DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Head of Department: Professor Dan J. Stein

Departmental Profile

The Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health is firmly committed to strengthening the integration between services, teaching, and research. Clinicians in each of the Divisions of the Department (addiction psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, consultation-liaison psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, general hospital psychiatry, intellectual disability, psychotherapy, neuropsychiatry, psychopharmacology, and public mental health) are active in research in their particular areas. Thus clinical research in the Department covers key clinical problems that are relevant in the South African context, including behavioural and neuropsychiatric aspects of HIV/AIDS, substance use disorders (including fetal alcohol spectrum disorder), adolescent risk-taking behaviour, posttraumatic stress disorder, and mental health policy and services.

In addition, the Department plays a key role in several cross-departmental and cross-institutional research initiatives:

- The Brain-Behaviour Initiative (BBI) is one of UCT’s signature themes. The initial focus of the BBI was on trauma, but it has extended to include neuroHIV and substance use disorders. More details of the aims, methods, and partners, are available at - http://www.health.uct.ac.za/research/groupings/bbi/overview/
- The Adolescent Health Research Unit is examining adolescent risk-taking behaviour, predictors of school dropout, and violence in intimate adolescent relationships. Data analysis is in progress for two large school-based cluster randomised control trials of AIDS prevention.
- The Alan J Fisher Centre for Public Mental Health addresses a range of questions in mental health policy and implementation science, and offers advanced training in public mental health. The Centre currently conducts research in 9 low and middle-income countries (EMERALD) research and capacity building initiatives. Within the Centre, The Perinatal Mental Health Project (PMHP) contributes research on maternal mental health from its own service and training initiatives as well as in collaboration with other partners.

Departmental Statistics

Permanent and long-term contract staff

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professors</td>
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<td>Emeritus Professors</td>
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<td>Associate Professors</td>
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<td>Senior Lecturers</td>
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<td>Lecturers</td>
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<td>Research Staff</td>
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<td>Administrative and Clerical Staff</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Honorary Staff

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<td>Senior Lecturers</td>
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<td>Professors</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Students

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Research Fields and Staff

ADDITION PSYCHIATRY
Substance use and anxiety disorders (Don Wilson); Interventions (Katherine Sorsdahl, Sonja Pasche)

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY
Adolescent risk behaviour (Cathy Mathews), infant mental health (Astrid Berg), autism and pervasive development disorders (Petrus de Vries).

CONSULTATION-LIAISON PSYCHIATRY
Women’s mental health, stress and pregnancy (Bavanisha Vythilingum), liaison psychiatry and HIV (Jackie Hoare and Kerry Louw), pain (Louise Frenkel)

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY
Mentally ill offenders and femicide (Sean Kaliski and Tania Swart).

GENERAL PSYCHIATRY
mHealth interventions (Pete Milligan), bipolar disorder (Neil Horn), substance-induced psychosis (Henk Temmingh), clinical audit (Robin Allen).
Research highlights from 2013

- Awarding of the Emerging Mental Health systems in low and middle-income countries (EMERALD) EU-FP7 grant (€6,000,000). The grant is being led by Prof Graham Thornicroft at the Institute of Psychiatry, King’s College London, and the UCT CPMH is leading Work Package 3 of the grant, together with Dr Dan Chisholm at the World Health Organization, Geneva.


Research output

Articles in peer-reviewed journals


Kleintjes, S.R., Lund, C. and Swartz, I. 2013. Barriers to the participation of people with psychosocial disability in mental health policy development in South Africa:


Plüddemann, A., Dada, S., Parry, C.D.H., Kader, R., Parker, J.S., Temmingh, H.S., van Heerden, S., De Clercq,


Peer-reviewed published conference proceedings