



The State University  
of New York

**Office of the Chancellor**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**December 16, 2025**

**TO: Members of the Board of Trustees**

**FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor**

**SUBJECT: Naming of an Endowed Chair in the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine at the State University of New York at Buffalo**

**Action Requested**

The proposed resolution names the Barry S. Willer, PhD, Chair in Psychiatric Research at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

**Resolution**

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

**Whereas** University Psychiatric Practice, Inc. DBA UBMD Psychiatry, recognizes that attracting and retaining distinguished faculty is essential to the State University of New York at Buffalo's mission of delivering world-class education and pioneering research; and

**Whereas** UBMD Psychiatry seeks to honor Barry S. Willer, PhD, a visionary in brain injury research and a devoted member of the UB Department of Psychiatry, for his groundbreaking work in the diagnosis and treatment of sports-related concussions and traumatic brain injury; and

**Whereas** Dr. Willer serves as the director of research for UB's Concussion Management Clinic, where his leadership and innovative studies helped redefine standards of care and advanced the field of brain injury treatment; and

**Whereas** his influence extends across nearly every major brain injury organization worldwide, shaping best practices that remain foundational today, while his legacy is also marked by the lives he touched through mentorship, collaboration and compassionate care; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved** that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by UBMD, the Barry S. Willer, PhD, Chair in Psychiatric Research at the University at Buffalo be, and hereby is, approved.

### **Background**

Barry Willer, a trailblazing brain injury expert and longtime member of the psychiatry department, is internationally recognized for making significant contributions to treating sports-related concussions and traumatic brain injuries. His prolific 40-year career has led to the development of tools that remain gold standards in the field, including the community integration questionnaire and the “whatever it takes” model. Through a longtime collaboration with UBMD Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine members John J. Leddy, MD, and M. Nadir Haider, MD, PhD, Willer is also credited with developing the current recommended treatment model for sports-related concussions. The group’s development of the Buffalo Protocol has improved recovery outcomes for thousands of patients, influenced the return-to-play guidelines for the National Football League, National Hockey League and the International Consensus Conference on Concussion in Sport, and provided instrumental guidance on return-to-duty protocols adopted by the U.S. military.