**Psychiatry & Psychotherapy Podcast Series: 235: The Serotonin Hypothesis: Controversies and Nuance**

April 23, 2025 – December 31, 2025

**Purpose**

This episode will cover Transference Focused Psychotherapy, Borderline Personality Disorder, and Narcissism.

**Target Audience**

Specialties – Family Medicine, Medicine, Psychiatry & Human Behavior

**Activity Objectives**

1 Discuss the Limitations of the Serotonin Hypothesis in Depression Treatment: Explain why the simplistic ''chemical imbalance'' model is inadequate, considering the multifactorial nature of depression, including neuroplasticity, stress-response dysregulation, inflammation, and neurotransmitter interactions beyond serotonin.

2 Understand the Importance of Individualized Depression Treatment: Recognize that treatment for depression should be personalized, considering the patient’s symptom profile, severity, treatment preferences, and potential side effects of medication.

3 Discuss the Limitations of the Serotonin Hypothesis in Depression Treatment: Explain why the simplistic ''chemical imbalance'' model is inadequate, considering the multifactorial nature of depression, including neuroplasticity, stress-response dysregulation, inflammation, and neurotransmitter interactions beyond serotonin.

Understand the Importance of Individualized Depression Treatment: Recognize that treatment for depression should be personalized, considering the patient’s symptom profile, severity, treatment preferences, and potential side effects of medication.

Evaluate the Strengths and Weaknesses of Different Research Methodologies in Antidepressant Studies: Compare patient-level vs. trial-level analyses in antidepressant research and understand how different statistical approaches influence conclusions about drug

Explore the Multidimensional Nature of Depression Beyond Neurotransmitter Imbalances: Identify the broader neurobiological, psychological, and social factors contributing to depression, including neuroplasticity, stress-response dysregulation, and cognitive biases.

**Accreditation Statement**

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine and Emotion Connection, LLC.  The University of California, Irvine School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

**Designation Statement**

The University of California, Irvine School of Medicine designates this Enduring Material for a maximum of 1.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**California Assembly Bill 1195 and 241**

This activity is in compliance with California Assembly Bill 1195 and 241, which require CME activities with patient care components to include curriculum in the subjects of cultural and linguistic competency & implicit bias. It is the intent of AB 1195 and AB 241 to encourage physicians and surgeons, CME providers in the State of California, and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to meet the cultural and linguistic concerns of a diverse patient population and reduce health disparities through appropriate professional development. Please see the CME website, <https://www.meded.uci.edu/CME/> for AB 1195 and AB 241 resources.



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**Faculty & Planner Disclosures**

University of California, Irvine School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education adheres to the ACCME’s Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. Any individuals in a position to control the content of a CE activity, including faculty, planners, reviewers, or others are required to disclose all relevant financial relationships with ineligible entities (commercial interests). All relevant conflicts of interest have been mitigated prior to the commencement of the activity.

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| **Name of individual** | **Individual's role in activity** | **Nature of Relationship(s) / Name of Ineligible Company(s)** |
| David Puder, MD | Course Director, Faculty | Nothing to disclose - 09/30/2024 |
| Awais Aftab, MD | Faculty | Nothing to disclose - 03/14/2025 |

**Agenda**

**[INSERT AGENDA HERE MANUALLY]**

**Acknowledgement of Commercial Support**

No commercial support has been received for this activity.