In Perspective:
Highlights of the Chair’s Week

• The Chair is delighted to announce a new Office of Special Projects to: enhance our links with the wider community of those with mental illness, curb urban violence, and promote the training and education of local and state law enforcement agencies involved with mental disorders.

• During the APA week, our most important meeting for psychiatrists in the U.S., please join Professor Johnson at the reception for Dr. Sharfstein!

This will be a wonderful opportunity to thank Dr. Sharfstein for his passion and work for the Department and to meet the new CEO of Sheppard Pratt, Dr. Harsh Trivedi.

The APA meeting runs from May 14th – 18th in Atlanta

Kudos!
We are forging ahead! Thanks to our super faculty and staff for yet another great fiscal year in awarded grants, clinical expansion, & training excellence!

Outstanding work, everyone!!!

Did You Know?
“Sphenopalatine Ganglioneuralgia” is the scientific term for brain freeze!

What’s New ... with the BSRCU?
The BSRCU is lighting up the path using a Ca^{2+} imaging scope (pictured left) -- developed right here at the UMSOM!

We can now examine, in moving animals, at higher resolution how large groups of genetically coded neurons influence behavior.

Congratulations to the BSRCU!
Juana la Loca
From rightful heir to remote confinement

Born on November 6, 1479, Joan of Castile was the child of Queen Isabella of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Aragon.

She went on to marry Philippe, the Duke of Burgandy, and was highly educated and spoke six languages. Joan later became the rightful heir to the kingdom of Castile-Leon, and was in position to reign over one of the most powerful kingdoms in the world.

Unfortunately, tragedy struck when Joan became afflicted with mental illness – popular culture depicted her as a schizophrenic with an obsessive attachment to her deceased husband, and doctors had not yet developed effective treatments. Eventually, Joan was labeled as mad, and committed to one room in a remote castle.

Our praise goes to the scientists in the Department, as well as MRPC and the Conte Center, for making great strides to cure the disease of schizophrenia!

Catch up on your reading!
Faculty & MRPC members Joshua Chiappelli, Teodor Postolache, & Elliot Hong recently published “Tryptophan Metabolism and White Matter Integrity in Schizophrenia.”

They show that patients with schizophrenia have low blood levels of tryptophan, which correlates with white matter abnormalities on brain scans. Uncovering these types of mind and body relationships will lead to a better worldwide understanding of a disease that affects ~ 3.2 million Americans.

What’s Trending Now
Take a peek at the latest WSJ article, “Hospitals Test Putting Psychiatrists on Medical Wards.”

Our C/L Division is paving the way – right here, at UMSOM, by bringing psychiatry into focus as being integrated with acute medicine!

New Population Health Initiative
Congratulations to Eric Weintraub, MD, for paving the way for the SBIRT program in the ER!

The pioneering program will provide screening, education, medication assistance, and referrals for ER patients with substance use disorders, and will launch on July 1st.