A Message From the President

By Jeffrey Marcus, MD

In the wake of our very successful Spring Conference, I wanted to thank all of you for your support of the WPA. Our conference attendance was excellent, indicative of the quality of the educational program and the engagement of our membership. We continue to raise the bar with our conferences, with planning underway for our programs in fall 2016 (Milwaukee) and spring 2017 (Kohler).

As discussed during the Annual Membership Meeting, our organization continues to do very well. Membership has increased year-over-year (last count at 422), our fiscal status is sound, and we have an active and enthusiastic Executive Council. We recently renewed our contract with Badger Bay Management, which provides us with top-notch organizational support. Having a strong WPA allows us to further our mission of advancing mental healthcare through leadership in education, service and advocacy. Given the various challenges facing our profession, it is critical that we maintain a vital and sustaining organization.

Early feedback from our mentorship program has been very positive. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered for this important initiative. In the coming months we will solicit feedback from our volunteer mentors and the students, to see if there are ways we can improve the program for next year.

One thought about our conferences – please encourage your non-psychiatrist colleagues to attend! This is especially important for mid-level practitioners and primary care providers. As our healthcare delivery systems slowly evolve toward integrated care, it is more important than ever for us to take the lead in providing meaningful educational opportunities in our field. Higher conference attendance also means that we can enhance our support for national speakers and all-star talent.

As always – the WPA welcomes your thoughts on how we can best serve the Wisconsin psychiatric community. Please feel free to contact our office with any comments or suggestions.

All the best,

Jeff

WPA Resident Vignette Competition 2016

By Michael Peterson, MD, PhD

It was my pleasure to once again moderate the 4th Annual Resident Clinical Vignette Competition at the Spring WPA Annual Conference at The Edgewater in Madison.

We again had an outstanding group of residents, including Drs. Brittany Strawn (PG4) and Anthony Dobner (PG2) from the University of Wisconsin, and Drs. Michelle Heaton (PG4) and Stanley Lyndon (PG2) from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Both Tony and Stanley were return presenters, after their excellent showings last year as PG1s.

The audience shared in interesting discussions on their cases, from an interesting somatic delusion (“Man’s best friend”, Strawn), two unusual medication induced manic episodes (antibiotics and opioids, Heaton and Dobner, respectively), and lastly the under-appreciated but common Charles Bonnet Syndrome (Lyndon).

After tallying the evaluations from our judges, congratulations go to Dr. Stanley Lyndon who will bring the “Siggy” award back home to MCW, keeping this rivalry alive.

We already are looking forward to continuing this WPA tradition, initiated in 2013 by Dr. Tom Heinrich, at the 2017 Annual Conference in Kohler.
Save-the-Date! WPA Fall Conference on Violence  
*September 30 - October 1, InterContinental, Milwaukee*

In the wake of the WPA 2015 Fall Conference, members offered a number of topics for consideration for the 2016 meeting. One stood out for clinical relevance, impact on public health and policy, and confronting stigma or implicit attitudes about individuals with mental illness; namely, violence.

WPA has assembled an exceptional planning committee including a number of state and regional experts on the topic. Together, we are coordinating what will be an exceptional conference. Make plans to join us for a full day on Friday, September 30 and a half-day on Saturday, October 1 at the InterContinental Hotel in Milwaukee.

On Friday, we will hear a presentation on the biologic substrates to agitation and violence by an expert in the field. We will also hear from an anthropologist and ethicist on violence and trauma in human culture. A session on the clinical management of agitation and violence with emphasis on evidence based guidelines such as Project Beta will be offered. We will continue with the management in special populations, such as adolescents and individuals with developmental disabilities. The day will culminate in a presentation on risk assessments, prediction, mitigation and documentation by a national expert.

On Saturday, we will learn about individuals with mental illness and what the known data suggests as to their role as victim or perpetrator. This session will be followed by two panel discussions: one on politics and legislation, and the other on society and the law.

The conference will offer an opportunity for robust sharing and inquiry. Please visit the WPA website at www.theWPA.org for registration information.

**Friend of WPA Award**

Wisconsin Assembly Representative John Nygren was presented with the 2016 Friend of WPA Award during the opening session of the WPA Annual Conference at The Edgewater in Madison. This award is presented every other year to someone, often a Wisconsin legislator, who has been a champion for advancing mental health care, or for efforts that advocate for patients with mental illness.

WPA leadership unanimously chose Rep. Nygren for the 2016 award based on his commitment to curbing addiction and managing the opioid and heroin epidemic in Wisconsin through the passage of his H.O.P.E. Agenda legislation.

**Become a Fellow of the APA**

At APA, Fellows are members who are committed to psychiatry and the ongoing work of the Association, and who are ready to take the next step in their career. Fellows can display their pride of membership by using the FAPA designation professionally and wearing the FAPA lapel pin.

Learn more about becoming a Fellow by visiting the APA website at www.psychiatry.org/join-apa/become-a-fellow. There is no additional fee or dues payment to be a Fellow of the APA (FAPA). Be among the prestigious 25 percent of APA general membership who hold Fellow status and apply to be a Fellow of the APA today.
WPA Legislative Update

By: Eric Jensen, JD, WPA Lobbyist

The Senate met on March 15 and the Assembly met February 16, 17 and 18 for what were announced as the last day of sessions, respectively. The Assembly passed dozens of bills—some controversial, many passing with bipartisan support. Representatives and Senators are now in full re-election mode leading up to the November elections.

