mental health care for the Indigenous community. Read more about the collaboration supporting Indigenous mental healthAs a resource, the SP&A Committee funded six new advocacy projects by members of our department in the last year through the SP&A Initiatives FundThe department is encouraging all members to complete the Faculty of Medicine’s Anti-Oppression online course “Supporting Diverse, Inclusive and Anti-Oppressive Learning Environments”

Global leadership and influence

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Social Policy & Advocacy	
<p><i>Social Advocacy/Community Engagement, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">IWK MHA African Nova Scotia service—engagement and report 2021-2022, business plan funded and launched in 2023—Dr. Bagnell & Maureen Brennan, Director, IWK MHA	<p><i>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</i></p> <p>Newcomer Shared Care Clinic (EDIRA focused access and advocacy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">IWK Newcomer Shared Care Clinic has been established to support Newcomers in HRM and is partnered with ISANS, Newcomer health clinic, and YMCA Newcomer services to provide services in community spacesThis clinic has now expanded over this past year to include an interprofessional team including child and adolescent psychiatry to support this growing and diverse population in our regionThe team works collaboratively with their settlement and community health providers to support consultation, education, clinical care, and advocacy for children, youth and families who are new to Canada <p>Launch of Strategic Plan IWK MHA January 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The IWK Mental Health and Addictions program held a World Café in January 2025 where the new strategic plan was launchedPsychiatry clinical academic leaders along with IWK manager co-leads presented key results and outlined the objectives: “our people will thrive,” “we will transform access,” and “we will create impact” for the next five yearsThe plan has a strong focus on developing our people and increasing EDIRA training and representation in leadership

Global leadership and influence

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Global Mental Health	
<p>Dalhousie Centre for Global Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed a project charter for the establishment of a Centre for Global Mental Health to promote Global Mental Health education, research, and knowledge translation through:<ul style="list-style-type: none">International Graduate Program in Clinical Psychiatry: Program coordinator appointed, and concept paper approved by Faculty of Medicine Council and University Senate. Full application pending review submission to the University SenateInternational Fellowship Programs: Program director appointed and Launched the Department's International Fellowship Program in September 2022 with two Fellows from the Gulf States participatingGlobal Mental Health Research—Assistant Professor of Global Mental Health has been appointedResearch collaborations established with institutions and researchers in Ireland, Ghana, Zambia, and BangladeshFollowing the development of a project charter, submitted an application to Dalhousie University to establish a WHO/PAHO Collaborative Centre for Global Mental Health to promote Global Mental Health education, research, and knowledge translation <p>Masters in Global Clinical Psychiatry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The International Graduate Program in Clinical Psychiatry has been renamed to a Masters in Global Clinical Psychiatry. A full application for the masters program has been completed and is pending review by University Senate	<p>Dalhousie Centre for Global Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Centre for Global Mental Health received Dalhousie Board of Governors approval in March 2025The centre released its first global mental health report in March 2025. Read about the Department of Psychiatry's global mental health initiatives in Ghana and Nigeria. View the Global Mental Health Report—March 2025On May 30, 2025, the Department of Psychiatry held a launch event for the Dalhousie Centre for Global Mental Health. Speakers included Dr. David Anderson, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, the Honourable Brian Comer, Minister, Office of Addictions and Mental Health, the Honourable Stanley Kutcher, Senator, Dr. Renato Oliveira e Souza, Unit Chief for the Department of Mental Health and Substance Use, Pan American Health Organization, Dr. Graham Gagon, VP research and innovation (acting), Dalhousie University, and, external advisory board members and collaborators. Read more about the centre's launch <p>Masters in Global Clinical Psychiatry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Masters of Global Clinical Psychiatry received Dalhousie Board of Governors approval in March 2025 and is pending Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) approval.This one-of-a-kind, online program is designed to expand expertise in clinical psychiatry among primary-care providers globally to address gaps in specialized psychiatric care. Learn more about the Masters in Global Clinical Psychiatry at dal.ca/global-clinical-psychiatry

