President’s Message
By Jeffrey Marcus, MD

Happy Early Spring Greetings:

I must say – the last couple of years have just flown by…

This is now my final President’s Message, and I wanted to thank all of you for the opportunity to lead the WPA over the past two years. I’ve enjoyed getting to know many of you and hearing about the wide-ranging issues (some obvious, some not) confronting the practice of psychiatry in our state. I’m convinced, more than ever, that we are much stronger as a group than we could ever be individually, and in that spirit, our organization remains well-positioned to take on future challenges and opportunities. Our leadership group consists of many talented and energetic psychiatrists, including good representation from the early-career and residency ranks. Our pipeline is intact!

It is my honor to welcome Dr. Justin Schoen as the incoming WPA President. Per custom, he will take over in May, at the time of the APA Annual Meeting. I have known Justin for many years and am confident that our organization will do very well under his leadership. Dr. Schoen has extensive experience serving in both the WPA and APA and represents an increasing (and very welcome) trend of Northern Chapter involvement.

WPA has a fine tradition of producing outstanding educational conferences, and planning is well-underway for the fall 2017 and spring 2018 meetings. Through the combined efforts of our conference chairs and our management company (Badger Bay), we’ve been able to put together consistently high-quality programs that have been very well-received by our membership. I warmly encourage you attend a meeting, particularly if you haven’t done so recently.

Thank you again for all of your support!

All the best,
Jeff

HOPE Agenda Update
By Eric Jensen, WPA Lobbyist
Jensen Government Relations, LLC

The State Assembly met in Special Session in early April to debate nearly a dozen proposals building on Representative John Nygren’s HOPE Agenda to continue addressing the scourge of opioid, heroin and narcotic misuse, abuse and addiction. The Assembly passed in wide, bipartisan fashion nine separate bills.

Earlier, during the Assembly Hearing process, WPA President Jeff Marcus, MD offered the following testimony in regard to three of the special session bills most directly related to psychiatry:

The Wisconsin Psychiatric Association represents more than 400 physicians specializing in psychiatry across Wisconsin. Within our specialty and membership we count numerous addiction medicine sub-specialists as well.

We continue to welcome the Legislature and Governor’s efforts to tackle the problem of opioid, heroin and narcotic abuse and addiction, and we appreciate the opportunity to express our gratitude for your work here, and our support for three bills in particular:

Without question, Wisconsin can benefit from having more Addiction Medicine physicians practicing in our state. Assembly Bill 7 would provide funding to the Department of Health Services to provide grants for the creation of more Addiction Medicine graduate medical training. Please support AB 7.

Wisconsin is significantly short of beds and treatment facilities for patients suffering from addiction disorders. Assembly Bill 8 would provide funding to create new treatment programs in underserved and high-need areas. This is another positive step, and we urge your support for AB 8.

Finally, as specialists treating patients with addiction disorders, we are acutely aware that many family physicians, internists, pediatrics, emergency physicians and others regularly see patients in need of more specialized care. Assembly Bill 9 would create an addiction medicine consultation program modeled after Wisconsin’s new but already successful Child Psychiatry Consultation Program. Again, AB 9 is another positive step in cost-effectively expanding access to needed specialty care. Please support AB 9.

We urge you to continue to expand on the steps being taken here, and as a part of Representative Nygren’s larger HOPE Agenda, continue to look for ways, both proven and novel, to address social, economic, domestic and other factors that often underlie, encourage or enable drug abuse and addiction.
**Strong Psychiatry Showing at Doctor Day 2017**

More than 480 physicians and medical students registered for the 4th Annual Doctor Day, which took place in Madison on March 29th. As you are likely aware, Doctor Day came together in an effort to maximize physician visibility in Wisconsin’s legislative arena, and therefore enhance our collective ability to advocate on healthcare issues.

It all began five years ago in a very informal way, drawing 80 physicians to a joint legislative day involving the Wisconsin Medical Society, the Wisconsin Psychiatric Association, and a few other specialty societies. Now in its fourth formal iteration, Doctor Day has grown by more than 500%!

