

eNEWS

WASHINGTON PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

APRIL 2020

WPS Elections Results!

Congratulations and warmest welcome to the newly elected Officers and Members of the WPS Board of Directors!

WPS is pleased to announce that the following individuals will be joining the Board either as new members or as officers for the 2020-2021 term:

- President-Elect: Steven Israel, MD, FAPA
- Treasurer: Walter Bland, MD, LFAPA
- APA Assembly Delegate: Joseph Collins, Jr., DO, FAPA
- At-Large Representative: Navneet Sidhu, MD
- Early Career Psychiatrist: Meghan Schott, DO, FAPA
- Resident Fellow Members: Ike Iloka, MD and John Fatollahi, MD

They join these continuing Board members (and their roles for that term):

- President: Farooq Mohyuddin, MD, FAPA
- Immediate Past President: Philip Candilis, MD, DFAPA
- Secretary: Anne Marie Dietrich, MD, FAPA
- APA Assembly Delegate: Constance Dunlap, MD, DFAPA
- APA Assembly Delegate: Cristina Secarea, MD, FAPA
- At-Large Representative: Seth Rosenblatt, MD
- Early Career Psychiatrist Representative: Colby Tyson, MD
- DC Chapter President: Lorenzo Norris, MD
- MD Chapter President: Cynthia Turner-Graham, MD, DFAPA
- VA Chapter President: Todd Augustus, MD, FAPA
- APA Area 3 Deputy RFM Representative: Mani Yavi, MD

Message from the President

-- Philip Candilis, MD, DFAPA



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Love in the Time of Cholera, Garcia-Marquez's well-known romance set in pestilence and war, contains numerous reminders that life and love have no limits. In the midst of heartbreak, resilience and hope sustain the characters along their journey, re-inventing their perspective as they struggle toward fulfillment. Now in the midst of COVID-19, it may be clear that our views of community, reciprocal obligations, and public health must evolve too, even as health interventions seem eerily familiar. The instinct to look back, compare, and apply old lessons is irresistible and often useful, even life-saving. Recent comparisons of cities that differed in how they limited social gatherings during the 1918 influenza pandemic (e.g., Philly which was lax and St. Louis which was strict) provided good models for restricting large gatherings, while the lessons of World War II encouraged building much-needed medical stockpiles and turning civilian manufacturers to federal purposes.

As psychiatrists are pressed into service in New York ICUs, and medical students graduate early to join the professional ranks, gratitude seems an inadequate sentiment for their contribution. The frontlines are fraught with irony for those who joined the clinical professions in a time of peace, yet find themselves in a grim conflict with an implacable foe. For some, it is reminiscent of September 11, 2001, when busloads of physicians travelled to New York to help, not entirely aware of the risks or what they would find.

The call is answered too by those in the physician health community, as we urge our colleagues and friends to protect themselves, practice their coping and resilience, and seek their families' newly distanced support. As telehealth takes a prominent new role throughout medicine, clinicians can take advantage of counseling and coaching that is as close as the screens on their electronic devices.

As I step away from my role as president this year, I would like to add my thanks to the friends and colleagues who kept us on a sustainable financial path during these times. Modeling fiscal and administrative discipline in our medical organization is a small part to play in chaotic times. Our colleagues and our tireless executive director, Lyn Hainge, have worked hard to maintain our CME activities, web presence, and electronic communication as the community shrinks around us. Alerts, access to APA resources, and news of regulatory easements have been critical in this period and will be a continued focus for our organization. Finally, my heartfelt appreciation for our partners in the APA Office of the General Counsel - especially attorney Colleen Coyle - and the Department of Government Relations who advise us and advocate so fiercely for our patients.

Warm wishes, and stay safe.

Call for Volunteers!

The WPS 2020-2021 governance year starts in May and we would like to invite you to consider serving on one of the Washington Psychiatric Society's (WPS) committees. The success of WPS is due to our members who provide an invaluable service by contributing their time on committees. Committees assist WPS in advancing and promoting the psychiatric profession. Join a WPS committee to share your experience and expertise, connect with fellow members and collaborate with your peers on programs and initiatives while developing skills that will benefit you both personally and professionally.

The 2020 WPS Call for Volunteers will be open from April 1 - April 24, 2020. Appointments will be made and announced by early May.

You must be an Active APA/WPS member in good standing in order to serve on a WPS committee. Committee terms are for two years.

Please note that if you are currently serving on a committee and your term is not expiring in May, 2020, you do not need to apply again. If your term is expiring, you

In This Issue...

1. [WPS Elections Results!](#)
2. [A Message from our President](#)
3. [Call for Volunteers!](#)
4. [Area 3 Awards](#)
5. [APA News and Notes](#)
6. [Workshops and Events](#)
7. [Member News](#)
8. [Classifieds](#)
9. [WPS Publication Project](#)
10. [Other Events of Interest](#)

Calendar of Events

[Member Center](#)
[WPS Leadership](#)
[WPS Committees](#)

WPS EVENTS

TBD

MEMBER NEWS!

Do you have news to share? Let us know!

CLASSIFIEDS



Do you have office space available for rent or are you recruiting for a qualified psychiatrist to join your team? Reach your market by placing a classified ad with WPS [here](#).

WPS Publication Project

The Communications Committee, chaired by Dr. William Lawson, is seeking WPS members who would like to contribute to a new WPS publication. This publication is in the formative stages and ideas are welcome. We will also need writers/contributors. If this project interests you, email admin@dcpsoch.org.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

TBD

SPONSORED CONTENT

PRACTICING TELEPSYCHIATRY?

