A Message From the President

By Jeffrey Marcus, MD

Hi Everyone,

I hope the New Year finds you all healthy and happy.

We have several irons in the fire on the legislative, advocacy, and workforce fronts. The Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Mental Health Reform recently voted to forward a bill that which would establish pilot projects aimed at improving coordination of behavioral healthcare with primary care, with the goal of reducing emergency room visits and improving patient outcomes. One of the pilot projects would direct the Department of Health Services (DHS) to test new payment models for the provision of psychiatric consultations to primary care providers for adults receiving Medical Assistance. This bill also requires that DHS oversee the establishment of an internet-based tracking system for inpatient psychiatric beds. This bill has already been approved by the Senate and has received support from several organizations, including the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, and WPA.

Doctor Day 2016 is scheduled for February 10, 2016 in Madison. This is an annual event, where physicians from around the state will have an opportunity to meet legislators and staff, for the purpose of advocating for their patients and the medical profession. Last year, 250 physicians from around the state, representing 20 different physician organizations, participated in the event. The day will start off with presentations at Monona Terrace, followed by legislative visits at the State Capitol. Registration is now open at www.WiDoctorDay.org. I encourage you to sign up early, and please invite your colleagues to do the same.

The medical student mentoring program has kicked off, and we’ve paired 24 medical students from both medical schools with psychiatrist mentors. For those of you who volunteered for this program – Thank You! We couldn’t provide this important program without your support and enthusiasm. We’ll provide newsletter updates as they become available.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support of our organization. The WPA remains a vibrant, relevant association because of our great membership and the many volunteers who’ve graciously offered their time and skills, with the goal of improving psychiatric care in our state. THANK YOU!

Respectfully,

Jeff

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WPA Calendar

February 10, 2016
Doctor Day 2016
www.WiDoctorDay.org

March 3-5, 2016
WPA Annual Conference Depression, State of the Art
The Edgewater, Madison

March 4, 2016
WPA Annual Membership Meeting
The Edgewater, Madison

Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2016
WPA Fall Conference Mental Illness and Violence: Prevention, Prediction and Policy Issues
InterContinental Hotel, Milwaukee

Visit www.TheWPA.org for event details and other information, including the latest installment of Psychiatric Summary, produced by Frederick Langheim, MD.

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APA Fall 2015 Assembly Meeting Update

By: Clarence Chou, MD, WPA Assembly Representative

At the APA Assembly Meeting in the fall, a number of important issues were deliberated and discussed. I am highlighting a few of these issues here, and encourage you to read my full report on the WPA website at www.TheWPA.org.

- The Assembly supported an action to improve access to care and enhance the recruitment and retention of psychiatrists at the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- An ad hoc workgroup was formed to explore the feasibility of developing an electronic clinical decision support product utilizing APA’s practice guidelines.
- APA will work with AMA to improve payer coverage for prescriptions from non-participating prescribers.
- The APA assembly has formed a work group to meet with the ABPN to discuss issues related to maintenance of certification.
- An effort will be developed to coordinate psychiatric inpatient bed availability.
- In his presentation, Dr. Saul Levin, APA Executive/Medical Director, presented information on the non-psychotropic medications prescribed by psychologists with privileges, including Coumadin, anti-hypertensives and thyroid medications.
- A number of excellent presentations were given, including a keynote by APA President Renée Binder, MD on the Stepping Up Initiative (www.stepuptogether.org).

The next Assembly meeting will take place May 13-15, 2016 in Atlanta.
WPA Annual Conference - Depression: State of the Art
March 3-5, 2016, The Edgewater, Madison

Approximately 350 million people worldwide suffer from depression and was the second leading cause of years living with disability according to the WHO global burden of disease. We continue to explore possible explanations for depression, as well as alternative treatment modalities. The WPA 2016 Annual Conference is a terrific opportunity to learn from the best regarding this topic, vital to your clinical practice and the community. An All-Star lineup of presenters is set to provide the most up-to-date information regarding depression, including pathophysiology and treatment.

The event starts Thursday evening with a reception, dinner and presentation on “Exploring the Frontiers of Depression.” Highlights on Friday include presentations from internationally acclaimed speakers Mark Frye MD, Darin Dougherty and Ned Kalin, each of whom will share their knowledge and expertise. And, as in previous years, the conference will also include a Resident Clinical Vignette Competition.

Saturday’s featured speaker is Marlene Freeman, MD, who will present two sessions. We will also hear from local experts on depression in the child and adolescent populations, as well as methods for treating mood disorders in young adults.

