



**Committee and Task Force Reports**  
**Division 56 Annual Meeting**  
**August 11, 2010**

## **Treasurer's Budget Report** **Beth Rom-Rymer, Ph.D., Chair**

The two most prominent profit areas for us have been:

1. **Membership** numbers (top of page 1) which continue to increase despite the general decline in membership in APA and throughout the other Divisions and SPTAs. Look at our budgeted and actual membership numbers from 2009 and 2010. For 2011, we have set a high bar for ourselves, budgeting our membership numbers at a slight level above our membership actual for 2010.
2. **Journal** income (page 1) came much sooner than we had expected and continues to provide us with great profits! We had budgeted only \$500 in 2009 and came in with almost \$12,000 at the end of 2009. We have now budgeted \$11,750 for years 2010 and 2011 although I expect that our actual numbers will be higher.

Expenses were significantly lower for us in 2009 than we had expected so I have lowered some of the numbers for 2010 and 2011. However, other expenses will be higher this year and next because there are differential costs associated with the different Convention cities.

1. Look at our officers' expenses (page 2). They have been very frugal and they have donated their time and their office staffs' time to the workings of our Division! Some travel expenses will probably come in post-Convention.
2. Our newsletter expenses were lower in 2009 than expected.
3. Our midyear conference call expense (bottom of page 2), because we weren't travelling, was zero, thus producing a very large savings.
4. Our Convention Social Hour was more expensive this year and that is attributable to the higher costs of San Diego vs. Toronto. I budgeted up, again, for our DC Convention 2011 in DC which will probably be as expensive as San Diego. I also budgeted up for other Convention costs due to San Diego and DC expenses.
5. Because we are giving additional awards this year, expenses for awards went up (top of page 3). Our Awards Chair, Harriette, told me to expect similar expenses for next year.
6. Our standing committees (page 3) spend no money but have the potential to do so.
7. Our external relations expenses (page 3) are nonexistent but for executive council travel for our three officers, which, to date, have been very low. We are able to handle more expenses here.

### Our Assets

Our total liabilities and net assets (page 4) have appeared to stay approximately the same from 2009 to 2010.

Challenge for the Future:

To continue to grow our membership in a difficult economic environment

Vulnerabilities/Opportunities

Our advertising partners and our convention sponsors have dropped off. For us to continue to grow and prosper as a Division, we have a critical opportunity to look for committed and engaged advertising partners and sponsors.

The proceeds from our book auction and convention fundraising have dropped off. It's important that we accelerate the productivity of these fundraising opportunities.

We have been fortunate to have had great success with our membership growth and the growth of our Journal that is only in its infancy. But, we need to continue to look for other ways to increase our available funds so that we can continue to pursue an aggressive agenda of the education and training of our peers in the ever-expanding field of trauma.

## Journal Report

Steve Gold, Ph.D., Editor, *Psychological Trauma*

August 2010 Report on *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice and Policy*

Division 56's journal, *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice and Policy* (PT: TRPP), is now completing its second volume and continues to grow rapidly. In 2009 PT: TRPP had 1757 individual subscribers, 30% of whom were not Division 56 members. Through APA'S PsycARTICLES electronic database there were 2934 institutional subscribers, with an additional 5 institutions that were print subscribers, for a total of 2939 institutional subscribers. APA has indicated in its recently released 2009 annual report on PT: TRPP that the journal was profitable in its first year of publication, commenting that "this is quite an accomplishment."

APA continues to be highly supportive in its marketing efforts on behalf of the journal. On a regular basis they have distributed materials specifically about PT: TRPP. In addition, PT: TRPP has been highlighted in a number of mailings in which several other APA publications were included. APA Publications has also recently announced that it will begin making articles accepted for publication in PT: TRPP that have been through the copy editing process accessible electronically to all subscribers in advance of their print publication.

From early on PT: TRPP has received a large number of quality submissions. During the first year of publication this influx resulted in a long lag time between submission and rendering an initial disposition on each manuscript. Starting in January 2010 with the second volume of PT:TRPP, therefore, we doubled the number of associate editors from 2 to 4, with Drs. Thema Bryant-Davis and Mark Miller joining existing associate editors Chris Courtois and Kathleen Kendall-Tackett. At the same time we recruited Drs. Dan and Linda King as statistical associate editors to supplement the work being done until that point by Sherry Hamby.

Increasing the editorial staff has enabled us to greatly reduce the turn-around time from submission to decision letter. Nevertheless, due to the continuing large volume of material beginning with volume 2 we increase the page size of the journal from 7" X 10" to 8 ¼" X 11" so that we could accommodate more material. This relatively modest increase in format size allowed us to move from a mode of 7 articles in each issue of volume 1 to a mode of 9 articles in volume 2.

At this point in time PT: TRPP has 115 manuscripts in some stage of the review process and 44 manuscripts accepted for publication beyond those that have already been slated for publication in volume 2. This means that with our current page allocation and page size, all of volume 3 could be filled by the 44 manuscripts already accepted and awaiting assignment to a particular issue. However, not all 44 accepted manuscripts can appear in volume 3 if we continue to publish four issues per year because we also have a special issue planned on education and training in trauma that will be part of that volume. **For**

*this reason the associate editors and I are recommending that beginning with volume 3 we expand the publication of PT: TRPP from 4 to 6 issues per year.*

## **Awards Committee Report** **Harriette Kaley, Ph.D., Chair**

**Members:** Lisa D. Butler, Peter Barach, Doug Haldeman, Carla Bradshaw

As we stagger to the finish line for the 2010 Awards, we realize that what we originally thought would be a romp of a relay race turned into a series of sprints and then morphed into a one-legged marathon. (That's as close to a sports metaphor as you'll get from me.) The reason, of course, is that as the Division has grown to be less of a face-to-face community, there are more and different kinds of awards given, more and more complexities have developed in the process, and information can no longer be passed along as informally nor things be handled as casually as before nor by as small a group. This report will make a series of suggestions to make the process more equitable and manageable.

But first, the good news.

### **Awards for 2010**

We are very proud of our cohort of awardees. As the board already knows, they are a distinguished group: the Practice award went to the team of Barbara Olasov Rothbaum, JoAnn Difede, Greg Reger and Albert "Skip" Rizzo. Science went to John Briere and Service to Judith Armstrong. The award for Outstanding Dissertation went to Erika Wolf and for Lifetime Achievement to Edna B. Foa. We gave two awards for Outstanding Media Contributions, one to Garry Trudeau and one to the team of Sheryl WuDunn and Nicholas Kristof. There was no award for an Early Career psychologist because there were no nominations for that award.

We were pleased that we were able to give two team awards. Much of our work is done in teams and that fact is not acknowledged as often as it should be. In the case of Practice, the team was so tight-knit that when our initial letters announcing the award went out with only 3 members named, all of them wrote in to tell us that the nominator, too modest to include himself, should also get the award. And so he has. In the case of Media, the collaborative nature of the work was apparent from the fact that WuDunn and Kristof's best-selling book about the trauma women experience in much of the world is clearly a work of joint authorship. We hope that future awards will continue to recognize the collaborative nature of much of the work in trauma.

We think that much more attention needs to be given to generating nominations. We got a reasonably healthy crop in some categories, but not in others. There were 5 nominations for Practice, 4 for Science, 4 for Service, 1 for Dissertation, 4 for Lifetime Achievement, 2 for Media, and as noted, none for Early Career psychologists. While we are sure that the nominees represented the most deserving of those who could be nominated—how could they have been bettered?—we wish more people had been moved to make nominations. The mere fact of being nominated is a form of recognition by one's peers, and we sent letters of acknowledgement and appreciation to all the

nominators and then notices of the final outcome to all whose candidates were not chosen. Perhaps an article encouraging nominations in the Newsletter by the Awards Chair? Perhaps increased mention of the nomination process in the President's Report? One or two nominations came from the Division's own Committees, such as the Practice Committee; and we commend that approach to all committees.

Probably it's worth mentioning, when we talk about increasing nominations, that nominating someone is not a minor task. You need to contact the nominee and get his or her agreement (that wasn't done for the Media awards, about which more below), then you need to get his or her CV and attach it to your own detailed letter. Writing a good nominating letter is probably some kind of art form; we got mostly wonderful letters, and we depended on them to help us focus on the important points in the CVs of remarkable and prolific people. I wonder if we shouldn't be giving more recognition to nominators for the successful awardees at least; perhaps the plaques could indicate who nominated them<sup>1</sup>. I hope next year's committee will think about this.

