President’s Message
John Schneider, MD, FAPA

Colleagues,

Fall season is upon us and activity at the State Capitol seems to be heating up. How do you advocate for psychiatry and your patients? With contentious political and legislative issues framing the headlines, our collective participation in advocacy is crucial. Two relatively simple ways to get involved are 1) to attend Doctor Day on January 29, where you will learn more about the importance of advocacy as well as updates on specific legislative measures; and 2) to contribute to the WPA PAC. Funds from the PA are distributed in a bipartisan manner and anyone already involved in advocacy will recognize the importance of how a political action committee can help form and effect legislative agendas.

On another note, I am happy to report an update that the state of the WPA continues to be sound, both financially and in terms of membership. APA and its district branches have begun the recruitment and renewal process for 2020, and I encourage you to renew your membership for next year right away. WPA is a synergistic group and your participation continues to allow us to represent you and be the voice for psychiatry in Wisconsin.

I look forward to seeing many of you in early March when we will convene our 2020 Annual Meeting at The Edgewater in Madison. Dr. Mara Pheister and her planning committee are putting together an excellent program that will explore ASD across the lifespan. I hope you will join us.

As always, please share with me your thoughts and ideas.

John

WPA 2020 Annual Conference: Autism Spectrum Disorder Across the Lifespan
March 5-7, 2020; The Edgewater, Madison WI
Mara Pheister, MD, Conference Chair

Historically, Child & Adolescent Psychiatrists have been experts in diagnosis and treating Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), with limited attention devoted to this topic in Adult Psychiatry Residency. As the prevalence of ASD increases and children become adults, many general psychiatrists are working more closely with individuals on the spectrum.

In Wisconsin, the prevalence of ASD is 1 in 71 children (2018). Each year, 50,000 teens with ASD will enter adulthood. Adult patients with ASD may present for treatment of comorbid disorders. Other times, we may suspect the diagnosis of ASD in an adult that presents with other concerns.

The goal of this conference is to address this relative knowledge gap and to equip psychiatrists with the skills, knowledge and resources to most effectively help individuals with ASD and their families.

We’re excited to continue the Resident Vignette Competition with residents from all four Wisconsin Psychiatry residencies competing for the coveted Siggie Award. Additionally, we’ll be bringing back the poster session, inviting everyone to share the amazing work happening across our state.

I hope you’ll join us in Madison for a fantastic conference!
WPA Legislative Update
Jerry Halverson, MD, FACPsych, DFAPA
WPA Legislative Chair

As you may have heard, our long-time public affairs councilor Eric Jensen was lost to cancer in September of this year. Eric worked on the behalf of Wisconsin’s psychiatrists and their patients and we deeply appreciate his leadership, his friendship and all of his efforts on our behalf. Another legacy that he left us is the annual Doctor’s Day. Eric was integral in the development of the annual multi-stakeholder nature of Doctor’s Day, which has been so good for advocacy visibility and the policy goals of Wisconsin physicians and their patients.

Prior to Eric’s untimely death, he had worked with WPA leadership on a succession plan that left WPA prepared and ready to contract with experienced Madison-based lobbyists Greg Hubbard and AJ Wilson from the lobbying firm of Hubbard, Wilson & Zelenkova LLC. We have met Greg and AJ and followed through with the succession plan; WPA is fortunate to be solidly represented under the Capitol dome.

It is important that WPA have representation as there is always something going on at the Capitol, even when the legislature is not in session. As an example, and something many of you have heard, a Speaker’s task force was formed to look at the issue of suicide. The task force released nine bills that they hope will decrease suicide in Wisconsin. Our WPA legislative committee is discussing the bills and the positions WPA should take. We have also been involved with a Chapter 51 initiative with the Attorney General’s office that is likely to be a great opportunity for us to be able to improve the emergency care of patients in Wisconsin. These are just a couple of the examples of what we are working on.

It was through this work that we heard about the Speaker’s task force, and one of the members of that task force is Mara Pheister, MD. Mara is one of our members dedicated to suicide prevention and advocacy, and she will be an important part of our legislative work.

