Fulfilling APA’s commitment to apply the science and practice of psychology to the fundamental problems of human welfare and social justice and the promotion of equitable and just treatment of all segments of society through education, training, and public policy.

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This report, including links to additional information about our activities, is available online at www.apa.org/pi.
Members often tell me that it’s the public interest issues that draw them to APA, and keep them here. I can certainly empathize—it’s a heady feeling to look back over decades and see, slowly but surely, the tremendous impact of Public Interest’s work unfold on behalf of psychology.

“Headlines” for some of our successes this past year—promoting health and reducing health disparities; championing social justice, diversity, and human rights; serving our members; and advocating on behalf of you, our members—are in the following pages.

We also welcomed Lauren Fasig, JD, PhD, as the new director of the Children, Youth, and Families Office. She brings extensive knowledge and expertise in this area.

In 2012, the Committee and Office on SES celebrated 5 years of promoting attention among psychologists to the scientific understanding of the roles of socioeconomic status and poverty in health, education, and human welfare.

I note here with great sadness the death of Dr. John Anderson in September. He served APA for many years, initially as assistant director for the AIDS Community Training Project, predecessor to the current HOPE Program, and since 1994 as senior director of the Office on AIDS. He moved mountains in the long and continuing fight against a terrible disease. His innovation, creativity, commitment, and dedication will be sorely missed.

I invite you to learn more. And if something here piques your interest, surprises you, or generates questions or ideas, please feel free to contact any of us for more information.

- Visit www.apa.org/pi and individual office websites
- Subscribe to our newsletter, In the Public Interest (email gwolridge@apa.org)
- Follow my Twitter feed—@DrGwenPKeita
- Forward PI ecards to interested friends and colleagues (email gwolridge@apa.org): http://www.apa.org/pi/e-card
- Like APA’s Facebook page
- Like the PI Facebook pages—ACT Raising Safe Kids, SESRC, EP Program (Effective Providers for Child Victims of Violence), and BSSVProgram
- Follow the PI blog when it launches in February 2013—Psychology Benefits Society at www.psychologybenefits.org (in the meantime, email Efua Andoh)

Gwendolyn P. Keita, PhD
Executive Director
Public Interest Directorate

It’s a heady feeling to look back over decades and see, slowly but surely, the tremendous impact of Public Interest’s work unfold on behalf of psychology.
Promoting Health and Reducing Health Disparities

Launched in 2012, the APA Health Disparities Strategic Initiative supports research, training, public education, and interventions that improve health and reduce health disparities among underserved and vulnerable populations. In December, 80 representatives from government, academia, and nonprofit groups met to address reducing tobacco use in high-priority populations.

The Summit on Obesity in African American Women and Girls, conceptualized by Association of Black Psychologists President Cheryl Tawede Grills, PhD, and 2012 APA President Suzanne Bennett Johnson, PhD, was held in October in Washington, DC.

Over 600 proposals were received for the May 2013 Work, Stress, and Health Conference. The planning committee met in early December to make final acceptance decisions and begin construction of the conference program.

Council adopted the Resolution on Combination Behavioral and Biomedical Approaches to Optimize HIV Prevention, which was cited in presentations by key government officials overseeing the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

The Children, Youth, and Families Office coordinated APAs participation in the Speak Up for Kids Campaign in May, in conjunction with National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week.

The Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs launched the Ethnicity and Health in America Series to raise public awareness of the health concerns of people of color.

The Socioeconomic Status Related Cancer Disparities Program (SESRCD) facilitated eight workshops to provide community-based organizations (CBOs) with an overview of evidence-based research and practice. SESRCD awarded $29,284 in mini-grants to CBOs to support projects aimed at reducing cancer disparities.

The Minority Fellowship Program’s Recovery to Practice project team developed a 15-module training to integrate recovery-based principles into psychology programs. Nearly 30 programs have asked to pilot the modules during the 2012–2013 academic year.

The Violence Prevention Office launched the ACT Raising Safe Kids program in Brazil with a 2-day facilitator training for 23 psychologists and graduate students in a partnership with the Federal University at São Carlos and the University of São Paulo School of Medicine at Ribeira Preto.

The HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program recruited and trained 47 new volunteer trainers. In addition, 11 trainers were certified to train the Ethical Issues & HIV/AIDS curricula.

The Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer Program delivered direct support and training to more than 75 CBOs. A 3-day training on the integration of mental health, substance abuse, and HIV prevention and care was delivered to more than 300 CBO staff in seven cities.

The Women’s Programs Office released a consumer brochure on intimate partner violence.
We produced and released the report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Preventing Discrimination and Promoting Diversity, Dual Pathways to a Better America, which was established by 2011 APA President Melba J.T. Vasquez, PhD, and has had nearly 2,700 Web visits since its release mid-year through December.

We produced and released the report of the APA Presidential Task Force on Immigration, Crossroads: The Psychology of Immigration in the New Century, which was established by 2011 APA President Melba J.T. Vasquez, PhD, and has had over 4,300 Web visits from April through December.

Dr. Vasquez, with Drs. Suárez-Orozco, Birman, and Tummala-Narra, held a congressional briefing on the Task Force on Immigration report as part of Mental Health Month in May.

The Women’s Programs Office conducted National Science Foundation–funded research on the participation of women with disabilities in STEM education, culminating in a groundbreaking workshop held at Gallaudet University.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office supported development of a substantial track of programming on LGBT concerns at the 30th International Congress of Psychology 2012.

