

PUBLIC INTEREST DIRECTORATE
Semi-annual Report to the Council of Representatives
February, 2007 – August, 2007

Executive Office

▪ **Governance Support and Activities**

Executive Office staff continues to provide staff support to the public interest oversight board, the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI), including staffing its Spring 2007 meeting on March 23-25, 2007.

Infusing the APA Multicultural Guidelines Across APA: The APA Task Force on the Implementation of the Multicultural Guidelines

Staff in the Public Interest Directorate Executive Office supported the third meeting of the APA Task Force on the Implementation of the Multicultural Guidelines. The Task Force met in Washington, DC on April 20-22, 2007. The Task Force is charged with formulating recommendations for the infusion of the Multicultural Guidelines throughout psychology. During its April meeting the Task Force developed a final draft of recommendations and a dissemination plan for its Final Report. The Task Force will finalize its Report during a conference call and submit the Draft Final Report and Recommendations to the 2007 Fall Cross Cutting agenda for review and comment by APA boards and committees.

Task Force on Diversity in Course Content, Publications and Training Programs

The Task Force on Diversity in Course Content, Publications and Training Programs was formed by Council in July 2004. The five-person Task Force is charged with providing oversight and making recommendations regarding the ongoing development of a report on the status of diversity in course content publications and training programs. This report shall serve to inform Council and serve as a basis upon which to recommend the resources needed to enhance diversity in the discipline of psychology.

The Task Force will meet on November 16-18, 2007 in Washington, DC to complete its report and recommendations. The Task Force hopes to submit a Draft Final Report to the Spring 2008 Cross Cutting agenda for review and comment by APA boards and committees.

2007 APA Convention - The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice

On Saturday, August 18, 2007 and Sunday, August 19, 2007, BAPPI will sponsor a series of programming at the 2007 APA convention entitled “The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice.” The board will pose the following questions through this theme:

1. How alive and well is the value of social justice in our society today;
2. What is the impact of social injustice on public interest constituencies? I.e., how does social injustice play out differently across different groups; and
3. What are positive impacts of social justice?

BAPPI, along with several public interest committees, has developed symposia sessions around this theme. The Divisions for Social Justice will co-list the series of programming.

- **ACT Against Violence Program**

The Violence Prevention Program is the central point for the *ACT- Adults and Children Together – Against Violence program*, the APA’s national initiative on early violence prevention focused on educating adults and communities to create safe and healthy early environments for children. ACT is designed to strengthen families and parenting skills through dissemination of research-based knowledge and skills and community collaboration.

Parents Raising Safe Kids

The ACT program for families achieves its goals by establishing partnerships with community-based organizations and agencies and by training nationally and locally professionals and other adults who work or are in regular contact with families. Those individuals and their organizations promote the ACT program messages in the communities and conduct *Parents Raising Safe Kids*, the parent education program organized into eight, two-hour sessions for parents and other adults. The program is culturally sensitive and is offered in both English and Spanish. The curriculum addresses basic elements of child development and the roots and consequences of violence in children’s lives; provides skills and strategies in the areas of anger management, social problem-solving, positive discipline and media violence; and promotes the importance of community participation. Pre and post test measures were adapted and are currently being used at the program sites.

One of the strengths of the ACT parent program is its ability to be administered to groups of families from all backgrounds in an efficient and low cost-effective manner. In addition, it can be implemented in diverse settings regardless of their level of risk. The ACT parent program is currently implemented in 35 communities in 18 states, including Latino communities; in several of the sites the program is lead by a psychologist member of the Association. Preliminary evaluation conducted indicates that parents are changing their behaviors, using nonviolent ways to raise their children and children are showing less aggressive behaviors at a 3-month follow-up.

a) The office director is working with a psychologist to develop a program for children in childcare while their parents attend the parent program classes. The guide for those in charge of childcare will be distributed in early September.

b) In order to expand the program and increase the number of communities involved, of professionals trained and of families using effective parenting skills, APA is creating five *ACT Regional Centers* (Chicago, Toledo, Miami, California and East Coast) to coordinate the program implementation in diverse areas of the country.

c) The ACT program is also expanding internationally. In May, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed with the Greek Psychological Association to take the program to take country. In July, a group of four Greek psychologists attended the ACT program 3-day workshop and became certified to coordinate the program implementation in Greece. A group of four Canadian

mental health professionals also attended the July workshop and were certified to coordinate the implementation of the program in the Toronto area.

