



the freudian slip

TREATMENT WORKS | RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE

WWW.ALABAMAPSYCH.ORG

Renew your membership with APA and APPA

Visit www.psychiatry.org today!

It's time to renew your membership with the American Psychiatric Association and the Alabama Psychiatric Physicians Association for 2017! Renewing means you will continue to have access to a myriad of benefits exclusive to the APA and APPA.

Membership means joining more than 36,000 colleagues nationwide fighting to protect the psychiatric profession, advancing the treatment of mental illness, ensuring access to care for patients, and fighting for patients' rights.

Lobbying

APPA members have a strong voice in the Alabama State House and the U.S. Congress with a top-notch lobbying team focusing on legislation to strengthen the practice of psychiatry while protecting the practitioner and patient.

APPA members receive updates on legislation, what it means to you as a professional, and how to contact committee members to voice your opinion. Your voice counts!

Education

Members attend educational programs at the Spring and Fall Conferences at substantially reduced registration fees. Find

details on our website at www.alabamapsych.org.

APPA is also the only organization providing educational opportunities for your practice manager to help keep your practice running smoothly and up-to-date on the latest information.

Communication

Not only do APA members receive a subscription to the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, but APPA members receive a bi-monthly e-newsletter and e-mail blasts of the top news and events affecting Alabama's psychiatric physicians.


Networking

APPA members are a great resource for professional networking. Get connected, and get to know your fellow practitioners!

You've already invested in your career. Your membership in APA and APPA is a vital continuation of that investment.

Don't lose the connection! Log on to www.psychiatry.org to renew your dues today.

Questions?

Contact Executive Director Jennifer Hayes at (334) 954-2500 or by e-mail at jbayes@alamedical.org if you have questions about renewing your membership with APPA. 

Pay your membership dues in the way most convenient for you!

- **Lump Sum Dues** – Pay a one-time amount for APA national dues for your lifetime. Never worry about annual renewal increases or invoices again. APPA dues continue to be billed annually.
- **Scheduled Payment Plan** – Have your APA and APPA dues automatically charged to your credit card in monthly, quarterly, biannual or annual installments. No interest or service fees.
- **Couples Discount** – If you are married to another APA member (or live in the same household), share your print copy of *AJP* and you'll each get a 15 percent discount on your APA national dues.

WHAT'S UP AROUND THE STATE...

Birmingham



**BIRMINGHAM
PSYCHIATRIC
SOCIETY**



For More information about the Birmingham Psychiatric Society, contact BPS President Paul O'Leary,

MD at dr.paul@me.com.

Central Alabama

For More information about the Central Alabama Society, contact Linda Teel at (334) 288-9009 ext. 207 or linda.teel@mpa1040.com.



Mobile



For more information about the Mobile Bay Psychiatric Society, contact James Hart, DO, at

jimfb@icloud.com.

Tuscaloosa

If you live in the Tuscaloosa area and would like to get connected with your fellow colleagues, check out the Tuscaloosa Chapter of APPA. Contact Thaddeus Ulzen, MD, at tulzen@cchs.ua.edu for more information.

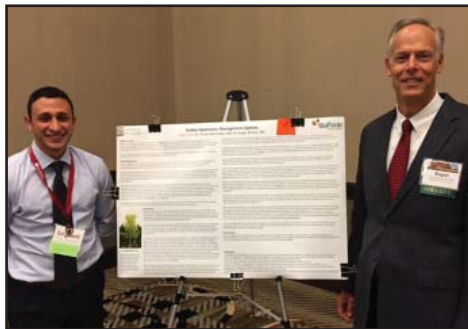


Fall conference recap

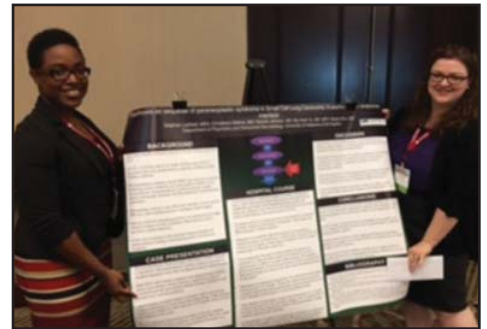
Congratulations to the winners of our Poster Contest!



