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President's Column

Back to Philadelphia

Larry Lawrence, M.D.



To those who attended, welcome back from the APA meetings in Philadelphia. Congratulations to our new SCPS Distinguished Fellows Dr. Thuy Nguyen and Dr. Leigh Lindsey. This honor acknowledges their many contributions as colleagues, clinicians, educators, administrators, and patient advocates. Well Done! To those who could not attend this year, see you in San Francisco in 2013.

The APA meetings curriculum continue to be topical, practical, innovative and thoughtful. The breadth of topics, the quality of the presentations, and the use of special tracks all contributed

to a well regarded and well received program. Being in Philadelphia, I went to the Penn Medicine blogs at www.uphs.upenn.edu. This is a treasure trove of information. Below a brief summary of events germane to psychiatry in Philadelphia.

The choice of Philadelphia harkens back to the roots of organized psychiatry in the United States. The Pennsylvania Hospital saw its roots in the mid 1700's. The hospital was developed with the support of Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond. As the population boomed, there became large numbers of "lunatics" in the community. Franklin and Bond led fundraising to establish a hospital. Among the earliest admissions were mentally ill individuals.

Thirty years later Benjamin Rush was hired to run the hospital. Rush was a unique individual who trained in the US at the College of New Jersey, later to become Princeton University. He became a teacher of chemistry, apprenticed with a Pennsylvania physician, and studied medicine in Scotland. He returned, worked as a surgeon, eventually becoming Surgeon General to the Continental Army as well as a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He practiced a type of moral therapy for the mentally ill with focus on healthy living and occupational therapy. He presided over changes in the Philadelphia Hospital which included recognition of mental illness as an illness, not a form of demon possession, and a move away from the stigma of mental illness.

One of his successors, Dr. Thomas Kirkbride laid the foundation for the APA. Kirkbride had the vision to make the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane a part of a general hospital, bringing psychiatry squarely into the house of medicine. He also hosted a meeting of thirteen superintendents of state hospitals for the insane in 1844. This meeting is generally acknowledged as the beginning of the APA as well as the

earliest medical specialty organization in the United States. The hospital was later named the Institute of the Pennsylvania Hospital. The Institute con-

(Continued on page 2)

tributed richly to psychiatry and the APA, including 12 APA presidents. Reviewing this history reminds us of the ongoing efforts of so many in our profession. We have inherited a legacy of service, de-stigmatization, research, program development, treatment, teaching, and always re-

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sponding to developing demands for service. It is a rich heritage, and an ongoing challenge.

I find Philadelphia to be a homecoming. I studied medicine at the Hahnemann Medical College. Scheduled to lead our convocation march was Dr. Paul Fink, a former APA president, but also chairman of psychiatry at Hahnemann Medical College during my training years. Sometimes things truly come full circle. My thanks to Dr. Fink for capturing my attention and stimulating my interest in psychiatry.

Thanks also to my former co-chief resident at Bellevue-NYU. Dr. Ann Sullivan completed a very successful year as Speaker of the APA Assembly. We have all benefitted from her patient and steady leadership in a time of significant demands and difficulties. Ann was appreciated here participating and contributing at CPA meetings over the last several years and keeping us current on national developments.

Final notes to those who wish to contribute thoughts and impressions or recommendations about the DSM 5, there is a short window of comment, coming to a close in mid June. www.DSM5.org is where to go. Also comments to Dr. Larry Gross, who has been our liason to the DSM5 committee, are welcome.

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Letter from the Editor

Filling IN Colleen Copelan, M.D.



Here's a redacted piece from the Los Angeles Times. You fill in the gaps:

Traditional ***** wary of ***** therapists.

****** therapists are expected to fill a gap in care, with nearly 17 million children in the U.S. lacking coverage. But the American ***** Assn. argues that therapists aren't adequately trained to perform major work.

Crystal Ann Baker isn't a *****, but she *****, ***** and even performs children's ******

Baker, who treats low-income patients in St. Paul, Minn., is among the nation's first ***** therapists — an innovative and controversial health position intended to fill socioeconomic and geographic gaps in ***** care.

With nearly 17 million children nationwide lacking ***** care and health reform expected to increase demand, California and other states are exploring similar models to expand the ***** workforce, setting the stage for a series of battles with ***** organizations that warn that patient safety is at stake.

The American ***** Assn. argues that ***** therapists lack the training and education needed to perform irreversible ***** procedures and to identify patients' other medical problems.

The California Academy of ****** argues that high school graduates with a few years of training could end up performing delicate procedures with permanent consequences. "Imagine how you would feel if your children were being taken care of by these people," said Sun Costigan, president of the organization.

