

WPS Calls for Full Funding of Mayor's Mental Health Budget



The Washington Psychiatric Society has urged the DC Council's Human Services Committee to vote in favor of the full \$220 million for mental health care in Mayor Anthony Williams' FY 2005 Budget.

In correspondence with the Committee's Chair, Council Member Sandy Allen, WPS 2004 President Jeffrey Akman, MD stated that "after reviewing the proposed allocations... we conclude that a lesser amount will seriously impair the Department of Mental Health's ability to provide the full complement of services needed to meet the mental health needs of the District's residents."

WPS supports the DMH plan to expand care for children. Dr. Akman noted that this vulnerable population will benefit significantly from early intervention. "Every dollar spent now to help a child will produce immeasurable dividends for

New Officers Seated for 2004-05. Rod Drake, MD (l) new WPS President accepts the gavel from outgoing President Jeff Akman, MD at the Board of Directors Meeting on May 10. Dr. Drake outlines his goals for the year on page 5.

that child and the District in the future," he said.

In other DC news, Mayor Williams has asked Council Chair Linda Cropp to drop proposed legislation to levy a provider tax on hospitals. WPS, along with the rest of the medical community opposed this legislation. ■

Drs. Trippitelli and Rifai Elected to APA Area 3 Offices

WPS members Carol Lynn Trippitelli, MD and Aly Rifai, MD will serve APA's Area 3 as Deputy Early Career Representative and Deputy Member-in-Training Repre-

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sentative, respectively. Each will become the Representative and a voting member of the Area 3 Council following her/his year as Deputy.

Area 3 is the Mid-Atlantic region which includes WPS, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

Dr. Trippitelli is in private practice in Washington. She served as Early Career Representative to the WPS Board of Directors from 2002-04. She was one of the organizers of the March 2004 Area 3 Early Career Job Fair in Philadelphia.

Dr. Rifai is a Clinical Fellow at the National Institute of Mental Health. He is the current Member-in-Training Representative from NIMH on the WPS Board. ■

The President's Column

By Jeffrey S. Akman, M.D. President



Where is Tipper?

The unprecedented early start of the Presidential election has made me

wonder whether there will be any serious discussion of health care and mental health during the campaign. The exploding federal deficit and the serious structural deficits in many states including Maryland and Virginia have many of us extremely concerned about potential cuts in an already under resourced and inadequate mental health system.

Not surprisingly, the horrifying images of death and destruction from Iraq, the startling findings emerging from the 911 Commission, and the ongoing concerns about terrorism have dominated the political conversation. These issues have also dominated my reading lately.

There have been several books published in the last few months that deserve your attention. The book that has quickly topped the bestseller's list is Bob Woodward's *Plan of Attack*. Unfortunately, I have not finished reading it, but suffice it to say that it provides a riveting narrative about the President's decision-making, the lead up to the war in Iraq, and, among other things, the Bush family's cozy relationship with the oil rich Saudi royal family.

Former counterterrorism czar Richard Clarke's *Against All Enemies: Inside America's War on Terror* received a huge splash when, prior to his testimony before the 911 Commission, he released his sober, nonpartisan indictment of the President's lack of interest in al Qaeda prior to 911 and his decision to pour billions of dollars and untold human resources into Iraq rather than Afghanistan in fighting the war on terror. Clarke also raises

serious concerns as to the adequacy of the Administration's current efforts to respond to the terrorist threat at home.

Perhaps the book of most interest to psychiatrists with a developmental perspective would be Kevin Phillips' *American Dynasty: Aristocracy, Fortune, and the Politics of Deceit in the House of Bush*. The former Republican strategist examines four generations of Bushes and the family's "policy favoritism to the top 1 percent, paper entrepreneurialism, and crony capitalism a la Enron." As detailed in Dick Cheney's 2003 tax returns, the Vice President of the United States continues to receive deferred compensation from Halliburton, the company he previously served as CEO and the company that has profited most handsomely from the war in Iraq. One wonders how we could have impeached a President for having consensual sex with an intern (which, albeit, demonstrated extremely poor judgment) when the current Congress overlooks profound conflicts of interest that dominate the hawkish and unilateral policy decisions of the current White House.

