News from the President of AAPA (John Wilkaitis, M.D., MBA)

Submitted by Barry K. Herman, M.D., M.M.M.

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Once again, it is my privilege to provide an update as the president of the American Association of Psychiatric Administrators (AAPA). This is an exciting time for the AAPA, as our membership and member engagement continue to grow. I would like to thank the executive council and members who continue to work hard for the advancement of our organization. Our membership has grown by over 27 paid members since this time last year. In addition, we have over 80 members who are students, residents, or fellows, who enjoy free membership. Our bank account balance has grown over $8,000, as our receptions and special events are largely covered by sponsors. Please extend thanks to our sponsoring organizations, Professional Risk Management Services, Inc. (PRMS) and Carolina Health Systems, whose generous support continues to make our receptions and special events possible, while also ensuring the finances of our organization remain stable.

During the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in New York, we will have a number of events. Our executive committee will meet the afternoon of Tuesday, May 8th, and we will have a reception on Tuesday May 8th from 5:30PM until 7:30PM, at the Yale Club. Members and those interested in administrative psychiatry are welcome to attend. Please help spread the word through your local residency programs, colleagues, and social media. For the first time in years, we will sponsor a symposium chaired by Dr. Manish Sapra, our incoming president, and Dr. Tobias Wasser, deputy journal editor and early career committee chair. Our distinguished symposium faculty would welcome any members to attend and show support for the AAPA. Faculty for the Symposium includes Barry Herman, Geetha Jayaram, David Nace, Lawrence Goldberg and Sy Saeed.

Dr. Geetha Jayaram will be receiving the 2018 Administrative Psychiatry Award and delivering an award lecture. Many of our members will also attend the PRMS reception, in order to show support for their generous sponsorship, which have helped to make our own receptions possible. Your attendance at these events is encouraged, and there will be ample opportunity to connect with colleagues. The times, dates, and locations of many of these events will be announced in the near future by the APA, and we will provide additional information as it becomes available. Please ensure that Frances Bell has your most current contact information, especially an active email address, but also updated phone numbers and mailing address, in order to keep you informed. We are looking at additional ways of promoting these events, such as social media, word of mouth, residency directors, and the daily APA bulletin during the conference. Please contact our executive committee if you have more ideas about promoting these events.

We continue to seek submissions for our best resident paper award. This award is a prestigious addition to a young resident’s career but also is a monetary award $250. Please help spread the news of this award through any residency programs with which you have contact.

Our early career committee continues its work to engage student, resident, and fellow members. As we engage these future leaders, we sow the seeds of our organization’s future. Although these members have their membership fees waived, we find future members paying dues and future leaders for our organization after these members complete their training. Dr. Tobias Wasser volunteered to be the chair of our early career committee, to better engage these members. We owe thanks to him for leading an effort to recruit and retain these future members. Please contact him if you have interest in serving on this committee or have ideas for better engaging members early in their administrative careers. I spoke with several early-career psychiatrists at previous meetings who find the challenge of balancing clinical and administrative problems to be challenging, and they find access to mentorship and networking with more experienced psychiatric administrators very appealing. I firmly believe our unique value proposition to new members is this access to many psychiatrists with experience in administration along a wide variety of clinical and nonclinical career pathways. We have members with long and distinguished careers in a variety of settings, including private practice groups, academic psychiatry, managed care, and larger health organizations within the private and public sectors. If our more experienced members spend only a little time sharing some of their knowledge, the future of psychiatry and these early-career psychiatrists could be much brighter. We appreciate our member’s continuing efforts to spread the word about the AAPA and invite new members to join and stay. It is my hope that many members will look for ways in which new members and potential members can benefit from our organization’s experience and knowledge within the early career committee.

Our Journal, The Journal of Psychiatric Administration and Management, continues to grow under the capable leadership of our editor, Dr. Sy Saeed and our deputy editor, Dr. Tobias Wasser. Our Journal is close to being cited on PubMed. We owe a debt to Sy, who relaunched the journal in 2012 and brought it forward to this point. Under his leadership, our journal will be joining many prestigious journals by inclusion in PubMed citations. Sy and Tobias welcome you to submit future articles for the journal. Please join me in showing your support for our journal and the staff who make it possible.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone at the AAPA for their continued support for the organization and my presidency. I’ve appreciated the engagement of members who helped make these accomplishments possible. Whether you are a new member or have been a member for some time, we welcome greater involvement in our organization, and we appreciate your efforts to help us build a stronger organization. As the previous two presidents, I will be complete my term after one year. At the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting in New York City in May, 2018, we will welcome our new president, Dr. Manish Sapra. Thank you again for your support and for all you do to help support the AAPA and the future leaders of psychiatry.