WPA Calendar

Monday, January 8, 2018
Milwaukee Chapter Event
Location TBD
Milwaukee, WI

Friday, January 19, 2018
Executive Council Meeting
Summit, WI

March 8-10, 2018
WPA Annual Conference
The Edgewater, Madison, WI

Friday, March 9, 2018
WPA Annual Membership Meeting
The Edgewater, Madison, WI

September 27-28, 2018
WPA 2018 Fall Conference
Glacier Canyon Lodge at Wilderness Resort
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Visit www.TheWPA.org for information on other events.

President’s Message

By Justin Schoen, MD, FAPA

On the coat tails of a successful fall meeting, I wanted to share a number of thoughts and updates. First, I was truly intrigued and impressed by the high quality presentations and subsequent dialogue that occurred throughout the meeting and after. I was fortunate to meet with many of you directly and appreciate those opportunities and hope to follow-up on a number of the topics that were discussed.

Second, the WPA Executive Council met before the event, and among many other items for discussion, results of our recent membership survey were reviewed. A number of critical issues came to light that we will try to help address, including access to care, Chapter 51 and inpatient care, as well as the Affordable Care Act and insurance-based concerns. WPA will continue working with our lobbyist, Eric Jensen, to best address these and other member concerns. The ACA is obviously in an ongoing transition and we are closely monitoring and working with APA on ways to respond.

Another issue raised was essentially a blend of burnout and comradery. This is a critical topic affecting all of us and our patients. Provider burnout is incredibly high, and one way to address the issue is community.

Get to Know Your WPA Executive Council

New Feature! WPA has begun a newsletter section that will feature one or more Executive Council member profiles in an effort for members to become more familiar with your current elected leadership. This issue features Barbara Hale Richlen, MD, Councilor at Large.

Barbara Hale Richlen, MD

I am very happy to be a long-time member of the WPA and to serve as a representative on the Executive Council. I enjoy being involved in all aspects of psychiatry including advocacy, education and legislation. I’ve come to understand that so many important matters which directly affect our profession and the best care of our patients come up all the time. I feel psychiatrists need to participate in this process to ensure the highest quality care for our patients and their families.

I am Board Certified in General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. I have a private practice in Brookfield, Wisconsin where I mainly treat children and adolescents, but I also enjoy working with my adult and geriatric patients too. I love the flexibility a private practice brings me, particularly the ability to do individual and family therapy. I find it very satisfying to be able to work with a patient and their family throughout many different life stages, particularly the transitions to high school and college.

I have a particular area of interest in post-infectious autoimmune encephalitis, otherwise referred to as PANDAS or PANS. It is very rewarding to be able to cure a young patient’s severe and debilitating symptom of OCD, anxiety, depression, aggression, etc. with an antibiotic, antiviral or by addressing underlying infectious, autoimmune or inflammatory conditions, particularly when traditional psychiatric medications and therapies have not been adequate.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and three children. We have a very active life that includes two cats, Sugar and Asher, our dog Bailey and our horse Boo.
The Wisconsin Psychiatrist

WPA Legislative Update, Fall 2017
By Eric Jensen, WPA Lobbyist

Doctor Day 2018

Doctor Day 2018 will be on January 30, 2018 – mark your calendars now! We are hearing from legislative leaders that they plan to adjourn the session in February, so our earlier-than-usual date looks like it will have been worth it. We have grown every year, and hope to reach 500 for 2018 to show lawmakers that the physician community is paying attention to and interested in engaging with the State Legislature. Register today online at www.WIDoctorDay.org.

Advanced Nurse Legislation

Senator Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) and Representative Mike Rohrkaste (R-Neenah) are introducing legislation to create a consistent title for all advanced practice nurses in Wisconsin. The legislation (as yet not formally introduced) would create the title Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN); under that designation would fall the current categories of advanced nurses: Nurse Practitioners (NP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) and Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM). This would make Wisconsin’s advanced nurse nomenclature consistent with numerous other states.

Two years ago, the Wisconsin Nurses Association was pursuing a joint legislative and administrative rule effort that did include these retitling concepts. That effort, however, also included proposals to add all advanced nurses to the Injured Patients & Families Compensation Fund, eliminate all collaborative relationships and requirements between advanced nurses and physicians, as well as other scope-expansion proposals. These efforts were rejected by both the Legislature and the Board of Nursing as too expansive.

