

Learn what the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society is working on for you!



PENNSYLVANIA PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

## News & Notes

### *December 2016*

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#### **Upcoming Events & Deadlines**

**Act Now!**

**Wednesday, December 14, 2016**

*Take advantage of exclusive Annual Meeting benefits!*

**The APA Annual meeting** will be held in San Diego from May 20 - 24, 2017. APA members have the opportunity to take advantage of **Early Bird registration**, selecting CME courses, and finding optimal housing prior to the non-member registration **until December 14th**. Although Early Bird registration is available until February 2nd, **only APA members can register now**.

Get more information and [register now!](#)

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**Deadline Approaching!**  
**Friday, January 13, 2017**

#### **PaPS Call for 2017-2018 Officer Nominations**

Anticipated vacant seats include Secretary, Early Career Psychiatrist (ECP), Resident Rep, and two APA Assembly Representatives.

#### **PaPS Call for 2017 Presidential Award Nominations**

Established in 1999 to honor a PaPS member *for outstanding contributions to the profession of psychiatry*, the Presidential Award is open to all Society members. Nominees need not be members of the chapter submitting the nomination, but must be members of PaPS.

Suggestions can be made, **no later than January 13, 2017**, to the committee by providing all necessary documentation to the PaPS Administrative Office at

papsych@pamedsoc.org.

[Full details](#) and instructions on how to submit a nomination available on our website.

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**Save the Date!**  
**Friday, January 20, 2017**

**Post-Holiday Social**

6:00 pm

Watch your inbox and the [PaPS website](#) for location and registration information.



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**Register Now!**  
**Saturday, January 28, 2017**

**Transforming Clinical Practices Initiative (TCPI)**

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center  
3900 Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia

It is with great pleasure that I announce a joint APA/PaPS educational venture for psychiatrists across the commonwealth. Under the guidance of APA President Maria Oquendo, MD (coming to Philadelphia as chair of psychiatry at UPENN in January) and our own APA Trustee Rick Summers, MD, the APA has performed trainings for member and non-member psychiatrists across the country in CMS' *Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative* (TCPI). This training focuses on integration of physical and behavioral health care, providing practical skills for use in our changing healthcare environment. An overview of the initiative will occur, along with highlighting opportunities to work with your primary care colleagues to integrate behavioral health/develop relationships to treat consumers with mental health and substance use needs in a holistic manner.

The training is free to all psychiatrists, regardless if they are members of the APA/PaPS. [View the flyer](#) (pdf) to register or for more information.

It is our desire to hold at least one more TCPI training across the state (Pittsburgh) in 2017. Details will be provided as they are available.

If you have any questions or need additional information, do not hesitate to contact me at [dshoemaker@pamedsoc.org](mailto:dshoemaker@pamedsoc.org).

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**Deadline Approaching!**  
**Monday, January 30, 2017**

## The APA/APAF Fellowship Application Season is Active Now

Please visit [WWW.PSYCHIATRY.ORG/FELLOWSHIPS](http://WWW.PSYCHIATRY.ORG/FELLOWSHIPS) to review the [eight fellowship programs](#) (pdf) and apply online.

Applications must be submitted by Monday, January 30, 2017.

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### **PaPS 2017 Leadership Development Program for ECPs**

*Providing Orientation and Skill Development to Future Leaders of Organized Medicine*

This program will combine elements of leadership mentoring, organizational education, advocacy and skills training, and guided experiences to selected participants.

Two candidates are selected biannually for a program cycle that begins in mid-2017 and ends in late 2018. Interested candidates can learn more about the program by visiting [www.papsych.org](http://www.papsych.org).

Information regarding the 2017 cohort program application process will be available in the January issue of *Pennsylvania Psychiatrist*. For your planning purposes, the **application deadline is May 1, 2017**.

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### **Essay Recommendation from Your PaPS President-Elect**

Our president-elect, Gail Edelson, MD, MSPH, provided us with a copy of the November 15, 2016 JAMA's *A Piece of my Mind*. The essay, entitled "Hailey," was written by William B. Weeks, MD, PhD, MBA. This poignant piece explores a physician's personal struggle with seeing his own sister lose her battle with substance use.

We felt it appropriate to share this story with all of you for distribution as you deem appropriate. Our Society has posted the essay [on the website](#) (pdf) and shared it with our colleagues at the PA Medical Society.

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### **State Enacts Changes to Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and Related Practices: What Do You Need to Know?**

Governor Wolf made a promise earlier this year that his administration would make fighting opioid and heroin misuse, abuse, and diversion a top priority. On November 2, 2016, he made good on that promise by signing four pieces of legislation addressing particular areas of concern. Some provisions deal directly with all areas

of practice for prescribing practitioners, while others are specialty-specific. [Read an overview](#) of the new laws and what items are now mandatory for everyday practice.

