



**Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services**

**The Association of General Hospital Psychiatric Services (AGHPS)**

**Jane Chamberlin Award 2021 Selection**

**Hospital: St. Michael's Hospital/Unity Health Toronto**

**Candidate's Name: Dr. Chris Willer**

**Position: Psychiatrist and Medical Director of Mental Health Emergency Services**

**Email address: [chris.willer@unityhealth.to](mailto:chris.willer@unityhealth.to)**

It is a pleasure to nominate Dr. Chris Willer for this prestigious award. Dr. Willer is a psychiatrist and medical director of our Mental Health Emergency Services in our ED for the past 8-10 years. He is also our psychiatry postgraduate trainee director.

Dr. Willer has gone above-and-beyond in his clinical psychiatric emergency care of patients in our extremely busy inner city Emergency Department. He has been coping with challenges including leading and providing clinical care through a 4.5-year renovation to the physical space and maintaining excellent clinical services and providing leadership through the COVID pandemic. He provides regular newsletters and communications about our mental health emergency services to all staff as well as learners. He has successfully lobbied the Ministry of Health to obtain some alternative funding plan to support having psychiatrists present in the Emergency Department 8am to 5pm, 5 days per week. His efforts have significantly impacted and improved the lives and outcomes of persons with mental health conditions presenting to our hospital Emergency Department and has been a significant advocate for equitable care and stigma reduction. He is an outstanding clinical practitioner collaborative and providing education to our trainees and emergency room medical and nursing colleagues.

If it were not for Dr. Willer, we would have had significant challenges maintaining hospital emergency services for psychiatric patients throughout the COVID pandemic.

**Submitted by**

**Dr. Thomas Ungar, Psychiatrist-in-Chief**

**Janet Wilson, Senior Clinical Director Mental Health Addictions**