Annual Cornelius A. Randhare Memorial Lecture on Serious Mental Illness

Cornelius Randhare's family endowed this lecture as an annual event in his memory to educate physicians, residents, medical students and other health care professionals about chronic mental illness.

Randhare lecture speakers are internationally recognized leaders in psychiatry, neuroscience and public health.

Cornelius "Neil" A. Randhare was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1933. He was the eldest of seven children. An A-student all his life, he won full scholarships to Xavier High School in Manhattan and Fordham University in the Bronx. At Fordham, he was Editor-in Chief of the Fordham Ram newspaper and graduated summa cum laude.

During his college years, Neil began to exhibit signs and symptoms of schizophrenia. He completed his college education between months of hospitalization at Kings County Hospital. When the family moved to Queens County, NY, Neil was transferred to Creedmore State Hospital, where he spent the rest of his life. Neil visited home on holidays and was visited at Creedmore often by family and a childhood friend. He enjoyed playing basketball on the hospital grounds.

Neil Randhare was found dead in a locked seclusion room at Creedmore in December 1975. Cause of death was severe blunt force trauma and massive internal injuries. In a landmark case, the family was awarded two thousand dollars for wrongful death. This was the first time in the State of New York that a family was awarded damages for the wrongful death of a mentally-ill patient in a state hospital.

Cornelius Randhare Lecture Honorees

2015 – William T. Carpenter, MD

Dr. Carpenter is a Professor of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He is the Editor-in-Chief of Schizophrenia Bulletin, one of the preeminent journals in the field of psychiatry. Dr. Carpenter's major professional interest is severe mental illness, especially schizophrenia. He participated in the founding of the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD), now Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, and chaired the work group responsible for psychotic disorders in preparation of DSM-5. Dr. Carpenter has authored over 400 clinical and scientific articles, book chapters and books, and has received major national and international research awards throughout his career.

2016 - Nancy C. Andreasen, MD, PhD

Dr. Andreasen is currently the Andrew H. Woods Chair of Psychiatry at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, where she is also the Director of the Neuroimaging Research Center and a professor of psychiatry. She is a prominent neuroscientist, writer, editor and leader in the field of psychiatry. She was among the first investigators to use computed tomography (CT) and single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) to study brain abnormalities in schizophrenia, and the first in bipolar disorder. Dr. Andreasen is known for integrating her education in the arts with her career as a physician-neuroscientist. Her current research is focused on the relationship between creativity and mental illness.

2017 – Raquel E. Gur, MD, PhD

Dr. Gur is the Karl and Linda Rickels Professor of Psychiatry, Vice Chair for Research Development, and Director of the Neuropsychiatry Section at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. She holds secondary professorial appointments in the Departments of Neurology and Radiology. Her combined training in psychology, neurology, and psychiatry has provided the tools to pursue an academic career working with basic and clinical neuroscientists to advance the understanding of schizophrenia. NIMH has supported Dr. Gur's research endeavors, which has led to over 450 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

2018 – Matcheri S. Keshavan, MD

Dr. Keshavan is the Stanley Cobb Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, Vice Chair of Public Psychiatry at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Senior Psychiatric Advisor for Massachusetts Mental Health Center in Boston, MA. Dr. Keshavan's research has resulted in over 450 publications, including over 350 peer-reviewed papers, 4 books, and 100 reviews and book chapters. He leads a thriving research program focused on psychotic and mood disorders, currently researching smartphonebased programs for learning, assessment, management, and prevention (LAMP) for people with mental disorders.

2019 - Mary L. Phillips, MD

Dr. Phillips is the Pittsburgh Foundation-Emmerling Endowed Chair in Psychotic Disorders and Professor in Psychiatry and Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Pittsburgh. She also directs the Mood and Brain Laboratory, the Clinical Affective and Translational Neuroscience Program, as well as the Collaborative on Mood Disorders Research. Dr. Phillips' research focuses on using multimodal imaging techniques to demonstrate functional and structural abnormalities in emotion processing, reward processing, and emotional regulation circuitries that are associated with specific psychiatric disorders.

2020 – Benjamin G. Druss, MD, MPH

Dr. Druss is a Professor and the Rosalynn Carter Chair in Mental Health in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Being one of just a few psychiatrists in the country based in a school of public health, Dr. Druss works to integrate mental, physical, and public health. His current research focuses on understanding and improving access, quality, and outcomes of care for populations with serious mental illnesses and medical comorbidity. Dr. Druss's work has included epidemiological studies, intervention trials, and health policy and public health research.