We also think more attention needs to be given to publicizing the awards once they have been made. We notified the APA Public Relations Department, but got only the most cursory formal response. That's really a shame, especially when this year's Lifetime Achievement awardee, Edna Foa, has just been selected by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people on earth(!!!!) and our media awardees are all highly visible figures in the world. Our Practice award went to a team that is utilizing virtual reality techniques; how could that not be interesting to a wide swath of the public? Surely we should be getting some P. R. mileage out of those awards. Our Newsletter does a splendid job of spreading the word in-house, but it would be nice if we could expand our reach.

### **Structural Recommendations:**

The problem this year was that fundamentally, this was an ad hoc committee. Only Lisa Butler had served on it before; she had been Chair last year, and because of that, her input was indispensable. But everyone else, including me, was new<sup>2</sup> and the others, who did not know any better than I did at the beginning that much of the work would need to be done during the summer, were generally not available at crunch times. So I think we need to improve and institutionalize the structure and membership of this committee and the way it operates. This way, there is simply too much left for the Chair alone to do.

First of all, we need to understand that this Committee is an ongoing one (in our Newsletter, it is referred to as a Standing Committee) and it needs to be structured accordingly, with three-year staggered terms. It should not be reconstituted anew each year. I suggest the familiar system whereby the Chair has served a year on the committee before taking over (this year, I was simply informed early in the year that I was pro forma Chair because I was in my second year on the Board.) and then serves a year after

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<sup>1</sup> As noted below, that would make the plaques somewhat more expensive. But maybe the gain is worth the expense.

<sup>2</sup> Peter Barach had also served on it before, but Peter was not able to continue as an active member past the earliest stages.

to assist the new Chair. You all know the drill: Similarly, the members should serve staggered three-year terms (see below).

This kind of structure probably requires a bylaws change, which could take a long time, so I hope Laura and Chris and Terry can figure out a way to arrange something like it on an ad hoc basis.

One regrettable outgrowth of the way we operated this year was that we were burdened by precedent. Not knowing what needed to be done, we began by simply following the process of the previous year: eventually it became clear that things had changed so much that some things needed to be done differently. Changing the organizational culture at that time was a delicate matter. I am hoping that involving a chair for a year before taking office would obviate that problem.

Furthermore, we all need to be aware that, as more and more nominations come in, as we hope they will (see above), and as more awards are added, as we assume they will—an award for mentoring is, we understand, in the works-- the job of the Committee will expand and there will have to be ways to divide up the work. We cannot continue to operate this committee primarily as a one-man band. I think that means we have to recruit members to serve on the Committee who have a certain commitment to it and who will serve staggered three-year terms. Under those circumstances, the complement need not be more than four plus the chair; if the work load increases, perhaps another member should be added.

### **Timing:**

With the new Call for Nominations, I am changing the deadline for nominations from May 15<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. The later deadline simply ran too closely into end-of-semester obligations, summer vacations, and other pursuits more appealing in good weather than what we had to offer. Changing it to April 15<sup>th</sup> will give us a more reasonable period of time for reading the voluminous nomination materials—one CV was 62 pages long! –and voting, then doing all the endless, endless follow-up work that must be done prior to Convention.

After Convention, there is a certain amount of mop-up work remaining, such as next year's Call for Nominations and an article for the Newsletter about our current crop of awardees. Already there are other little things cropping up; we are thinking, for example, of meeting and interviewing our Media awardees and forging some contact with them such that they think of us as a resource. But after that, we happily anticipate a down period until the Spring.

### **Miscellaneous:**

The Media awards are a terrific idea. Not only is it a good idea in itself, but the awards can probably earn us a reasonable amount of good public relations in the future. But we need to be sure that our candidates will be responsive. This year, one of our Media

awardees was accessible, friendly and delightful; the other was and still is as of this writing, surrounded by an impenetrable (at least by me) wall, and could only be reached through a speakers' bureau. So Laura Brown and I suggest that in the future, we confer with our Division 46 colleagues about how to handle such celebrities. One thought I've had is adding to the Call for Nominations the requirement that nominees accept being nominated before their names are submitted. That should apply to all nominees, of course, but especially to those who are not members of our Division, and it should obviate the awkwardness we had this year, when Laura and I had to write a letter after the fact introducing the Division to our Media awardees and explaining why we had chosen them. But the details of how to eliminate this problem will have to wait until next year's Committee gets input from Division 46

The budget for this Committee will probably be going up every year, by some slight but foreseeable amount. For one thing, there is inflation. For another, the more awards we have, and the more awardees per award, the more expense. Plaques are not terribly expensive individually, but they add up, especially if there are teams; furthermore, every letter, comma and period on the plaque is charged for. (I investigated doing the plaques through APA, but it would have been more expensive and I'd have had to deal with an intermediary, which left, I thought, too much room for error. I didn't have the heart to investigate other firms.) Our present plaque maker knows us, and has our logo available which is a considerable cost saving over having a new one made. She is also very accessible, which is good because there are numerous glitches.

The lack of nominations for Early Career contributions was troubling, especially given this Division's commitment to mentoring (one of the reasons we gave the Media award to Kristof and WuDunn was that he has for several years run a contest for younger people, the winner of which gets to travel with him as he goes on his journalistic rounds to traumatized places). What do we make of it? I think it has to do with how dazzling are the accomplishments of our more senior members, which I think just simply makes us overlook the so-far more modest accomplishments of our younger members. I think we need to encourage those of our members who already serve as mentors, or who work in settings with younger professionals, to give special thought to singling out those with great potential. The Early Career nominees need not now be the earth-movers and shakers of our more senior nominees. They just need, for now, to be noticed.

The Division's emphasis on diversity did not much affect our Committee. Perhaps at some point the Board will want to consider awards that will attract more diverse nominees? I am decidedly not encouraging adding to the list of awards at present mainly because I think for now we just have to stabilize the system. I also think there's a point of diminishing returns to the number of awards; they decrease in symbolic value as they increase in number. But at some future point, maybe that's something to think about. .

## **Summary**

I've made a couple of concrete suggestions:

1. Develop a structure for the Committee such that the Chair, and ideally members as well, serve three-year staggered terms.
2. April 15<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for nominations; require acceptance of nominations by candidates.
3. Develop mechanisms to encourage nominations and to publicize awards given.

In addition to those concrete suggestions, there are buried lots of other suggestions, comments, and some after-the-fact musings. I hope they are useful to the Board and to our successor Committee.

Despite the challenges, chairing this Committee was an unprecedented opportunity. It was a way to become acquainted with some of our most talented members (all of whom were approachable and easy to work with—even if occasionally some needed a bit of nudging). It taught me about the breadth of the field of trauma psychology and significantly increased my appreciation for what this Division has done in a short time. And it gave me increased respect not just for the movers and doers and leaders among us, but for the facilitators and worker bees and volunteers who make everything happen. The amount of sheer good work that goes on in this Division is awesome.

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## **Collaborative Endeavors Committee Report** **Constance Dalenberg, Ph.D., Chair**

### **Committee Members**

Julian Ford  
Carlos Cuevas  
Oxana Palesh

### **Progress on ongoing projects:**

1. Developing a mechanism for access to Division 56 members. The committee developed a brief questionnaire that allows the requesting student or professional to describe the scientific merits of their project and the relevance of their findings to the trauma field. The questionnaire takes only about half an hour to complete. As of August, one project has been turned down, and two more (both of which appeared on the surface to be minimally relevant to trauma) self-selected out of the process when asked to justify access to participants. Since August, three more projects were turned down or self-selected out, and one was recently approved. The mechanism of posting the accepted projects is now being worked out. We feel that this is a positive outcome in not overwhelming our division members.
2. Collaborative projects. Four projects have been taken on.
  - a. The first was a request for statistical and expert consultation support for a policy group on child pornography. This group has acquired a grant to educate professionals on the effects of child pornography, and needed direction on (a) access to statistical resources and (b) advice on distribution of their findings to professional settings. The group was provided with a statistical consult from Dr. Dalenberg's team, and given information needed to apply for presentation of their findings at APA in 2011. Unfortunately, their funding did not allow for travel to APA in 2010.
  - b. The second project is in process, and involves aiding a group of psychologists in a juvenile forensics setting in their efforts to collaborate in providing data on developmental trauma disorder. Julian Ford volunteered to be of service in this collaboration, and initial discussions are underway. I may have an update before the meeting.
  - c. The third project is a proposal from Brian Marx of the Science Committee and Bethany Brand of the Practice Committee to collaborate on developing resources and ideas to promote the

dissemination of science based practice. Two phone meetings have occurred, and we are developing specific goals regarding a web site for dissemination of scientific information. Some concerns were raised about overlapping content across divisions and within the division. We would thus like to get clarity on this point in our August meeting. Brian Marx and I will have an initial proposal that can be handed out for information or discussed if there is time.