First Place – Abstract 16-2-06
Haley Ballard, MD; Maridith Hollis, BA; Hays Todd, BS
Megaloblastic Madness and Cognitive Bias: As Case of Misdiagnosis in the Acute Setting



Third Place – Abstract 16-2-04
David Rizk, BA; Dustin Marmalich, MD; Bogan Brooks, MD
Tardive Dyskinesia: Management Options



Second Place – Abstract 16-2-05
Stephen Layfield, MS3; Christiana Wilkins, MD; Victoria Johnson, MD; My Hanh Vu, MD, MPH; Badari Birur, MD
Psychosis as sequelae of paraneoplastic syndrome in Small Cell Lung Carcinoma: A psycho-neuro-endocrine interface

Read all abstracts submitted at the fall APPA conference at <http://alabamapsych.org/abstracts>.



Gubernatorial Proclamation: Mental Illness Awareness Week

J. Luke Engeriser, MD, presents APPA President Tarak Vasavada, MD, with a gubernatorial proclamation declaring October 2 - October 8, 2016, Mental Illness Awareness Week in the State of Alabama.

Save the Date
APPA's Spring Conference
April 21-22, 2017

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa
Rate is \$135.
Room Block expires March 22, 2017
[Reserve a room online](#)



APPA Alert:

Grassroots effort expresses support for mental health reform

APA has received information from House and Senate leadership that mental health reform is still in play during the lame duck session of Congress. As a result, APA has joined with mental health and allied stakeholders in launching a coordinated grassroots push, urging Congress to pass mental health reform before it adjourns at the end of this year. Please contact your Members of Congress by Twitter, e-mail or phone. You may contact your Members of Congress to express support for mental health reform by [clicking here](#).

APA has worked in a bipartisan manner with key House and Senate leaders over the past three years on legislation that will truly improve the way our federal government finances and manages mental health services, especially for patients with serious mental illness and substance use disorders. The time has come to see this legislation cross the finish line and be enacted into law.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to help and participate in this effort. 🌐

Final MACRA rule is good news for psychiatrists

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has issued the Final Rule setting policies for new Medicare payment reforms and quality reporting under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). In our response to the proposed rule, we raised several concerns regarding its impact on psychiatric practice and some of our advocacy efforts have paid off.

A large number of psychiatrist will be exempt.

Psychiatrists who have no more than 100 Medicare patients or no more than \$30,000 in annual Medicare billings will be exempt from quality reporting requirements in 2017. As a result of these changes, CMS projects that 49% of psychiatrists who see Medicare patients will be exempt under the “low volume threshold;” another 8% will be exempt because they just enrolled in Medicare that year; and close to 1% will be exempt because they qualify for the incentive for “advanced” alternative payment models. However, these psychiatrist can still choose to participate in the MIPS program – and potentially qualify for a bonus – if they wish to do so.

Flexible reporting period in 2017.

Psychiatrists who choose to participate in the MIPS program can ease into reporting in 2017 due to relaxed “Pick Your Pace” reporting for that year.

Decreasing the requirements to meet “full reporting” in order to earn a bonus for 2017.

Many of the different categories reporting on practice improvement activities and quality measurement reporting have been reduced by one third.

Psychiatrists will not be penalized for seeing sicker, economically disadvantaged patients for the first year.

Unfortunately, as currently measured for the Value-Based Payment Modifier, negative adjustments have tended to go to those physicians who care for the most vulnerable populations. The new cost performance category measures Medicare spending for all of a psychiatrist’s Medicare patients. Contribution to the final score will gradually increase to 30% by 2021.

