



APA Aging Issues Newsletter



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In This Issue

- CONA Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging
- CONA Fall 2007 Meeting Summary
- APA Presidential Task Force on Integrated Healthcare for an Aging Population
- Multicultural Competency in Geropsychology Working Group
- ABA/APA Capacity Assessment in Older Adults Project
- Aging Policy Update
- The National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging
- In the News
- Resources
- Aging at APA

CONA Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging

The recipient of the 2007 Award for the Advancement of Psychology and Aging is **Martha Storandt, PhD**. The award was given in recognition of Dr. Storandt's tireless and selfless work for more than four decades to help establish and advance the scientific study of the psychology of aging, translate that knowledge into practical results, and educate other psychologists and the public on aging issues. Her significant research accomplishments include early demonstration that dementia is a disease condition outside of normal aging as well as her ongoing efforts to differentiate across types of dementia. She has translated her research results to professional practice by developing neuropsychological assessments that are both easily administered and accurate. Dr. Storandt has contributed to gerontology education and the training of clinical geropsychologists, particularly through her service on the steering committee for the 1981 Conference on Training Psychologists for Work with the Aged and by her dedicated and caring mentoring. She helped establish the APA journal, *Psychology and Aging*, and published *Neuropsychological assessment of dementia and depression in older adults: A clinician's guide* in support of continuing education in aging for practicing psychologists. Congratulations, Dr. Storandt!

The annual CONA award was established in 2003 to recognize professional leadership and distinguished achievements in research, practice and education in the field of geropsychology, and to promote an awareness and understanding among psychologists of this growing area of psychology.

CONA Fall 2007 Meeting Summary

CONA held its second and final meeting of the year on September 28th - 30th. Members of 2007 CONA are: Rosemary Blieszner, PhD (Chair), Peter A. Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP (Chair-elect), Merla Arnold, PhD, RN, Florence L. Denmark, PhD, Victor Molinari, PhD, ABPP, and Michael A. Smyer, PhD. CONA met with a number of guests to discuss pertinent aging issues, including APA President Sharon Stephens Brehm, PhD; APA President-elect Alan E. Kazdin, PhD; Douglas Handleman, PhD, Ronald Rozensky, PhD and Melba Vasquez, PhD, Board of Directors; Ellen Garrison, PhD, APA Senior Policy Advisor; Diane Elmore, PhD, Patricia Kobor, and Dianne Pedulla, JD, APA Government Relations Office; and Liaisons to CONA, Douglas Kimmel, PhD (Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest) and Angela Jefferson, PhD (Division 40, Clinical Neuropsychology).

CONA also met with Dr. Robert Roca, Chair of the American Psychiatric Association Council on Aging and Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD, APA Congressional Fellow.

One of CONA's tasks during the Consolidated Meetings is to provide input on APA Cross-Cutting items. Two of the many items to which CONA responded were the APA Membership Recruitment, Retention and Engagement Strategic Plan and questions for consideration by President Elect candidates. On the former, CONA advised that more experienced members are potential assets to APA in recruiting, engaging, and retaining newer and younger members, and encouraged APA to develop creative and meaningful roles for its retired members. The question crafted for President Elect candidates was: "How would you develop a vibrant, multi-generation membership to advance the goals of the Association, including pipeline, and early, mid and late-career initiatives?" CONA also spoke with the APA leadership about the importance of including age in all APA discussions regarding bias. CONA noted that age is sometimes overlooked when noting the types of bias APA opposes, despite the fact that APA has a policy resolution against ageism (2002).

CONA also worked on its current and future initiatives including planning special programming and events to celebrate the 10th anniversary of CONA and the Office on Aging at the 2008 APA Convention. Events being planned include a special symposium with a nationally known speaker to attract a large audience of psychologists across subfields, and an all-day continuing education program, *What Psychologists Should Know about Working with Older Adults*, targeting non-geropsychology practitioners. Stay tuned for more information to share with your colleagues.

Other ongoing CONA efforts include revision of its *Life Plan for the Life Span* brochure for health and aging professionals other than psychologists; infusing an awareness of aging issues broadly throughout APA divisions and state psychological associations; and continuing its Priming the Geropsychology Pipeline Project by working with the Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools, Psychology Teachers in Community Colleges, and American Psychological Association of Graduate Students.