- d. The fourth project is a request from "Jane Doe" to organize a discussion of the ethical responsibility of practitioners to the participants in their case studies. "Jane," or Nicole Taus, now a graduate student, has written a review of her experiences. David Corwin, who was the original practitioner, will be writing a commentary. Jon Conte has agreed to find an issue editor. By using the Collaborative Endeavors Committee to reach out to varying other divisions to nominate a discussant, we hope to facilitate this important discussion in a way that is carefully even-handed and representative of constituencies and reputable scientific positions.

## **Diversity Committee Report**

### **Diane T. Castillo, Ph.D., Chair**

The purpose of the Diversity Committee is to highlight the impact of trauma on individuals within a multicultural context and the influence of ethnic culture on the experience of trauma. It is the goal of the committee to promote the understanding of the effects of trauma in a multicultural context through education and practice as directed by research.

#### **1. Recruitment of Members and Committee Development**

The Diversity Committee has had a slow start in getting up and running with the new chair. Although members have been recruited, few have committed. One student member of APA, Nicole Duranceux, has agreed to be on the committee and will join Division 56 to do so. A psychologist, Janet Cde'Baca, who is not presently a member of APA has offered consultation. Two informal meetings have been held to review ideas for committee focus.

#### **2. Activities**

**a. Policy Statement for Division 56 on the Arizona Immigration Law.** Beth Rom-Rymer and the committee chair began the process of developing a position statement outlining the negative effects and opposing the new immigration law enacted by Arizona. The position statement will represent Division 56 and will be submitted to APA. We began first by soliciting input on a draft statement from the Division 56 Executive Council and have been working on a final policy statement. The position statement is in the final stages (see attached) and will be presented to the EC for final review prior to final submission.

**b. Target Activity #1—Indigenous Healing of Trauma.** Meetings with the chair, Dr. Cde'Baca, and Nicole Duranceau have resulted in the identification of a target activity for the committee. The committee identified a focus on the importance of recognizing the existing indigenous healing approaches as unique and integral in various ethnic/cultural groups. Although the treatment of PTSD after a trauma has moved in an extremely positive direction with the application of evidence-based therapies like Prolonged Exposure and Cognitive Processing Therapy and training of clinicians in the use of these approaches has advanced the field, trauma has existed long before the diagnosis of PTSD and cultural sensitivity would integrate these healing approaches. The history of trauma has impacted humanity throughout the years and some cultures have developed healing strategies to address the sequelae, such as the medicine man and the warrior's way ceremony after a combat experience for the Native American; or the shaman, curandera/o for healing "susto pasado." While it is the purview of the psychologist (or therapist) to offer evidence-based therapies, it is also culturally sensitive to examine/understand the impact of the trauma on the individual within their culture to enhance the effects of treatment. The first goal of the committee is to develop guidelines for clinicians to incorporate into a standard trauma interview to assess for indigenous healing beliefs/practices for traumatic events.

**Position Statement**  
**Division of Trauma Psychology (Division 56)**

**The Potential Traumatic Impact of Arizona's Immigration Law (S.B. 1070)**

As members of the Division of Trauma Psychology (56) of the American Psychological Association (APA), we wish to issue the following statement in response to Arizona's S.B. 1070. This statement is intended to represent the members of Division 56 and does not necessarily represent the APA as a whole or any of its other subsidiary groups.

Arizona's S.B. 1070, otherwise known as the *Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act*, gives local law enforcement officers increased authority over immigration matters while carrying out their day-to-day duties. In particular, S.B. 1070 establishes a misdemeanor penalty under state law for immigrants to be in Arizona without carrying required federal registration documents. Perhaps, the most controversial and talked about aspect of the law is the provision which compels local law enforcement authorities to inquire about a person's immigration status if they have reasonable suspicion to believe that a person is in the country illegally. Under this law, an individual must be pulled over or detained on suspicion of another crime before the police can inquire about that person's immigration status.

It is the position of the APA Division of Trauma Psychology that the enforcement of this new law has the potential to adversely impact and even traumatize individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups. S.B. 1070 adds to the burdens and stressors that are already disproportionately felt by many minority populations in the U.S. and may also have negative consequences for immigrant and refugee communities. Research suggests that ethnicity, race, and culture are risk factors for the development of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), with the highest rates of PTSD found in groups with ethnic minority backgrounds (Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Native Americans; Breslau, et.al., 2005; Dohrenwend, et. al., 2008). Furthermore, evidence indicates that children who experience racial or ethnic discrimination are more likely to suffer from mental health problems. Especially concerning are the ill effects parental attachment disruptions can have on children and adolescents who are separated from their parents before, during, and after immigration proceedings (as cited in Suárez-Orozco, 2010).

S.B. 1070 runs the risk of promoting governmental support for intolerance and inflaming individual and group prejudices. A potential result of the enforcement of this law could be increased hostility directed toward various racial and ethnic groups, the potential for increased and open expressions of bias motivated violence, and the infliction of trauma. The Arizona law may perpetuate implicit biases, which are stereotypes and prejudices that are often activated without conscious awareness (Dovidio, 2010). Consequently, such biases influence how we perceive and behave toward others and will lead to systematic and racially/ethnically biased profiling (Dovidio, 2010). This law also has the potential to erode trust and promote chronic states of fear among U.S. citizens and

documented immigrants because it perpetuates an anxiety that an individual might be unjustly stopped and questioned by law enforcement.

The APA Division of Trauma Psychology provides a forum for scientific research, professional and public education, and the exchange of collegial support for professional activities related to traumatic stress. By doing so, the Division facilitates a state-of-the-art response by psychologists and moves the understanding of trauma psychology forward. Therefore, the APA Division of Trauma Psychology supports the repeal of Arizona's S.B. 1070. We join with and support organizations and individuals working to raise awareness regarding this important issue and therefore offer our expertise and resources to state and federal policymakers. We also support federal efforts to enact comprehensive and humane immigration reform that will promote the mental health and well-being of our diverse society.

Breslau, J., Kendler, K., Su, M., Gaxiola-Aguilar, S., & Kessler, R. C. (2005). Lifetime risk and persistence of psychiatric disorders across ethnic groups in the United States. *Psychological Medicine*, *35*, 317-327.

Dovidio, John. Implicit Bias May Make Evenhanded Application of New Immigration Law Impossible, Psychologist Says. American Psychological Association, 2010.  
<http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2010/05/immigration-law.aspx>

Dohrenwend, B. P., Turner, J. B., Turse, N. A., Lewis-Fernandez, R., & Yager, T. J. (2008). War-related posttraumatic stress disorder in black, Hispanic, and majority white Vietnam veterans; The roles of exposure and vulnerability. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, *21*, 133-141.

Suarez-Orozco, Carola. In the best interest of our children: Examining our immigration enforcement policy. American Psychological Association, 2010.  
<http://www.apa.org/about/gr/issues/cyf/immigration-enforcement.aspx>

## **Early Career Psychologist Committee Report**

**Lisa DeMarni Cromer, Ph.D., Chair**

There are four ECP subcommittees and there are about 20 ECPs total on the various committees. Each subcommittee meets on Skype every two or three months in order to connect as a committee and update on any work that has been divided among the group members.

### **Chair's Goals & Accomplishments:**

My overarching goal for the ECP committee is to create an exciting and accessible place within the division for junior members to get connected to the larger division and ultimately to APA. I am trying to accomplish this by addressing needs members wrote about in the needs assessment survey, and by giving people a voice, a job, a role, or a connection within the division. So far, the subcommittees have served to help many ECPs get connected with new junior and senior colleagues. The committees, as you will read below, have been doing fantastic work at furthering concrete goals and a lot of work has been done with many helping hands. I hope to continue to increase the active involvement of members. Recently Rose Barlow has taken over the ECP listserv management for me, and she is now automatically putting new ECPs onto the listserv. This is working in terms of creating a direct communication with ECPs and more ECPs each month are getting involved with the division committees. I hope that as these subcommittees get on stronger footing that I can step down as chair of each of them, and move more ECPs into leadership roles. I hope that a year from now, each of these subcommittees will have its own chair.

We have had excellent support from the EC and senior members who are responded for calls for mentoring and for creating places for ECPs to get plugged in. I think we have excellent momentum and I am excited about the coming year's work! At the time of this update, I am in the process of matching up several ECPs with task force and division committees that have a spot for an ECP. Thank you for your support on ECP involvement.

### **1. Mentoring and professional development subcommittee:**

This committee is now meeting conjointly with the student mentoring committee in order for the ECPs to help mentor student members, and to work more efficiently toward common goals. We had our first joint meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>, and it went well.

#### **a. Accomplishments:**

1. In collaboration with the student committee, we have created a mentoring hour in the division suite at APA. We hope it is a success. Amber Douglas received a great response to her call to senior members about mentoring. We specifically sought mentors that can address different issues including: working at VAs, research, private practice, academia.
2. Rachel Reed, the student committee chair has worked with this committee and has designed and printed badges that identify ECPs and students. We hope this will help "break the ice" for junior people by encouraging senior members to say hello to ECPs and Students and to welcome them to APA.

