



MARCH 2020

**WPS Elections are now open!**

Click [HERE](#) to vote for the Board member candidate(s) of your choice. All votes must be received no later than March 15, 2020.

Click [HERE](#) for Candidate information.

**Message from the President**

-- Philip Candilis, MD



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

There are some days, even more than others, when one is proud to be part of the profession. Last month, the American Psychiatric Association responded to public reports that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was using detained children's therapy notes against them in detention hearings. According to the Washington Post (Hannah Dreier, February 15), ICE's Office of Refugee Resettlement was forwarding treatment notes of unaccompanied minors obtained during treatment. Witnessing past crimes, childhood gang affiliation, and other self-disclosures were finding their way into deportation hearings. The problems of trust, consent, confidentiality, power, and law were evident throughout the community as APA members contacted their representatives and their professional organization to object.

On February 18, APA published a news release condemning the practice, and promulgated it on Capitol Hill. On February 25, alongside the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), APA wrote to Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar and Department of Homeland Security Acting Secretary Wolf asking to meet and offering an opinion of the APA Ethics Committee. The letter was signed by NAMI's CEO, and by WPS member and APA CEO Saul Levin, MD. Members of the APA Council of Psychiatry and the Law, led by their child forensic colleagues, had been following the news and proposing statements for the APA's use. Pamela McPherson, MD, a leading psychiatrist who had worked in detention and advocated for migrant families and unaccompanied minors was among those underscoring the problems of consent among traumatized children, the need for disclosure of any limits to confidentiality, and the practice of minimizing clinical information that could be divulged even when someone's safety was at risk. During that week's hearings by the House and Senate Appropriations Committee, Senators Patricia Murray and Richard Durbin, and Representatives Rosa DeLauro and Katherine Clark underscored issues raised by our psychiatry colleagues. Whether and how children can give informed consent and whether they were provided legal representation were cardinal elements of the questioning: Secretary Azar provided support for the process of informed consent and confirmed the presence of legal counsel (although not for every interaction). He characterized the transmission of clinical notes as a mistake, saying "That should not have happened." He was clear that "we've corrected the understanding [of past regulation] of providers." Clinical information that finds its way into serious incident reports (like those about harm to self or others) must be "minimal information," he said, "respecting that psychiatrist or mental health professional relationship."

The success of the APA's Department of Government Regulations in placing this issue before Congress cannot be understated. Coordinating community responses, collaborating with other professional organizations, gathering data and commentary are all parts of their advocacy. Facilitating communication between psychiatrists and their legislators is a full-time project that goes well beyond health care reform, mental health parity, and appropriations. The success of their effort here, exemplified by a new bill (March 4) to end information-sharing entirely and Senator Durbin's request for an Inspector General's investigation, are a proud moment for the organization and for us.

--Sources: APA, Washington Post

**APA News and Notes**

**What's New at the APA**

- Vivian Pender, M.D., won the race for President-Elect during the 2020 APA Election. Dr. Pender's term as President-Elect will begin at the conclusion of the APA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, when current President-Elect Jeffrey Geller, M.D., begins his one-year term as APA President. You can read more about Dr. Pender's election and her priorities for her term [here](#), and view the full results of the 2020 APA Election [here](#). Election results become official at the conclusion of the March Board of Trustees meeting.
- A news report in February brought to light that the therapy records of children detained by immigration officials were being used against them in deportation cases by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. APA issued a statement condemning this unethical practice and called on the government to immediately end it. APA's full statement is available [here](#).

**March Course of the Month - Highs and Lows: Clinical Pearls and Lessons Learned in the Outpatient Management of Geriatric Bipolar Disorder**

- This course reviews guidelines for the treatment of aging patients with bipolar disorder. It will cover several challenging and complicated cases of geriatric bipolar disorder treated in an interdisciplinary outpatient clinic. Among other topics, it will explore the management of traditional mood stabilizers and associated symptoms of subtle toxicity in the context of medical co-morbidity and aging. <http://apapsy.ch/mbr-mar20>
- **Featured Course for Members:** *A Comprehensive Framework for the Office Evaluation of Neurocognitive Disorders*  
A thorough assessment of neurocognitive disorders requires in-depth knowledge of not only psychiatry but also several aspects of geriatric medicine, neurology, neuroimaging and even medical ethics. During this

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**Calendar of Events**

- [Member Center](#)
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**SPONSORED CONTENT**

**GROUP COVERAGE? MAKE IT SIMPLE!**

All providers in your practice - psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and other behavioral healthcare providers - can be covered under one medical professional liability insurance policy, along with the entity itself. Click [here](#) for information!

