Since the launch of our partnership in January 2014, the Executive Committee of the Medical Psychiatry Alliance (MPA) has been actively working towards building a governance and organizational structure that will support its Partners in leading this initiative over the next six years. One of the first steps in putting the overall governance in place is the appointment of a new Executive Director.

We are pleased to announce **Dr. Benoit H. Mulsant**, MD, MS, FRCPC as the new Executive Director of the Medical Psychiatry Alliance. Dr. Mulsant is the Physician-in-Chief at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Professor and Vice-Chair in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. He has authored and co-authored more than 400 journal articles and book chapters and has received funding from the US National Institute of Health and CIHR since 1992. In 2014, he was awarded the largest grant ever received in Canada for the prevention of Alzheimer's disease in high-risk patients. Dr. Mulsant is a practicing geriatric psychiatrist; he has been listed in Best Doctors in America and Best Doctors in Canada. He currently serves on the editorial board of the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry and is a triage editor for the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.

In this new role, Dr. Mulsant will assume responsibility for the leadership and management of the MPA, in addition to his current roles. Reporting to the Executive Committee and working with the MPA's Advisory Council, Dr. Mulsant will oversee program operations and develop a quality focused work plan that aligns with the initiative's strategic goals and objectives. He will also play an integral role in informing and influencing public policy by providing the results of the MPA to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the MPA's anonymous donor and the MPA Executive Committee.

Dr. Mulsant will take on this new role starting October 1st, 2014 and can be reached at benoit.mulsant@camh.ca. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Mulsant to the Medical Psychiatry Alliance.

MPA Advisory Council

Working closely with the Executive Committee, we are also pleased to announce the formal creation of the Medical Psychiatry Alliance Advisory Council (MPA-AC). This Council will act as a collaborative, constructive and innovative group that drives improvement in the delivery of high-quality, patient-centered care. Comprised of individuals with a broad range of skill sets, knowledge and experience from partnering organizations and leaders from public and private sectors, the MPA-AC will draw upon the expertise around the table to provide strategic direction

and advance the goals of the MPA. Guided by the MPA's values, the Advisory Council will ensure the family perspective is central in achieving its objectives while aligning them with the initiative's mission, vision and philosophy of innovation.

Inaugural MPA Annual Conference

One of the first and foundational collaborative opportunities for the Alliance is the **Inaugural Medical Psychiatry Annual Conference:** *Integration for Better Care* **taking place on Friday, October 31, 2014** (see attached brochure for details).

This inaugural conference will interest physicians, staff and clinical leadership who work with patients with medically unexplained symptoms and/or patients with co-occuring medical and mental health illness – this includes primary care, mental health, emergency and subspecialties in children's health, medicine, senior's services and oncology.

For more information or to register online, visit http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/medicalpsychiatry/alliance-partners/ or contact the event coordinator Zoryana Salo zoryana.salo81@gmail.com

Please join us at the Inaugural Medical Psychiatry Annual Conference: *Integration for Better Care.*

Register today – space is limited! Registration closes October 24, 2014.

About the Medical Psychiatry Alliance

The MPA, the first-of-its-kind in Canada, is a multi-year collaborative $60 million dollar partnership between Trillium Health Partners (THP), the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), the Hospital for Sick Children (Sick Kids), the University of Toronto (UofT), Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and a very generous private donor.

Launched in April 2014, MPA will transform the delivery of health care in Ontario and beyond. It will build innovative systems of care to increase clinical capacity, transform education at all levels and establish research initiatives that will benefit patients who suffer with physical and psychiatric illness and medically unexplained symptoms.