

July 13, 2020

RE: Joyce Harrison, MD

Dear Dean Rothman:

I am writing to recommend Dr. Joyce Harrison, M.D. for promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Harrison has been at the rank of Assistant Professor since July 2007. Dr. Harrison is one of our most outstanding faculty members in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and her clinical excellence contributions span all areas of the tripartite academic mission emphasized by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine: clinical care, clinical teaching, and clinical research/innovations. Dr. Harrison's specific expertise is in the area of infant and preschool mental health for which her clinical excellence is recognized within the institution, regionally, and nationally.

Introduction

Dr. Harrison received her B.A. degree in Psychology and Social Relations from Harvard University in 1979. She received her M.D. from Dartmouth Medical School in 1987. She completed an internship in pediatrics as part of a triple board program at Tufts/New England Medical Center in 1988, an adult psychiatry residency at the University of Maryland in 1990, and a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship in 1992 at Johns Hopkins, where she was chief resident. Dr. Harrison spent four years on the faculty at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC, after which she came to Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center as a clinical associate for three years. She joined the faculty at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 2005, and in 2012, she was recruited to the Kennedy Krieger Institute where she currently works. Dr. Harrison has been board certified in general, and child and adolescent psychiatry since 1994 and 1995, respectively.

Clinical Excellence and Effort

Over the last 13 years, Dr. Harrison has demonstrated a clear and consistent commitment to clinical excellence in infant and preschool mental health through the delivery of outstanding clinical care, innovative program building, improving local and state models of care for this population, and teaching of residents and fellows. She has worked in multiple community settings and in each location her work has had a major impact on improving the clinical care of young children. Dr. Harrison has received numerous grants and awards for her contributions to promoting clinical excellence, and she is in high demand for speaking and teaching engagements.

Throughout her career, Dr. Harrison has always regarded clinical care as her top priority. She has dedicated between <redacted> effort to clinical care activities while working at Bayview Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, and the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Throughout her career, she has provided direct clinical care in both inpatient and outpatient settings, and provides clinical consultation via integrated care using a multidisciplinary model. Currently, Dr. Harrison dedicates <redacted> effort to clinical care activities at the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Psychiatric Mental Health Program (PMHP), where in the last fiscal year she exceeded productivity expectations by 50%. She also actively teaches residents at PMHP, and provides clinical services at the Center for Development and Learning's Preschool Interdisciplinary Clinic. She attends four weekends annually on Kennedy Krieger's Neurobehavioral Inpatient Unit. She also has four to six weeks of on call responsibilities for PMHP each year.

Dr. Harrison served as the medical director of the Johns Hopkins Community Child Psychiatry Programs for two years. In this role, she was directly involved in building new programs that improved the care of children in the Baltimore community. First, she developed preschool clinical programs at the Children's Mental Health Center (CMHC) and in 14 Baltimore City public schools. Second, she received a grant from the Stulman Foundation to explore the effectiveness of the Chicago Parent Program, a parenting program for young children (ages 2 to 5 years) at the CMHC. Third, she received a grant from Baltimore Mental Health Systems to revive the East Baltimore Trauma Response Program.

Clinical Performance and Contributions

Dr. Harrison is an expert in the psychiatric assessment and treatment of very young children. She has seen patients from as far as California and over 30% of her active patients traveled up to three hours to see her prior to COVID-19. Currently, 10% of her caseload includes relatives of faculty members. She is periodically contacted by the Department of State for young child assessments and is currently treating a child who lives in France.

Dr. Harrison developed an innovative multidisciplinary preschool intensive outpatient treatment program, which serves caregivers and their children aged 0-5 with severe disruptive behavior problems. This program is one of the few programs in the country of its type, requiring caregivers to attend with their children three to five times weekly. Treatment includes occupational therapy, speech, social work, and parent training in addition to individual and family therapy and psychiatry. The program has been running for over 10 years and has served hundreds of very young children and their families. These children may have otherwise required inpatient treatment or out-of-home placement.

Another innovation that Dr. Harrison has been directly involved in was the development of the Maryland's Behavioral Health Integration in Pediatric Primary Care (BHIPP) program, which is funded through the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration. This is the first program in the state to provide psychiatric consultation to pediatric primary care providers. She provided phone consultation and in-person training in early childhood mental health as well as general child psychiatry. She served as the medical director of BHIPP for its first five years and set a high standard for clinical consultation, developed training materials, and formed learning collaboratives in early childhood mental health with pediatricians across the state of Maryland. She testified in front of the Maryland legislature for several years until the BHIPP program, now in its 8th year, became a line-item in the state budget.