3. ECP social hour in the division suite at APA. We hope to use this as an opportunity to develop peer mentoring relationships as well as to provide opportunities for finding possible collaborators.

**b. Goals:**

1. Because money is an obstacle to professional development. It is difficult for ECPs to attend conferences due to financial constraints and family demands. The committee is working creatively to find affordable alternatives to attending conferences. We hope to be offering web-based topical mentoring sessions twice in the upcoming academic year. We also hope that at some point in the future there could be an award or scholarship for helping to offset costs of attending the conference.
2. We hope to pilot vertical mentorship teams at some point in the future. The teams could include a student member, a recent graduate/new ECP, and more senior ECP, and a more established division 56 member who is beyond the ECP years. We suggest that the teams could meet twice a year either on skype/conference call or at a conference, with the hopes that dyadic relationships could naturally form and offer other support. The committee is willing to work to make this happen if we have the support of the EC.
3. We plan to continue to work on developing mentoring relationships within the division and are open to feedback, suggestions, ideas.
4. We hope that as the mentoring program takes shape and takes off that at some point in the future we can offer a mentoring award.

**c. Discussion point:**

In conjunction with the publication committee's topical articles in the newsletter, this committee would like to organize a Skype topical one hour meeting that dovetails on the newsletter topical article. The committee will recruit two senior psychologists to answer questions and talk about the topic with ECPs and students on the call.

**Questions:** (1) is there money to pay for a conference call for one hour, if skype is too difficult to orchestrate? and (2) are there any other issues we need to consider given that we want this to be an official division 56 event each time?

**2. Newsletter Publication subcommittee:**

**a. Accomplishment:**

We received positive feedback on the most recent article on grant writing tips. Judith Andersen and I have been successful at getting more ECPs involved by inviting them to write articles and we have been successful at recruiting senior psychologists to be interviewed for these articles. Up coming topics are:

Fall 2010: Job searching in the trauma field

Winter 2011: Research networking

Spring 2011: Balancing it all  
Summer 2011: How to get published.

**b. In Progress:**

1. We are developing a “dear aunt academe” column (specific name suggestions are welcome) which will appear in the ECP section of the division newsletter. ECPs and students will send in questions to Jean LaFauci Schutt and Rachel Reed (student committee) who will then solicit brief responses from senior division members.

**c. Goal:**

We plan to include an “ECPs Accomplishments” section in the newsletter in order to recognize ECPs within the division.

**3. Research networking subcommittee:**

**a. Accomplishments:**

1. Amber Douglas and Melissa Foynes are managing the writing club. On the first Friday of alternating months, they blind submissions for review and all individuals who want feedback on manuscripts (30 pages or less) provide blind feedback to a blinded manuscript.
2. In collaboration with Steve Gold, this committee is partnering senior authors to ECPs to provide writing opportunities for ECPs. These are authors who have manuscripts for the division journal and which can benefit from an additional author. This month three pairings have been made and we hope this program will grow.

**b. In Progress:**

1. The committee is working with Laura Brown to integrate a directory of members who are seeking/offering collaborations. Molly Fechter-Leggett, did a wonderful job of building the site, which is available at <https://sites.google.com/site/div56research/home> (but note it is password protected). Members can complete a template description of their research interests and search through other members’ descriptions. In addition to a summary of research interests, members are encouraged to include a list of resources they could offer a collaboration (e.g., skills, lab space, access to a human subjects pool), as well as resources they need (e.g., someone with grant writing experience, specific statistical skills).

**4. Membership subcommittee:**

**a. Accomplishments:**

1. We have updated the membership application to show the lower cost of membership for ECPs; we have promoted the discount in the newsletter; all new ECP members are automatically added to the ECP listserv which is now being managed by Rose Barlow.

**b. In Progress:**

1. Melissa Foynes has designed some products on [www.zazzle.com](http://www.zazzle.com) (e.g., mugs, bags) and has built a zazzle store for the division in order to promote division “branding” and identity. With approval from the membership chair and division chair, we hope to have this open to the public (and all division 56 members) before APA.

**c. Goals:**

1. work with the membership committee to send congratulations letters to graduating student members to retain them as ECPs
2. emailing schools with trauma programs and inviting junior faculty to join and also senior students who will be graduating
3. There were no nominees for the newly established ECP award this year, however the award was announced close to the nomination deadline. The committee will promote the award in the newsletter and on the listserv actively next year.

**d. Discussion Points:**

1. In addition to the Zazzle products, we wish that we could have division 56 pens or some other small give away so that when we meet with colleagues in our daily work, that we could be spreading the word about our awesome division and have a recruitment tool in our pockets that we could give them to keep (like a pen).
2. We also miss the hard copy of the newsletter, but we understand it’s expensive.

## **Education and Training Committee Report**

**Elana Newman, Ph.D., Chair**

1. Although at our February 18, 2010 meeting, we agreed to begin working on identifying what are key benchmarks for trauma training of grads and undergrads, our progress has been slow. We tried to recruit student representatives in February with no luck, but believe we will have more success now. We also sent out queries to ask Div 56 members for copies of syllabi and we received only a handful. If you have trauma-related course syllabi, please send to [elana-newman@utulsa.edu](mailto:elana-newman@utulsa.edu)
2. We also plan to design a survey of training goals of programs that include traumatic stress studies. We are looking for someone to chair this project as it appears while we are all interested, the current committee composition does not have someone who is able/willing to chair this work. If anyone is interested, please contact [elana-newman@utulsa.edu](mailto:elana-newman@utulsa.edu). We would like to have 2 committees: one for graduate psychology education and one for undergraduate psychology education.
3. Anne DePrince and Elana Newman are co-editing a special issue on Education and training. The call went out in May and manuscripts are due August 1, 2010.
4. Terri Weaver suggested that we understand more about the dissemination committee's goals and other Division 56 members' visions for the division about competencies, specialization, certification, etc. Elana Newman had several meetings with various Division 56 members (e.g. Joan Cook, Diane Elmore) to understand various Division 56 explorations into the matter. This evolved into Elana Newman assisting Joan Cook on a NIMH R13 submission on trauma psychology competencies that will involve members of both committees should it be funded.
5. Future articles to be submitted to the newsletter are in development.
6. Anne DePrince will continue to chair the updating of the undergraduate and doctoral sites [http://www.apatraumadivision.org/resources/apa\\_doctoral\\_sites.pdf](http://www.apatraumadivision.org/resources/apa_doctoral_sites.pdf).

**Mission.** The Education and Training Committee of Division 56 is concerned with all aspects of education and training at graduate and post-graduate levels related to psychological trauma, as well as issues of continuing professional development. It is formed with the belief that education and training at all levels of professional development are essential to the advancement of the field of traumatic stress and the benefit of those we serve, and to support excellence in the methods, content, and ethics of training and education. With help from Division 56 members, and as time permits, we will monitor the state of education and training related to traumatic stress, identify areas of need for development, and look for ways to help provide informational resources to Division members. We look forward to collaborating with other Division 56 committees to foster the cross-fertilization of ideas and perspectives that is necessary to education

and training. We are available to respond to issues that are identified by the Executive Council, and to initiate special projects for which a task force would be recruited. We will be responsible for authoring and/or soliciting summary articles for the Division newsletter and archived on the Division web site. "

**Composition.** The committee is currently composed of Elissa Brown [browne@stjohns.edu](mailto:browne@stjohns.edu), Heidi Ellis [heidiellis1@gmail.com](mailto:heidiellis1@gmail.com), Sandra Mattar [smattar@jfk.edu](mailto:smattar@jfk.edu), Elana Newman, [elana-newman@utulsa.edu](mailto:elana-newman@utulsa.edu), Anne DePrince [adeprince@psy.du.edu](mailto:adeprince@psy.du.edu), Carrie Rogers at [carie.rodgers@va.gov](mailto:carie.rodgers@va.gov), Dana Waters at [dwaters@argosy.edu](mailto:dwaters@argosy.edu) Terri Weaver [weavert@slu.edu](mailto:weavert@slu.edu) and Edward Varra [emvarra@gmail.com](mailto:emvarra@gmail.com).. Recently Helene Young [helena.young@va.gov](mailto:helena.young@va.gov), and Adam Brown [adb2004@med.cornell.edu](mailto:adb2004@med.cornell.edu) asked to beocme aprt of the committee. We have also worked with Rachel Reed to find graduate student representatives.