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## **APA Updates**

### **Mental Health and Substance Use Reform a Reality!**

Earlier this week, the United States Senate passed the 21st Century Cures Act (House Resolution 34- Act) by a vote of 94-5. This vote follows an overwhelming swell of support in the U.S. House the previous week.

President Obama has expressed powerful support for House Resolution 34 and intends to enact the bill into law in the near future. Although the Act contains provisions related to pharmaceutical oversight and other crucial health care funding and research initiatives, key provisions from the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act (House Resolution 2646- Congressman Tim Murphy), the Mental Health Reform Act of 2016 (Senate Bill 2680- Senator Chris Murphy), the Mental Health and Safe Communities Act (Senate Bill 2002- Senator John Coryn), and the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act (Senate Bill 993- Senator John Coryn) were included in the final version. APA supported all of these bills and held a critical role over the past few legislative sessions in ensuring that provisions benefiting the profession and our consumers were included prior to its enactment.

Governor Wolf held a press conference expressing his support for the Act this past week. Prior to its passage in the Senate, the governor sent a letter of support to Senators Casey and Toomey. Congressman Murphy has provided a comprehensive listing of provisions extracted from his proposed legislation that was amended in to the Act. If you would like a copy, [download the pdf](#).

### **APA Creates Mental Health Registry PsychPRO**

In order to assist members in complying with new MACRA quality reporting requirements, the APA recently announced the creation of PsychPRO (Psychiatric Patient Registry Online), a national mental health registry. The creation of the registry will assist in developing future research for the psychiatric field that in the future can assist with “better understanding mental health conditions and to develop new treatments that improve outcomes and functioning of patients.” The APA also created a Registry Oversight Workgroup that will report to the APA Board of Trustees and oversee PsychPRO. Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore has become the first major health system to join PsychPRO.

For more information, check out the APA website. The APA has a dedicated [section on MACRA](#).

### **Medicare Commences Coverage of Collaborative Care**

The APA recently announced that CMS's Final Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rule will allow coverage and reimbursement for "Psychiatric Collaborative Care Management Services" starting in 2017. Our own Jeremy Musher, MD (APA CPT and RUC Advisor) worked closely with APA's Policy Reimbursement Team to advocate for these changes.

As you know, APA recently received a grant from CMS to train psychiatrists and primary care physicians on the Collaborative Care Model via the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative grant (TCPI). The next training opportunity will be held in Philadelphia on **Saturday, January 28, 2017**. For more details, [check out our website](#) and the article within this issue of *News & Notes*.

As always, do not hesitate to call PaPS Executive Director Deborah Ann Shoemaker at 1.800.422.2900 or [dshoemaker@pamedsoc.org](mailto:dshoemaker@pamedsoc.org) if you have any concerns/comments or need any additional information.

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## **Wolf Administration Releases Prescribing Guidelines for Benzodiazepines**

On Thursday, December 8th, Governor Wolf, Physician General Rachel Levine, MD, and Department of Drug and Alcohol Program Secretary Gary Tennis, Esquire publicly released guidelines for the prescribing and supervision of benzodiazepine medications.

The guidelines, developed by a workgroup under the guise of the Department of Health's Safe and Effective Prescribing Practices Task Force, provide a framework for health care providers with prescriptive authority of considerations that must be taken into account when dispensing, administering, or prescribing benzodiazepines (medications with a significant risk for misuse, abuse, and diversion). The Society was extremely involved in this effort with numerous members serving on this group from the inception of the guidelines to its final enactment by the Task Force. Authors including PaPS members Drs. Dale Adair, Aurelia Bizamcer, Antoine Douaihy, Matt Hurford, Abby Kay, Larry Real, Hope Selarnick, and Ken Thompson.

The Wolf Administration has been a tireless advocate for combatting this public health epidemic over the last few years. The Safe and Effective Prescribing Practices Task Force was created in 2015 to develop recommendations on prescribing opioids and benzodiazepines for health care providers like dentists, emergency room physicians, and family practitioners. The task force includes members from various state agencies, representatives from medical associations, provider advocates, and community members. The Society is represented by our executive director Deborah Ann Shoemaker and Dr. Rich Sobel.

The guidelines are available [here](#) (pdf) on the PA Department of Health website and have been posted to the PaPS website with the Society's [Laws and Regulations](#) member resources.

**Watch your inbox! Membership renewals are coming your way.**

[Renew your American Psychiatric Association membership today!](#)

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