CPA New Frontiers Summit:

Main Event

Presented By:

Board & Staff: Stephanie Smith, PsyD, Michael Changaris, PsyD and staff members Scott Parker, MBA, CAE and Tyler Rinde
Division I: Temre Uzuncan, PsyD
Division II: Carol A. Falender, PhD
Division III: Azadeh H. Weber, PsyD and Sarah Lockenmeyer, PsyD
Division IV: Matthew Borba, PhD
Division V: Janelle K. Fisher, PsyD, MSCP
Division VI: Dustin Weissman, PsyD
Division VII: Franca Niameh, PsyD, MSCP
Division VIII: Lisa Obermeit, PhD and Alexis Olson, PhD
CARE Committee: Pearl Werfel, PhD and Gitu Bhatia, PsyD

Description:
This webinar will provide psychologists with updated information on current concerns, research findings, and legislative matters relevant to multiple areas of psychology. Drawing on research, leaders in 8 practice areas will present up-to-date findings in their areas of research and practice. In addition, California Psychological Association leadership and staff will discuss relevant pieces of legislation as pertinent to the practice of psychology. Participants will be able to identify legislative priorities for psychologists in California, describe updates in multiple practice areas across the field, and list each of the Divisions within CPA and their areas of study.

After attending this event, attendees will be able to:

1. Identify at least two legislative priorities for psychologists in California.
2. Describe updates in at least three psychological practice areas.
3. List each of the Divisions within CPA and their areas of study.

CPA Board of Directors and Staff:

Stephanie Smith, PsyD, is a practicing health psychologist specialized in working with those with eating and body image concerns. Dr. Smith is a regular presenter and provides frequent trainings for healthcare and other organizations about the impact of systemic weight bias in healthcare and the deleterious effect of these unchecked biases on patient health outcomes. Dr. Smith has worked across healthcare settings including lifestyle medicine, medical weight loss and eating disorder clinics. She brings a balanced perspective to the conversation around weight and health with an emphasis on uplifting compassionate care informed by strong scientific evidence.

Michael Changaris, PsyD, is a clinical health psychologist, President-Elect of the California Psychological Association, Interim Chair of the CPA Research Committee, and a board member of CPA-PAC. He serves as Chief of Clinical Training for the Wright Institute's Integrated Health Psychology Training Program, an APA-accredited internship focused on integrated and community-based care. His clinical, academic, and systems work integrates health psychology,

multicultural practice, stress physiology, trauma science, and workforce development. A 2018 California Health Care Foundation Leadership Fellow at UCSF, Dr. Changaris has contributed to initiatives in primary care, public health, safety-net systems, chronic pain, medication safety, and prison reentry. He teaches and presents on integrated behavioral health, psychopharmacology, health equity, and psychologists' roles in healthcare transformation.

Scott Parker, MBA, CAE, is an executive with successful track record leading associations in the areas of membership, marketing and meetings management. An innovative, collaborative, results-oriented leader with over 20 years of senior level experience in management, business development and working with nonprofit boards, Parker has lead teams as large as 60 in incorporating strategies, tactics and outcomes.

Tyler Rinde is the Director of Government Affairs for the California Psychological Association, where he leads advocacy for nearly 3,000 psychologists and psychology trainees statewide. He manages CPA's internal Legislative Committee and works with CPA's Board of Directors to advance psychologists' priorities in Sacramento. He has advanced legislation to expand the degrees eligible to qualify as a psychological testing technician, allow for reimbursement for psychological associates in Federally Qualified Health Centers, and successfully defended a proposal to weaken the psychotherapist-patient privilege. Tyler has nearly a decade of experience working in Sacramento leading policy and advocacy for statewide associations representing child welfare nonprofits, substance use treatment providers, and county behavioral health systems.

Division I:

Temre Uzuncan, PsyD, is a clinical psychologist and Director of the Wright Institute's Integrated Health Psychology Training Program IHPTP, an APA-accredited doctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship embedded within family medicine residency programs in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dr. Uzuncan has a private practice where she applies health psychology into the work with her clients. She serves as Chair-Elect of the California Psychological Association's Division I: Clinical and Professional Practice, is a member of the Health Psychology Section Steering Committee and a member of the American Psychological Association, Division 38, Health Psychology. Dr. Uzuncan serves as the Project Director/Principal Investigator of the HRSA Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Grant focused on trauma-informed behavioral health services in primary care internship training. Dr. Uzuncan's interests include the intersection of neuroscience, health, mental health and complex trauma.