However, the book that I found most compelling and worrisome was Republican-insider Ron Suskind's *The Price of Loyalty: George W. Bush, the White House and the Education of Paul O'Neill*. This must read book about the quintessential Republican-insider and former CEO of Alcoa who was recruited to be Secretary of Treasury by VP Cheney gives a highly disturbing portrait of the President's cognitive style and a searing indictment of the two men who dictate White House policy making, VP Cheney and the President's senior political advisor Karl Rove. That the White House has worked hard to discredit O'Neill (and Richard Clarke) is no surprise.

With \$87 billion already poured into Iraq and much more to come, it's clear that while we might have some perfunctory debate about the dismal state of American health care during the Presidential campaign, there will be scant resources to do anything about it—for a long time. ■



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Dr. Book Leads ADHD Research Study – Patients Sought

Martin Book, DO is recruiting patients willing to take part in a new ADHD Study. The study involves a comparison of two medications currently used to treat this disorder by assessing each medication's impact on an individual's driving ability. The study is open to men and women aged 19 to 25 years who have a diagnosis of ADHD. Conducted by the Washington Neuropsychological Institute, the study involves four visits approximately three weeks apart. All subjects will receive a stipend for their participation. College students home for the summer are welcome to participate.

Patients interested in taking part may contact the Institute at 202-686-7520 or Dr. Book at 301-654-2255. Gary Kay, MD is the Principal Investigator. Martin Book, DO is a Sub-investigator. ■

Legal Update – HIPAA Trumps Maryland Law

By Armin U. Kuder, JD

Maryland's Confidentiality of Medical Records Act Provisions permitting disclosure of medical records without patient permission if the care or treatment form the basis for the issues of claim in a civil action initiated by the patient has been found by a federal court to be preempted by the standards of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). In a case before a federal district court the defendant's attorney had spoken with the plaintiff's treating physician. Under Maryland law, this would be a permitted disclosure by the physician. Under HIPAA, however, a release of information whether oral or written, can only be disclosed pursuant to an order of court or, when sought in response to

a subpoena or discovery request, after the healthcare provider received satisfactory assurance that there has been a good faith attempt to notify the subject of the protected health information in writing of the request, giving that person the opportunity to object. The magistrate judge found that the Maryland law was less stringent in protecting privacy than the HIPAA regulations. Unlike states which have stricter privacy laws, therefore, HIPAA sets the standard and not Maryland law.

In Maryland a WPS member should not provide either oral reports or treatment records absent compliance with the HIPAA regulatory scheme. If a subpoena is received, the patient should be notified in writing of the receipt of the subpoena and given a reasonable opportunity to take action to block the subpoena before the member releases any information, no matter how clearly relevant to the litigation involved.

Mr. Kuder is Counsel to WPS ■

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CME Committee Update

By Dan Hicks, MD

The CME Committee has sponsored two very successful events this year. In February, we heard Dr. Danny Pines from the Ross Treatment Center and NIMH speak on research into the biological development of anxiety disorders to an 80 plus group at Maggiano's. In April, over 70 members gathered at Tragara's to hear Dr. Robert Post of NIMH present some of the latest data on bipolar disorder and its treatment, which was then officially presented at the APA meeting in New York. This was sponsored by Astra-Zeneca and gave us some surprising new information, but left even more unanswered questions.

Please plan to join us for upcoming events. This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize with friends and colleagues, keep up to date in our field, and earn important CME credits at the same time, plus have a wonderful meal! Remember that

with the changes in regulations on sponsoring CME activities, we can no longer allow spouses to attend. Also, remember to pre-register; if you show up at the last minute, you may be turned away, because we only receive a certain amount to sponsor these events, and if too many people come, WPS would be in debt, which is not acceptable. WPS members and their invited guests in the field may attend. We may start charging non-members to encourage people to join, because this is a very important benefit of belonging to WPS, and we certainly need all psychiatrists in the area to join. If you are interested in helping us plan future programs or have ideas, please contact me at 202-687-3116.

June 7th, Marriott Hotel at Tyson's Corner, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Donald Vereen, MD,
Asst. Director at National Institute on Drug Abuse will present "Update on Research and Treatment of Substance Abuse."