New training program for pediatricians and psychologists on early violence prevention

The office director initiated collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics to develop a program to train pediatricians and psychologists on health and mental health issues related to early violence prevention. The purpose is to prepare both professionals to disseminate knowledge and skills to parents at hospitals and community health centers.

Motivational interviewing (MI)

The office director started to work with a group of psychologists to adapt motivational interviewing, an approach and technique for individual counseling, and integrate it into the ACT parent program groups. The purpose is to identify a series of competencies and skills professionals need to develop to include MI in the ACT parent program groups and increase parents' adherence and motivation to change behaviors related to violence.

▪ **Office on Work, Stress and Health**

Since 1989, APA's work, stress, and health initiative, in collaboration with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), has convened six conferences on work, stress, and health. Planning is underway for a seventh conference to be held March 6-8, 2008, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. A Call for Papers was issued in May 2007, and can be found at the new conference website (<http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh.html>). The deadline for submissions is August 31, 2007.

The Journal of Occupational Health Psychology (information available at <http://www.apa.org/journals/ocp.html>), published by APA, is one out-growth of the office's collaboration with NIOSH, as is increasing involvement with the Society of Occupational Health in Psychology (SOHP).

The office has also recently developed a more comprehensive website (<http://www.apa.org/pi/work/>).

Children, Youth, and Families Office

The Children, Youth, and Families Office coordinates APA's public interest, health, human welfare, and social responsibility activities in the areas of children, youth, and families. The office provides staff support to the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice for Children and Adolescents; and the Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents.

The office liaisons with the Council of Representatives' Child and Adolescent Caucus and the following APA divisions: Division of Developmental Psychology; Division of School Psychology; Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice; Section on Child Maltreatment; Division of Clinical Neuropsychology; Division of Family Psychology; Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology; and the Society of Pediatric Psychology.

▪ **The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF)**

CYF was established by a 1986 vote of the Council of Representatives to assure "...that children, youth, and families receive the full attention of the Association in order that all human resources are actualized...including issues related to gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability."

CYF Call for Nominations for Terms Beginning in 2008

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) is anticipating two vacancies in 2008. CYF welcomes nominations from individuals interested in linking research and policy for children and families within APA and the profession. The Committee is particularly interested in candidates with substantial expertise and demonstrated experience in applying psychological knowledge to the well being and optimal development of children, youth, and families; and in issues advancing psychology as a science and profession in the area of promoting health and human welfare. Candidates are sought who have particular expertise in contemporary issues facing children, youth, and families in the context of their socioemotional and cognitive development and mental health. Candidates who have particular interest in culturally and linguistically diverse, understudied, underserved and diverse populations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Members are expected to participate in a targeted project directly related to CYF's work and mission and to APA as a whole. The project is to be completed during their three-year term on the Committee. Some examples of projects previously implemented by the Committee include immigrant children, youth, and families; school drop-out prevention; sexuality education; social practices that induce violence; psychological implications of disasters; early mental health interventions; violence against children in the family and community; training psychologists to work in the public sector; cultural competence; day care; testing; the mental health needs of children and adolescents in the juvenile justice system; bullying and violence in videogames and interactive media. Areas of interest to the Committee at present include rural children's mental health, mental health disparities, and cultural diversity. Potential candidates are encouraged to visit the CYF website (www.apa.org/pi/cyf/ccyf) to learn more about CYF's mission and prior initiatives.

The Committee places a priority on maintaining representation within the Committee's membership that reflects the diversity of psychology and society (e.g., ethnicity, culture, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, geographic location, and those who are employed less than full time).

CYF Federal Advocacy Priorities

During their March 23-25, 2007 meeting, the Committee on Children, Youth, and Families reviewed and revised their Federal Advocacy Priorities. The priorities are divided into sections addressing mental health, physical health, education, diversity, family support, and children's rights and civic engagement.

