

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



PENNSYLVANIA PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

# News & Notes

## August 2017

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### A Message from Gail A. Edelsohn, MD, MSPH, President, PaPS

Dear Members,

I would like to update you on our efforts to advocate for a fairer Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process. In July, the PaPS took your concerns regarding MOC to APA's CEO and Medical Director, Saul Levin, MD, MPA. We requested the APA adopt a "Vote of No Confidence" position regarding leadership of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) as it relates to their efforts on MOC and shared with him the survey that we conducted and the results. Our materials were shared at the APA Board of Trustees meeting last month. Dr. Levin thanked us for the materials we provided and stated that the board is actively engaged in conversations on how to best deal with MOC requirements and the ABPN. We will continue to update our members on our efforts concerning MOC.

### Upcoming Events

#### **Wednesday, August 23, 2017**

Northeastern PA Psychiatric Society Dinner

Forensic/Correctional Psychiatry: A Personal Perspective

Presented by Ingrid Renberg, MD

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

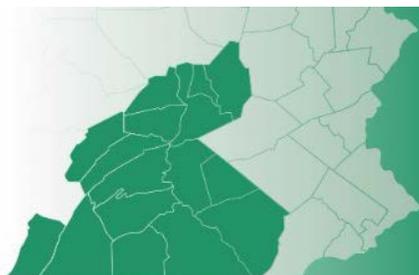
Isabella's

1140 Rte 315

Wilkes-Barre, PA

*Sponsored by MHM Correctional Services*

RSVP to: [jane@mhmcareers.com](mailto:jane@mhmcareers.com) or 844-477-6420



## RESIDENTS' NIGHT

Thursday, August 24, 2017

Troegs' Brewery  
Hershey, PA  
6:00 – 8:00 pm

### Thursday, August 24, 2017

CPPS Residents' Night

6:00 pm

Troegs Brewery, Hershey

[Info](#)



## RESIDENTS' RESEARCH NIGHT

Monday, September 25, 2017

The DoubleTree by Hilton  
Downtown Pittsburgh  
5:30 – 8:00 pm

### Monday, September 25, 2017

PPS Residents' Research Night

6:30 pm

The DoubleTree by Hilton, Downtown Pittsburgh

[Info](#)

## SAVE THE DATE



# Patient Safety and Risk Management 2017

November 11, 2017 | Chubb Hotel and Conference Center, Lafayette Hill, PA  
OR Attend the **LIVE WEBCAST** at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Suites Pittsburgh - Downtown

### Saturday, November 11, 2017

Patient Safety and Risk Management

Chubb Hotel & Conference Center in Lafayette Hill, PA.

To make your hotel reservations at the Chubb Hotel and Conference Center, please go to [www.chubbconferencecenter.com](http://www.chubbconferencecenter.com) and use the group code, PPSAEM17 to receive the discounted room rate of \$155.

Simulcast in Pittsburgh at the *DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Suites Pittsburgh Downtown*

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## Activity Update

### **Uphold Justice: Part 2**

By Deborah Shoemaker, Executive Director

In July's issue of the *Pennsylvania Psychiatrist*, I wrote about how the bible verse "to act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8) guides our personal and public lives. In this issue of *News & Notes*, I will discuss our two other advocacy efforts that are guided by this principle.

#### **Maintenance of Certification (MOC)**

The Society has made fighting the current MOC process a top priority. Our game plan has been laid out smoothly and succinctly. We have been working with PAMED and its medical specialty organization groups at the state level, and with our friends within Area 3 and Assembly at the national level. Our message has been very simple: although we are proponents of lifelong effective learning, the current MOC is onerous, irrelevant and cost-prohibitive. The postcard campaign recently underwritten by the Philadelphia chapter and our previous solicitation results all came back with comparable results: members hate it and feels MOC does not truly assess core competencies and retention throughout a physician's career. Our council approved a motion to send a letter to the APA formally requesting a "Vote of No Confidence" position regarding leadership of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) as it relates to their efforts on MOC. This letter went out the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> and is available for member use and review. It was shared at the APA Board of Trustees meeting last month. At the annual meeting in San Diego, our Area 3 representatives expressed our opposition to the current MOC process with the request for extensive review/alternatives to assess competence that benefits physicians and their patients (and not just because it is a requirement to keep your job or as a condition of licensure). Furthermore, our Council approved exploring the option of having legislation drafted in the state legislature to reinforce our position. And why are we doing all this work? Because it is the right thing to do for not just all our members, but for the citizens of the commonwealth.

#### **Collaboration on Affordable Care Act (ACA) Replacement**

I think one of the most "right thing to do" projects we have been affiliated with recently relates to

the fight to retain the ACA. Throughout this bumpy ride, all of us laboring on this issue will admit that the ACA is not perfect; however totally eliminate without a viable alternative is disastrous. Provisions within the “repeal/replace” version in the Senate (which ironically keeps changing names itself) will harm the most vulnerable citizens of the commonwealth- our kids, pregnant women, our seasoned residents and of course all the individuals our community psychiatry members serve daily. Although our governor remains committed to continuing with Medicaid expansion, there may come a time if an ACA repeal does occur that the state will not be able to afford it. This repeal goes way beyond partisan politics, pro-Medicaid expansion or pro-insurance reform.

On the national level, the APA has done a yeoman’s job on expressing our concerns to congressional leaders and to key congressional staffers and swing voters. Kudos to Angela Gochenaur, Ariel Gonzalez, and KJ Hertz from APA’s Department of Government Relations for providing invaluable information that we could use in our grassroots advocacy efforts with our congressional delegation.

This issue has even polarized action on the state level. A PA Provider Association coalition was created this spring to demonstrate that health care provider organizations are collectively opposed to ACA replacement. Both Angela and I represent our Society in these discussions. So far, this coalition group (which includes almost every healthcare provider organization across the commonwealth) has sent three letters to members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation and is working on print, social media and live media opportunities to push for clinically appropriate healthcare reform. A copy of our last joint letter is attached [here](#) for your review. It has been impressive to see that, regardless of the partisan politics and issues that often divide our organizations, this coalition feels that upholding justice is worth setting aside differences to affect change.

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## DevelopMental Leaders Retreat

Twenty-one psychiatrists gathered this past weekend at the Hershey Lodge to learn about leadership and mentoring. Dr. Nirmal Joshi and Dr. Donna Norris provided excellent presentations which led to thoughtful discussions and interactions among the participants. PaPS looks forward to continuing the program in the coming months to build on what was learned at the Retreat.



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### Get Your Residency Program to be a 100% Club Member!

Attention Residency Program Directors. The APA established the 100% Club to encourage residents to become members of APA. Last year, Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, Allegheny General Hospital, and Thomas Jefferson University had 100% of their residents as APA members. Let's try to get more Pennsylvania programs at 100% Remember, the **first year's national dues are waived** for new resident members making it easier for the new residents to join. You can share this [flyer](#) with your residents and [email us](#) an updated list of residents in your programs. Questions, please call PaPS at 800-422-2900.

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### Get Your CME - August Course of the Month

Each month, members have free access to an online CME course on a trending topic. The August course discusses common challenges with managing substance use disorders in emergency psychiatry and provides practical guidance to frontline clinicians. [Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.](#)



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