In February, 1 postdoctoral and 17 predoctoral psychology applicants were selected as new fellows for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Fellowship. Nearly 30 currently funded fellows attended the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) MFP Conference.

The Minority Fellowship Program hosted the 10th annual Psychology Summer Institute in Washington, DC, in July. Twenty-three predoctoral, postdoctoral, and early career participants, including 3 grantees from the ProDIGS program of the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs, received professional mentoring on their projects, career development training, and assistance with technical skills (e.g., grant writing) and publishing.

Working with CEMRRAT2 (the Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention, and Training in Psychology Task Force), the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs disbursed implementation grant funds to eight projects and four partnership development initiatives.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office continued to implement an Arcus Foundation grant to build the capacity of the Psychological Society of South Africa and of the Psychological Association of the Philippines to support LGBT human rights.

TOP LEFT: MFP Director Andrew Austin-Dailey introduces the 2012–2013 cohort of fellows to the MFP community at their social hour during the 2012 APA convention in Orlando, FL.

TOP RIGHT: Caroline Solomon, PhD (left), Shari E. Miles-Cohen, PhD, and M. Dolores Cimini, PhD, members of the organizing committee for the Women With Disabilities in STEM Education (WWDSE) Research Agenda Development Project.

MIDDLE: Sinead Younge, a participant in the MFP Psychology Summer Institute, presents her poster to colleagues and mentors during the institute’s 2012 poster session in Washington, DC.

BOTTOM: Committee on Women in Psychology member Julie L. Williams, PsyD, CRC, ABPP (RP), attending the WWDSE Experts Workshop meeting.
 Fifty-one midcareer women psychologists participated in the fifth annual APA Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology. LIWP alumna now number almost 170.

The Disability Resource Room provided readers, interpreters, wheelchairs, canes, diskettes or CD-ROM of the program, and other resources to nearly 90 persons with disabilities attending the 2012 APA convention. Nearly 50 volunteers assisted the staff.

The Disability Issues in Psychology Office launched DART, the online DisABILITY Resources Toolbox, providing information about legal obligations, accommodation strategies, data, best practices, and other resources to psychology training directors and faculty to better support students with disabilities.

The Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs coordinated the selection of three 2012 awardees of ProDIGs grants to early career faculty at minority-serving institutions.

The Office and Committee on Aging updated the Elder Abuse & Neglect: In Search of Solutions and the Life Plan for the Life Span brochures.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office arranged translation into Spanish of two APA public information brochures: Answers to Your Questions for a Better Understanding of Sexual Orientation and Homosexuality and Answers to Your Questions About Transgender People, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (online in early 2013).

In a joint venture with the American Psychiatric Association and the National Association of Social Workers, the HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program designed the Interdisciplinary Approach to HIV and Mental Health online CE course.

HOPE also produced the HIV and Personality Disorders online CE course.

The Violence Prevention Office conducted a one-day CE workshop—Effective Providers for Child Victims of Violence—at the 2012 APA convention in Orlando.

A CE workshop based on the Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation report was also conducted at the convention. The recorded version of the workshop is available on the APA CE website.
In 2012, the Public Interest Government Relations Office advocated on behalf of psychology and our members across a wide array of issues:

- Disseminated the findings of a key Institute of Medicine study, *The Mental Health and Substance Use Workforce for Older Adults: In Whose Hands*, through a press release, congressional briefing, and federal advocacy.

- Secured the participation of expert APA member Dewey Cornell, PhD, at the August Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention 2012 Summit.

- Worked in support of Senate ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, including a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and three action alerts sent through APA’s Public Policy Advocacy Network (PPAN) to encourage members to contact their senators and urge them to support the convention.

- Provided advocacy trainings to members of APA’s Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs and attendees at the Minority Fellowship Program’s Psychology Summer Institute, which were followed by meetings with Congress in support of the Minority Fellowship Program.

- Led a panel discussion in August at a Health and Human Services regional meeting on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, highlighting APA’s resolution on combination approaches.

- Verified in February that a reissued National Institutes of Health program announcement contained an increased focus on LGBT populations, largely fulfilling APA’s goals for follow-up on the recent Institute of Medicine report *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People*.

- Secured the testimony of George Ake III, PhD, and David Rudd, PhD, ABPP, at a February hearing of the Health Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs titled “Building Bridges Between VA and Community Organizations to Support Veterans and Families.” Advocated in April for funding for SAMHSA programs to support mental health and substance abuse services for homeless individuals and families, as part of SAMHSA Homeless Partners.

- Spearheaded numerous advocacy activities in support of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, including support letters to Congress, action alerts asking members of PPAN to contact Congress, and an advocacy training for members of APA’s Committee on Women in Psychology, followed by visits to congressional district offices.

- Directed and administered the APA Congressional Fellowship Program, which entered its 39th year.
From Karen F. Wyche, PhD, 2012 Chair, Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest:

Issues of social justice and public interest were ingrained in the fabric of my early childhood experiences and continue today, shaping my determination to engage in the fight against discrimination and stigma and to advocate for human rights. I wanted to understand how research could be used to help people and to change social policy. It is not surprising that within APA I am drawn to the issues that define the Public Interest Directorate. Becoming chair of the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI) this year offered the opportunity to work with colleagues to forge ahead and tackle the social issues that define areas of public interest psychology. In today’s political climate, the challenges are many for public interest psychology to make a difference in people’s lives. I have enjoyed working with BAPPI, the Public Interest committees, and the greater APA community in meeting these challenges.