

2019-2020

DISTINGUISHED LECTURER SERIES

Friday, January 17, 2020 - 2:30 PM • Kinesiology 101
Post-talk reception in the Craine Lounge (2nd floor of Craine), 4:00 - 5:30 PM



DR. RANDY AUERBACH, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University and Division of Clinical Developmental Neuroscience, Sackler Institute

TALK: Depression and Suicide in Adolescents

ABSTRACT

Depression is common, debilitating, and typically onsets in adolescence. Although depression is robustly associated with suicide ideation and suicide planning, it shows a weaker relationship with suicide attempts. Dr. Auerbach's research uses a multimodal approach for assessment (e.g., laboratory-based experiments, passive sensor monitoring, electrophysiology, and neuroimaging) to determine why depressive symptoms unfold and how self-injurious and suicidal behaviors develop. The presentation will highlight the role of both top-down (e.g., self-referential processing, prefrontal function) and bottom-up (e.g., anhedonia, reward learning, mesolimbic function) processes as it relates to depression and suicide vulnerability. Further, novel approaches to integrating trait (e.g., phenotypes, EEG/ERPs, fMRI) and state (e.g., ecological momentary assessment, passive sensor monitoring) markers will be discussed, particularly with the aim of improving short-term prediction of suicidal behaviors.

BIOGRAPHY

Randy P. Auerbach, Ph.D., ABPP is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University and Division of Clinical Developmental Neuroscience, Sackler Institute. Additionally, he serves as Co-Director of the Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Depression at Columbia University and Co-Director for the WHO, World Mental Health International College Student Initiative. Dr. Auerbach received his B.A. from Cornell University (2000) and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from McGill University (2010). Dr. Auerbach's research is committed to improving our understanding of depression and suicide in adolescents. As a whole, the research aims to better understand the putative mechanisms that may improve early identification of and treatment for adolescent depression and suicidal behaviors. This work is funded by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, the Klingenstein Third Generation Foundation, the Dana Foundation: Clinical Neuroscience Research Grant, and several private foundations, and to date, it has resulted in over 150 published scientific papers and book chapters. Dr. Auerbach is the recipient of a number of awards including the David Shakow Early Career Award for Distinguished Scientific Contributions in Clinical Psychology, the Richard Abidin Early Career Award, and the Theodore Blau Early Career Award.