**WPS EVENTS**

**WPS Happy Hour: Thursday March 26, 2020**  
*What I Wish I Knew as an Early Career Psychiatrist*

6:00 - 8:00  
All members invited!

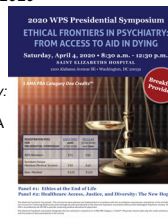
District Commons Restaurant  
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
*(just 2 blocks from Foggy Bottom Metro and GW Hospital)*

A free event sponsored by PRMS, in collaboration with the WPS CLM program.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

**CME : Saturday, April 4, 2020**

The 2020 Presidential Symposium will be held on Saturday morning, April 4, 2020 at St. Elizabeths. "Ethical Frontiers in Psychiatry: From Access to Aid in Dying" will feature speakers from APA and from local institutions on such subtopics as diversity, health equity and end of life issues.



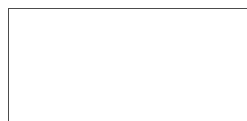
3 AMA PRA Category One Credits™

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**MEMBER NEWS!**

Do you have news to share? Let us know!

**CLASSIFIEDS**



Do you have office space available for rent or are you

course, participants will learn a practical six-step approach for the efficient evaluation of patients with cognitive complaints in the office, illustrated by real cases.  
[http://apapsy.ch/framework\\_ncd](http://apapsy.ch/framework_ncd)

#### What is the APA Doing for You at State and National Levels?

- Learn about APA's advocacy activities in Washington, D.C., and in state capitols to shape policies that advance psychiatry and promote the highest quality of care.  
<https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/advocacy/february-2020-advocacy-update>

#### Buprenorphine Prescriber Training

APA offers free and premium training for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) that meet the requirements of the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000. Completion will allow qualified physicians to apply for a waiver to their Drug Enforcement Administration license, and thus to provide office-based treatment of opioid use disorder with buprenorphine. View book-based, online, and in-person training activities, as well as free CME-accredited webinars on MAT offered through APA and our partner organizations, at [psychiatry.org/mat](http://psychiatry.org/mat).

#### Call for Applications to Join the 2020-2021 Editorial Board

The American Journal of Psychiatry-Residents' Journal is now accepting applications from APA Resident-Fellow Members to join the 2020-2021 Editorial Board. Learn more and apply by March 15, 2020.  
<https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp-rj.2019.150215>

#### Hey Alexa! Play My Psychiatric News Brief!

A new episode of Psychiatric News Alert, *Pain and Cannabis Use Disorder*, is now available on Alexa. The episode is also on the *Psychiatric News* home page and the journal article page associated with the alert.  
<https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ajp.2019.19030284>

#### Free Risk Management Courses from APA, Inc.

American Professional Agency, Inc., APA's endorsed medical liability carrier, offers almost a dozen risk management courses with AMA PRA Category Credit, which are available free to members at [www.psychiatry.org/risk](http://www.psychiatry.org/risk).



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@dcpsoych.org](mailto:admin@dcpsoych.org).

#### OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

On Tuesday, April 14, 2020, **MedStar Washington Hospital Center** will present a Seminar/Webinar on [Becoming a Climate Informed Therapist for Psychiatrists, Psychologists and Social Workers](#). The seminar will have speakers from the Climate Psychiatry Alliance presenting and possibly others. This seminar will be held from 3 to 5 PM; you can attend in person or see it on the web. Both the conference room location and the website address will be announced soon. CME credit will be available for all specialties listed. More information can be obtained by calling Stephen Peterson, MD at 202-420-9758.

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