



American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training

2016 BRAIN Scholars

Michael Avissar MD, PhD

Dr. Michael Avissar is currently a first year T32 Schizophrenia Research Fellow at Columbia University where he studies sensory processing deficits in schizophrenia using evoked response potentials, fMRI, and brain stimulation. He was born in Israel before moving to the U.S. at age 6 to Rochester, NY where he attended high school. He graduated magna cum laude from Cornell University in 2001 with Honors where he majored in Biological Engineering. His undergraduate research included studying integration of visual, auditory, and vestibular inputs for the generation of smooth pursuit eye movements, auditory perceptual learning at Oxford University during his junior year abroad, and the survivability of U.S. communes as a sociology research assistant. He then matriculated in the M.D.-Ph.D. program at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine where he earned a Ph.D. in neuroscience studying the precise timing of action potentials generated by the auditory nerve of birds. He graduated in 2010 for medical school. After completing a short post-doc in 2012, he joined residency training at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. As a psychiatry resident, he examined functional connectivity of brain circuits as a biomarker for treatment response to transcranial magnetic stimulation in depression. During residency, he won the APA Resident Research Scholar Award (2015-2016), Best Trainee Poster at the International Society for ECT and Neuromodulation (2015), New York County Psychiatric Association Research Paper Award First Prize (2016), and participated in the APA Research Colloquium for Junior Investigators (2016). He also became a National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative Resident Scholar (2016). After completing residency in 2016, he joined the Psychiatry Department at Columbia where he is now a schizophrenia research fellow. He also runs a small private practice and is training in ECT. He has published four peer-reviewed original research articles, including two first author publications in the Journal of Neuroscience.



Basar Cenik, MD, PhD

Dr. Basar Cenik is currently a fourth year adult psychiatry resident at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. He was born in Ankara, Turkey. In high school, he won a gold medal in the International Biology Olympiad. He graduated from Hacettepe University Medical School in 2005 and received his Ph.D in neuroscience from UT Southwestern Medical Center in 2012. After a short stint as a postdoctoral researcher, he started his residency training in psychiatry at UT Southwestern in 2013. During that same year, he was the mentor for a Siemens competition semi-finalist. In 2015, he was named a National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative Scholar and was selected as one of the Society of Biological Psychiatry's 2016 Chair's Choice Awardees. He has published 9 peer-reviewed papers and has worked as a high-school biology instructor and a basketball coach. His academic interests include neurodegeneration, delirium, mood disorders, and biomarkers.



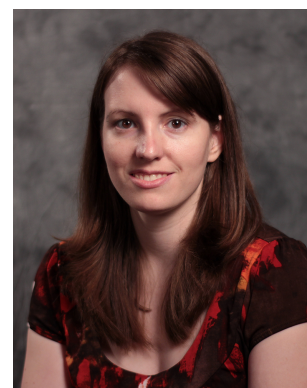
John Torous, MD

John Torous is a staff psychiatrist and fellow in clinical informatics at BIDMC and Harvard Medical School, and recently completed his psychiatry residency at the Harvard Longwood program. He has a background in electrical engineering and computer sciences and received an undergraduate degree in the field from UC Berkeley before attending medical school at UC San Diego. He has been active in investigating the potential of mobile mental health technologies for psychiatry and helped create his own research apps for the iTunes and Android stores, led several clinical studies on apps for patients with depression as well as schizophrenia, and published numerous papers on the topic. He serves as editor-in-chief for a technology and psychiatry journal, [JMIR Mental Health](#), currently leads the American Psychiatric Association's workgroup on the evaluation of smartphone apps, and co-chairs the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society's Health Information Technology Committee. He is an assistant editor for the Harvard Review of Psychiatry and section editor for the Asian Journal of Psychiatry.



Rebecca White, MD

Dr. Rebecca White is a fourth-year psychiatry resident at Loma Linda University. She graduated from Union College with a bachelor's degree in International Rescue and Relief which took her to Honduras and Nicaragua to study how to deliver healthcare to rural and resource poor areas.



While in college she also spent a year helping to deliver health care in a rural Philippine village. After college she attended Loma Linda University School of Medicine where she graduated in the top quarter of her class and was accepted into Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. In residency she was accepted as a National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative Scholar in 2015 and presented her curriculum module at the 2016 Brain Conference. She is currently a chief resident and working with the residency Associate Program Director to incorporate more non-traditional forms of learning into the neuroscience curriculum. Her academic interests are in developing unique and effective methods of teaching and global mental health. Outside of work she enjoys studying foreign languages, aerial performing arts, and backpacking.

Bryce Wininger, MD

Dr. Wininger is currently a fourth-year adult psychiatry resident at the Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC. He was born in southwest Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University with a major in Biology in 2009, and later the Indiana University School of Medicine in 2013. He began residency training at Georgetown in 2013, and is now the Chief Resident of Education, a new position created this academic year. He was named a National Neuroscience Initiative Scholar in 2015, having submitted a project related to the neurobiology of human attachment. He has presented posters at the American Psychiatric Association annual meetings in 2015 and 2016, on topics related to medical toxicology in psychiatric consultation-liaison work, as well as the neurobiology and psychology of dissociative phenomena in schizophrenia. Academic interests include medical toxicology, psychosomatic medicine, psychodynamic psychiatry, and teaching.

