CASA Mental Health and University of Alberta announce first Research Chair in Child and Adolescent Mental Health

EDMONTON — CASA Mental Health and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry are pleased to introduce Dr. Daniel Moreno De Luca as the CASA Research Chair in Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

The CASA Research Chair is a five-year term funded by CASA Mental Health and its donors. As CASA Research Chair, Dr. Moreno De Luca will mentor and lead world-class research with opportunities for significant collaboration. He will also work closely with community groups and the health system to advocate for improvements in child and youth psychiatric care across the province.

Dr. Moreno De Luca is a world-renowned expert in autism and other neuropsychiatric conditions. His research focuses on the impact of genetic variation on brain disorders and how to use his discoveries to enhance patient care. He works closely with those who are on the autism spectrum or who live with developmental disorders.

"The priority will be to try to help families meet their needs in the way that best aligns with their values," says Dr. Moreno De Luca. "CASA's mission of providing evidence-informed and compassionate care is closely aligned with my strong advocacy to ensure that precision medicine and translational genomic interventions are broadly and equitably available for children with mental health needs."

In addition to his research and responsibility at the University of Alberta, Dr. Moreno De Luca will work with teams of mental health professionals at CASA Mental Health to provide direct patient care to children, youth and families.

"CASA is excited to add the experience and expertise of Dr. Moreno De Luca to the mental health community in our province," says CASA Mental Health CEO Bonnie Blakley. "His research and his work alongside our staff and patients will advance child and youth mental health care in Alberta, helping us to empower children, youth and families to thrive."

Dr. Moreno De Luca comes to the University of Alberta from New England, where he was a research fellow at Harvard Medical School, an assistant professor of psychiatry and human behaviour at Brown University, and an attending psychiatrist at the Verrecchia Clinic for Children with Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

About CASA Mental Health

CASA Mental Health is an established non-profit organization delivering holistic, culturally safe wrap-around mental health services to Albertans aged three to 18 and their families. CASA provides mental health service to the missing middle – mental health treatment for diagnosed children and youth, in between primary and community care, and acute treatment in hospital.

CASA's team of mental health professionals are trauma experts committed to delivering service in collaboration with community partners. This includes assessment and treatment for up to 4,000 children, youth, and their families each year, from community outreach settings to intensive treatment programs.

About the University of Alberta

The University of Alberta in Edmonton is one of the top teaching and research universities in Canada, with an international reputation for excellence across the humanities, sciences, creative arts, business, engineering and health sciences. The university and its people remain dedicated to the promise made in 1908 by founding president Henry Marshall Tory that knowledge shall be used for "uplifting the whole people."

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