

HIGHLIGHTS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 9-10, 2019

*This information is unofficial as the minutes approved by the BOT serve
as the official record of the meeting and actions*

CEO Updates

Dr. Saul Levin thanked the Board of Trustees for attending the meeting at APA's Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He acknowledged Dr. Altha Stewart's last business meeting of the Board of Trustees as President before her final ceremonial meeting at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco. He thanked her for her service and noted she would continue to serve three more years on the Board as Past President. Drs. Stewart and Levin also thanked the following members rotating off the Board: James Batterson, MD, Speaker; Renee Binder, MD, Past President Trustee; Philip Muskin, MD, MA, Secretary; Ramaswamy Viswanathan, MD, D.Sc, MUR Trustee; Roger Peele, MD, Area 3 Trustee; Tanuja Gandhi, MD, Resident-Fellow Member Trustee; John Chaves, MD, APA/APAF Public Psychiatry Fellow; Emily Wu, MD, APA/APAF/SAMHSA/Diversity Leadership Fellow; Adrian J. Ambrose, MD, APA/APAF Leadership Fellow; and Donna M. Norris, MD, Parliamentarian.

The following new Board members starting in mid-May were welcomed to the meeting: Jeffrey Geller, MD, MPH, President-Elect; Sandra DeJong, MD, MSc, Secretary; Rahn K. Bailey, MD, MUR Trustee; Kenneth Certa, MD, Area 3 Trustee; and Michael Mensah, MD, MPH, Resident-Fellow Member Trustee-Elect.

Update from the December Board Meeting from the APA Ethics and Elections Committees

During the December 2018 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board asked the Administration to poll the APA Ethics and Elections Committee on the following: "Should APA pay for sitting Board and Assembly members who are running for election to go to the November Assembly when they will use some time there to campaign and their opponent has to pay their own way?" The Elections Committee and the Ethics Committee both agreed that the issue was one of equity and that one should not be funded if the other is not.

After discussion, the Board decided that all candidates running for national office will be reimbursed for attending the November Assembly Meeting.

Wit v. United Behavioral Health (ND CA)

Wit v. United Behavioral Health (ND CA) is a class action challenging whether UBH's medical necessity standards met the standard of care in the field – the court found they did not. This has a significant potential impact on patient care if it is upheld on appeal. The Court recognized

several standards of care (full text can be [downloaded here](#)). Dr. Levin thanked Dr. Eric Plakun for testifying on behalf of the plaintiffs.

Aetna Settles With Mass. Attorney General on Network Adequacy, Directories

[As reported in APA PsychNews](#), Aetna, one of the nation's largest health insurers, agreed to a settlement last month with the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General (AG) requiring the company to comply with state and federal laws by maintaining accurate, updated provider directories and network adequacy. APA has devoted much time and resources regarding the enforcement of the mental health parity law and conducted studies on health insurers' compliance. [APA produced this poster](#) for placement in high-visibility locations to inform patients of their rights under the law, which was distributed to the Board.

Government Relations

Senator Chris Murphy intends to introduce our parity legislation in the Senate in the coming weeks. Also, the legislation APA supports to fix 42 CFR part 2 should be reintroduced by the end of March. In addition, PA recently sent a letter to Senator Lamar Alexander, Chairman of the Senate Health, Labor and Pensions Committee, making several recommendations with regard to: reducing health system costs; parity; telepsychiatry; integrated care through the collaborative care model; and reducing utilization review in Medicare and the administrative burden for physicians.

At the state level, the APA administration has been working intensely with District Branches (DBs) to defeat psychologist prescribing bills in a number of states. During the summer of 2018, APA communicated with DBs in each state and the District of Columbia about whether its state medical licensing application complies with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the APA's corresponding position statement on the issue of appropriate inquiries into mental health and substance use disorders. This activity was undertaken in response to an Assembly Action Paper, "Enacting APA Positions: State Medical Board Licensure Queries."