APA Presidential Task Force on Integrated Healthcare for an Aging Population

The Presidential Task Force on Integrated Healthcare for an Aging Population (IHAP) is an initiative of APA President Sharon Stephens Brehm. The Task Force has completed its report, *Blueprint for Change: Achieving Integrated Health Care for an Aging Population* that informs psychologists about how to enter and function within an integrated team of health care professionals to ensure appropriate and effective health care for older adults. The report will be disseminated widely and to newsletter subscribers after the APA Council of Representatives February 2008 meeting. The Committee on Aging (CONA) is committed to ensuring the wide dissemination of the *Blueprint* and the translation of its recommendations into effective practice. Next steps include supplemental materials for: older adults and their family members; policymakers to make clear the importance of psychologists' involvement in and contributions to this model of care; and graduate psychology faculty and training directors to provide guidance on how to shape and develop a career that would emphasize care in integrated settings. Members of the IHAP Task Force are:

<http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/cona11.html>
CONA web page

http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/IHAP_Presentation_aug%202007.pdf
2007 Convention IHAP Presidential Symposium

http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/diminished_capacity.pdf
Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Lawyers

<http://www.abanet.org/aging/docs/judgesbooksum.doc>
Judicial Determinations of Capacity in Older Adults in Guardianship Proceedings: A Handbook for Judges

Toni Antonucci, PhD (co-chair); Antonette Zeiss, PhD (co-chair); Gregory Hinrichsen PhD; Deborah King, PhD; Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP; Martita Lopez, PhD; and Jennifer Manly, PhD. To learn more about IHAP, view the presentations from the 2007 Convention Presidential symposium on the Office on Aging website and see the *In the News* section of this newsletter.

Multicultural Competency in Geropsychology Working Group

In May 2007, the Working Group on Cultural Competency in Geropsychology met. Members of Working Group are: David Chiriboga, PhD; Martha Crowther, PhD; Steven David, PhD; Michiko Iwasaki, PhD; Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP; and Yvette Tazeau, PhD. They currently writing an article that will identify core principles of infusing cultural competency into geropsychology, set an agenda for achieving cultural competency in education and training, practice, research, and policy, and provide resources for practitioners and researchers interested in this issue.

ABA/APA Capacity Assessment in Older Adults Project

The ABA/APA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Working Group was established in 2003. Its current effort is the development of *Assessment of Older Adults with Diminished Capacity: A Handbook for Psychologists*. It will be completed in late 2008. It will be the third in a series that includes handbooks for lawyers (2005) and judges (2006).

Current members of the Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project Working Group are: Barry Edelstein PhD; Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP; Daniel Marson, JD, PhD; Jennifer Moye, PhD; David Powers, PhD; Charles Sabatino, JD (Director, ABA Commission on Law and Aging); Aida Salvidar, PhD; Erica Wood, JD (Associate Director, ABA Commission on Law and Aging); and Stacey Wood, PhD.

Aging Policy Update

By Diane Elmore, PhD, MPH, Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer
Public Interest Government Relations Office (PI-GRO)

Integrated health care for older adults remains an important policy priority for APA. PI-GRO continues to address this important issue by spearheading support for the Positive Aging Act (S. 982/H.R. 1669). This legislation would authorize grants through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to integrate mental health services into primary care and community settings where older adults reside and receive services.

Currently, the U.S. Senate is working on their bill to reauthorize SAMHSA. In preparation for this reauthorization, PI-GRO has been reaching out to key congressional offices to ensure that the mental health needs of older adults are among the top reauthorization priorities. Specifically, PI-GRO has worked closely with the geropsychology community to share scientific and clinical knowledge regarding integrated health care and encourage support for the inclusion of the Positive Aging Act in the bill to reauthorize SAMHSA.

In May, PI-GRO organized a congressional briefing in honor of Older

Americans' Mental Health Week, cosponsored by APA, the Older Women's League, and the National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging. This briefing included presentations by APA members Peter Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP, and Sara Honn Qualls, PhD, who discussed the benefits of integrated health care for older adults and the geriatric mental health workforce needs for the aging population. In July, PI-GRO was invited to present at a bipartisan congressional staff briefing regarding mental health and aging issues of importance to the upcoming SAMHSA reauthorization hosted by the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. APA members, Patricia Arean, PhD, Gregory Hinrichsen, PhD, and Michelle Karel, PhD, presented key congressional staff with relevant research findings and clinical examples related to integrated health care for older adults and discussed the importance of federal legislation to support such care, including the Positive Aging Act. PI-GRO continues to work with a coalition of mental health and aging organizations to monitor congressional action on the SAMHSA reauthorization and advocate for attention to the mental health needs of the aging population.