Unique in the nation, the equal-partnership, multi-specialty nature of Doctor Day has quickly become one of the largest Legislative Day events in Wisconsin—and this year, Psychiatrists made up nearly 10% of registrants, representing the single largest specialty delegation!

Stay tuned for information about Doctor Day 2018. Due to the surprising growth, we have been forced to look at different venue options to accommodate all.

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**WPA Leader Chou Recognized for Mentorship**

Longtime WPA leader Dr. Clarence Chou was recently selected by the APA Assembly Committee of Resident-Fellow Member Representatives to receive the 2017 Assembly Resident-Fellow Member (RFM) Mentor Award. This honor showcases Dr. Chou’s outstanding work as a mentor and advocate for RFMs.

The award will be presented on Saturday, May 20th, during the APA Assembly luncheon at the Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.

Furthermore, Doctor Chou was invited, on behalf of APA resident leaders, to participate on a panel discussion during the Annual Meeting’s Resident and ECP track. The panel, Evaluating Practice Opportunities and Benefits in your Early Career is aimed at helping the attendees navigate the non-clinical aspects of their careers. It will take place on Sunday, May 21 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

Like many Wisconsin psychiatrists, Doctor Chou has demonstrated a commitment to mentoring future psychiatrists. His inspiration and support of RFMs makes a tremendous difference that deserves commendation.

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**WPA Resident Vignette Competition 2017**

*By Michael Peterson, MD, PhD*

WPA saw excellent participation from both residents and conference attendees for the 5th Annual Resident Clinical Vignette Competition at the Spring WPA Annual Conference at The American Club in Kohler.

We again had an outstanding group of residents, with returning participants (both for the third time!), Dr. Anthony Dobner (PG3, UW) and Dr. Stanley Lyndon (PG3, MCW), and first-timers Dr. Jennifer Lippitt (PG3, MCW) and Dr. Gene Yang (PG2, UW).

This year, our impartial judges included one of our guest speakers, Dr. Eric Storch from the University of South Florida and Rogers Memorial in Tampa, Florida. This will hopefully be the start of a new tradition, involving our outside speakers as judges for the competition. Three WPA members unaffiliated with either residency program also judged the competition: Drs. MJ Kramer, James Rutherford and Meredith Holbrook.

The audience shared in discussions on the cases, which ranged from an atypical visual hallucinations of faces (Lyndon), Cotard’s delusion (Lippitt), an unusual drug abuse (bupropion) presentation (Yang), and a complex case formulation including skin-picking, “diabetorexia” and OCD (Dobner).

Dr. Lyndon once again had the winning presentation, and brought the “Siggy” back to MCW! Maybe 2018 will be the year for the Badgers… UW residents in particular should start preparing now for the next competition, which will take place on March 9, 2018 during the 2018 Annual Conference at The Edgewater in Madison.
WPA Annual Conference Highlights

Thanks to all members who were able to attend the Spring Conference this year! Drs. Justin Schoen and Jerry Halverson were our program co-chairs who arranged an outstanding conference around the theme of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

All of our Wisconsin and visiting speakers were outstanding, and covered a comprehensive range of topics related to diagnosis, medication management strategies and controversies, and psychotherapeutic and behavioral strategies.

The conference drew strong attendance with 90 registered participants, including 22 trainees, as well as 15 vendors who had displays in the exhibit hall.

Our next conference will be in the fall in Milwaukee, with Drs. Tony Thrasher and Ken Robbins leading the program committee. There will be a variety of topics sure to generate active discussion and perhaps some controversy, and is sure to be an excellent time for learning and camaraderie.

Don’t forget to register early, and to vote for WPA officers (you should have received your ballots by email).

Save the Date! October 5-6: WPA 2017 Fall Conference in Milwaukee

By Tony Thrasher, DO, Conference Co-Chair

Hello all! I wanted to formally invite you to the WPA Fall Conference for 2017, which will take place October 5-6 at the InterContinental in Milwaukee. The conference them is Psychiatry Update: Ethics, Integrated Care, and Complex Patient Interactions.