**Fellows Committee**  
**Charles Figley, Chair**

Since our last report in February, the following have occurred:

1. APA Membership and Fellows Committee have approved our Fellows candidates, Elana Newman and George Everly, whom you approved unanimously.
2. Laurie Ann Pearlman will assume the Chair of the Committee September 1  
Current members of the Fellows Committee who serve with me are Steve Gold, Member Kathy Kendall-Tackett, Mary Harvey, and Chair-designate, Laurie Pearlman.

It has been a pleasure serving as the first Fellows Chair of the Division and I am proud of our accomplishments, especially our developing Division criteria for APA Fellow status. I will continue on the Committee for a year or two or as long as Laurie needs me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Figley  
August 11, 2010

## **International Committee Report** **Kathryn Norsworthy, Ph.D., Chair**

**Purpose of Div. 56 International Committee (from website):** This committee insures that international issues are represented in division business and policies and fosters international collaboration and communication concerning trauma related issues.

The Division 56 International Committee has been focusing on the following goals since January 2009:

1. Assemble an active committee with representation from countries from the Global South and the Global North;
2. Increase internationally focused programming at upcoming APA conventions, including presenters from outside North America and the west;
3. Develop relationships with Division 52 (International) and other divisions of APA with international committees and sections;
4. Develop relationships with other organizations outside APA;
5. Begin discussion of ways to increase representation of the work of colleagues outside the west (Global North) in the trauma literature and particularly the publications of Division 56.
6. As a committee, explore other ideas and projects and develop action plans for implementation.

### **Regarding our continuing efforts to implement the above goals since the last report:**

1. We have continued to add members to our committee since the last report and expanded representation into East and Southeast Asia.
2. We have one confirmed symposium focusing on international trauma psychology at the upcoming APA (organized and chaired by Sandra Mattar). We submitted a second one but it was not accepted.  
On Friday from 3:00-3:50, we are sponsoring a suite Conversation Hour by Steve Little, New Zealand, focusing on helping children cope with trauma post-natural disaster.
3. We have members who will attend the joint Division 35 Global Issues/52 Committee on Women meeting during APA. We would like to see if we can collaborate on future projects.
4. Two of our student members (Jenny Escobar and Amy Wilter) are interviewing (via Skype) and writing newsletter articles about two of our international committee members from Latin America (Amanda Romero, Colombia and Sandra Baita, Argentina). Thanks to Topher Collier for your

collaboration on this project.

5. Because of our strong representation from Latin America, we are continuing to work on organizing a

Latin American special interest group.

6. The International Committee is scheduled to meet during APA on Friday from 2:00 – 2:50 in the suite.

7. Angeleque and Steve Little (New Zealand) are editing a special internationally-focused mini-series for

School Psychology International focusing on Children and Trauma. They have drawn some of their contributors and reviewers from the International Committee.

Any suggestions, information, and ideas from the EC are most welcome!!!!

**Liaison Committee Report**  
**Catherine Classen, PhD, CPsych, Chair**

**Liaisons confirmed for 2010**

Div 17, Society of Counseling Psychology – Laura Palmer  
Div 35, Society for the Psychology of Women – Juli Green  
Div 39, Psychoanalysis – Tamara Greenberg  
Div 44, Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues – David  
Pantalone  
Div 45, Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues –Nnamdi Pole  
Div 48, Peace – Judy Kuriansky  
APA Presidential Task Force on Caregivers – Joan Cook  
ISTSS – Diane Elmore  
ISSTD – Chris Courtois  
APA Committee on International Relations – Thema Bryant-Davis

**Liaisons pending for 2010**

Div 37, Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice –  
Div 38, Health Psychology –  
Div 42, Psychologists in Independent Practice  
Div 43, Society for Family Psychology  
IVAT

**Liaison requested, waiting for response**

Leadership Council – Joy Silberg  
Student member

**Other possible organizations, etc.**

CASAP  
SNAP (Survivor's Network of those Abused by Priests)  
Male Survivor: National Organization of Against Sexual Victimization  
National Coalition of Mental Health Professionals and Consumers  
Others I should add to the list?

**Listserv Report**  
**Rose Barlow, Listserv Manager**

Information Only

Current membership of each listserv as of July 14, 2010:

Div56: *409 Subscribers*

Div56ANNOUNCE (moderated by Rose Barlow): *1653 Subscribers*

Div56CHILDTRAUMA: *30 Subscribers*

Div56DISSOCIATION (managed by Harold Siegel): *62 Subscribers*

Div56EC: *59 Subscribers*

Div56ECPN (moderated by Rose Barlow, Lisa Cromer, and Carolyn Allard): *153 Subscribers*

Div56STU (moderated by Rose Barlow and Rachel Reed): *293 Subscribers*

Every quarter, APA sends a list of members to be added to the ANNOUNCE list, in order to make sure that new members get added automatically. We keep a list of people who have asked to never be added back on. I have added many new members in the past few months, and cleaned up quite a few bouncing or incorrect email addresses. Both ECPN and STU have moved to be moderated lists and have had nearly 200 new subscribers added between them, based on updated membership lists from APA. These lists are both good resources for getting students and early career members involved, and now they should be much more useful since they are so much more complete.

The incoming Executive Committee has been added to the EC list.

**Membership Committee Report**  
**Rochelle Coffey, Ph.D., Chair**

**Division 56 Membership January to June 2010**  
**Compared to same period in 2009**

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Associates	23	27
Members	825	829
Student Affiliates	297	179
Fellows	104	107
Affiliates	72	63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>1205</b>

Clearly the growing student membership category accounts for the growing membership in our division. If these students go on to join as members when they complete their degrees and if student interest continues the division will continue to grow. This year Laura Marques and Rachel Reed – two members of the student membership sub-committee have actively recruited new members

## **Practice Committee**

**Bethany Brand, Ph.D. & Chris Courtois, Ph.D., Co-Chairs**

### **Committee Members**

Chris Courtois (co-chair, outgoing)  
Bethany Brand (co-chair)  
Constance Dalenberg (co-chair, incoming)

Ann DePrince (outgoing)  
Mary Gail Frawley- O'Dea  
Philip Kinsler  
Marylene Cloitre

Steve Frankel  
Kelli Sanness  
Julian Ford  
Sylvia Marotta

### **Goals:**

- 1) Developing *treatment guidelines for complex trauma*, in conjunction with the ISST-D and with reference to the clinician survey of the ISTSS Complex Trauma Task Force co-chaired by Marylene Cloitre and Chris Courtois.
- 2) Participating in the revision and updating of the ISST-D *treatment guidelines for Dissociative Identity Disorder*.
- 3) Co-ordinating with Division 56 Science Committee to develop ways of informing clinicians about treatment approaches which are empirically supported or supported by expert consensus
- 4) Monitoring and involvement in the DSM V revision as it pertains to trauma-related diagnoses
- 5) Monitoring APA activities as they pertain to practice issues.
- 6) Coordinating with other organizations with an active interest in trauma and trauma practice for the purposed of information dissemination and lobbying, as appropriate.
- 7) Monitoring social activities and publications as they pertain to trauma and assisting in writing responses.
  - a. Involving members in a rapid response activity to publications.

### **Progress on ongoing projects:**

1. Developing Treatment Guidelines for Complex PTSD. Chris Courtois collected and reviewed the existing treatment guidelines and standards of practice for work with trauma and has published a preliminary set of guidelines with Julian Ford and Marylene Cloitre (2009). Chris Courtois, Bethany Brand, Constance Dalenberg, will work to identify additional experts to work on the development of treatment guidelines for complex PTSD. This will be done in collaboration with the ISSTD, pending approval of the Div. 56 EC.

2. Participating in the revision of Treatment Guidelines for Dissociative Identity Disorder. Bethany Brand, Chris Courtois, and Steve Frankel have been active in the effort to update the Treatment Guidelines for Dissociative Identity Disorder published by ISSTD. The goal is to have the updated Guidelines finalized by the end of 2010.
3. DSM V: Julian Ford has been quite active in the DSM V revision process. With other colleagues, he submitted two proposals for Complex PTSD and Developmental Trauma Disorder to the DSM V anxiety disorders working group. Marylene Cloitre is in contact with Dean Kilpatrick and Richard Bryant about DSM-V traumatic stress disorders field trials with adults. Marylene Cloitre, Julian Ford, and Judy Herman are advocating for inclusion of DESNOS features in any field trial study. Julian is also working with a group from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and is Primary Investigator along with Bessel van der Kolk of a field trial (funded separately by a consortium of foundations) of Developmental Trauma Disorder (childhood complex PTSD). Bethany Brand has been involved with ISSTD to help develop the proposed criteria for dissociative disorders for DSM V which were submitted to the anxiety disorders working group by David Spiegel.
4. NIHM sponsored conference on Complex PTSD – Chris Courtois and Bethany Brand have been invited to make a presentation at NIMH to NIMH intra-and extra-mural researchers on Complex trauma. It is tentatively scheduled for May 2010.
5. IVAT: Sylvia Marotta worked on the Summit on Interpersonal Violence/Think Tank held at the IVAT conference in San Diego and the upcoming Summit in Dallas.
6. Dissemination of Empirically and expert consensus supported treatments for trauma – Constance Dalenberg and Bethany Brand are co-ordinating with Brian Marx from Division 56 Science Committee to develop a Division 56 web page that will inform clinicians about treatment approaches, provide links to useful trauma site and free domain assessment measures. Will see if Assessment Committee wants to be involved with this effort.
7. Developing an APA Video in conjunction with the Education and Training Committee and the Dissemination Task Force of Division 56. Chris Courtois and Ann DePrince were beginning work on this and Joan Cook is following up on this.
8. Training and Publications: Various committee members have published trauma related books and articles, as well as conducted a number of training workshops. Previous discussion involved possibly writing an article for the American Psychologist on the evidence-based treatment of trauma.

