



**DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND  
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

**The Adolf Meyer Professorship  
in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences**

*Honoring the founding director of the  
Henry Phipps Psychiatric Clinic - 1913*



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
M E D I C I N E

As the first true research university in America, Johns Hopkins University established an educational model to advance humanity through teaching, discovery, and service. Nowhere is this excellence more evident than in the institution's hospital and medical school. Since its inception, Johns Hopkins has been the model for modern academic medicine.

Endowed professorships are especially important to our ongoing mission of teaching, research, and service. Endowment that allows for the hiring and retention of the best faculty is the foundation on which our success is built. The men and women who hold endowed professorships conduct some of our most significant research, attract the best students who want to work with acknowledged leaders, and bring considerable prestige to the Hopkins name.

In 1913, Dr. Adolf Meyer's opening of the Phipps Psychiatric Clinic at Johns Hopkins represented a major shift in American psychiatry from isolated asylums to humane care in a clinic attached to a teaching hospital. In 2013 as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Clinic and Dr. Meyer's founding principles, the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Hopkins is one of the top-ranked departments of Psychiatry in the nation.

**The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences seeks to honor the life, work, and legacy of our founding director, Adolf Meyer, by establishing an endowed Professorship in his name.**

A professorship is the highest honor a faculty member can receive at Johns Hopkins University. This professorship will support a master clinician and teacher and who, as a leader in scientific discoveries, will continue to guide the direction of tomorrow's research. The person who sits in this chair will be, as Adolf Meyer was, a consummate advocate for awareness and the destigmatization of psychiatric disorders. This chair will both honor the legacy of our founding director but also help to support our tripartite mission - teaching, patient care, and research.

**History** | In 1913, with a single philanthropic gift, Adolf Meyer (1866–1950) opened the Phipps Psychiatric Clinic at Johns Hopkins and changed American psychiatry by championing psychiatry as a scientific medical specialty. Dr. Meyer became the most prominent and influential American psychiatrist of the first half of the twentieth century. He imbued several generations of students and the field at large with the idea that, in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, consideration of the whole person was paramount. At the Phipps Clinic, Meyer trained psychiatrists, elevated modes of diagnosis and treatment, and conducted extensive research in neuroanatomy, neuropathology, and psychiatry. His major contributions include the development of psychobiology, comprehensive patient assessments and case formulations, and co-founding the mental hygiene public health movement.

**The Issue** | Psychiatric disorders are extremely complex medical illnesses, but the field is poised for great scientific discoveries thanks to advances in cell biology, genetics, and epigenetics. Adolf Meyer moved psychiatry firmly into academic medicine where scientific research could strengthen patient care. Today the challenge remains to translate the latest science into ever better treatments for patients and their families.

Building for the future no longer means bricks and mortar. Today the necessary investment is in our scientists, teachers, and clinicians to provide them with the time and tools needed to do their best work. The Johns Hopkins Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences has the intellectual depth and breadth to lead in the development of these advances in psychiatric care. And interdepartmental collaborations within John Hopkins Medicine leverage other discoveries—helping to translate research from the lab bench to the bedside.

**The Need** | Ultimately, it is scientific explanations and the rational treatments derived from them that will continue to reduce stigmatization surrounding mental illness in society in general. Ironically, the stigma of mental disorders contributes to the disparity of funding for treatment and research as compared to other medical illnesses. This financial gap is even greater for private funding than for government funding. The good news is that over the next 20 years, opportunities for discoveries in psychiatry are unprecedented.

There is no question that mental disorders are complex and that they are a combination of brain disorders, behaviors, and life circumstances that are challenging to understand and difficult to treat. According to the most recent statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO), depression tops the list of illnesses generating the largest burden of disease (disability and premature death) in high income countries. The WHO predicts that depression will be the leading cause of disease or injury worldwide by the year 2030.

Since Dr. Meyer's launch of the Phipps Clinic, the Department has maintained and increased its reputation of excellence. Yet with more than 200 faculty members, nearly two dozen specialty areas, and numerous outpatient clinics, the Department has **only six endowed professorships**. Two of those professorships are not directly held within the Department and two others will not be fully endowed until this year.

We deeply appreciate your consideration of this request to create **The Adolf Meyer Professorship in Psychiatry**. You will become a part of an extraordinary legacy that began at Johns Hopkins 100 years ago and your investment will have a transformative impact on the lives of patients for generations to come.

For more information about how you can support the  
**Adolf Meyer Professorship in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences**

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