The conference is purposefully being held on a Thursday/Friday to condense all of our information into a format conducive to your busy schedules, while still providing a great deal of pertinent clinical information!

Conference topics were chosen due to the relevance as it pertains to the ever changing field of medicine, particularly when viewing the complexities facing our patients and the providers who care for them! We will cover the ethical challenges facing mental health professionals, suggestions on how to best care for the most intricate of cases, and process how integrated care can assist all of our patients in receiving the most complete range of services available.

Our keynote speakers include not only renowned ethicists Drs. Annette Hanson (Univ. of Maryland) and Mark Komrad (John Hopkins), who will discuss Physician Assisted Suicide and clinical psychiatric topics, but also Dr. David Katzelnick from Mayo, whose talk will focus on Integrated Care and current practices.

Additionally, we will engage in a series of conversations focusing on Complex Patient Interactions, including but not limited to: co-morbid personality disorders, active addiction issues, and termination of the therapeutic relationship when applicable.

As in past conferences, we will blend national speakers with local experts in both lecture and panel format.

I hope you will make time to join us in Milwaukee in October. We promise the event will be both educational and invigorating!

Registration is open online at www.TheWPA.org.

APA Updates

April Course of the Month: Each month, members have free access to an online CME course on a trending topic. The April course, “Managing the Side Effects of Psychotropic Medications”, features Joseph F. Goldberg, M.D. from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who provides viewers with an overview of systematic assessment approaches to suspected adverse drug effects.

Have you explored the new Psychiatry.org? APA is improving its online experience for members. Your new psychiatry.org account will enable you to quickly pay your dues online, complete your profile to enjoy a more personalized membership experience, update your email communication preferences, and enroll in more than 90 CME activities free to members in the APA Learning Center. If you haven’t already, you will need to reset your password the first time you log in. You can do so by selecting “Forgot Password?” on the account log in page or by calling APA customer service at 703-907-7300.

APA Advocates for Psychiatrists on MOC: APA is working on behalf of members to reform Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements and ensure a fair process for psychiatrists. The APA has established a standing committee of the APA Assembly and an MOC caucus to critically evaluate MOC and will continue to participate in and provide feedback at ABPN meetings, including the ABPN’s annual Critical Issues Forum. The APA encourages members to submit feedback and, if interested, join the MOC caucus by selecting it within their Member Profile.
WPA Executive Council Elections

At the March 31st Annual Membership Meeting of the Wisconsin Psychiatric Association, Nominating Committee Chair Jerry Halverson, MD announced the slate of candidates for the 2017-19 Executive Council. The following slate was accepted by the members present, and the ballot has now been sent out to all members for vote prior to the deadline of Friday, May 5, 2017.

President-Elect: John Schneider, MD
Secretary: Angela Janis, MD
Treasurer: Molli Rolli, MD

Councilors at Large:
Jon Berlin, MD
Barbara Hale-Richlen, MD
Jerry Halverson, MD
Anne Miller, MD
Mara Pheister, MD
Ken Robbins, MD

APA Assembly Representatives:
Clarence Chou, MD
Michael Peterson, MD

Milwaukee Chapter President: Tony Thrasher, DO
Northern Chapter President: Gabriella Hangiandreou, MD
Southern Chapter President: Cynthia Stanford, MD

2017 MATCH Results

A total of 923 U.S. senior medical school students matched with a psychiatry residency in this year’s National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), up from 850 in 2016.

This year’s figure is the highest number of medical students to choose psychiatry residency training programs in recent history. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of medical school seniors choosing psychiatry grew from 483 to 640. This number fell to 616 in 2012, but has steadily climbed since then.

The Match, in which the choices of graduating medical students are “matched” with those of residency programs, is typically watched as an indicator of workforce size and makeup in the various medical specialties for the coming year.

Psychiatry offered 1,495 first-year positions—111 more than in 2016—and filled all but four. The overall fill rate was 99.7%, and 61.7% were filled by U.S. seniors. Since 2012, the number of psychiatry positions has increased 378, or 34%, and the number of positions filled by U.S. allopathic seniors has increased by 307, according to NRMP.