

Dear Dr. Smith and Dr. Husain,

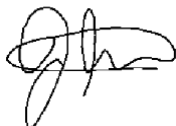
As a former resident physician at the University of Toronto as well as a current psychiatrist at Vancouver General Hospital, I strongly urge you both to reinstate the Asian Initiative in Mental Health (AIM) at Toronto Western Hospital.

The cessation of the program was sudden and unexpected, disrupting care for hundreds of patients, many of whom are marginalized and unable or unwilling to seek care in a general psychiatry setting. I know this firsthand, as I have spent over 6 months of elective time in cultural psychiatry settings, including AIM during my residency, ranging from 2020 to 2025. Many of the patients I treated there were hesitant to see general psychiatry resources due to concerns about a lack of cultural compatibility, as well as significant language barriers. They often expressed how amazed they were at the existence of the program and how the cultural match was extremely important to them seeking help. In particular, the family involvement for the first-episode psychosis program often depended on this cultural and linguistic match to be successful, and the sudden termination of the program I believe has already been immensely harmful to these families in particular.

AIM was the only cultural psychiatry-specific program embedded in an academic hospital, which translated to its access to psychotherapy and allied health resources, as well as allowing for training of residents and medical students, with more opportunities for research. I am not aware of any other outpatient clinic that serves these functions in cultural psychiatry and see the closure of this program as a massive loss. The learning from these experiences was unique and could not have been replicated in other general psychiatry settings. Without this clinic, the training at this residency program would have been far less attractive to me.

Therefore I urge you to reinstate the program that has served the Asian community in Toronto for decades, and to engage with the providers, recipients of care, and other stakeholders in the community in an open and meaningful dialogue about the next steps in restoring this partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'X. Yan She' or similar, with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr. Xin Yan She, MD FRCPC  
Psychiatrist  
Vancouver General Hospital