ACCESS FREE RESOURCE

PRMS

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Practicing Telepsychiatry?

As the practice of psychiatry intersects more with technology through the use of telemedicine, you can count on PRMS® to protect your practice. Our psychiatric professional liability policy includes coverage for telepsychiatry at no additional cost, as well as many other preeminent program benefits. Click [here](#) to access free resources!

PRMS News

Risk Management Alert

In furthering our efforts to support the entire community of psychiatrists during this health crisis, we are now making our [COVID-19 FAQs](#) available to all psychiatrists. We hope you will find this additional information useful.

Refer a Colleague

may re-apply to serve on the same committee or select another committee as your first choice.

Click on the link below to complete an online application form to volunteer for a 2021-2021 WPS Committee position by **April 24, 2020. Please be sure you have renewed your membership for 2020 when you apply.**

[Click to see Committee Descriptions](#)

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

If you have any questions, please send an email to admin@dcpsych.org.

Area 3 Awards

Congratulations to our **three Area 3 Award Winners!**

WPS is delighted to announce that three of our members were honored with awards at the last Area 3 Meeting.

- **Cristina Secarea, MD**, received the Area 3 Mentor Award for her work in mentoring new members.
- **Mani Yavi, MD and Esther Belinkis, MD** for having received Resident Fellow Members Merit Awards from the APA. Up to two of these awards per district branch are given annually to RFMs who demonstrate leadership in clinical affairs, Residency training programs, District Branch/Area Council contributions, and/or scientific contributions.

We are grateful to them not only for their service to our local District Branch but, on a national level, to APA.

APA News and Notes

What's New at the APA

- APA released a new national poll about how coronavirus, COVID-19, is impacting the mental health and wellbeing of Americans. The results show that nearly half of Americans are anxious about the possibility of getting coronavirus, but far more Americans are anxious about the possibility of family and loved ones getting coronavirus. You can read more about the poll results [here](#).
APA pledged its continued support for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on the 10th anniversary of its being signed into law. In addition to extending insurance coverage to 30 million Americans, the protections in the ACA have led to 2.8 million Americans with substance use disorder and 1.3 million Americans with serious mental illness gaining coverage. You can read APA's full statement in support of the ACA [here](#).

April Course of the Month - Medical Cannabis: What Every Psychiatrist Should Know

- As of August, 2019, 33 states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical cannabis. However, most health care providers, including psychiatrists, have inadequate knowledge and expertise about it. This session will describe the difference between "prescribing" a medication under federal law vs. "recommending" or "authorizing" medical cannabis under state law, the major medical and psychiatric conditions for which medical cannabis can be recommended, current scientific evidence, major side-effects, and potential public health consequences. Presented by David Gorelick, M.D., Ph.D., DLFAPA, University of Maryland, Kevin Hill, M.D., M.H.S., Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, Arthur Williams, M.D., M.B.E., Columbia University, NY State Psychiatric Institute.
[Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.](#)
- **Upcoming Live and On-Demand Webinars**
 - [Telepsychiatry in the Era of COVID-19](#): Recording Available Soon
 - This free webinar covers: which telemental health platform to use, licensure, issues around consent, online prescribing, billing and payments, and special situations.
 - [Managing the Mental Health Effects of COVID-19](#): Recording Available Soon. This free webinar will outline how psychiatrists can support patients, communicate with family members and children, and be a resource to other providers during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Working Remotely During COVID-19: Your Mental Health & Well-Being?

- The Center for Workplace Mental Health, an APA Foundation initiative, released a new employer resource on maintaining your mental health and well-being while working remotely, what to do if you have a mental health condition, and tips for managers and HR professionals on staying connected and supporting employees during this challenging time.
<http://workplacementalhealth.org/Employer-Resources/Working-Remotely-During-COVID-19>

Practice Management HelpLine

As an APA member, you have access to APA's [Practice Management HelpLine](#) to assist you with your practice management needs. Help is available on how to manage the day-to-day operations of your practice in the midst of this pandemic, including telehealth, coding, documentation, reimbursement, contracting with managed care companies, Medicare, Medicaid, and more.
<https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/practice-management/about-the-practice-management-helpline>

Have Questions About COVID-19 and Serious Mental Illness (SMI)?

Any mental health professional can submit questions about COVID-19 and bipolar disorder, major depression, and schizophrenia. Within a day, receive evidence-based guidance from SMI Adviser's team of national experts. Ask about medications, resources for families, telehealth options, and much more. This is a completely CONFIDENTIAL and FREE service for all mental health professionals.
<https://smiadviser.org/submit-consult>

Risk Management Courses from APA, Inc.

APA's medical liability insurance partner offers free *AMA PRA Category 1*™ risk management webinars for members on topics like at-risk patients, liability in integrated care, clinical documentation in court, and more. Courses are valued at \$120 and qualify towards a discount on your professional liability policy.
<https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/risk-management>

Have you heard about our [Refer a Colleague](#) program? For every referral PRMS receives, we provide a \$50 donation to a state psychiatric association, NAMI, or a national or regional specialty psychiatric association of the referrer's choice - whether or not an insurance policy is purchased. **We wanted to let you know that all donations provided to PRMS are each be doubled to \$100 through April 30, 2020!** Please check out our latest [blog](#) and visit [PRMS.com/Refer](#) to learn more about the program and start earning donations today.

Social Media

To stay on top of the latest need-to-know information on important topics affecting psychiatrists, such as telepsychiatry, patient safety, recent court rulings, and more, follow us on social media: [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#). We will keep you up-to-date on the evolving field of behavioral healthcare through these channels.