DM: I'm Dave Marcovitz and I'm here with Roger Weiss who is Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and our fellowship director at Partners and Harvard Medical School. And I just wanted to ask a few questions as part of our fellowship spotlight, so thank you for speaking with me Roger.

RW: Happy to do it.

DM: So, what do you like about being a fellowship director?

RW: First I think it's important to note that this is really, probably the most fun part of my job. I've loved being a fellowship director, and really it's working with the fellows. I like teaching. I like having people who are enthusiastic, bright, engaged people coming into the field. And having had a lot of experience working in addiction psychiatry and introducing the field and watching people grow and become really spectacular additions to the field.

DM: Thank you, we value it a lot too. What would you say to residents who are leaning towards or thinking about doing an addiction psychiatry fellowship, maybe they're on the fence?

RW: I think addiction psychiatry is a very exciting field. It allows you to use all the skills that you learned during residency: pharmacotherapy, psychotherapy (CBT, psychodynamics), learning about 12-step treatments, work with families, systems work, policy work. There's so much to do, and it's such an interesting population and … patients in my experience … people often say how can you work with that population? They're so difficult. And what I say is that 'These are folks that, when they get better, they get more better than almost anybody you've ever worked with.'

DM: Has being a fellowship director changed at all with so much attention in the media to the opioid crisis?

RW: I think what's changed is: 1. the number people that are applying. I think that it wasn't so long ago that addiction psychiatry was not seen as a particularly glamorous or interesting field, and I think that's really changed. I think that people really see the importance of it, and so I think we're getting more very high-quality applicants than we ever have before.

DM: Last question, sort of on a more personal note, what are your hobbies outside of psychiatry and addiction psychiatry?

RW: Outside of that, music--I play the violin. I play in a string quartet every month or so. And exercise. And spending a lot of time with my grandchildren.

DM: Thank you so much for talking with me, Roger, and we'll go from there.

RW: Okay thank you.