Another issue on the PI-GRO policy agenda is emergency/disaster preparedness and response. PI-GRO has worked closely with Senators Clinton (D-NY) and Domenici (R-NM) to enhance the Public Mental Health Emergency Preparedness Act (S. 1452), which was reintroduced in May. This legislation would help prepare first responders and health care professionals to effectively address mental health consequences in the wake of public health emergencies by establishing a National Center for Public Mental Health Emergency Preparedness to coordinate the development and delivery of mental health services in collaboration with federal, state and local entities. Specifically, PI-GRO successfully secured the inclusion of language to address the needs of potentially vulnerable subgroups, including older adults and caregivers. PI-GRO continues to work with other health care and aging organizations in support of this important legislation.

For more information on these and other aging policy initiatives, please see the PI-GRO website and my contact information listed under *Contact Us* on page 7.

The National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging

At the September meeting of NCMHA, members received an update on legislative and regulatory issues from Jim Finley of the National Association of Social Workers, which included information on the State Children's Health Insurance Program bill (S-CHIP), Children's Health and Medicare Provision Act (CHAMP), Senate Medicare Mental Health Parity Act (S588), the Positive Aging Act (S.982; H.R 1669), and the SAMHSA reauthorization.

Ira Katz, MD, Deputy Chief Patients Care Services, Officer for Mental Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, presented on the mental health programs at the VA. Dr. Katz described their Mental Health Strategic Plan, designed to guide implementation of the *President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health Report*, that has six principal components: expanding access and capacity, integrating mental health and primary care, transforming the system to focus on recovery and rehabilitation, implementing evidence-based care, returning veterans, and suicide prevention. Their integrated care budget of \$40 million has enabled the hiring of a large number of psychologists and other mental health providers to provide increased mental health services in hospital-based and home care programs, and in nursing homes.

<http://www.nri-nc.org/projects/OSA/>
*NASMHPD Research Institute
Other State Agency Project*

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/nov07/polishing.html>
Polishing Those Golden Years

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/nov07/intimacy.html>
Sexual Intimacy

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/nov07/ppup.html>
Congress's Chance to Boost Elder Care

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/oct07/pc.html>
President's Column: Blueprint for Change

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/oct07/teambuilding.html>
Team-Building

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/sep07/sciencewatch.html>
Science Watch: Expert's Advantage

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/julau07/briefing.html>
Promoting the Mental Health of Older Adults

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/julau07/zeiss.html>
Women Leaders

Willard Mays of the National Association of State and Mental Health Program Directors discussed a NASMHPD Research Institute study to identify the number of people served and expenditures on mental health services by state agencies other than Departments of Mental Health. It is hoped that this study will provide a good snapshot of the current situation, identify gaps in services, and lead to more collaboration on the state level.

APA has been the organizational home for the National Coalition on Mental Health and since 2001. Deborah DiGilio, Director of the APA Office on Aging, is current chair. The other APA representatives are geropsychologist, David Powers, PhD and Diane Elmore, PhD of the Government Relations Office.

In the News

Polishing Those Golden Years emphasizes the need for geropsychology training opportunities for psychologists and describes recent offerings. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 10 November 2007.

Sexual Intimacy is Important at Any Age reports on the importance of sexual intimacy at any age and the need for mental health practitioners to integrate sexuality issues in their discussions with older adults. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 1 December 2007.

APA Public Policy Update on Older Adults Health Care highlights APA's efforts to urge Congress to recognize the need for more integrated health care for older adults. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 10 November 2007.

Blueprint for Change is the title of the President's Column focusing on The APA Presidential Task Force on Integrated Healthcare for an Aging Population (IHAP) written by Co-chairs Toni Antonucci, PhD and Antonette Zeiss, PhD. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 9 October 2007.

Team-building: A Better Approach to Elderly Care describes the key principles in working as a member of an integrated care team as discussed by IHAP Task Force member, Peter Lichtenberg; PhD, ABPP, in his presentation during the IHAP Presidential Symposium. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 9 October 2007.

