List of DEI Subcommittees & Accomplishments

- Participant Advisory Board (PAB)

The goal of the CDASR Research Participant Advisory Board is to promote trust, representation, and inclusive practices in research. Core values include: learning from participants' experiences by having conversations, applying what we learn, and sharing what we learn with the DEI Committee and the larger CDASR, McLean, and Boston communities.

- Accomplishments:

- Confirmed that we are: 1) Non-Human Subjects Research, and 2) Separate from McLean-wide volunteers
- Finalized Goals & Objectives for the board (linked here)
 - Incorporated feedback from the larger DEI Committee
- Drafted the application for future PAB members
- Found a funding source and identified ways to pay future members

- Participant Feedback Form

- The goal of the participant feedback form is to gain better understanding of participant experiences and how we may be able to make the experience of participating in research at CDASR more accessible and inclusive.

- Accomplishments:

- Created a form that can be sent to participants after their study visits so they may provide positive and/or constructive feedback to study teams & broader CDASR research community.

- Inclusive Neurotechnology

- The goal of the inclusive neurotech subcommittee is to improve CDASR neuroimaging practices to heighten our participant population's diversity by minimizing the number of participants who are excluded due to factors outside their control (e.g., hair type/texture). Actions consist of enhancing staff training, researching cutting-edge methodologies, reaching out to community members and incorporating feedback from historically excluded participants.

- Accomplishments:

- Purchased and installed a sink in Room 237 for washing EEG gel out of hair
- Acquired supplies for EEG rooms to increase comfort of EEG sessions (i.e., combs, hair dryer, sand paper, shampoo, etc.)
- Consulted with other EEG labs in order to brainstorm solutions & inform SOP development
- Coordinated a hair workshop to learn more about working with coarse and curly hair in various EEG/neuroimaging protocols

- Installed a ramp in EEG room 235 to make EEG system accessible to people who use mobility aids such as wheelchairs

- Supporting Student Visitors

- The goal of this subcommittee is to develop ongoing systems within CDASR that can help our labs better mentor and support student visitors/interns. We intend to help visiting students get the most out of their experience and aim to incorporate their feedback in the future.

- Accomplishments

- Compiled a list of funding opportunities that student visitors/interns may be able to apply for in order to help compensate them for their time at CDASR
- Wrote an exit interview-style feedback form for labs to use as a template when gathering feedback from student visitors who are finishing their terms
- Created a presentation for new student visitors to orient them to the research going on across labs in CDASR as well as a reading list to give new student visitors insight into the key results from each lab
- Compiled a spreadsheet of institutions, psychology departments, and faculty in the Boston area whom labs can contact in the future when looking to recruit student visitors (with the goal of diversifying sources of student visitor recruitment)

- Immigrant & Refugee Mental Health

- The goal of this subcommittee is to identify community actors to help increase sustainable engagement & representation of immigrant and refugee communities in neuroscience-informed mental health research.

- Accomplishments

- Compiled educational resources on the unique stressors faced by immigrant and refugee communities with direct applications for current or future research projects.