9. Nominations, Fellowship, Awards, and Membership. The practice Committee will actively seek to nominate practice oriented colleagues for leadership positions, fellowship in the division, awards (APA-wide and Division 56) and will seek to increased division membership. We will particularly seek to involve Early Career Psychologists in committee activities and will seek diversity of membership in all activities.

## **Special Interest Group (SIG) Committee Report** **Stacey Seibel, Ph.D., Chair**

### **A) Updates Since Last Meeting:**

- Stephanie Machell ([stmachell@mindspring.com](mailto:stmachell@mindspring.com)) volunteered to serve as Chair for the Medical Trauma, Illness and Rehabilitation SIG. This means that all approved SIGs now have a Chair.
- Ricky Greenwald stepped down as the Chair of the Child and Adolescent Trauma SIG. Athena Drewes ([adrewes@astorservices.org](mailto:adrewes@astorservices.org)) has been appointed as the new Chair of the Child and Adolescent Trauma SIG.

### **B) Issues/Concerns:**

- Harold Siegel (Chair of the Dissociation SIG and Adult Survivors of Abuse SIG) has expressed concerns regarding an individual who is currently a Professional Affiliate of Division 56. This has raised an interesting question about what type of involvement is appropriate for a Professional Affiliate who does not have formal training in trauma work, therapy or a related field. Harold and I have discussed concerns as they have presented themselves. The individual has also periodically expressed frustration related to amount of SIG activity and her involvement in that activity.

### **C) Goals for the Next 6 Months:**

- Clarification of SIG goals and a discussion about how to most effectively accomplish those goals.
- There will be a SIG meeting at the upcoming 2010 APA convention in the Division 56 Hospitality Suite.
- Increased/improved collaboration among the different SIGs. Many of the SIGs are doing great work and I think it would be helpful for that work to be shared with the other SIGs. Right now each SIG is quite separate from one another.
- Continued effort to bring proposed SIGs to fruition. Currently there are several proposed SIGs that do not yet have enough interested members.

### **D) Individual SIG Semi-Annual Reports:**

- Dissociation SIG (Chair: Harold Siegel):
  - No new financial activities
  - Six new members this year
  - Discussed status of Professional Affiliate credentials with SIG coordinator

- Immediate plans:
  - Address status of present committee
  - Start work on an e-newsletter sometime shortly after APA
- Adult Survivors of Abuse SIG (Chair: Harold Siegel):
  - No financial activities
  - Emailed members announcing Harold Siegel would Chair on interim basis
  - No other activity
  - After APA, will email members to seek input on what they would like to see viz a viz the mission of this SIG and whether anyone wants to be Chair on a permanent basis. Question is whether division wants SIGs in “name only.”
- Post-Colonial Peoples SIG (Chair: Lisa Rey Thomas):
  - Nothing new to report
- Secondary and Vicarious Trauma SIG (Chair: Sara Maltzman)
  - The SIG has maintained its listserv and distributed items of interest to members over the past six months. SIG members were polled about their interest in maintaining the SIG and overwhelmingly re-affirmed their interest. SIG members also confirmed their interest in having a membership meeting at the 2010 APA annual convention. This meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 12, 2010 at 10AM in the Division 56 Hospitality Suite. At that time, the purpose and goals of the SIG will be reviewed, a sign-in sheet will be used to update membership contact information, and activities for the next year will be discussed. The opportunity for rotating the Chairship and appointing a new Chair will also be discussed.
- Child and Adolescent Trauma SIG (Chair: Athena Drewes)
  - The SIG has been inactive for this past year since APA 2009 with no activities or expenditures to report
  - Appointed Chair Ricky Greenwald stepped down as Chair recently citing lack of time commitment. In the interim, SIG Secretary Athena Drewes has become Acting Chair of the SIG with agreement from the remaining two Board members.
  - In the process of re-vitalizing the SIG in seeking a new member to the acting Board, and establishing an agenda to plan goals and objectives for expanding the SIG exposure and membership.
- Medical Trauma, Illness and Rehabilitation SIG (Chair: Stephanie Machell)
  - Chair put out a notice asking the SIG members for input, and received only one response.
  - Plan to write something up for the newsletter to try to revive interest, and hoping that works
  - No financial activities

- Disaster Related Trauma and Response SIG (Chair: Angeleque Akin-Little)
  - No activity to report

Thank you.

Stacey Seibel, PhD, LP  
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**Science Committee Report**  
**Brian Marx, Ph.D., Chair**

The Science Committee Membership is current Brian Marx (ch), Sonia Batten, Nancy Bernardy, Scott Coffey, & Michael De Arellano.

The committee provided feedback to the APA in response to the National Institutes of Health Notice **NOT-OD-10-055**, "Request for Information (RFI): To Solicit Input on Priorities for the NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet). Our feedback was included in APA's letter to the NIH (please see attached letter, page 3).

Brian Marx was also invited and agreed to attend the sixth annual Science Leadership Conference (SciLC), held in Washington, DC, on November 11-13, 2010 and hosted by the American Psychological Association's Science Directorate and Board of Scientific Affairs.

With respect to fostering a dialogue with the practice committee, Brian Marx, Bethany Brand and Constance Dalenberg, chairs of the Practice committee, continue to discuss a plan of action for possibly developing a website that could serve as a resource of practitioners interested in learning about evidence-based treatments for PTSD and other trauma-related disorders.



AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

750 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002-4242

February 19, 2010

William N. Elwood, Ph.D., OppNet Facilitator  
Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research  
National Institutes of Health  
Suite B1-C19 (MSC 2027)  
31 Center Drive, Room B1-C19  
MSC 2027

Bethesda, MD 20892-2027

Dear Dr. Elwood:

The American Psychological Association (APA) is pleased to respond to the National Institutes of Health Notice NOT-OD-10-055, "Request for Information (RFI): To Solicit Input on Priorities for the NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet). The APA, which has over 150,000 members, is the world's largest organization of scientific and professional psychologists. The APA commends the NIH leadership for establishing this program to enhance support of basic behavioral and social sciences research (Basic BSSR). OppNet support may seed new areas of research and re-seed formerly-supported areas with new approaches that may in turn advance NIH's mission-oriented work. In 2007, in response to NOT-OD-08-008, "Request for Information (RFI): To Solicit Input and Ideas on Priorities in Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences Research." APA voiced support for reinvigorating several areas of basic BSSR in which support by most NIH institutes had been reduced or eliminated. These areas still deserve renewed attention. They include:

- animal behavior research (both laboratory and field) that informs understanding of human mechanisms;
- individual, social, and cultural processes underlying personality, self, and identity;
- interpersonal interactions, close relationships, family processes, group processes, and social networks, across the lifespan and socio-cultural contexts;
- prejudice, discrimination, stigma;
- emotion regulation;
- higher-level reasoning, problem-solving, planning, and decision-making;
- attitudes and their relation to behavior.

Behavioral research in these areas is relevant to such public health concerns as: stress mechanisms and effects; individual and group differences in the features and course of behavioral and physical disorders; development of personalized

and culturally-appropriate interventions; behavior change and compliance; disease management; help-seeking, and health communications. Findings in many of these areas can also guide research on the biological substrates of behavior.

In addition, some research areas have never had clear homes within the NIH structure or have lost support as particular Institutes have redrawn their boundaries. These areas include:

- psychological and computational models of motor control;
- normal adult language and communication processes;
- psychometric research (for improved assessment of behavioral features of disorders);
- organizational, management, human factors, and communications research, relevant to the improvement of health care delivery;
- methodology and technology development.

While many of the most significant new projects within basic BSSR will be interdisciplinary, much can still be gained from research that works at a single level of analysis or utilizes single methods. An interdisciplinary research portfolio does not require that every individual project be interdisciplinary. The APA urges OppNet managers to assess each proposed project, whatever its theoretical or empirical approach, on the basis of the value of its expected results and how it complements other work in the portfolio.