Working Group on Evidence-Based Practice for Children and Adolescents

During the April 2006 consolidated meetings the Board of Directors met and allocated funding from their 2006 Discretionary Funds for two meetings of the Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice for Children and Adolescents. The task force was charged with reviewing the extant literature and preparing a comprehensive report on the current state of knowledge concerning evidence-based psychological practice with children and adolescents. This would include empirically supported principles and evidence applied to psychological assessment, case formulation, possible mediating variables such as therapeutic relationship, and intervention with children and adolescents (and often their caregivers). Also included would be the acknowledgement of the variety of settings in which services are provided to children, including schools, clinics, hospitals, independent practices, and homes and the need to consider setting characteristics when implementing evidence-based practice. In addition, developmental and cultural characteristics that influence the applicability, acceptance, and efficacy of evidence-based practice would be addressed. The task force was encouraged to consider implications of its findings for future research agendas and for the education and training of psychologists with specificity to evidence-based practice with children and adolescents.

- **Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents (RSBCA)**

At its February 2006 meeting, the Board of Directors allocated 2006 discretionary funds to support one meeting in 2006 of the RSBCA. The task force was charged with the identification of factors that contribute to the healthy development of Black children and adolescents in three contexts: families, schools, and peer groups. Focus on disparity data in terms of income, female-headed households, academic achievement and criminal justice system involvement fails to inform about attitudes and behaviors that contribute to Black children and adolescents being resilient and strong. The compilation of relevant research data as well as the identification of successful academic programming will provide another lens with which to view these individuals. Such information can inform policy and programming in communities where African Americans reside.

- **Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents**

The Council of Representatives Caucus on Children, Youth, and Families brought the use of psychotropic medications for children and adolescents to the Association's attention. Acting on the Caucus's recommendation, the APA Board of Directors and the Council of Representatives funded three meetings of the Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents from March 27, 2004 – December 2005 from their Discretionary Funds. During their August 2006 meeting, the Council of Representatives adopted the report titled *Report of the APA Working Group on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents: Psychopharmacological, Psychosocial, and Combined Interventions for Childhood Disorders: Evidence Base, Contextual Factors, and Future Directions*. The Children, Youth, and Families Office continues to distribute the report to relevant organizations, agencies, and to the public. The full report is available at this Web address <http://www.apa.org/pi/cyf/childmeds.pdf>. Hard copies are available by contacting Efua Andoh by email at eandoh@apa.org.

- **16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect**

APA was a national cosponsor of the Children's Bureau/Office on Child Abuse and Neglect's 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. The APA participated in planning and implementing the conference. The conference was held April 16 to 21, 2007, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland with 1,625 attendees. The conference theme, "Protecting Children, Promoting Healthy Families, and Preserving Communities," reflected the desire to ensure that every child enjoys a healthy family life in a nurturing community. It emphasized the need to create safe havens for children, enabling them to thrive at home and in their neighborhood. Further, the theme promoted the idea of communities joining to establish collaborative relationships and strategies to prevent child maltreatment and provide responsive services and treatment.

The conference brought together diverse professional and volunteer populations to promote new working relationships, exchange cutting-edge information on research, and review practice issues and model programs. A total of 184 sessions allowed various disciplines and perspectives to come together to discuss policy, research, program, and practice issues concerning the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

Check this website <http://www.childwelfare.gov/calendar/cbconference/index.cfm> for post-conference information, including the full program, awards booklet, and audio podcasts of selected plenary sessions.

- **2007 Convention Activities**

The Committee on Children, Youth, and Families in collaboration with the Committee on Women in Psychology and the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest developed a symposium at the 2007 APA Convention titled *The Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice - Vulnerable AND Impressionable: Social Inequality and Children's Exposure to Health Risks*. The symposium will be presented at on Sunday, August 19, 2:00-2:50 PM at the Moscone Center, West Mezzanine – South Building, Room 252/254/256. Barbara H. Fiese, PhD, Eileen Zurbriggen, PhD, and Brian Wilcox, PhD, are the presenters. Dr. Fiese will chair the symposium.

The Task Force on Resiliency and Strength in Black Children and Adolescents developed a 2007 convention symposium sponsored by the APA Board of Directors.

The Task Force on Evidence-Based Practice in Children and Adolescents developed a 2007 convention symposium sponsored by the APA Board of Directors.

Office on Aging

The Office on Aging is the focal point for APA activities pertaining to aging. It works to promote aging issues within APA, among its members, other professionals, policy makers and

the public. The Office strives to bring psychological knowledge to bear on issues that affect the health and well-being of older adults and their families.