Global leadership and influence

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Global Mental Health	
<p>International Fellowship Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching the International Fellowship Program and offering training positions to international fellows in Mood Disorders Clinic, Reproductive Mental Health, and Nova Scotia Operational Stress Injury Clinic • The International Fellowship Program has rapidly gained international acclaim, attracting applications from the Gulf region and developing countries • The program welcomes international fellows in a variety of subspecialties, including Mood Disorders, Forensic Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (IWK and northern zone), Nova Scotia Operational Stress Injury Clinic, Reproductive Mental Health, the Centre for Emotions & Health, Neuropsychiatry, and Psychotherapy. Recently, the department has expanded its offerings to include Addiction Psychiatry and Transcultural Psychiatry, leading to a surge in applications for training in these areas • 5 International Fellows from the Gulf States and 3 fellows from Ghana accepted by the department's International Fellowship Program <p>Global Mental Health Guest Lecture Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched the Dalhousie Global Mental Health Guest Lecture Series in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub, IWK Health, and the Office of Community Partnerships and Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University <p>Special Interest Forum for Global Mental Health and Leadership Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched the Dalhousie Special Interest Forum for Global Mental Health and Leadership Development 	<p>International Fellowship Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global recognition and diverse participation: Since its launch in April 2022, the program has earned international recognition and attracted fellows from the Gulf region and other developing countries, fostering cross-cultural exchange and strengthening mental health capacity worldwide • Expansion of training opportunities and geographic reach: The program now offers placements across a broad range of subspecialties, including newly added Addiction Psychiatry and Transcultural Psychiatry, and has expanded its training footprint to include New Brunswick, increasing access and impact across the Atlantic provinces • Commitment to bridging global mental health gaps: By equipping fellows from both high- and low-income countries with specialized skills to apply in their home communities, the program actively addresses global disparities in mental health care and supports sustainable, community-based improvements • As of September 3, 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8 International Fellows completed fellowships since the program began ○ There are 7 current/active International Fellows, 2 from Ghana and 5 from Saudi Arabia ○ There are 9 new fellowships with anticipated start dates ranging from September 2025 to January 2027 <p>Global Mental Health Guest Lecture Series</p> <p>The following two successful lectures were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 13, 2024: "The wealth of a nation" presented by Professor Swaran P. Singh, Professor of Social and Community Psychiatry and Director, Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing Research, University of Warwick; and, Associate Medical Director, R&I, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust. • Dec. 6, 2024: "Youth mental health and early intervention: A global exigency that calls for global exchange" presented by Dr. Srividya Iyer, Psychologist; Canada Research Chair in Youth, Mental Health and Learning Health Systems (Tier 1); Professor, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University; and, Researcher, Douglas Research Centre

Global leadership and influence

Key accomplishments

2021 - 2024	2024/25
Global Mental Health	
<div>Collaborations and agreements</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured an agreement with the Centre of Excellence for Neuropsychiatry at Beaumont Hospital and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to have a senior-year resident or recent graduate complete a no-cost, one-year training fellowship program in neuropsychiatry in Ireland Research collaborations were established with Zambia, Brazil, and Greece Established Memorandum of Understanding between the Dalhousie University and two academic institutions in Ghana – The University of Ghana Medical School and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the Department of Psychiatry at Dalhousie University to train Ghanaian Psychiatrists in subspecialty areas including Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, Neuropsychiatry and Concurrent Disorders Psychiatry For the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Ghana Medical School to train psychiatry residents from Dalhousie University in Transcultural Psychiatry 	<div>Collaborations and agreements</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The residency program continues to develop the international elective in Global Mental Health, in collaboration with the University of Ghana Medical School. It partnered with Dalhousie’s Global Health Office to deliver a lunch-and-learn session on broader principles of global mental health and pre-departure training In summer 2025, the department hosted a five-member staff delegation from the Parliamentary Service of Ghana to visit the centre on a week-long study tour to gain knowledge and insight into best practices in mental health programming