APA received responses from the vast majority of states that had either non-compliant applications or applications which APA was unable to review to determine compliance. Many states sent letters based on the draft prepared by APA and plan to continue to address the issue with their medical boards. Several states reported that positive changes were made by their boards to revise licensing application questions and bring them into compliance. APA will continue to communicate with individual DBs and to offer support on this issue.

Dr. Altha Stewart's Congressional Testimony

Dr. Altha Stewart testified on behalf of APA at a House Labor-HHS Appropriations subcommittee on February 28 during a hearing about the trauma caused by separating families at the border. That is the subcommittee that votes on every dollar of federal discretionary spending for mental health. APA was among the first organizations to speak out last spring when it became clear that the administration's "zero tolerance" policy of referring those crossing the border for federal criminal prosecution would result in the widespread separation of children and families.

APA Federal Advocacy Conference

Almost 100 APA members will meet with their state's congressional representatives to advocate on behalf of psychiatrists and their patients on strategic issues including: appropriations, 42 CFR Part 2, parity, and healthcare reform. APA staff will brief members on the issues, as well as discuss effective strategies for communicating with members of Congress and their staff, and review best practices in using social media for advocacy. Dr. Levin emphasized the importance of APA members wearing their white coats to help Congressional members and their staff to identify them as physicians.

APA's Participation in the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT) Annual Meeting

Several members of the APA administration participated in the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT) meeting in San Diego from February 27 - March 1. APA board member Dr. Tanuja Gandhi received a Nyapati Rao and Francis Lu International Medical Graduate (IMG) Fellowship Award. Five APA / APAF Fellows presented sessions, and Kristin Kroeger, Chief of Policy, Programs, and Partnerships, held a session to help training program directors learn how to teach the collaborative care model. Dr. Tristan Gorrindo, Deputy Medical Director and Director of Education, announced the top three teams for the MindGames competition at APA Annual Meeting: Drexel University College of Medicine, University of Arizona Tucson, and Stanford Adult Psychiatry Training Program. APA had booths promoting APA Publications, Membership, and APA/APAF Fellowships. Dr. Levin presented an overview of APA membership benefits and specifically highlighted the 100% Club to Training Program Directors.

American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine (AFFIRM) and American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma Medical Summit on Firearm Injury Prevention

In early February, Dr. Cheryl Wills represented the APA at two back-to-back meetings in Chicago that convened leaders of the medical community working together to reduce and prevent firearm injury: The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma Medical Summit on Firearm Injury Prevention, and the American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine (AFFIRM) Retreat. AFFIRM is a physician led foundation that aggregates private sector financial resources to fund high-quality, high-impact research to prevent firearm injury. The AFFIRM health consortium currently includes groups such as the American Medical Association, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American College of Physicians, and the Annals of Internal Medicine.

2019 Annual Meeting

As of March 6, the midway point of registration for the annual meeting, 5,555 professional attendees have registered. In the past 10 years, this number was only exceeded by New York in

2018 at 6,077 at this point in time. At this year's annual meeting, we are highlighting many APA programs and member benefits with an awareness campaign called, "APA at Work." There will be special limited-edition items for sale at the APA store for the 175th anniversary, including an APA logo scarf, cufflinks, 175th anniversary pins, a charm bracelet, and two different APA logo neckties. During the annual meeting, members will have the opportunity to use the APA / APAF Story Booths to record brief video testimonials about why they became a psychiatrist, what excites them the most about the future of psychiatry, how the APA has been supportive of their career, or has the APA addressed an issue (social or professional) over the years that has had an impact on them personally. The videos will be collected for the Melvin Sabshin, MD, Library and Archives and each member will receive a copy of their footage that can be shared on social media.

2021 Annual Meeting

Every few years, the Board of Trustees reviews the locations of the APA's annual meetings. This weekend at the March Board meeting in Washington D.C. the location of the 2021 Annual Meeting in Hawaii was discussed. After a thoughtful and in-depth discussion, informed by input from members and consideration of all the pros and cons of having a meeting in Hawaii, the Board voted to move the meeting from Hawaii to Los Angeles.

