

President's Message

It is an honor to be the 2009 President of Division 37. This is the 31st year that the members of the *Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice* have been advocating on behalf of children and families at both the policy and practice level. This has been done within APA by bringing child and family issues to the forefront (e.g., helping establish the important standing Committee on Child Youth and Families) and working with other divisions and the Council of Representatives to advocate for children and families at the local, national and international level. For example, members have testified on Capitol Hill in support of funding for important bills such as the *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act* and they have taken the lead in planning Summits on Interpersonal Violence and Child Mental Health as well as continue to publish in diverse journals and the public media.

Patrick Tolan, 2008 President, and the 2008 board members are to be commended for their many accomplishments. This year the Society will continue to focus on many important issues including advocacy training, science-based approaches to prevention and early intervention, interpersonal violence and childhood trauma, children's mental health policy, dissemination of evidence-based practices, and issues of diversity in child mental health. I would also like to add initiatives on the training and financial issues of integrating psychologists into primary care and the use of telecommunications in practice and supervision, areas that are certain to have an impact on the availability of child and family mental health prevention and treatment programs. These themes are reflected in the 2009 Convention and/or are part of interdivisional/divisional task forces as well as Division members' participation in APA committees.

The Society took a major leap forward in establishing a collaborative relationship with the Society of Child and Adolescent Psychology (Division 54) to include a regular Policy Section on Children and Families in the *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology* (JCCAP). Patrick Tolan is the Associate Editor of this new section and members are strongly encouraged to submit articles (see the announcement in the spring 2009 issue of *The Advocate*). Beginning this year, all of the Society's members will receive JCCAP (at no additional cost) so be sure to look for the new Policy Section!

Early Career Psychologists represent the future of psychology and are of great importance in continuing the Society's advocacy and practice efforts of behalf of children and families. To encourage these efforts the Society established the Diane J. Willis Early Career Award through the American Psychological Foundation (APF). The award was aptly named after Dr. Willis given her years of advocating for underserved children and families, her pioneering work on behalf of children who are maltreated, and the many students and young psychologists she continues to mentor. The Award will be given when we have a base sum of \$50,000 in trust at APF. We currently have approximately \$35,000 toward that goal and would greatly appreciate your donations. These can be made to American Psychological Foundation for the Willis Award and sent to Lisa Strauss at APF, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242.

In April 2009, you will receive a ballot to amend the Society's By-Laws to include an Early Career Psychologist Member-at-Large position on the board. This will ensure that the issues facing psychologists early in their careers can be supported within the Society and APA. This position also recognizes the important role early career psychologists have in advancing the goals of the Society.

The Committee on Child, Youth and families (CYF) continues to play an important role in advancing the health and well-being of children and families. Our website will soon have a direct link to the CYF website and I encourage you to use it to access the many reports and materials available through CYF. The 2008 Presidential Task Force on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Trauma in Children and Adolescents developed an excellent set of materials including a 16-page booklet for mental health professionals, a practical tip sheet, and a policy briefing sheet. Go to <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/homepage.html> to view these and other interesting materials. The CYF office will mail hard copies of their reports, etc. to you.

Interested in becoming more involved in the Society's work? There are a number of ways to be involved beyond reading *The Advocate*, the new Policy and Practice section in JCCAP, and going to the Division 37 programs at APA. You could write an article for *The Advocate*, for example, that focuses on family relationships and children living in at-risk environments with recommendations on what can be done for these families and children. These are generally short articles (6 pages double spaced) and can give members important information. The articles are reviewed so it is good to get them in well in advance of the submission deadlines (Feb 1, June 1, and October 1). Kamala London is the Editor klondon@utnet.utoledo.edu. You could also write an article for the Society sponsored Policy and Practice section of the JCCAP by sending articles to Patrick Tolan ptolan@psych.uic.edu.

The Division is closely involved with the work of the APA Public Policy Advocacy Network (PPAN) which is a combined effort of the Government Relations Offices of the Science, Public Interest and Education Directorates. The Public Policy Advocacy Network offers a means for psychologists to learn about relevant public policy initiatives and advocate for their discipline. If interested, PPAN provides you with the information and logistical support to make your efforts successful. When you sign up you get periodic updates electronically on major policy developments on critical issues. Visit their website at <http://www.apa.org/ppo/ppan/aboutppan.html> and sign up! There are also training sessions on advocacy given by the PPAN, which includes going to the Hill to advocate for a bill. It is worthwhile! Sign up today and let them know you are a Division 37 member!

You could also be nominated to serve on one of the APA standing committees. If you are interested in serving on any of the committees, please let me know and I will forward your name in the next round of nominations. You could also self nominate for positions on the Division board. The call for nominations comes out in the fall of each year - see *The Advocate* for the notice. Finally, I strongly encourage you to come to the annual Business Meeting at the APA convention in Toronto (Friday, August 7 at 3:00 p.m.).

Brief Biography of Carolyn Schroeder:

Carolyn S. Schroeder, Ph.D., ABPP is a retired clinical child and pediatric psychologist who currently is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Kansas in the Clinical Child Program. She previously held appointments in the Departments of Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her clinical and research interests have focused on the types of psychological services, training and research that can be done in primary health care settings. Throughout her

career she has trained psychology graduate students, interns and post-doctoral fellows as well as other health care professionals including pediatric and psychiatry residents and medical students. Publications include three co-authored books (*Assessment and Treatment of Childhood Problems: A Clinicians Guide, Editions 1&2; Sexuality: A Developmental Approach to Problems*), one co-edited book (*Encyclopedia of Clinical Child Psychology and Pediatric Psychology*), and numerous book chapters and articles. She is a Fellow of APA (Divisions 12, 33, 37, 53, and 54) and is currently a member of the APA Committee on Rural Health.