Expert's Advantage describes findings from two new studies on chess champions and Scrabble experts that add to the growing literature to further understanding on how the brain ages. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 8 September 2007.

Promoting the Mental Health of Older Adults: An Action Agenda for an Aging America reports on a May APA Congressional briefing that focused on key legislation that can better prepare the nation to address the needs of the aging population. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 7 July/August 2007.

The New Women Leaders provides the stories of leaders in psychology including geropsychologist Antonette Zeiss, PhD, Deputy Chief Consultant, Office of Mental Health Services, Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 7 July/August 2007.

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/may07/exploring.html>

Exploring Social Justice

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/may07/onpsychology.html>

On Psychology and Policy

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/may07/people.html>

People

<http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/sexuality.html>

Aging and Human Sexuality Resource Guide

<http://www.asaging.org/at/at-282/toc.cfm>

ASA's Aging Today

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/downloads/11315_P.pdf

Medicare Drug Coverage Under Medicare Part A, B and D

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k7/olderTX/olderTX.cfm>

Report on Substance Abuse

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/13/38/343783.pdf>

Trends in Severe Disability Among Elderly People

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/factsheets/index.htm#trans>

EPA Fact Sheets

<http://www.n4a.org/pdf/07-116-n4a-blueprint4actionwcovers.pdf>

Blueprint for Action

Aging and Health Disparities: Cumulative Effects of Race, Gender, and SES and Health Disparities describes the CONA/Public Interest Directorate symposium at the 2007 Convention. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 5 May 2007.

Psychology and Aging Policy: Advocating for America's Growing Aging Population describes another APA 2007 Convention offering. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 5 May 2007.

Dupree Honored by American Society on Aging reports that psychologist Larry W. Dupree, PhD was awarded the Mental Health and Aging Award at the Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging and the National Council on Aging held in Chicago in March. *Monitor on Psychology*, Volume 38, No. 5 May 2007.

Resources

The APA Aging and Human Sexuality Resource Guide has been recently updated. This annotated bibliography of journal articles, relevant books and resources is available on the Office on Aging website.

HIV/AIDS and Older Adults: A New Lease on Longevity is a section in the March-April 2007 issue of *Aging Today*, a newsletter of the American Society on Aging. APA members, David Coon and David Vance authored the article, "HIV hits 100,000, ages 50-plus."

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has developed *Information Partners Can Use on: Medicare Drug Coverage under Medicare Part A, Part B, and Part D* that clarifies drug coverage within each of the Medicare program components.

Adults Aged 65 or Older in Substance Abuse Treatment provides details on substance abuse treatment admissions for older adults from SAMHSA's Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS).

Trends in Severe Disability Among Elderly People, a paper developed by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), reviews evidence and recent trends in severe disability among people who are 65 years of age and older in 12 countries.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Aging offers fact sheets that address environmental health hazards for older adults and their caregivers.

Blueprint for Action: Developing a Livable Community for All Ages provides cities and counties with detailed strategies, practical tools and proven solutions to prepare for the large Baby Boomer population. Developed by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

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<http://apadiv20.php.ufl.edu/>
APA Division 20

<http://www.geropsych.org/>
APA Division 12-II

Aging at APA

The Office on Aging –The Office works to promote aging issues within APA, among its members, other professionals, policy makers and the public. It strives to bring psychological knowledge to bear on discussions regarding matters that affect older adults. Deborah DiGilio is the Director of the Office.

The Committee on Aging (CONA) - CONA is a six-member committee of psychologists with substantive professional expertise in aging issues who are selected to serve three-year terms. CONA works toward the optimal development of older adults, expanded scientific understanding of adult development and aging, and the delivery of appropriate psychological services to older persons.

Public Interest Government Relations Office – This Office works on aging policy issues at the federal level. Diane Elmore, PhD is the Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer who manages a policy portfolio that includes aging issues.

APA Division 20 (Adult Development & Aging) - APA Division 20 is concerned with the study of psychological development and change throughout the adult years. Their website includes resources for educators and students, information about graduate programs for students interested in pursuing this field, publications, conference information, and links to other sites.

APA Division 12- Section II (Society for Clinical Geropsychology) - APA Division 12, Section II is devoted to research, training, and the provision of psychological services for older adults. Their website includes information on training opportunities for students and professionals including clinical psychology internships, postdoctoral fellowship opportunities, and continuing education offerings, and research funding and job information.