Although some members may be disappointed in this decision, the Board felt it was its responsibility to make this decision in the best interest of the membership as a whole. The APA Annual Meeting has enjoyed increased member participation over the last several years and maintaining that momentum is important. In addition, the Annual Meeting helps to support the mission of our APA, including many programs, member benefits, and government relation activities.

Conflict of Interest Committee Update

Dr. Philip Muskin presented an update from the Conflict of Interest (COI) Committee regarding the efforts to update the Disclosure of Affiliations and Interest Policy and accompanying disclosure form. A draft policy for APA was presented and a comparison of it to the disclosure policies of other medical societies was offered. The online system recommended by the Committee to collect disclosures was discussed and demonstrated to the Board. This online system would allow members to identify all outside interests and affiliations and be able to update and maintain that information within the system. The Committee requested approval by the Board of Trustees of the revisions to the APA's Disclosures of Affiliations and Interest Policy and disclosure form recommended by the Committee. The Board approved expanding the policy to cover interests beyond psychiatry; eliminating financial amounts for those members not in Tier 1; use of the online system; and other minor changes suggested by the Conflict of Interest Committee. The Board did not approve expanding the scope of disclosure to include close relatives and business partners.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Greg Dalack noted that the 2019 fiscal year has started off strongly, with markets gains in January and February recouping the investment losses in 2018. That registration for the annual meeting in San Francisco has been strong and exceeds all recent non-New York meetings at comparable points in advance of the meeting dates and that membership renewals are pacing ahead of the 2017 renewal rates.

American Psychiatric Association Foundation

Dr. Levin, Chair of the Foundation, provided an update on fundraising, the Melvin Sabshin, M.D. Library & Archives, and the Adopt-a-Book Campaign. He also spoke to the new platform called Shopify. He mentioned that the awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health will be presented on Tuesday night, May 21 at the Minority Fellows and Alumni Reception during the annual meeting. He closed by referencing the APA 175th Anniversary Gala and mentioned the silent auction.

Dan Gillison, Executive Director of the Foundation, shared the Foundation's Annual Report and spoke to metrics for the Gala that included 313 tickets sold to date as compared to the 108 tickets sold at this time last year. Also, \$105,000 in sponsorships have been raised so far. He asked Board Members to share any contacts they may have with the Foundation and introduce them to anyone they feel could be a sponsor for the Gala. He closed by speaking to the Fellowship program, its' growth, the Advancing Minority Mental Health Awards, and the Helping Hands Grant Program.

APA PsychPRO Registry Update

PsychPRO is reporting quality data for participants for the CMS 2018 open period, which began January 1 and ends March 31, 2019. Over 600 clinicians are anticipated to report during the 2018 period, which is an increase of over 200 new clinicians compared to 2017. Many are anticipated to achieve the 70% level that will qualify them for bonuses, in addition to averting the 5% penalty for 2018.

PsychPRO continues to also support the APA's CMS grant for quality measure development. Technical Expert and Consumer Family Panels have been constituted for important clinical and patient input into the measure development process. These Panels will meet twice a year for each of the three years of the grant. Recruitment for a CMS Learning Collaborative to help develop and test quality measures is also underway and expected to run through the spring of 2019. The goal is 400 clinicians across settings and provider types including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and primary care clinicians. The measure concepts to be addressed include those related to Measurement Based Care, Suicide Risk and Safety Planning, Early Psychosis, Opioid Use, and Patient Care Experiences.

For 2019, the MIPS program penalties will increase to 7% and affect 2021 reimbursements. To assist clinicians in averting these penalties, PsychPRO registration for 2019 will run from April 1 through October 1, 2019. The potential bonuses will also be greater, since the threshold for avoiding penalties will be stricter and, as such, the pool of funds for bonuses is anticipated to be larger. APA continues to promote the registry through a variety of mechanisms, including membership communications, conferences and meetings, advertisements, and articles in various publications. PsychPRO will have an informational/demonstration booth at the APA Annual Meeting, as well as other professional meetings. Finally, with the EPIC EHR integration solution in place, APA recruitment efforts will focus on targeting large systems and academic institutions.