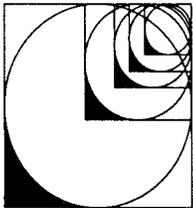
The evening includes cocktails and dinner. Complete the following registration form and return to WPS by fax at 202-625-1364 or email a message indicating your registration to whill@wdcpsych.org. No charge to WPS members. Nonmembers \$60. Sponsored by Janssen Pharmaceutica.

Sept. 9th Dr. Glen Gabbard of Menninger's will present "Mind, Brain and Personality Disorders"

Sept. 18th George Washington University Hospital Auditorium, 8-12 Medical Update (Sponsored by Glaxo-Smith-Kline)
Dr. Marvin Schuster on Irritable Bowel Syndrome
Dr. Daniel Clauw on Fibromyalgia
Dr. John Reiner on Coronary Artery Disease

Nov. 4th Cosmos Club, WPS Awards Banquet with APA President Michelle Riba, MD
Update on Research and Treatment of Substance Abuse
Donald Vereen, MD Presenter

June 7, 2004
6:30-9:30 p.m.
Marriott Hotel at Tyson's Corner
8028 Leesburg Pike (Rt. 7 West)
Vienna, Virginia ■



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Women's Caucus Claudio Soares, MD of Massachusetts General Hospital presents new research on PMDD to the WPS Women's Caucus on February 19. Under the leadership of Carol Kleinman, MD and Antonia Baum, MD, the WPS Women's Caucus meets regularly for dinner and outstanding educational programs. On April 1 the group toured the National Library of Medicine's "Women in American Medicine" Exhibit and heard Susan Fiester, MD present on "Psychotherapy and Pharmacology." May 25 brought the Women's Caucus together at Luigino's Restaurant on New York Ave for a program on sleep disorders.



Danny Pine, MD (l) and WPS CME Committee Chair, Dan Hicks, MD share a moment at DC's Maggiano's before Dr. Pine's CME presentation on Developmental Disorders on Feb. 23. Nearly 80 members and guests attended. On April 19 Robert Post, MD presented his new research on Bipolar Disorder to a similar sized group at Tragara's in Bethesda. Dr. Post's presentation was also accredited for CME.



Women's Caucus members pay close attention to Dr. Soares at Terrazza's on Feb. 19.

Rod Drake MD, DLFAPA Sets Presidential Agenda for 2004-05

On May 6, F. Rodney Drake, Jr., MD, DLFAPA took office as the 55th president of the Washington Psychiatric Society. At the WPS Board of Directors Meeting on May 10, Dr. Drake detailed his goals for the coming year.

Dr. Drake told his colleagues that WPS must make significant changes in our operations to shore up our finances. He noted that for FY 2005 WPS will run a deficit budget, drawing on reserve funds to make up the shortfall. While WPS has nearly \$250,000 in reserve, Dr. Drake pointed out that those funds will deplete in approximately six years unless the Society acts now to cut costs and build membership. Dr. Drake along with new Treasurer, Jim Dee, MD, FAPA will reorganize a Finance Committee to develop strategies to both cut costs and boost non-dues revenue which currently provides income of \$45,000 against a FY 05 budget of \$310,000.

Membership development forms the second plank of Dr. Drake's presidential platform. He told the Board that WPS membership now stands at 953 – a number that represents only about half of all eligible psychiatrists living in the WPS jurisdiction. He will focus significant energy on promoting the services and value of WPS to psychiatrists with a goal of making WPS the professional home for all Washington area psychiatrists.

Throughout his presidential year, Dr. Drake will meet with the subgroups of members represented on the Board of Directors. His goal will be to better understand the needs of each group and subspecialty and develop activities and resources to serve current and future members.