Division II:

Carol A. Falender, PhD, is an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University, Graduate School of Education and Psychology, Los Angeles and Clinical Professor at University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Psychology. She has written or edited (with her co-author Edward Shafranske, Ph.D., ABBP), seven books on clinical supervision, all published by the American Psychological Association. She has presented workshops and symposia on clinical supervision in multiple states and internationally.

Division III:

Azadeh H. Weber, PsyD, is a California-licensed clinical psychologist with more than 13 years of clinical experience and a background spanning clinical psychology, organizational development, international psychology, and holistic health. She is the founder of Bayt Al Qulub Psychology and has previously served on the California Psychological Association's Division 3 Board for Organizational and Industrial Psychology. Dr. Weber's doctoral research examined the relationships among self-efficacy, organizational structure, and leadership style, providing a foundation for her interest in how leadership and organizational environments influence individual and professional well-being.

Sarah Lockenmeyer, PsyD, is a psychologist, educator, organizational consultant, and continuing education trainer with more than 10 years of experience in community mental health. She serves as adjunct faculty at the California Institute of Integral Studies and provides organizational consultation focused on psychologically safe, sustainable workplaces. Her consulting and training integrate applied neuroscience, emotional intelligence, mindfulness, restorative approaches, and organizational practice to strengthen communication, team cohesion, leadership capacity, and well-being while reducing burnout.

Division IV:

Matthew Borba, PhD, is the Chief of Mental Health at Salinas Valley State Prison, a high security men's prison in Monterey County. In this role, he oversees the various inpatient and outpatient treatment programs at the institution. Over the past several years, he has also been involved in assisting with the implementation of Resource Teams in multiple California prisons, a Correctional Officer-led initiative designed to support positive behaviors and outcomes for some of the most in-need residents.

Division V:

Janelle K. Fisher, PsyD, MSCP, is a Costa Rican American that was born in California and raised in Altadena. She attended Pasadena City College and graduated from California State University Los Angeles with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She then went on to obtain her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology and post-doctoral Master of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology (MSCP) degree from Alliant International University. She is licensed to practice in California, New Mexico and Iowa. She has completed her ABSNP board certification in School Neuropsychology. She is also a California Qualified Medical Examiner. Her hobbies include playing fight games and watching fighting game tournaments, hiking, reading, and amateur astronomy. In her free time she volunteers at her church and loves spending time with her family.

Division VI:

Dustin Weissman, PsyD, is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist at Dr. Weissman Psychology in Westlake Village, CA. Dr. Weissman facilitates therapy from a Cognitive-Behavioral Therapeutic Model, utilizing Solutions-Focused techniques, and Reality Therapy. Dr. Weissman treats patients with problematic internet use, internet addictions (i.e. gaming, gambling, porn, social media),

depression, anxiety, adjustment disorders, failure to launch, men's issues, and life transitions. He also provides executive coaching.

Dr. Weissman is the 2026 President of California Psychological Association (CPA). He is also Past-President of Ventura County Psychological Association (VCPA). He is a Past-Chair and current Member-at-Large of CPA's Division VI Media, Technology, Communication. Dr. Weissman serves as the Chief Clinical Officer of Cybele Health. He is also a faculty speaker at the Evolution of Psychotherapy Conference.

His dissertation titled, Impacts of Playing Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games (MMORPGs) on Individuals' Subjective Sense of Feeling Connected with Others, has over 10,000 downloads globally in 138 countries. Dr. Weissman is the founder of the subfield of psychology, Cyberneuropsychology, which he has presented internationally as well as locally. Dr. Weissman has been featured in many articles and podcasts as an expert on screen time and internet addictions. He has been a keynote speaker and given numerous workshops and trainings at schools, treatment centers, conferences, and conventions on a variety of topics including videogame addiction, anxiety, balancing school and life, and internet addiction related themes. He is the owner of the well renowned tutoring company, Conejo Valley Tutoring. Dr. Weissman hosts a free podcast titled, CyberSense Power Up Podcast, which addresses various components related to technology and screen use.