APA experts have described to us several additional potential foci of OppNet support that we want to share. These concern cognitive-perceptual issues raised by computer aided diagnosis; basic research to shed light on trauma; assessment tools as alternatives to self-report; and understudied influences upon the initiation and maintenance of behavior change.

- **Clinical difficulties often shed light on the need for basic research. The increase in clinical use of computer-aided diagnosis (e.g. mammography) raises some important basic research questions.** Regarding false positives: how do humans use 'good' signals that are invalid a large percentage of the time? How do people use complex medical decision support? Are there ways to present information that avoid overloading fundamental cognitive processes like working memory? These are examples of a class of problems in which modern medicine creates cognitive/perceptual challenges. The basic science, relevant to many topics of this sort has not been established, in part, because the specific questions do not arise until one thinks about the applied medical problem and, in part, because MDs (et al) are a very limited resource as a subject population.
- **Clinician-scientists are also generating basic research questions that arise from the need to improve treatments for trauma victims.** One challenge is to understand whether there are specific neural or neurocognitive mechanisms associated with major traumatic brain injury that influence the formation and retrieval of traumatic memories, emotion

regulation in response to the traumatic event, or the ability to implement adaptive coping techniques. Another challenge is to identify biomarker changes associated with psychosocial treatment, an area of research that could have significant implications for many conditions and illnesses. Identifying individuals who may be vulnerable to chronic adjustment difficulties in the aftermath of trauma exposure before those difficulties are manifested is a third challenge. Scientists who study post-traumatic stress suggest that opportunities may include theoretically-driven combination family and genetic studies of PTSD and its comorbidities, and theoretically driven studies of resilience.

- **A pressing challenge in behavioral science research is to develop a multi-method, multi-informant framework for measuring behavior as an alternative to self-report.** This includes devising and refining methods to measure behavior itself, not simply reports of behavior. We need conceptual models that characterize the sources of information and provide researchers with a framework for understanding what it means for an **individual** to have distinct patterns of convergence across methods and what it means to have distinct patterns of divergence across methods.

The assessment of child psychopathology offers a good opportunity to develop such a framework, given that there is already a tradition of using multiple methods of measurement (typically via multi-informant assessment from child, mother, father, and teacher) and of struggling to make sense out of discrepant data. Part of what is needed is moving away from just asking questions of different informants to developing taxonomies of behavioral observation – either in controlled lab situations (akin to the Strange Situation) or in field settings (e.g., with a device that records movements and captures snippets of audio or video). Other suitable targets would include a medical risk screening context, where there is now relatively little multi-method assessment but the disparity between what patients say about their risk behaviors vs. what they actually do may be substantial and have dramatic consequences for modeling outcome and understanding risk.

In the child arena, the merits of the effort could be measured by evaluating the increment in understanding or conceptualizing individual children relative to a LEAD standard (Longitudinal Expert evaluation of All Data). In the risk screening context, success could be measured by evaluating the increment in the ability to predict the relevant health outcome.

- **Given the ubiquity of health-related behaviors (e.g. smoking, diet, exercise, substance use, sexual behavior) in the etiology of many causes of disease morbidity and mortality, effectively addressing the nation's public health goals requires understand factors influencing how individuals think about and self regulate behavior.** Our understanding of these factors in the health behavior context is limited in

ways that hamper our ability to effectively intervene to encourage healthier behavioral patterns. There are a number of specific challenges related to this overall understanding which could be informed by basic behavioral and social sciences research. First, the predominant focus in health-related work on behavioral decision making has been on the role of rational, cognitively-based factors in decision making (e.g., the weighting of risks and benefits of various behavioral alternatives). This focus is true of both basic research on health decision making (e.g., the focus on decisional balance in the trans-theoretical model) and in intervention development (e.g., the use of decision aids to better elucidate important risks and benefits). This rational, cognitive focus leaves out numerous other influences on decision making and behavioral regulation. For example, research in other areas of the behavioral sciences has shown that feelings/emotions play a central role in how people think and act. This focus has not been well integrated into work on health decision making and this lack of focus limits our ability to effectively address behavioral issues of importance for public health.

Second, although biopsychosocial and ecological models suggest that factors at multiple levels of analysis can influence behavior and even though there is research demonstrating that biological (e.g., hunger, addiction), psychological (e.g., attitudes, self-efficacy), and environmental (e.g., social and physical features of neighborhoods) can all influence health behaviors, there is very little research that examines the interplay of these factors and which seeks to understand how they jointly operate to influence behavior. For example, how does an environmental feature (e.g., lack of availability of fruits and vegetables in stores) influence a psychological factor (e.g., self-efficacy for dietary change) and vice versa? Do various ways of considering the interplay of the two account for more variance in behavior than does either alone? Lack of attention to these questions both hampers advancement of the basic science of health behavior and limits the potential routes through which intervention approaches might be targeted to encourage healthier behavioral patterns.

There are both research and training opportunities relevant to meeting these challenges. From a research perspective, there are bodies of research and currently active researchers addressing various components identified in the challenge (e.g., there are researchers examining affective influences on decision making in contexts other than health; there are programs of research independently addressing various levels of influence on decision making). The key opportunity lies in creating funding opportunities which encourage development of team science to address the integration of these various perspectives. Understanding the basic psychological processes through which, for example, cognitive and affective influences on behavior interact and jointly operate to influence

behavior or through which biological and psychological processes reciprocally influence one another requires team science approaches to bring together and integrate expertise in various decision making components.

From a training perspective, an issue with translation of basic social behavioral sciences research to health-related areas is that individuals who are trained in the social and behavioral sciences have little or no knowledge of health and health domains and individuals focusing on the practicalities of behavior and behavior change in the health context have little formal understanding of the social and behavioral sciences. Creating training opportunities to bridge these gaps would create a body of basic behavioral/social scientists who appreciate the research issues of relevance in the health domain and a core of health scientists with sufficient understanding of the basic behavioral/social sciences to conduct relevant research. Such training opportunities would enhance the ability of the scientific community to more rapidly translate basic social and behavioral sciences research into health interventions and to use health-related findings to inform and enhance social and behavioral sciences research.

The long term outcome indicators of success in meeting these challenges would be: a) an increase in the variance in behavior accounted for by state of the art health decision making models (given that research progress should lead to new and better understanding of factors influencing behavioral decision making); and b) increased efficacy of behavior change interventions, given the translation of health decision making models into theory-based intervention designs. More proximal measures would include assessment of the number of publications and number of successful grant applications addressing non-cognitive factors in health decision making and explicitly addressing multilevel influences on health decision making.

Many thanks for taking the time to get input from OppNet's external stakeholders. On behalf of APA I offer continued support of this initiative, and willingness to help in any way to make OppNet a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven J. Breckler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven J. Breckler, PhD

## **Student Affairs Committee Report**

**Rachel Reed, M.A., Chair**

My overall objective as Chair of the Student Affairs Committee has been to increase student involvement in the Student Section and the larger Division. Some movement has been made towards this goal through improved communication with student members and collaboration and guidance from the Early Career Psychologists and Division leadership.

### **Integrating students**

After a fruitful conversation with Laura Brown and Steve Gold regarding the role of students and how to better integrate students within the Division, an initiative was developed to include at least one student member on every division committee. The response from committee chairs to this initiative has been very positive. The Student Section is preparing to offer these opportunities to student members.

### **Improving communication**

#### ***Listserv –***

In light of the low subscription rate to the student listserv and after consultation with division leadership, the decision was made to make listserv subscription an “opt out” membership benefit. All students have been added to the Student Listserv (300+ members) and were supplied with instructions as to how to unsubscribe from the list should they so choose. To ensure that the listserv will be a useful tool for all, the list will be moderated. This listserv will be used to communicate with student members about Division news and student-specific information. We also hope that students will utilize the listserv to share information and network with one another. The listserv will also serve as a means to offer opportunities to students, including involvement in the Student Section and general 56 committees. The Student Section will regularly submit material to the listserv that may be of interest to student members. In response to a welcome e-mail, 25 students expressed interest in becoming more involved in the Student Section.

#### ***Student survey –***

Now that we have access to all student members through the listserv, we plan to develop and administer a survey to all student members. We hope this survey will give us a better sense of our members and help us to develop initiatives to meet their needs.

### **Collaboration**

The students and ECPs have been working together on mentoring issues and are cosponsoring a mentoring hour at the APA. We are also planning joint newsletter submissions on mentoring related topics. This collaboration has been a productive way to join forces and get things done.

