

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

THOUGHTS AND UPDATES FROM DR. W. P. ANDREW LEE

February 2, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

I write to share the news that **Carol A. Tamminga, M.D.**, holder of the Stanton Sharp Distinguished Chair in Psychiatry, has announced her intention to step down from her position as Chair of the Department of Psychiatry after a successor is identified. She will remain as Professor in the department, where she leads the Division of Translational Neuroscience in Schizophrenia, and a member of the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute.

Dr. Tamminga has been at the helm of the Department of Psychiatry for the last 15 years. During her tenure, she has furthered the department's mission of building a new approach to psychiatry that integrates biological and psychological perspectives in the understanding and care of brain disorders at UT Southwestern. She has recruited premier scientists into the department's preclinical Neuroscience Division, including experts in genetics, epigenetics, addiction, depression, and pain. She has also fostered the expansion of both resident and fellow programs and tracks. The residency program – the second largest in the country – ranks No. 1 in Texas and No. 15 in the U.S., according to Doximity.

Under her leadership, the department has built several innovative programs in the clinic and in the laboratory, such as the Interventional Psychiatry Program, and neuromodulation research and treatment. It also established the Center for Depression Research and Clinical Care (CDRC), led by Dr. Madhukar Trivedi and nationally recognized for its cutting-edge research in unipolar and bipolar depression.

Dr. Tamminga championed the expansion of specialized areas of psychiatric care at William P. Clements Jr. University Hospital, as well as at our partners Parkland Health, Children's Medical Center Dallas, and the VA North Texas Health Care System. Her contributions were essential to the development of the O'Donnell Brain Institute, which has Psychiatry as one of its foundational departments. As part of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC), Dr. Tamminga led efforts to promote and coordinate mental health research across state university systems. Most recently, she has been actively involved in planning The Texas Behavioral Health Center at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Tamminga earned her medical degree from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. After completing her residency in psychiatry and a research fellowship at the University of Chicago, she remained there for her first faculty appointment. Dr. Tamminga then pursued training in neurology at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. She joined UT Southwestern in 2003 after an 18-year career in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland.



Her body of research – largely funded by the National Institute of Mental Health – focuses on understanding the mechanisms underlying schizophrenia, psychosis, and memory dysfunction to improve treatment for people with serious mental illness. She leads a five-site national Biomarker Consortium in Psychosis that is developing biologic brain measures of psychotic illness to enable diagnosis based on biology rather than phenomenology. She will continue this research with a focus on The Texas Behavioral Health Center at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Tamminga’s contributions to the field have been recognized with multiple honors – most notably, her induction into the National Academy of Medicine in 1998.

I am pleased to announce that **William Dauer, M.D.**, Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience and inaugural Director of the Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute, will serve as Chair of the committee that will conduct a national search to identify Dr. Tamminga’s successor. Other members of the Search Committee are:

- D. Mark Courtney, M.D., Professor of Emergency Medicine
- Nora Gimpel, M.D., Professor of Family and Community Medicine
- Carlos Girod, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine; Associate Vice President, Parkland Health Affairs
- Kim Huber, Ph.D., Professor of Neuroscience
- Nneka Ifejika, M.D., M.P.H., Professor of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Neurology
- Kimberly Kho, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Bradley Lega, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery, Neurology, and Psychiatry
- Elan Louis, M.D., M.S., Professor and Chair, Department of Neurology
- Joseph Takahashi, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Neuroscience
- Jennifer Walsh, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine; Chief, Division of Combined Medicine and Pediatrics

The search will be launched shortly. We are grateful for Dr. Tamminga’s multifaceted service and contribution to the institution and look forward to building on the success made possible by her leadership as we continue to advance psychiatric research, education, and clinical care at UT Southwestern.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

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Academic Connections is a publication of Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs (CMPA) at UT Southwestern Medical Center.