He pointed out that in light of the Louisiana legislature's passage of a psychologist prescribing bill (see page 8), WPS must redouble its efforts to build relationships with legislators in the District, Maryland and Virginia as well as securing the support of mental health advocates and other organizations within the house of medicine. He has called on APA to organize a nationwide meeting of District Branch leaders to plan strategy to defeat psychologist prescribing legislation state by state. ■

New Members/Actions since March 2003

ADVANCE MEMBER IN TRAINING TO GENERAL MEMBER

Roohi Alikhan
Memunatu Bangura
Michael Barnett
Shamila Carlton
Jillian Evans
Susan Gani
Monica Green
Asim Haracic
Ni Ni Khin
Nadeem Mirza
Rosario Nunez-Brito
Eugnia Priddy
Jared Putnam
Umar Rahman
Philip Smith
Ifeoma Thompson
Donna Ticknor
Katalin Vadar
Phuong-Thu Vo, D.O.
Joshua Weiner

NEW/REINSTATED GENERAL MEM- BERS/FELLOWS

Maha Abdel-Kader
Nikki Adams
Saeed Aflatoon
HUsam Alathari
David Allen
Joseph Annibali
Faisal Awadelkarim
Rachel Becker
Tracy Benford
Robert Bishop
Miriam Bloom
Donna Carmosky
A Bradley Chapman
Jimmy Chen
Rafael Collazo-Camunas
Cheryl Collins
Vladimir Demidov
Roxanne Dryden-Edwards
Michael Egan
Tyrone Fillyaw
Risa Fishman

Tony Garro
Seth Himelhoch
Jeanne Holzgreffe
Bruce Kehr
Michael Knable, D.O.
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Adam Lowy
Husseini Manji
Ake Mattsson
Catherine McCarthy
Lisa McCurry
Thornton McKinney
Sarah McQueen
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Barry Mendelsohn
Frank Michener
Yar Mohammad
Larry Pastor
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Daniel Schuman
Sohrab Siahpoosh
James Scully
John Siberski
Mark Simonds
Jeff Svoboda
Bruce Tanenbaum
Jean Thomas
Hien Tran
Cynthia Turner-Graham
Lise Van Susteren
Patricia Widra
Lisa Zucker

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Brian Appleby
Navneet Atwal
Sarah Becherer
Lisa Catapano
Mark Cheltenham
Martin Chin
Todd Christiansen
Kamau Collins
Daniel Dickstein
Natalia Eisenberg

Jonathon Greenberg
Katina Hatten
Kimberly Humann
Tammara Jamison
Sayali Kulkarni
Roukan Jazayerli
Joseph Jeral
Gonzalo Laje
Christian Linton
Joanna Locke
Nancy Low
Greta Mansour
Lisa Mensch
Paula Palladino Negro
Dominique Neptune
Ikechi Nnawuchi
Adair Parr
Maheen Patel
Ashika Patil
Asha Patton
Johanna Paulino-
Woolridge, D.O.
Robert Perito Jr

Kavitha Rao
Elena Rapoport
Maryam Razavi
Muhamad Aly Rifai
Mozhdeh Roozegar
Michelle Seelman
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Alexandra Sporn
Daniella Stavreva-Zlatareva
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Psychologist Prescribing Bill Becomes Louisiana Law – WPS Urged Governor’s Veto

Louisiana’s state legislature made that state the second in the nation to pass legislation that would grant prescribing privileges to psychologists by fiat rather than by virtue of medical training with the passage of HB 1426. Sponsors rushed the bill – which introduces the term *medical psychologists* - through both houses without allowing for input from the advocacy and professional communities. Governor Kathleen Blanco, who deliberated a veto, signed the bill into law on May 7.

In her statement on HB 1426, Gov. Blanco said, “This bill, under very tight controls, will give medical psychologists prescriptive authority. While the opponents of the bill were

persuasive, the proponents, including the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate have assured me that there are ample safeguards built into the legislation.”

At the request of the Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association, WPS wrote to Gov. Blanco urging her to veto what WPS 2004 President Jeffrey Akman, MD described as a “hasty and ill-advised” bill.

Dr. Akman told Gov. Blanco that WPS does not believe a short course in prescribing, likely taking less than a year, will put non-physician prescribers on the same footing as medical doctors. “This legislation will create a dangerous situation

and substandard care,” said Dr. Akman.

WPS 2005 President Rod Drake, MD, in a letter to the editor of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, denounced the bill. “Would these legislators go to a psychologist for medication for their spouses or children who were suffering from a serious mental disturbance?” wrote Dr. Drake. “I don’t think so. Why would they subject others to this disgrace?”

New Mexico became the first state to authorize psychologists to prescribe earlier this year. A bill to permit psychologists to prescribe medication has also been introduced into the Tennessee legislature. ■

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