In 2016, Dr. Harrison developed the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Network for Early Childhood Telehealth (KKI-NECT), with partners in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. This project was

funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration grant awarded to Dr. Harrison and her colleague to evaluate the use of teleconferencing to support pediatric primary care providers. KKI-NECT is a case-based learning collaborative to address behavioral, emotional and developmental concerns in children ages birth to 6. It replicates the Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) model of a “hub” (KKI developmental pediatricians, child psychiatrist, behavioral psychologist) which hosts weekly clinics (teleconferences) with “spokes” (10-12 primary care providers or School Based Health Center care providers) in underserved areas across Maryland and West Virginia. Over 90% of the cases discussed have been managed without specialist involvement. The reception of this program across the state of Maryland has led to state funding for expansion of this program. KKI-NECT was the first early childhood mental health and developmental ECHO in the nation, and serves as a model for further ECHO projects at Kennedy Krieger, nationally and internationally.

Recognition of Clinical Excellence

Dr. Harrison’s recognition of clinical excellence is demonstrated through her multiple leadership roles, invited talks, grants, and awards that she has consistently received throughout her career for her outstanding work in the field. First and foremost, at the national level, for the past 12 years, she has been one of 12 appointed members of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent’s Infant and Preschool Committee. This year she was selected to serve as Co-Chair of this committee. She is leading a subcommittee of this group that is updating the Clinical Guidelines for Assessment of Children aged 0 to 5, which will define the national standard. She also received the honor of AACAP Distinguished Fellow for her contributions and service to the Academy.

Another notable honor is that Dr. Harrison and her partner, Dr. Mary Leppert, received the 2020 Johns Hopkins Institute for Excellence in Education (IEE), Outstanding Educator Award in Innovation for the development of Kennedy Krieger Institute’s Network for Early Childhood Tele-education, their program of consultation to primary care providers. Of note, this is the first time an IEE award has given to a Kennedy Krieger Institute faculty member. She was recently invited, with eight other national programs, to create a community of practice as part of a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration-funded Center of Excellence in Infant Mental Health Consultation at Georgetown University.

She has received several other kinds of recognition. In 2018, Dr. Harrison received the Appa Rao award from the Buddhi Clinic, a mind-body clinic in Chennai, India, where she was invited to present two lectures as part of an all-day conference for over 300 staff, patients and families of the clinic. Dr. Harrison was elected in 2018 to serve as the president of the Maryland-DC Association for Infant Mental Health, which is an affiliate of the World Association for Infant Mental Health. This is an organization of professionals serving very young children whose activities include advocacy, education, and workforce development. In 2016, the American Academy of Pediatrics presented Dr. Harrison with a Special Achievement Award for Distinguished Service and Dedication to the Mission and Goals of the Academy for her work as the co-chair of the Maryland Chapter’s Poverty Task Force. This work was supported by an Urban Health Institute grant in 2016 for which she was the principal investigator. The grant funded a project of collaboration between Hopkins faculty and community partners to address community issues. Goals of this project were to foster positive parent child interactions among children ages 0-2 who are experiencing poverty and are at risk of being removed from their parents.

Engagement in Teaching Mission and Mentorship

Dr. Harrison is committed to teaching and mentorship within and outside of the institution. Within the institution, her greatest contributions have been to the child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship. Dr. Harrison is currently recognized as one of the most gifted teachers in child psychiatry. She is a highly sought out teacher in the child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship, and is the only faculty member to receive the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry faculty teaching award four times, in 2007, 2010, 2015, and 2020. Dr. Harrison's teaching in the fellowship has included serving as a clinic preceptor for the Johns Hopkins child psychiatry residents Continuity Clinic since its beginning in 2015. This involves direct supervision of two child psychiatry residents weekly for general outpatient child psychiatry as well as assessments and treatment of very young children. Dr. Harrison has also played a major role in curriculum development and actively teaches on the topics of preschool mental health and integrated care. She developed a preschool rotation for child and adult psychiatry residents while at Bayview. She currently delivers a series of lectures on topics in early childhood mental health for first-year child psychiatry residents, and teaches a workshop on integrated care for second-year child psychiatry residents. She has served as a mentor to three residents, which has resulted in two publications and the development of curriculum modules. One of these residents assumed directorship of the preschool clinical programs at Children's National Hospital, and recently contributed to a book chapter for Dr. Harrison's edited book on the clinical assessment of young children. Another resident accepted a faculty position within the Johns Hopkins Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

At the state level, since 2007, Dr. Harrison has been a faculty member for the Maryland State Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate program, where she has provided teaching sessions on early childhood psychiatric assessment and developmental comorbidity. This program has trained about 350 early childhood mental health therapists and professionals in Maryland.

In 2017, Dr. Harrison was invited by the director of the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect to become a master trainer for the state of Maryland in Adverse Childhood Experiences. As the only MD clinician in the original cohort, she provides at least two annual trainings to medical professionals on topics related to Adverse Childhood Experiences. Since 2017 she has delivered nine presentations to professionals in a variety of settings.