Psychiatrists can earn a bonus for some participation in alternative payment models (APMs).

Psychiatrists who have at least 25% of their Medicare covered services or 20% of their Medicare patients in certain “advanced” APMs are exempt from MIPS reporting in 2017 and can earn a 5% bonus in 2019.

Member education and guidance is coming! More information will be available at www.psychiatry.org/MACRA. 🌐

Report outlines actions to increase compliance with mental health, substance use disorder parity protections

In its final report, the White House’s Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force outlined a series of actions and recommendations to increase compliance with mental health parity laws. Those actions include \$9.3 million in funds from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to states to help insurance regulators monitor compliance with mental health and substance use disorder parity protections.

“The American Psychiatric Association (APA) welcomed this much-needed report to strengthen implementation and enforcement of existing mental health parity laws,” APA President Maria A. Oquendo, MD, PhD, said in a statement. Dr. Oquendo added, “Full implementation and stronger enforcement will help ensure that psychiatric conditions are treated the same as other illnesses and individuals can access the treatment they need.”

APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, MD, MPA, stated, “APA trusts that Congress and the Administration will work together to ensure that the recommendations become reality.”

An article in the Oct. 28, 2016, issue of *Psychiatric News* recommends:

- A beta version of a new parity website to help consumers find the appropriate federal or state agency to assist with their parity complaints, appeals, and other actions;
- A “Consumer Guide to Disclosure Rights” to help consumers and mental health professionals understand what type of information to ask for when inquiring about a plan’s compliance with parity; and
- Guidance on the application of parity to opioid use disorder treatment.

In addition, “longer-term recommendations include increasing federal agencies’ capacity to audit health plans for parity compliance and allowing the Department of Labor to assess civil monetary penalties for parity violations.

With the recommendations in place, the onus is on state officials and payers to implement the recommendations. 🌐

SAVE *the* DATE

Coming Attractions

2017 APPA Spring Conference

April 21-22 | Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Spa

2017 APPA Fall Conference

October 28 | Ross Bridge Resort, Birmingham

2018 APPA Spring Conference

April 20-21 | Embassy Suites, Montgomery

2018 APPA Fall Conference

October 6 | Battle House, Mobile

2019 APPA Spring Conference

April 5-7 | Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Florida

Senate Mental Health Legislation vote likely after election

Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX) believes a Senate vote on mental health legislation will likely have to wait until after the election. Despite progress made on a dispute over Cornyn's effort to attach gun-related language, the Senate is running out of time before their break.

Cornyn's amendment would require a full judicial hearing to ban someone from buying guns due to mental illness

"We've made a proposal that seems to address the previous objections and avoid the gun fight that many people wanted to avoid, including me, without weakening the patient protections under the bill," Cornyn said. 🌐

News Briefs

APA course of the month addresses geriatric depression

Each month APA makes available a free CME course exclusive to members only through its Learning Center. November's selection is "Advances in Therapeutic Interventions: Diagnosis and Treatment of Geriatric Depression." This course discusses strategies to improve clinical outcomes of geriatric depression, including the use of atypical antipsychotics, stimulants, cognitive enhancers and remediation techniques, psychotherapies, lifestyle interventions, and complementary and alternative medicine techniques. [Register here.](#)

Claims Denied? Check Your DSM-5/ ICD-10 Codes

DSM-5 New ICD-10 codes reflecting updated diagnoses in DSM-5 went into effect on October 1. APA has learned that some members are still using the old codes and thus are encountering denied claims. You can [obtain a list of the new codes here](#), including a version that can be printed out for easy reference. 🌐

Physician Finder

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA® seeks applicants for a psychiatry faculty position.

Responsibilities

Teaching family medicine residents and medical students, providing direct patient care, engaging in scholarly activity.

For information contact:

Dr. Thad Ulzen at tulzen@ua.edu or 205-348-1325 and visit cchs.us.edu.

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