The session was a busy one for issues impacting Mental Health.

- A standing Committee on Mental Health Reform (Chair, Rep. Paul Tuttle, R-Manitowoc) was created—an outgrowth of last session’s Speaker’s Task Force on Mental Health. Somewhat slow to get started, the committee ultimately deliberated a variety of bills.
- Speaker Vos created a Task Force on Alzheimer’s and Dementia which held public hearings around the state, and recommended several pieces of legislation that have passed the Assembly and await action by the Senate and Governor.
- Representative John Nygren pushed forward the second round of HOPE (Heroin, Opioid Prevention & Education) Agenda legislation—ten bills in all, designed to continue building off last session’s HOPE Agenda bills to reduce heroin and opioid abuse, abuse of prescription narcotics, increase access to treatment and more.
- Finally, there is talk of an “off season” Legislative Council Study Committee being convened to continue discussion of Alzheimer’s and Dementia care issues during the summer and fall of this year.

While several “scope of practice” efforts arose, none were initiated by psychologists or other mental health professionals. Early in 2015, nursing groups pressed the Board of Nursing for a significant expansion of scope for Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers (APNPs); an effort that included proposed legislation that would add APNPs to the Injured Families & Patients Compensation Fund. Neither portion of nurses effort came to fruition. Late in the session, Chiropractors introduced legislation to create a “Primary Spine Care Practitioner” license—a license to be governed in Chapter 448 (the Medical Practice Act), and a license that would give chiropractors prescribing authority, authority to administer anesthesia, and potentially pave the way to chiropractors eventually conducting surgical procedures. The chiropractors effort came too late in session to gain traction, but likely foretells future efforts.

Legislation of Interest to WPA

Visit www.legis.wisconsin.gov to find legislation details, supporters, amendments, etc. Simply enter the bill number in the “Find a Proposal” box.

Mental Health Specific Legislation
- SB 293 – Creating of Behavioral Health Care Coordination Pilot Programs in MA.
- AB 709 – Creating Income Tax Deduction for Psychiatrists practicing in WI. WPA supported.
- AB 713 – Limiting Prior Authorization Requirements for MA Mental Health Care Services. WPA supported.

Alzheimer’s & Dementia Task Force Bills
- AB 784 – provided $50,000 funding for Alzheimer’s & Dementia research at UW-Madison.
- AB 791 – Requiring CBRF’s to have signed acknowledgement prior to administration of “psychotropic medications” to patients with “degenerative brain disorders.” WPA worked to address terminology as it relates to both CBRFs and Nursing Homes.

Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Bills
- AB 364 – PDMP Reporting Requirements
- AB 365 – Law Enforcement Officers duty to report to PDMP
- AB 366 – Pain Clinic Certification Requirements
- AB 367 – Methadone Program Reporting Requirements
- AB 427 – Opioid Antagonists
- AB 657 – Treatment & Diversion Program funding
- AB 658 – Masking Agents
- AB 659 – Opioid Treatment Programs
- AB 660 – Guidelines for Controlled Substance Prescribing

Other Legislation
- AB 549 – Authorizing Physical Therapists to order X-rays
- AB 489 – Recodification of Child Abuse & Neglect reporting requirements
- SB 762 – Primary Spine Care Practitioner
- SB 35 – Eliminating 48-hour Waiting Period for Handgun Purchases (WPA opposed)
- AB 253 – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (WPA supported)

WCCAP Annual Conference, April 8-9

It’s no too late to join the Wisconsin Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry for their 2016 Annual Conference, April 8-9, 2016 at The Delafield Hotel. The conference will feature keynote presentations by Gregory K. Fritz, MD, President of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

As part of his presidential initiative on integrated care, Doctor Fritz is calling for a new level of collaboration between pediatrics, primary care providers, psychologists, and other mental healthcare professionals in order to effectively serve those in need. His sessions will include, “Child Psychiatrists Adapt to the Electronic Medical Record... Or Do They?” and “Pediatric Integrated Care: Children Are NOT Short Adults.” A registration link can be found on the WPA website or by navigating directly to www.thewpa.org/?page=CME.
Visit WPA’s New Career Center!

Looking for a new position? Looking to fill a position? The WPA’s website contains a new online Career Center! Through this platform, members and guests now have the ability to search for job openings. Get started with your search today online at www.TheWPA.org.

If you’re an employer or recruiter looking to hire qualified candidates, visit the site and learn how to post and manage your online job openings. Don’t hesitate to contact the WPA office at WPA@badgerbay.co or call 920-560-5643 with questions.

APA/WPA Membership Milestones

Distinguished Life Fellow
Jan Van Schaik, MD

Distinguished Fellow
Ned Kalin, MD
Dean Krahn, MD

Life Fellow
Joseph Burgarino, MD
Michael Miller, MD
Nancy Wilson, MD

Fellow
Jacob Behrens, MD
Bernadette De Muri, MD
Frederick Langheim, MD PhD

Life Member
Milo Durst, MD
Chris Larson, MD
Susan Uyanna, MD MPH
Jack Yen, MD