This proposal is limited to the titling provisions, save for one item. Currently, CNMs are required by statute to have a collaborative relationship with an obstetrician. All other advanced practice nurses are required by the nursing Administrative Code (regulations) to have a collaborative relationship with a physician. The proposal as drafted would eliminate the statutory collaborative requirement for CNMs, and it is unknown whether the existing Administrative Code collaborative requirements would then accrue to CNMs under the new titling scheme.

WMS and WI-ACOG, as well as the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) have taken positions opposing elimination of this statutory collaboration requirement for CNMs, with the support of many other specialty organizations. The bill’s authors have pledged to get all the interested parties to the table to look for common ground.

Emergency Detention Liability

Representative John Jagler (R-Watertown) and Senator Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay) have introduced AB 538 and SB 445 relating to emergency detention liability. The bill is designed to provide liability protection for physicians and others involved in an emergency detention case should the patient involved cause harm to another. The legislation has the support of the Wisconsin Hospital Association, WMS, WPA and WACEP (Emergency Physicians). To read more detail, you can find AB 538 at the following link: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/proposals/ab538.pdf

Worker’s Compensation – the Fee Schedule Proposal Returns

The Worker’s Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) is made up of equal numbers of representatives from “management” and “labor.” Various health care interests have non-voting “liaison” members who advise the WCAC on health related matters. Each legislative session, the WCAC meets to discuss issues relating to workplace safety, injuries, health care and other benefits and then recommend consensus legislation. Normally, the WCAC’s “agreed upon bill” is adopted by the Legislature with little fanfare or opposition.

Four years ago, the WCAC proposed the creation of a “provider fee schedule” for all Worker’s Compensation related healthcare. The health provider community (hospitals, physicians, nurses, chiropractors, physical therapists and others) rallied together in strong opposition, and for the first time a WCAC proposal failed to pass.

This year, following an aggressive push by Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce the WCAC has again approved legislation that could create a “provider fee schedule,” as well as authorize “employer directed care” for injured employees. WMC argues that Wisconsin’s healthcare costs related to work injuries are among the highest in the nation, necessitating a fee schedule.

In reality, Wisconsin’s worker’s compensation insurance premiums are the lowest in the Midwest, and this year the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance announced that overall Wisconsin employers will experience an 8.5% decline in worker’s compensation insurance rates (9.3% decline in manufacturing sectors). Despite experiencing higher than average rates of on-the-job injuries, Wisconsin is also among national leaders in terms of “return-to-work” (the time it takes injured workers to get back on the job) and other categories that depend on quality health care, resulting in the overall rate reductions.

WMS, WHA and specialty organizations will once again be working in concert with nurses, chiropractors, physical therapists and others to defeat these unnecessary proposals that threaten to disrupt our highly successful Worker’s Compensation system and market.

Treffert Presents TEDx Talk on ‘Accidental Genius’
By Tony Thrasher, DO, Conference Co-Chair

Darold A. Treffert, MD, long time member of APA and the Wisconsin Psychiatric Association, was a featured speaker during TEDxFondDuLac, an independently organized event in the spirit of the TED Conferences mission of “Ideas worth spreading.” Held August 19 in Fond du Lac, the event sold out in just over six hours and featured 14 speakers across a variety of platforms and demographics.

Doctor Treffert’s talk, “Accidental Genius,” focused on savant syndrome, including the acquired savant—a condition he describes as, “a situation in which ordinary people like you and me have some kind of a brain injury or brain incident at which time some new ability—musical, artistic or math—emerges spontaneously and explosively.”

Doctor Treffert is a world-renowned expert on savant syndrome who today devotes his time to research, writing and lecturing at the Treffert Center in Fond du Lac.

The talk can be accessed online by searching “Ted Talk Accidental Genius”.

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Save the Date! WPA Spring 2018 Conference, March 8-10 in Madison

By Michael Peterson, MD, PhD, Conference Co-Chair

We just finished an outstanding Fall 2017 Conference, but it’s not too early to plan for the Annual (Spring) 2018 Conference. The meeting will be back at the excellent venue of the remodeled Edgewater Hotel in Madison. The theme is “Emerging Treatments and Controversies,” and we have an outstanding lineup of national, state and local speakers.

Sessions will focus on emerging (and some controversial) psychiatric treatments, including pharmacotherapy (ketamine, psilocybin, MDMA), TMS, and Kevin Hill, MD from Harvard will present two sessions related to medical marijuana. As a counter point, we will have the perspective on addiction and these substances from an addiction medicine specialist. Rebecca Brendel, MD, JD from Harvard will address the timely and ongoing controversy around the Goldwater rule. Other clinical speakers will update us on treatment in autistic spectrum disorders, and updates on pain treatment in psychiatric patients. Last but not least we will have the annual resident vignette competition. Will this be the year that UW retakes the “Siggie” from MCW?