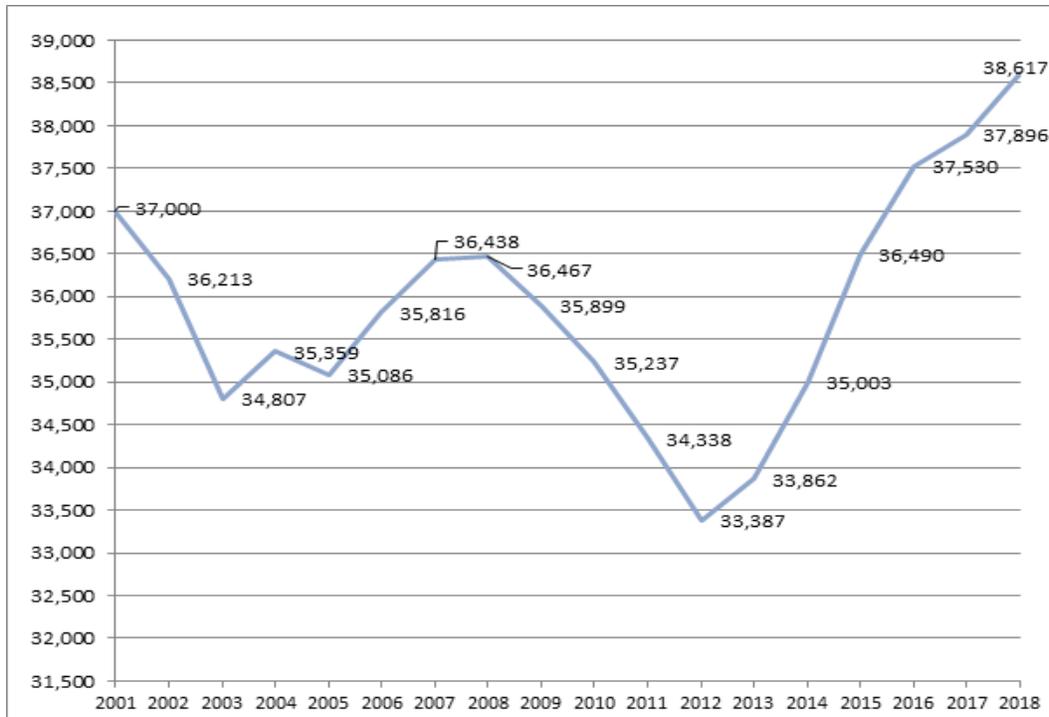
For more information on the Registry, please visit www.psychiatry.org/registry.

IPS Strategic Planning Work Group Update

The Board of Trustees received an update on the strategic planning for IPS 2021 and beyond. Based on the six recommendations made by the IPS Strategic Planning Work Group in December 2018, the APA administration gathered additional relevant data and sought additional input from work group members. Additional information will be gathered from past and prospective IPS attendees at the APA Annual Meeting and the IPS 2019 meeting with regards to questions such as: meeting name, meeting structure, meeting length, meeting location, and potential partnerships. The current IPS Strategic Planning Work Group was thanked for their efforts and is being sunset. Dr. Bruce Schwartz is constituting a new IPS Vision Group that will focus on programmatic development for IPS 2021 and beyond. An update on this process will be provided to the Board in July 2019.

Membership Update

Due to the combined efforts of leadership, the administration and DB/SAs, APA now has 38,617 members and is at a 17-year high in membership. Below is the membership trend.



For the remainder of 2019, APA will use the phrase “over 38,500 members” in communications such as letters, PowerPoints, and on the website.

We are deeply appreciative of your efforts and support. APA work tirelessly to recruit and retain every member and we know that you are also out there in your practices and institutions promoting the great work of this remarkable organization. Thank you for using the available resources (i.e. PPT and talking point) on our [website](#) when presenting and speaking to colleagues about the benefits of membership.

Thank you for your hard work this past weekend. I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco in May.