

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to announce the appointment of Helena Hansen, MD, PhD, as interim chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, interim director of the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) at UCLA, and interim physician-in-chief of the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, effective July 1, 2022. Dr. Hansen assumes this role as Dr. Alexander Young steps down.



Dr. Hansen is professor of psychiatry and co-chair of Research Theme in Translational Social Science and Health Equity at DGSOM, as well as associate director of UCLA's Center for Social Medicine. She earned an MD and a PhD in cultural anthropology as part of Yale University's NIH funded Medical Scientist Training Program, during which she completed fieldwork in Havana on Cuban AIDS policy, and in Puerto Rico on faith healing in evangelical Christian addiction ministries founded and run by self-identified ex-addicts. After graduate school, she completed a clinical residency in psychiatry at NYU Medical Center/Bellevue Hospital, during which she began an ethnographic study of the introduction of new addiction pharmaceuticals. She completed a feature length visual documentary based on this work, *Managing the Fix*, which debuted at the 2018 annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Hansen is an accomplished and prolific researcher with over 100 clinical and social science journal articles and book chapters ranging from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *New England Journal of Medicine* to *Social Science and Medicine* and *Medical Anthropology*. Her first book, *Addicted to Christ: Remaking Men in Puerto Rican Pentecostal Drug Ministries*, was published by UC Press in 2018 and received an award from the Puerto Rican Studies Association.

As an educator, Dr. Hansen leads a national movement for training of clinical practitioners to address social determinants of health, "Structural Competency," which is the subject of her second book, *Structural Competency in Medicine and Mental Health: A Case-Based Approach to Treating the Social Determinants of Health*, with co-editor Jonathan Metzl, published by Springer Press in 2019. Her third book, *Whiteout: How Racial Capitalism Changed the Color of Opioids in America*, with policy analyst Jules Netherland and historian David Herzberg, is forthcoming from UC Press.

Dr. Hansen has also held multiple national and international leadership positions, including on the National Academy of Medicine Opioid Action Collaborative, the American Psychiatric Association's Council on Minority Affairs, the International Society for Addiction Medicine and the Global Social Medicine Consortium. She is also a member of the editorial board of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, of *The Lancet* Commission on U.S. Health Policy, the *New England Journal of Medicine* Social Medicine Case Series, the *Milbank Quarterly*, the *American Anthropologist*, and *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*.

For her many accomplishments, Dr. Hansen has received many awards including the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Investigator Award, Kaiser Permanente Burch Minority Leadership Award, the NYU Golden Dozen Teaching Award, the American Association of Directors of Psychiatry Residency Training Model Curriculum Award, and an honorary doctorate from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. She was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2021.

Throughout her career as a distinguished clinician, researcher, and educator, Dr. Hansen has embodied the principles of the Cultural North Star.

In announcing this transition, we want to recognize Dr. Young's contributions as interim chair. And we thank the search committee members, whose names are listed below, for their dedication and commitment to the search process.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Hansen to her new role.

Sincerely,

John C. Mazziotta, MD, PhD
Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences
CEO, UCLA Health

Johnese Spisso, MPA
President, UCLA Health

CEO, UCLA Hospital System
Associate Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences

Steven Dubinett, MD

Interim Dean, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Associate Vice Chancellor, UCLA

Department of Psychiatry Interim Chair Search Committee

- Dr. Linda Liau, Neurosurgery, Co-Chair
- Dr. Keith Norris, Medicine, Co-Chair
- Dr. Eraka Bath, Psychiatry
- Dr. Michelle Bholat, Family Medicine
- Dr. Erick Cheung, Psychiatry, Resnick
- Mr. Steve Cohen, UCLA Health System, Resnick
- Dr. Jonathan Flint, Psychiatry
- Dr. Jeremy Flores, Psychiatry
- Dr. Linda Godleski, Psychiatry - VA
- Dr. Ira Lesser, Psychiatry - Harbor
- Dr. April Thames, Psychiatry
- Dr. Larry Zipursky, Biological Chemistry

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