### **Current subcommittee members and activities**

The Student Affairs Committee will continue to focus its efforts on the following objectives as outlined by the Student Section Subcommittees:

#### **Publications** - Nathan Moon, Tara Samples

- Rationale – The Student Section has a tradition of regularly including student-authored material in the Division Newsletter. Student participation in the Newsletter serves as a valuable means of encouraging student participation in the Division, providing a collective voice for student members, and demonstrating the Division’s commitment to students.
- **Goal** – The Student Section will have a student publication included in each edition of the Trauma Psychology Newsletter. We have developed a scheduled rotation of articles to include a Student Spotlight (see the Spring/Summer issue for this edition’s Student Spotlight), a student-specific informational piece (e.g., applying to a trauma-focused clinical internship, interface of social justice and trauma work), and a highlight of student research.

#### **Membership** - Shereen Naser, Laura Marques

- Rationale – In conjunction with the goals of the overall division, the Student Section seeks to encourage new student members and the retention of current student members. Student members play an important role in the continued growth and vitality of the division.
- **Goals** – The Student Section will:
  - 1) Work to improve communication with current student members
    - a. Maintain listserv enrollment and involvement
    - b. Survey members to establish student barriers to membership and involvement
  - 2) Work to increase membership
    - a. Continue to maintain a database of APA-accredited Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychology doctoral programs
    - b. Provide these programs will information regarding Division 56 and opportunities for student members
  - 3) Plan for membership activities at the “meet-and-greet” to be held at the annual APA convention. These activities will encourage new student members and foster enhanced connectedness among current student members. We are also working on maximizing time at APA in other ways to get students to sign up for the division through APAGS events.

#### **Mentorship** - Claudette "Claudia" Antuña

- Rationale – In August 2008, the Division 56 Student Section Mentorship Subcommittee launched the Student Mentorship Program. This program was initiated in efforts to assist in the cultivation of mutually enriching and beneficial relationships between student members and full Division 56 members. Despite these efforts and interest on the part of students, it has proved difficult to thus far generate sufficient interest on the part of non-student members. The Student

Affairs Committee remains committed to the spirit and potential value of this program as a vehicle to foster an enhanced sense of connectedness between student members and full members.

- **Goals** – The Student Section will: 1) work to further assess the wants/needs/hopes/concerns of both student members and full members with regards to mentoring; 2) collaborate with other divisions and organizations which have developed successful mentoring programs; and 3) continue to collaborate with the Early Career Psychologists Committee of Division 56 to address the mentoring needs of all members. Specifically, the students and ECPs are co-sponsoring several activities, including a Mentoring Conversation Hour at APA, a Skype-held topical mentoring discussion, and a “Dear Abby” type column for the newsletter to answer questions from students and ECPs.

I welcome feedback and suggestions from the EC. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Reed, M.A.

## **Dissemination Task Force Report**

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**Joan M. Cook, Ph.D., Chair**

Yale School of Medicine and National Center for PTSD

- We submitted and had a continuing education (CE) workshop accepted for presentation at the 2010 Annual APA Meeting entitled, "Working with Adult Trauma Survivors: What Every Practitioner Should Know." Apparently, it was a very competitive year for selection, with two-thirds of submissions not accepted for presentation. If the workshop is well-received, we hope to work with APA's Education Directorate's CE Office to develop it into a CE online.

- The APA Practice Directorate graciously agreed to add two items for us to a survey they deployed in September 2010. One item was an estimation of how much clinical work practicing psychologists have engaged in with traumatized clients over the past 12 months, and the second item was psychologists' perceived need to develop greater expertise in providing services to traumatized clients. We received preliminary results from the Practice Directorate and hope to work with them to disseminate these findings. In brief, 1,973 invitations were sent and APA received 217 completed surveys, a low 11% response rate. The mean number of hours spent working with trauma survivors over the past month was 14. Almost 64% of the sample expressed interest in participating in educational endeavors to learn more about trauma.

- The Task Force members have discussed the development of a Division 56 book series. These would consist of single monographs on given topics and probably additionally as a comprehensive text. We plan to meet with APA staff at Convention to discuss next steps.

- In meeting with key APA staff, namely Dr. Catherine Grus, Associate Executive Director, Professional Education and Training, we are focusing our efforts on a couple long-term goals, including development of recommended education and training guidelines for graduate students and development of practice guidelines for existing practitioners. As an intermediary step we are trying to secure federal and foundation funding for a national consensus conference on core competencies (knowledge, skills and attitudes) that psychology practitioners should have to work with trauma survivors.

**Task Force on Diversity Report**  
**Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, Ph.D., Chair**

Members: Priscilla Dass-Brailsford (Co-chair)

Sandra Mattar, Psy.D. (Co-chair)

Cinthya Chin Herrera

Katherine Burns

Koko Nishi

Melodi Wynne

Julii Green

We currently have 7 members representing diverse ethnic and rural/urban backgrounds. Held one teleconference call so far and hope to continue tele-meeting on a monthly basis. Discussed several projects we hope to work on this year:

1. Expanding membership and collaborating with other Div 56 committees.
2. Concerns raised – support for doctoral students working in trauma field; especially at institutions lacking in diversity – we will explore some ideas on how to resolve this situation.
3. Focus on increasing diversity in training, research, curricula and practice areas.
4. We will work towards doing a presentation at next Convention
5. Develop a resource list that can be added to the Div 56 web-site; each member will send about 5 resources to Priscilla by the end of August.
6. Development of a mission statement.

## **Task Force on Interpersonal Violence Prevention Report**

**Sylvia A. Marotta, Ph.D., Chair**

The primary purpose of this task force is to serve as Division 56 Liaison to the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence (NPEIV). The task force was begun by Bob Geffner during his Division 56 Presidency year, and thus far as the chair of the task force, I have been involved in planning and implementing two summit meetings and two think tanks.\* The NPEIV is the partnership that has evolved since the initial summit meeting was held in 2008, and now includes almost 200 participants and over 100 collaborating agencies, with various APA divisions, government agencies, and other professional associations serving as co-sponsors. A fifth event, a think tank being held prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma in San Diego, CA, will occur on Sept. 11, 2010, at the Town & Country Hotel.

Since the last task force report, the second Summit on Violence and Abuse in Relationships was held in Dallas, Texas on February 24-26 with a theme of *Interpersonal Violence and Abuse across the Lifespan: Forging a Shared Agenda*. A full report of the activities of the summit appeared in the Spring/Summer 2010 issue of Trauma Psychology Newsletter. I served as a program co-chair for this meeting, developing guidelines for reviewing and then conducting the actual reviews. During 2010, I am on the dissemination and translation working group, and was on the public awareness working group during 2009. For more specific information about the projects being developed by the working groups, visit the website at <http://www.uncg.edu/psy/npeiv>

In May, I contributed an entry for the Figley Encyclopedia of Trauma; the topic is *Blaming the Victim*.

**Discussion and Action:** Since task forces are appointed by the division president, and the division did not provide financial support for the February 2010 Summit, do we want to continue the collaboration/task force?

\*I had an early career psychologist as co-chair for a portion of 2008.

## **Task Force on Trauma Psychology and Social Justice Report**

**Amber N. Douglas, Ph.D., Chair**

### **Update**

#### *Recruitment:*

The task force grew by two members; Carl Auerbach and Renu Aldrich (student member) joined the Task Force bringing the total membership to six. Continuing members are Amber Douglas, Pei Yi Lin, Sandra Mattar, and Gilbert Reyes.

#### *Data collection*

We were quite pleased with the response to our online survey on social justice and trauma psychology. We began recruitment in mid- March and continued until late May. The survey link was sent to a variety of APA divisions and national and international organizations with invested interest in social justice and trauma psychology. One hundred and thirty six participants participated in the survey; about 60% were members of APA. We have completed data analysis on the quantitative items and are in the midst of examining the open-ended questions. Preliminary analysis revealed a variety of themes that will be helpful in articulating the challenges and successes of implementing social justice work within trauma psychology (and vice versa).

#### *Meeting*

The task force had one meeting in June to discuss the next reasonable steps after the survey completion. Through this discussion, the task force members agreed to embark on a second phase of data collection using a “key informant” strategy. Members of the task force identified a variety of individuals or organizations who have a history of engagement in social justice work within and outside of trauma psychology. Our hope is that these responses will supplement our initial survey findings.

### **Next Steps**

#### *Key Informant Data Collection*

Email invitations have been sent to our list of key informants. We hope to have responses by late July early August.

#### *Final Analysis*

Analysis of the survey responses will be complete in the next few weeks. We will refine the list of themes which emerged through the first passes of coding and quantify the frequency particular themes emerge across responses.

#### *Develop Products*

In part, our charge was to develop products that described and advocated social justice work within trauma psychology. We are working toward these goals and will propose a special edition of *Psychological Trauma* focusing on social justice. Similarly, we plan on proposing specific convention programming for August 2011. We imagine that the programming will focus on barriers to implementation of social justice principles within a variety of settings while the call for papers is more likely to focus on “best practices”.

