

## **Department of Personality Studies**

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*Donna S. Bender, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Research Scientist IV*

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### **Overview**

The Department of Personality Studies conducts research on personality traits and disorders in collaboration with investigators from other research departments at Psychiatric Institute and other university departments of psychiatry. Personality disorders are important contributors to impairment in social and occupational functioning and high mental health treatment utilization. They also have negative prognostic effects on a variety of other mental disorders.

### **Current Research**

Members of the Department capitalized on the unique longitudinal perspectives of the CLPS to further elucidate the nature of personality psychopathology. Specifically, Drs. Skodol and Bender extended findings on the impact of personality disorders on psychosocial functioning and on treatment utilization, respectively, using longitudinal data over three years. Dr. Skodol also demonstrated the advantages of dimensional representations of personality psychopathology over categories in predicting associations with functional impairment. Dr. Markowitz showed how depressive personality disorder differed from dysthymic disorder over time.

### **Education and Training**

Training in the use of the Diagnostic Interview for DSM-IV Personality Disorders (DIPD-IV) and the Longitudinal Interval Follow-up Evaluation Adapted for Personality Studies (LIFE-PS) is provided to clinician/raters from the four CPLS sites, under the direction of Dr. Bender.

### **Awards/Honors**

Collaborative Longitudinal Personality Disorders Study (CLPS) competing continuation application was funded by NIMH for four additional years, extending its continuous period of funding to 13 years.

American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Personality Disorders, edited by John M. Oldham, M.D., Andrew E. Skodol, M.D., and Donna S. Bender, Ph.D., was published.

10 peer-reviewed papers and 4 chapters published.