Nationally, for the past six years Dr. Harrison has presented a workshop every year at the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's annual meeting, which has trained attendees from a variety of disciplines in early childhood assessment. She has also organized or participated in a dozen presentations on topics in early childhood at these meetings. She is consistently rated as a top speaker by attendees. Dr. Harrison has also mentored residents to deliver national presentations. In 2017, Dr. Nadia Zaim, then an adult psychiatry resident, and Dr. Anupriya Razden, a child psychiatry fellow, presented a workshop, "Preschool Psychiatric Assessment in a Clinical Setting" at the American Psychiatric Association's Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Engagement in Contributions to the JHM Research and Discovery Mission

Dr. Harrison has received many grants to build clinical programs for young children and to train professionals in the community to care for this population. As noted above, one of the largest grants that she has received was from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. The goal of this grant is to evaluate the use of teleconferencing to support pediatric primary care providers (KKI-NECT). She also received federal funding from the Maryland State Department of Education to support her early childhood work in BHIPP.

Dr. Harrison was funded by the Stulman and Krieger Foundations to explore adaptation of an evidence-based parenting program to a clinical setting. The Chicago Parent Program, authored by Dr. Deborah Gross in the School of Nursing, was designed as a universal parenting intervention, and was effective in two different clinical settings.

Dr. Harrison has contributed to the research mission by providing the clinical voice on the research she has participated in, i.e., knowing the clinically relevant questions to ask, and bringing the clinical experience perspective. The research she has been involved in is aligned with her clinical interests and program building in the areas of early childhood mental health assessment and interventions as well as behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care. She has served as a clinical expert in growing the evidence base for interventions in both of these areas.

Publications, Presentations

Dr. Harrison's extensive list of regional, national and international presentations provides evidence that she is a highly sought out speaker. At Johns Hopkins she has been invited to present Grand Rounds for the Department of Psychiatry twice, and she has also presented Grand Rounds regionally for Children's National Medical Center in DC, the University of Maryland Department of Pediatrics, Cumberland General Hospital, Peninsula Regional Medical Center, and Frederick Memorial Hospital on a variety of clinical topics. She has presented at over a dozen statewide conferences on early childhood mental health topics for child care workers, school nurses, primary care providers and other early childhood clinicians. Lectures have included screening for toxic stress and early childhood adversity, effects of toxic stress on brain development, an overview of child development from ages 0 to 2, and promoting positive parent-child interactions.

Nationally, Dr. Harrison is a well-known speaker at the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and has chaired or participated in 11 presentations at AACAP's annual meeting on topics of early childhood mental health and integrated care over the last five years. She has presented on topics pertaining to early childhood assessment, integrated care, and her work in the ECHO project. Her AACAP workshop in early childhood assessment resulted in an invitation by Springer to edit a book in this area titled the "Clinical Guide to the Psychiatric Assessment of Infants and Young Children," published in April 2019.

In 2018, Dr. Harrison was invited to give two international presentations. The first presentation was at the World Association of Infant Mental Health 16th World Congress in Rome Italy, and titled "Kennedy Krieger Institute Network for Early Childhood Tele-Education (KKI-NECT): A Multidisciplinary Model of Integrated Care for Behavioural, Emotional and Developmental Disorders in Children Birth to Five". She has been invited to present at their 17th annual conference in June 2021 in Brisbane Australia, "Training and supporting rural pediatricians in the identification and care of families affected by trauma" and "Using technology to provide infant mental health education and consultation". The second presentation was an invitation to deliver the Appa Rao lecture in Chennai, India, where she gave two stellar presentations to over 300 professionals and families on "Neuropsychiatric, Behavioral, Developmental and Somatic Sequelae of Adverse Childhood Experiences". and "From Development to Care: Lessons from the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Network for Early Childhood Tele-Education".

Contributions to JHM initiatives and/or committees

Dr. Harrison has consistently been involved in workgroups that oversee the clinical education of child and adolescent psychiatry residents. She is currently a member of the Child Psychiatry Division's Clinical Competency Committee, which ensures that residents are meeting their ACGME milestones. She has been on this committee since 2014, and prior to that was a member of the Residency Education Committee at Bayview and the Child Psychiatry Clinical Leadership Committee at Hopkins. The overall goal of these groups is to ensure that residents are trained in the delivery of exceptional patient care.

Dr. Harrison is currently the co-chair of Kennedy Krieger's Committee on Telehealth. Her initial involvement with this group was through her tele-education program. With the rapid conversion to telemedicine, Dr. Harrison was invited by the president of the medical staff at the Kennedy Krieger Institute to assume leadership of this committee, now overseeing all telemedicine and telehealth activity.

Summary Statement

Dr. Harrison is an exceptional clinician who is highly regarded within the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Kennedy Krieger Institute, as well as nationally and internationally as an authority in infant and preschool mental health. Her work in program building and clinical leadership over the past 15 years has significantly advanced the clinical care of infants and preschoolers. Additionally, she is a gifted teacher and has educated hundreds of trainees, psychiatrists, pediatricians and community mental health workers on best practices in the care of young children. For these reasons, we strongly recommend the promotion of Dr. Joyce Harrison to the rank of Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Warm regards,

James "Jimmy" Potash, MD, MPH
Henry Phipps Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Department Director and Psychiatrist-in-Chief
Johns Hopkins Medicine