Division VII:

Franca Voke Niameh, PsyD, MSCP, is a Clinical Psychologist and Primary Care Psychologist at Contra Costa Health, where she serves as Behavioral Medicine Faculty in the Contra Costa Family Medicine Residency Program. She holds a clinical faculty appointment with The Wright Institute's Integrated Health Psychology Training Program (IHPTP) and operates Reinvisioning, A Psychological Corporation, in Albany, California. She is the 2027 Chair of the California Psychological Association's Division VII: Diversity and Social Justice and a board member of CPA Division V (Prescriptive Authority).

Dr. Niameh's clinical and scholarly work centers on the integration of medicine and psychology, and on equity-informed professional training. She has over thirteen years of experience in behavioral medicine and integrated care, beginning with her internship at Contra Costa Health's Martinez Health Center in collaboration with the IHPTP, an APA-accredited internship, and progressing to Site Coordinator of that program. Her residency teaching includes seminars on behavioral medicine, culturally sensitive professionalism, and culturally responsive practice in primary care.

She is the author of two books (Amazon KDP, 2025): The Salad Bowl: Diversity-Based Self-Care and The Emotional Chef: Recipes for Self-Transformation. She co-authored "Human-Centered AI in Healthcare Teams" in Frontiers in Digital Health (2026). She has presented at STFM, the CPA Annual Convention, and the UCSF Rodnick Colloquium. Her research interests include prescriptive authority and equity-informed professionalism assessment of medical trainees. She holds a Psy.D. from John F. Kennedy University and an M.S. in Clinical Psychopharmacology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Division VIII:

Lisa Obermeit, PhD, is a neuropsychologist practicing in San Diego, CA. She graduated with her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the SDSU/UCSD Joint Doctoral Program, in the Neuropsychology Track. She completed her clinical internship and 2-year postdoctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology through Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Obermeit now runs her own clinical private practice and works in both a hospital clinic and a forensic practice. She is passionate about advocacy, for example, during her post-doctoral training she co-founded the first ever Diversity Task Force at her clinic and during her career she has lobbied legislators at our state capital with both the CPA and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She continues to volunteer with the ACLU and currently serves as a Member-At-Large on the CPA Division VIII (Neuropsychology) board, where she is active in several legislative committees. She remains passionate about issues related to DEI, fostering positive change within and outside of CPA, and promoting test security at the local and national level.

Alexis Olson, PhD, is a clinical and forensic neuropsychologist and group practice owner of Pacific Neurobehavioral Clinic in San Diego, CA. Her experience includes providing neuropsychological services in inpatient and outpatient settings to an adult population, as well as Qualified Medical Examiner (QME) evaluations. She specializes in the assessment and treatment of dementia, caregiving stress, presurgical assessment, and chronic disease (e.g., chronic pain, diabetes, etc.). Dr. Olson regularly provides cognitive training, involving learning and practicing compensatory cognitive strategies in everyday life situations. She has engaged in research for aging and physically ill populations, and regularly consults for adult protective agencies. She has written books on strategies to optimize thinking abilities, and most recently, a book on mental health strategies for caregivers.

CARE Committee:

Pearl Werfel, PhD, is Chair of the California Psychological Association CARE Committee. She has a private practice in San Francisco where she specializes in professional wellness; chronic illness; MS and pain, stress and anxiety mitigation. Dr. Werfel has consulted with organizations, been enlisted to develop webinars, presented at CPA and APA Conventions, and published articles on the topics of pain and stress management, working with clients with MS/Chronic Illness/ Disability and individual and communal wellness for professionals. She is committed to anti-racist beliefs and activities.

Gitu Bhatia, PsyD, has extensive experience working with individuals, couples and families. She provides psychotherapy, marital therapy and co-parenting for parents going through divorce. Besides her private practice, she is an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate School of Psychology at Pepperdine University. She also enjoys teaching and has conducted trainings for therapists, teachers, and parents on several subjects related to human development. Dr. Bhatia is the Past President of Los Angeles Psychological Association 2015 and has been a passionate supporter of raising awareness regarding issues of diversity. Dr. Bhatia has also been actively involved in the California Psychological Association and has served on the CARE executive committee for several years.