But advocates and researchers counter that concerns about insufficient training and substandard quality are unfounded.

Therapists would be properly educated and would help close vast gaps in care that can lead to costly emergency room visits for ***** problems, said Shelly Gehshan, director of the Children's ***** Campaign for the Pew Center on the States. Nationwide, 830,000 emergency room visits in 2009 were due to preventable ***** problems, according to the center.

Many of the children lacking care don't have insurance, live in areas without enough ***** or can't find doctors who accept Medicaid. Problems accessing ***** could grow in 2014, when 5 million more children are expected to get ***** insurance under the federal healthcare reform law.

"We need more qualified people to expand the reach of the ***** system," Gehshan said.

***** concerns about competition also are unwarranted, she said. She said therapists wouldn't "threaten the said t

Sound familiar? If you guessed dental, you're right. If you guessed any other health care profession, you're pretty close. Access to the full story at www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-dental-battle-20120603,0,4784106.story cocopelan@aol.com

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The SCPS Women's Committee hosted its fourth High Tea on Saturday, May 19th, 2012 at the beautiful home of Doryann Lebe, M.D. (past SCPS President). The topic was: The Money Talk and it featured three speakers; a psychiatrist/MBA, an attorney, and a psychiatrist/CPA/MBA. The talks were informative, honest and we had a mindfullness exercise. As with all of the teas, the networking and collegiality were 'priceless.'



Britton Arey, M.D., gave tips for runninga successful private practice (fee for service).



We were lucky to have Linda O. Hatcher, J.D., who graciously volunteered her time to teach us about contract negotiation.



SCPS member, Lynne Love, M.D., who is also a neurologist, CPA and MBA gave a personal perspective about money and led us in a mindfullness exercise.



The teas are always superbly moderated by our illustrious committee chair, Yara Salman, M.D.

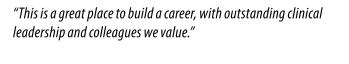


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Council Highlights May 17, 2012

Anita Red, M.D., ECP Deputy Representative



Dr. Lawrence called the meeting to order. A motion was made to accept the April minutes. All voted in favor, and none opposed. There was a welcome with an introduction of the members of this year's council. Dr. Lawrence announced the five Distinguished Fellowship nominations for approval. A motion was made to accept these five nominations. All voted in favor, and none opposed. Dr. Silverman made a motion to grant funding to The Women's Committee. The SCPS will fund the difference of the PER contribution to this event. The motion was rephrased to say the SCPS host and sponsor the Women's High Tea event, with a PER contribution. Dr.

Shaner amended the motion, which was accepted, to include a determination of cost-per-person and a budget for events in the future. All voted in favor of the motion, and none opposed. The funding will be from the SCPS general funds of the budget.

Dr. Lawrence discussed a reception for Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell. The CPA requests an SCPS member to attend. Dr. Soldinger volunteered to attend. Next, a chair is needed for the NAMI dinner on June 7, 2012. Dr. Soldinger volunteered to facilitate this dinner. Mark Gale is requested to co-facilitate this event. Next, there are several vacant positions for council. Drs. Farooqi and Erikson are nominated to fill these positions. A motion was made to accept these nominations. All voted in favor, and none opposed.

Dr. Red gave a report from the Website/IT/Communications committee. Dr. Lawrence discussed a recruitment letter written by Dr. Ettekal. A letter requesting a list of at-risk members will be drafted to send to the APA. The Conflict of Interest committee gave a report, which included an answer to the call-to-action made at the last council meeting. It was reported that the COI policy will not conflict with the current by-laws. On behalf of Dr. Thurston, Dr. Shaner nominated Assemblyman Beall for the Ed Rudin/Warren Williams Awards. All voted in favor, and none opposed. Dr. Shaner also nominated Dr. Pating for the award.

Dr. Schaepper made a motion to grant funding to USC and SFV resident events. All voted in favor, and none opposed. Dr. Soldinger made a motion to accept the five new SCPS member nominations. All voted in favor, and none opposed. Dr. Thurston is not available to give the legislative report. However, on behalf of Dr. Thurston, Dr. Lawrence requested we name Dr. Mary Read the State Legislative Representative. All voted in favor, and none opposed. On behalf of Dr. Forgey, Mindi Thalen gave the treasurer's report. A motion was made to approve this report. All voted in favor, and none opposed. The program committee will host its next program in September. Drs. Schaepper, Shaner, and Gross presented the APA assembly report. In new business, Dr. Fogelson discussed protection of online identities. Dr. Fogelson made a motion to invite Dr. John Luo to the next SCPS council meeting to discuss this issue. All voted in favor, and none opposed. Also for new business, there was a discussion of maintenance of certification requirements for board certification.

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