Role of Psychiatry in Treating Patients with FASD Across the Lifespan

Perinatal & Obstetrics Psychiatric Specialists
- Develop perinatal psychiatric services in the neonatal intensive care unit
- Refer to programs and addiction services for pregnant women

Infant & Neonatal Psychiatry
- Identify and support at-risk women and infants
- Contribute to early recognition and interventions which prevent future adverse outcomes

Early Childhood Psychiatry
- Promote mental well-being of children exposed to teratogens and multiple factors impacting development
- Promote healthy attachment
- Facilitate a strengths-based family approach

Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- Identify differential diagnoses among those with PAE
- Provide parent/child interventions to minimize adverse outcomes (i.e. externalizing behavior)
- Introduce effective biopsychosocial approaches (e.g. multi-modal therapy for complex presentations)

Learning Disability Specialists
- Recognize the multifaceted nature of neurodevelopmental disorders
- Offer services within the Learning Disability Mental Health System that are knowledgeable of the unique characteristics of individuals with FASD

Adult Psychiatry
- Distinguish comorbid conditions requiring pharmacological agents
- Minimize the negative implications of misdiagnosis
- Increase recognition and appropriate treatment of secondary adverse outcomes (e.g., suicidal ideation, self harm)
- Prioritize FASD-informed care

Consultation Liaison Psychiatry
- Identify those with multiple physical pathology presenting with atypical symptoms
- Assist in guiding compliance with medical treatment among those with cognitive challenges
- Liaise with pharmacists to develop more effective compliance strategies

Addiction Psychiatry
- Be mindful of the overrepresentation of FASD and the neurocognitive impairments that may lead them to be unsuccessful in the traditional addiction rehabilitation
- Develop flexible, individual approaches

Forensic Psychiatry
- Assist decision makers in understanding the invisibility of FASD and the psycholegal implications
- Recommend approaches for diverting and supporting the cognitive offenders with FASD

Geriatric Psychiatry
- Be knowledgeable about the role of early neurodevelopmental disorders and PAE in contributing to the early emergence of aging cognitive disorders
- Accommodate for FASD in end-of-life care

(Mela, Coons-Harding, & Anderson, 2018) https://research-groups.usask.ca/psycholegal-fasd/