



Biosketch

Erika F.H. Saunders, MD

AACDP Position: Immediate Past President

*Gerald B. Shively and Robert Y. Tan Professor
Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health
Clinical Co-Director, Addiction Center for Translation
Director, Mood Disorder Program
Penn State Health/Penn State College of Medicine*



Dr. Erika Saunders earned her medical degree from the University of Iowa, completed a Howard Hughes Research Fellowship at Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and residency training in Psychiatry at the University of Michigan. She subsequently joined the faculty as a physician and clinical lecturer and was awarded a Heinz C. Prechter research fellowship in Bipolar Disorder. Dr. Saunders joined Penn State Health in 2008 and has led the Department since 2015. She serves as Clinical Co-Director of the Penn State College of Medicine Addiction Center for Translation and has led the Mood Disorders Program. During her tenure, Penn State joined the National Network of Depression Centers (NNDC).

Dr. Saunders is an active clinician, educator and researcher. Dr. Saunders' areas of interest include treating depression and bipolar disorder, improving the delivery of care for psychiatric and behavioral illnesses and developing novel methods for predicting outcome and improving treatments for mood disorders based on neural and biological mechanisms.

She has served as a board member for several academic, professional and community non-profit organizations, including as an elected chair representative to the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Board, and as a Director for the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute Board. Additionally, she has served on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Advisory Committee on Emergency Room Treatment and Behavioral Health.

Dr. Saunders holds numerous leadership roles with national organizations, including Immediate Past-President of the American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry, Board member for the American Society for Clinical



Psychopharmacology, and Vice President for Governance of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders. Dr. Saunders has been a fellow of The Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (ELAM) and the American Association of Medical Colleges Council of Deans.

Dr. Saunders' work has been recognized nationally, and she has presented at meetings including the International Society for Bipolar Disorders, the Society for Biological Psychiatry, American Society for Clinical Psychopharmacology and the American Psychiatric Association.