This is sure to be an event that you do not want to miss! WPA is fortunate have this unique opportunity to learn from not just one, but an entire group of world class presenters. I look forward to seeing you in Madison. Register online today at www.theWPA.org!

Thursday, March 3, 2016

6:00-7:30 pm Reception/Opening Dinner
7:30-8:30 pm Exploring the Frontiers of Depression
Justin Schoen, MD

Friday, March 4, 2016

7:00-7:55 am Registration/Breakfast
8:00-9:00 am Treatment Resistant Depression
Mark A. Frye, MD
9:00-10:00 am The Pharmacogenomics of Depression
Mark A. Frye, MD
10:30-11:30 am Brain Circuits and Depression
Darin Dougherty, MD
11:30-12:30 pm Annual Resident Clinical Vignette Competition
Michael Peterson, MD
12:30-1:30 pm Annual Meeting Luncheon
1:30-2:30 pm Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) and other Modalities of Neuromodulation
Darin Dougherty, MD
2:30-3:30 pm Anxious Temperament: Results from a Translational Neuroscience Approach
Ned Kalin, MD
3:45-4:45 pm Evidence Based Psychotherapy
Rachel Leonard, PhD; Jennifer Michels, PhD

Saturday, March 5, 2016

7:00-7:55 am Registration/Breakfast
8:00-9:00 am Perinatal Mood Disorders
Marlene Freeman, MD
9:00-10:00 am Menopausal Depression and PMDD
Marlene Freeman, MD
10:15-11:15 am Depression in the Child and Adolescent Population
Katie Schmitt, MD
11:15-12:15 pm Approaches to Treating Mood Disorders in Young Adults
Jerry Halverson, MD

WPA Leader Honored by Habitat for Humanity

Justin Gerstner, MD, who is serving his second term on the WPA Executive Council as Resident Fellow Member representative from the University of Wisconsin Psychiatric Residency Program, was honored as the Volunteer of the Year, Southwest Region, by Habitat for Humanity of Wisconsin at its annual statewide conference in October.

Doctor Gerstner, a fellow in child and adolescent psychiatry in the University of Wisconsin-Department of Psychiatry Residency Program, got involved with the Habitat for Humanity of Dane County in 2006 as part of the UW Campus Chapter.

In recent years, Dr. Gerstner has volunteered almost every Saturday at the Habitat for Humanity worksite in Sun Prairie, according to Habitat for Humanity of Dane County.
Legislative Update

By: Eric Jensen, JD, WPA Lobbyist

Having reached December of the odd-year, the Legislature is in a period between floor sessions. They will return in January 2016 for the final scheduled floor period of this session, likely adjourning in March or April to head back to their districts and campaign for reelection. Below are some recent or pending items that may be of interest:

**Interstate Medical Licensure Compact** (Senate Bill 196/Assembly Bill 253). Authored by Senator Sheila Harsdorf (R-River Falls) and Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah), this legislation has widespread support of the medical community, including WPA, would add Wisconsin to the states organizing to create a formal interstate physician licensure compact – a voluntary mechanism to make obtaining medical licensure in multiple states simpler and faster. AB 253 passed the Assembly and Senate in November, and Governor Walker will sign it into law shortly.

**H.O.P.E. Agenda.** Spearheaded by Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette), who presented at WPA's Fall Conference in Milwaukee, the HOPE Agenda is a series of bills designed to make access to Heroin and other illegal drugs more difficult, to provide greater access to treatment and other addiction services, and to more closely monitor prescription medications (opioid medications in particular) that are increasingly making their way to the black market and serving as “gateway” drugs to the illegal narcotics. This is the second iteration of the HOPE Agenda, several bills having passed in 2013-14 with broad bipartisan support. Among this session’s HOPE agenda items, Assembly Bill 364/Senate Bill 268 which would require pharmacies and providers to make reports to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) for medications requiring PDMP reporting within one day of a medication being dispensed; and Assembly Bill 366/Senate Bill 272 which would create a state mechanism for certifying “pain clinics” as a means for monitoring prescription narcotic pain medications and preventing the creation of “pill mills” seen in other states. Working closely with legal counsel and Rep. Nygren, WPA has been active in helping accurately define “pain clinic” and “pain medicine” to ensure the legislation can appropriately achieve its goals without creating to great an administrative burden on physicians, clinics and health systems. These bills boast long and bi-partisan lists of co-sponsors, each has passed its respective Health committee by unanimous votes, and await action by the full Assembly and Senate upon their return in January.

