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MARI Receives Accreditation, New Director

ANN ARBOR---The [Mary A. Rackham Institute](#), a three-unit service organization at the University of Michigan, has received re-accreditation for the high-quality service provided in mental health, language and literacy.

The [Council on Accreditation](#) awarded the accreditation, which is for four years, to MARI as a center of excellence in providing behavioral health services to the community.

"COA's program of quality improvement is designed to identify providers that have met high performance standards and have made a commitment to their stakeholders to deliver the very best quality services," said Richard Klarberg, COA president and chief executive officer.

In order to seek accreditation, an organization must go through an in-depth self-review, comparing administrative, service, financial management and stakeholder engagement against currently accepted best practice standards. The self review is followed by an onsite evaluation team visit, and a subsequent review and decision by the accrediting body. However, because MARI did not receive any "out of compliance ratings" in any of the fundamental practice standards, the re-accreditation was expedited following the onsite evaluation team visit.

"The accreditation clearly demonstrates the fact that the outstanding MARI staff meet the highest performance standards and have a clear commitment to their stakeholders through providing 'the very best' quality of services," said MARI director Bruno Giordani. "Everyone at MARI —staff to trainees —can be very, very proud of this achievement."

The accreditation, which is an ongoing process of continuous quality improvement, comes as MARI welcomes Giordani, who recently agreed to serve a five-year term effective Jan. 1, 2018. He replaces Cheryl King, who, after more than eight years of leadership, stepped down to pursue a sabbatical as a faculty member in the departments of Psychiatry and Psychology. Giordani congratulated King for her work in leading the MARI team to such a successful COA outcome.

Giordani is professor of psychiatry, neurology, psychology, and nursing and current Chief Psychologist for the Department of Psychiatry. He is stepping down from being the University of Michigan Faculty Ombuds.

His research includes neurodevelopmental approaches to assessment in cross-cultural and low-resource settings, cognitive and behavioral change in medical illness across the lifespan, and approaches to improving behavioral and cognitive declines in aging and illness. He has served at U-M in multiple capacities, including as chair of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs (SACUA) and Senate Assembly. He is Fellow of the American Psychological Association Division 12, Society of Clinical Psychology, and Division 40, Neuropsychology. He received the Distinguished Faculty Governance Award from the University of Michigan and the Ruth Michelbaugh Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alzheimer's Association, Great Lakes Chapter.

More About COA

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an organization's performance. The COA accreditation process involved a detailed review and analysis of MARI's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice.

Learn More: coanet.org

More About MARI

The Mary A. Rackham Institute at the University of Michigan is comprised of three units that each focus on aspects of mental health or language and literacy. MARI offers services such as therapy for children and adults, speech and language interventions, and resources like free workshops through the University Center for the Child and Family (UCCF); The University Center for Language and Literacy (UCLL); and The Psychological Clinic. While MARI does serve the university community, care is also available to the broader community. For instance, the intensive Aphasia Program, administered through UCLL, is one of only 12 of its kind in the world and attracts a clientele from all around the globe.

Learn More: mari.umich.edu