Doctor Day 2020, it will be held on January 29 in Madison. Your participation is important. Please visit www.WIDoctorDay.org for information and to sign up. There is no cost, but registration is requested in order to facilitate the scheduling of legislative visits. I hope to see everyone there.

If you have interest in these legislative issues or anything related, please contact me or any member of legislative committee, which currently includes:
- Jerry Halverson, MD, Chair
- Angela Janis, MD
- Jackie Landess, MD
- Jeff Marcus, MD
- Mara Pheister, MD
- Ken Robbins, MD
- John Schneider, MD
- Justin Schoen, MD
- William Swift, MD
- Tony Thrasher, DO

You may also contact the WPA office at WPA@badgerbay.co if you would like to personally be involved.

HWZ to Provide Lobbying Services for WPA

The Wisconsin Psychiatric Association is pleased to be partnering with Hubbard, Wilson & Zelenkova LLC (HWZ) for lobbying and legislative services. The firm is led by seasoned lobbyists with vast experience and exceptional relationships with policymakers across the political spectrum and on both sides of the aisle. HWZ represents groups and organizations including trade associations, healthcare interests, Fortune 500 companies, trade unions, and state and national non-profits.

Greg Hubbard has over 15 years’ experience representing a wide range of interests and has successfully lobbied on landmark issues in energy, telecommunications, taxation, natural resources and land use. Formerly, Greg worked for several republican legislators including as Chief of Staff to former Senate Majority Leader Mary Panzer. During contentious legislative redistricting efforts in 2001, he provided analysis and advice to Assembly and Senate Republican leadership. Greg is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

AJ Wilson is a principal at Hubbard Wilson & Zelenkova with nearly two decades of experience in and around the Wisconsin State Capitol. AJ represents clients ranging from trade associations and national non-profits to trade unions and Fortune 500 companies on legislative, regulatory, and procurement issues. Prior to lobbying, AJ was Chief of Staff to Assembly Democratic Leader Jim Kreuser and spent over seven years in the Wisconsin Legislature developing strategy, crafting legislation, and maintaining critical relations between legislative leadership, members, state agencies, and the Governor’s office. AJ is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned his JD from the University of Miami School of Law.

While Greg and AJ will serve as the points of contact, other partners and associates in the firm are available to assist WPA as needed.

WPA/WACEP Emergency Psych Task Force Update
Tony Thrasher, DO, DFAPA, Task Force Co-Chair

The joint task force between WPA and the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians continues to meet regularly and focus on areas of intersection between psychiatry and emergency medicine. As of late, there have been two collaborations with external shareholders of great utility and promise.

The task force chairs have met twice with the Wisconsin Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Association, the Badger State Sheriffs’ Association, and associated partners and associates in the firm are available to assist WPA as needed.

The second collaboration involved the opportunity to meet with the staff of the Attorney General in preparation of the State Summit on Emergency Detentions on October 31st. This meeting allowed for task force leadership, WPA leadership, and WMS leadership to all meet with the leaders of said summit to obtain information worth focusing on at said conference. This meeting was very productive as it pertains to education of our policy makers and establishing rapport. Additionally, they asked the task force to lead one of the small groups at the Attorney General’s summit that would focus upon quality improvement in medical stabilization of the psychiatric patient in crisis.

This task force continues to make forward progress on not only immediate items facing our patients but also more longitudinal partnerships to establish our physician leaders as subject matter experts with policy makers and elected officials.
Support the WPA PAC

The WPA’s political action committee affords members an opportunity to engage in the political process and advocate for the psychiatric profession. The PAC is designed to strengthen current and new key relationships with state lawmakers. Through the PAC, WPA can support candidates who support mental health issues and our legislative priorities, which ultimately gives us a voice in shaping policy. Your contributions are an important part of legislative advocacy and can help WPA make an impact. Please contribute to the PAC by visiting www.TheWPA.org/PAC.

January 15 - WPA Milwaukee Chapter Program

On Wednesday, January 15, the WPA Milwaukee Chapter will host a dinner and discussion on “why is social third in the biopsychosocial formulation?” presented by Carlyle Chan, MD.

The program will address the positive role of relationships not only in mental health, but also in professional development. The presentation will explore the role of the “invisible college” and how it may help mitigate burnout. Local chapter programs are complimentary to members. Learn more and sign up online at www.TheWPA.org.

