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Dr. Yaden is sharing the work of a tri-institutional team from Johns Hopkins, New York University, and Yale University Schools of Medicine to develop a generalizable psychedelic curriculum for psychiatric resident physicians.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO DEVELOP PSYCHEDELIC CURRICULUM?

While I can only speak for myself, I believe our tri-institutional team of 11 individuals saw the potential of psychedelic medicine to revolutionize psychiatry, paired with a bottleneck of limited psychedelic training opportunities to prepare psychiatrists to deliver this care. Our proposed solution is a residency curriculum with generalizability across institutions so that psychiatrists can:

- 1) learn the foundations of psychedelic medicine; and

- 2) develop more advanced training through a psychedelic medicine fellowship.

HOW DID YOU DEVELOP YOUR CURRICULUM?

We began with a general needs assessment, which consisted of two parts: an inventory and analysis of commercial training programs in psychedelic medicine/therapy, and a survey of psychiatric residency training directors to assess the availability of (and interest in) psychedelic education. The residency training survey showed us that most psychiatric residency programs offered some psychedelic medicine instruction, though fewer hours of instructions than program directors desired. We also found interest in specific topics of psychedelic medicine instruction, including safety, efficacy, ethics, and psychopharmacology leading the way.

We then turned inwards to our own universities and were fortunate to identify broad institutional support (perhaps not surprising given ongoing psychedelic research at each institution), though it varied among individual faculty. We also found widespread interest in psychedelic medicine among trainees. These trainees reported access to post-doctoral research training focused on psychedelic medicine, as well as individual mentorship, but no formal track for pursuing these opportunities. It became clear that our greatest opportunity for psychedelic medicine curriculum was during outpatient exposures or elective training years.

CAN YOU PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF YOUR CURRICULUM CONTENT?

Currently, our curriculum consists of standardized didactic content and a practicum experience, currently piloted by faculty team members at each institution. The didactic content includes an introduction to psychedelic medicine; one lecture on each of three compounds: psilocybin, MDMA, and ketamine; diversity, equity and inclusion

psychedelic medicine; one lecture on each of three compounds: psilocybin, MDMA, and ketamine; diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in psychedelic medicine; and psychedelic medicine in the real world.

These lectures cover many content domains, including safety and harm reduction, a review of key studies, and overview of clinical evidence, pharmacology, mechanisms of therapeutic action, substance-specific phenomenology and therapy, and ethics. The practicum experience is a rotation in psychedelic medicine with embedded clinical rotation and the above didactic content. Finally, we are standardizing assessments of both learners and the course across all three institutions to allow for collective curriculum evaluation and iterative change and improvement of content and delivery.

WHO ARE THE STUDENTS YOU TEACH?

Our curriculum is designed for psychiatry resident physicians.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE YOUR COURSES?

Our primary goals are to provide introductory knowledge of and exposure to psychedelic medicine for resident psychiatry physicians and to establish an educational foundation for an eventual psychiatric fellowship in psychedelic medicine. The cognitive objectives of the course are that trainees become familiar with the clinical status, potential therapeutic use, purported mechanism, and safety profiles of psilocybin, MDMA, and ketamine. At the end of the course, we hope trainees will be more open to discussing psychedelic interventions with their patients as viable treatment options when they become FDA approved.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR PSYCHEDELIC COURSE CONTENT AT YOUR INSTITUTION?

Our curriculum is designed to be shared across many institutions to reach as many resident psychiatry physicians as possible. To help with dissemination, we are exploring how to distribute the curriculum to any interested programs. We are also exploring how this curriculum can be both sustained and kept up to date as psychedelic medicine advances.

To get in touch with Bit and other academic leaders introducing psychedelic coursework in their insitutions, please visit our [*Psychedelic Therapy Curriculum Contact List*](#)