**Worker’s Compensation.** As has been common practice for decades, the Worker’s Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC)—a council made up of equal representation from management and labor, with advisory committees including healthcare—has negotiated an update to Wisconsin worker’s compensation law that is expected to be formally introduced in the Legislature in January.

Historically, the WCAC’s “agreed upon” bills have been quickly passed by the Legislature with little fanfare, regardless of partisan control. Last session, however, against the advice of their healthcare advisors, the WCAC’s legislation included a “physician fee schedule,” which was widely opposed by the healthcare community. The result was a bitter battle in the Legislature, resulting in the WCAC’s “agreed upon” legislation failing to pass.

While the WCAC process this session appears to have largely returned to its historically cooperative roots, a new twist on the Worker’s Compensation legislative process has emerged this session. Representative John Spiros (R-Marshfield) and Senator Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville) have introduced their own Worker’s Compensation legislation: Assembly Bill 501. While apparently garnering support from some in the business community, AB 501 has drawn the ire of Labor in particular, as it would make significant changes to various workers’ rights under current Worker’s Compensation law. AB 501 would also include a form of “employer directed care” for injured workers; though not fully detailed, the directed care ideas appear to be drawing opposition from many in healthcare.

How the interplay between the WCAC’s more traditional “agreed upon” legislation and Assembly Bill 501 plays out remains to be seen – but nearly all agree there will be quite a bit of Worker’s Compensation-related debate come January.

APA State Advocacy Conference Update

By: Justin Schoen, MD, WPA President-Elect

Doctor Angela Janis and I had an opportunity to participate in the APA State Advocacy Conference in October as representatives of WPA. Mental Health Parity Enforcement was the highlight of the first part of the conference, and information was provided on informing patients of appropriate action when parity is being violated.

The conference also focused on Scope of Practice. APA presented a comprehensive toolkit that can be used by district branches as needed. There was an opportunity of sharing of best practices among representatives from states who have been faced with scope of practice issues, and how to best preserve physician leadership in healthcare.

Other session provided useful tips on working with advocacy and media partners, and the introduction of APA's Congressional Advocacy Network which will pair members from each district branch with a member of congress from their respective state to meet annually and serve as an advocacy resource for the DB and APA.
Psychiatry Residency Program Updates

An Update from University of Wisconsin
By Art Walaszek, MD, Program Director

One of the great privileges of being in academic medicine is training the next generation of psychiatrists. We at the University of Wisconsin Psychiatry Residency are fortunate to be home to 30 of the finest residents in the country. Our incoming class of 2015 includes a diverse group residents hailing from medical schools across the country: Creighton, Northwestern, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of Illinois, University of South Carolina, University of Rochester, and UW.

Second-year resident Rebecca Radue has pioneered our new Public Health Track, which includes clinical experiences across the state: Baraboo, Monroe, Marshfield, Lancaster, and Ashland.

Our Clinical Educator Track welcomed the most new members ever: five residents interested in developing educational projects, including teaching primary care doctors about late-life depression, improving residents’ skills to address the mental health needs of South Asian descent, teaching residents to work with Spanish language interpreters, helping clinicians manage the behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia, and promoting literacy in a child and adolescent psychiatry clinic. Our Chief Residents, Katie Cannon, Katie Steingraeber, and Emily Walz, serve as the fearless leaders of the residency.

In August, we welcomed our new Associate Residency Training Director, Stu Jones, who is helping revamp our psychotherapy curriculum. Finally, we were very fortunate to recruit Julie Lynch back to our Department as the Residency Coordinator - that is, the person who really runs the residency! Learn more about us at: http://go.wisc.edu/i88iu1.

An Update from the Medical College of Wisconsin
By Mara Pheister, MD, Program Director

At MCW, the psychiatry residency continues to flourish. As many of you know, we are in the process of developing two new psychiatry residencies - one in north eastern Wisconsin (MCW - NEW) and one in central Wisconsin (MCW - CW). If all goes according to plan, we’ll be recruiting for the 2017-18 academic year.

Here at MCW-MKE, we have a couple of new initiatives going on as well. This year, our PGY 3 residents began a pilot eating disorders rotation at Rogers Memorial Hospital Oconomowoc. This is an exciting opportunity for residents to develop further knowledge and skill in working with patients with various eating disorders. As MCW department of psychiatry expands outpatient integrated care clinics, our fourth year residents and faculty will now provide outpatient consultation to our medical colleagues.

We continue to work on developing excellent psychiatrists whom I’m proud to call colleagues.