Get to Know Your Executive Council!

Featured Member, Julie R. Owen, MD

I am thrilled to be a member of the Executive Council for WPA, being appointed as the Milwaukee Chapter Early Career Psychiatrist Representative only a few months ago. I have been a member of APA since medical school, and it has been my personal goal to become more involved in the organization as the demands of training eased and my professional career began.

I was born in Milwaukee but spent my adolescent and young adult years in Orlando, FL. I completed my undergraduate degrees in Musical Theatre and Psychology at the University of Central Florida. As many Orlando residents do, I worked at Walt Disney World, fulfilling full-time entertainment contracts while finishing my undergraduate degrees and dropping to seasonal status while pursuing musical theatre roles across the country after college graduation. I was proud to earn my Actors’ Equity card on stage at Disney (and eventually meet my husband), performing as “Cinderella” in the iconic Magic Kingdom Castle Show, “Belle” in the Beauty and the Beast show at Hollywood Studios, “Flora” in the long-running Hoop-Dee-Doo Revue show at Fort Wilderness, and appearing in the opening cast of the (then) new musical Finding Nemo at Animal Kingdom. Before starting medical school, I also had opportunities to perform at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, the Milwaukee Skylight Music Theatre, the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and First Stage Children’s Theatre.

Following my years in professional theatre, I moved back to Milwaukee to attend medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). I stayed for my Psychiatry residency training as well as Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry fellowship. After training, I accepted a faculty position at MCW, serving as an Assistant Professor with dual appointments in both the Psychiatry and Emergency Medicine Departments. My first year as an attending was spent on the inpatient C/L service at Froedtert Hospital. This year, I have been leading an exciting new collaborative initiative in the Froedtert Hospital Emergency Department: the ED Psychiatry Liaison Program, in which I am proud to serve as the institution’s first embedded Emergency Psychiatrist. I also work as a Staff Psychiatrist at the Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex in Psychiatric Crisis Services, as well as providing perinatal psychiatric coverage for the Periscope Project teleconsultation line.

In my “spare time,” I am completing the Executive MBA program at Marquette University to build not only foundational business knowledge, but also to develop and hone my administrative and leadership skills. My husband, John, is also an MCW Alumnus and is currently completing his residency training. John and I still love going to the theatre, and we’ve enjoyed having season tickets to the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre for the past six years. We have a five-year-old son, Jack, who just ventured into K5 and is learning new things at the speed of light. Our favorite family activities include walks in the park (especially in the fall), outings to the WI State Fair, Door County weekends, and Disney vacations (back where it all began).

Charles Franklin, PhD to Headline Doctor Day 2020

Doctor Franklin has served as director of the Marquette Law School Poll since its inception in 2012. During that year’s highly scrutinized election cycle, he established Marquette as the definitive source for information concerning public opinion in Wisconsin.

Under Doctor Franklin’s direction as a visiting professor at Marquette, the poll became the largest independent polling project in state history. It accurately captured voter attitudes before every major election in 2012, including the gubernatorial recall, U.S. Senate and presidential races.

Since joining Marquette as a professor of law and public policy in August 2013, Doctor Franklin has used the poll to continue tracking political races of interest to voters and explore additional public policy issues.

At Doctor Day on January 29, 2020, Franklin will share his insight and polling data relevant to healthcare policy and the 2020 elections. Learn more and sign up to participate in Doctor Day at www.WIDoctorDay.org.
It’s Time to Renew Your Membership!

APA has opened membership renewals for 2020. Don’t delay! Renew today and confirm your commitment to WPA and APA.

Membership 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.
- Providing quality educational programs and important opportunities for networking with colleagues.
- And much more!

Please act today to renew your membership. Options for renewing your membership include:

- ONLINE – https://my.psychiatry.org. Once logged in to your member profile, select the “My Memberships – Renew” tab, and the “Renew” button will take you through the checkout process.
- PHONE - 1-888-357-7924
- EMAIL - membership@psych.org
- MAIL - APA Member Services; 800 Maine Av SW, Ste 900; Washington DC 20024