Make plans to join us in Madison in March! Conference registration is now open at www.TheWPA.org. Book your hotel stay early by contacting the Edgewater at 866-238-4218 and request the WI Psychiatric Association room block.

Psychiatrist Burnout to be addressed at WPA Milwaukee Chapter Event

WPA Members in Southeastern Wisconsin, and from all over the state, are invited to join the WPA Milwaukee Chapter on Monday evening, January 8, 2018 for “What Psychiatrists Need to Know About Burn-out, Both for Ourselves and Our Patients.”

Presenter H. Steven Moffic, MD will share his thoughts on burnout as a systemic problem that affects clinicians who feel themselves trapped in systems that do not seem to honor—and may actively impede—their professional ethical responsibility to care for patients.

Doctor Moffic, recipient of APA’s 2016 APA Administrative Psychiatry Award, retired from clinical work and his tenured professorship at the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2012, he continues to write, present, and serve on boards. His special areas of interest include ethics, culture, and burnout.

In prior lectures, Doctor Moffic outlines the history of “love” in psychiatry and medicine from Freud—who described psychoanalysis as “a cure through love”—to Avedis Donabedian, M.D. Doctor Donabedian is known as the “father of quality improvement,” who is reported to have said on his deathbed, “Ultimately, the secret of quality is love. You have to love your patient; you have to love your profession. … If you have love, you can then work backward to monitor and improve the system.”

Wren Logan attained undergraduate degrees in Biology and Microbiology from the University of Iowa, and finished medical school at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Her interests range from palliative care to mental health stigma to LGBTQ health issues.

Andressa Medrado completed her medical training at Universidade Federal Fluminense Faculty of Medicine in Rio de Janeiro. She has worked in a general ICU and obstetrical ICU in Rio de Janeiro, as well as at the University of Rochester, Brown University, and the Adult Correctional Institute of Rhode Island.

Emee Ta completed undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan and medical school at Wayne State University. She completed an externship at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), where she participated in a research project.

Time to Renew for 2018

Retain your WPA and APA Member benefits by renewing your 2018 membership today! Your continued membership commitment with your state and national professional organizations allow for advances that wouldn’t be possible otherwise:

- Monitoring and responding to local, state and national legislative issues affecting psychiatry and patients with mental illness, including access to care.
- Opposing consolidation of health insurers that would have negatively impacted patient care and reimbursements;
- Assisting psychiatrists to more easily meet reporting and quality requirements through PsychPRO, the APA’s mental health registry;

Please renew your membership today to help us continue this important work in the year to come. Renewing your membership is now easier than ever:

- Pay by phone at 703-907-7300 or 888-357-7924.
- Pay through your my.psychiatry.org account by selecting “My Memberships-Renew” after logging in, where you can also add a donation to your local and APA PACs and Foundations.
Fall Conference Recap
By Tony Thrasher, DO, Conference Co-Chair

The WPA 2017 Fall Conference, held October 5-6 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Milwaukee, was a great success with over 100 registered attendees. The gathering focused on three important topics: Ethics, Care of the Complex Patient, and Integrated Care.

Drs. Annette Hanson and Mark Komrad began the conference by examining the national and international responses and reactions to physician-assisted suicide legislation and lobbying. This included examining our field’s history with ethical quandaries as well as tying it all back to the APA position statement as such.

Local experts then commented on the complexities of caring for patients with personality disorders, concurrent addiction issues, and confrontational/adversarial presentations.

This panel was then followed up by our last keynote speaker, Dr. Katzelnick, who gave a good overview of successful integrated care programs. The conference concluded with experts from MCW, UW, and Marshfield clinic noting how their efforts in implementation have been successful (or complicated).

As a conference co-chair, I was most impressed with our audience! The level of engagement, interest, and thoughtful processing on these topics was most impressive. Thank you to all who attended!

Fall Speaker Testimonials

“IT was a wonderful, very lively experience. I am most impressed with your organization and my Wisconsin colleagues.” - Mark Komrad, MD

“Your association was one of the most cordial and collegial groups I’ve spoken to given the controversial nature of the topic.” - Annette Hanson, MD

“I was honored to be part of the WPA meeting and the chance to see many friends from the 20 years I lived in Madison.” - David Katzelnick, MD