- **Governance Support**

The Presidential Task Force on Integrative Healthcare for an Aging Population is one of President Sharon Stephens Brehm's presidential initiatives. The Task Force is preparing a document, *Blueprint for Change: Achieving Integrative Health Care for an Aging Population*. The Blueprint will inform psychologists about how to enter and function within an integrated team for the care of older persons.

The Working Group on Cultural Competency in Geropsychology, is preparing a document that will explore the intersection of geropsychology and multicultural diversity, and identify available resources, tools, and gaps and recommendations for geropsychology practice, training, research and policy with diverse elders. The Working Group is charged with identifying core principles of infusing cultural competency into geropsychology, and setting an agenda for achieving cultural competency in education and training, practice, research, and policy.

Priming the Geropsychology Pipeline Project is the newest effort of the Committee on Aging (CONA). CONA has created a number of products in collaboration with Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools including an article on Geropsychology for the Psychology Teacher Network Newsletter, a power point presentation on Careers in Aging, and proposed revisions to the Development Unit Lesson Plan. CONA also successfully nominated two geropsychologists to serve on the Expert Reviewer Advisory Panel for the National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula.

- **ABA/APA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project**

The ABA/APA Assessment of Capacity in Older Adults Project Working Group was established in 2003 to improve cross-communication between psychologists, attorneys and judges and improve the ability of each group in the assessment of capacity in older adults. The Working Group is currently developing a handbook for psychologists on assessment of older adults with diminished capacity. It will be the third in a series that includes handbooks for lawyers and judges. Over 8,000 hard copies of the lawyer handbook have been distributed and it is accessed approximately 2,000 times per month electronically (available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/>).

- **Securing the Representation of Geropsychology in Efforts External to APA**

The Office on Aging continues its efforts to secure the representation of geropsychology in national efforts to address the needs and support the strengths of our growing older adult population.

Office on Aging Director, Deborah DiGilio, is the current chair of The National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging (NCMHA). NCMHA joined the APA Public Interest Government Relations Office and the Older Women's League in cosponsoring a Congressional Briefing during Older Americans Mental Health Week in May. Recent presenters at the thrice-yearly

NCMHA meetings have included the president of the National Mental Health Association, and representatives of the SAMHSA National Registry of Evidence-based Programs, and the Medicare Mental Health Equity Coalition.

The Office on Aging Director presented “Mental Health and Aging Coalitions: Effective Approaches and Innovative Practices” as part of a special program at the joint American Society on Aging/National Council of Aging Annual Conference in March. She is also on the Leadership Council of the ASA Mental Health and Aging Network.

Office publications, *Elder Abuse and Neglect: In Search of Solutions* and both of the ABA/APA Project Capacity Assessment Handbooks were highlighted in the Spring issue of Dimensions, a publication of the American Society on Aging.

The Office disseminated information and materials on mental health and aging at the Maryland State Psychological Association 2006-2007 Workshop Series on Geropsychology and a Department of Labor Employee Fair.

The Office coordinated the geropsychology community’s response to the National Institute on Aging draft strategic plan, *Living Long and Well in the 21st Century – Strategic Directions for Research on Aging*, in collaboration with the Science Government Relations Office. A geropsychologist was identified to represent aging issues at the NIH Center for Scientific Review’s Behavioral and Social Science Workshop in April.

AIDS AND END-OF-LIFE CARE ACTIVITIES

▪ **The HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program**

In September 2004, the APA Office on AIDS was awarded \$750,000.00 by the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) to continue the HIV Office for Psychology Education (HOPE) Program for another five years. During the past six months, HOPE Program staff focused on updating HOPE Program training materials and providing technical assistance to HOPE Trainers as they develop and implement local continuing education workshops. Since its inception in 1991, the HOPE Program has trained over 27,000 mental health providers.

▪ **Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer Program**

The Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) Program is a national HIV prevention technical assistance program for health departments, community planning groups (CPGs), and community-based organizations (CBOs). In September 2006, the BSSV Program received a new, sole source contract from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for \$429,000.00 to operate until January 1, 2008. Since its inception in 1996, over 600 organizations have been served by BSSV Program volunteers. Recently, BSSV Program staff has been working with CDC to develop a Resource Guide for community-based organizations who wish to adapt evidence-based HIV prevention interventions for local populations that they serve.

- **NIMH Funding for Internet-based Education Program on End-of-Life Issues**

In June of 2006, the APA Office on AIDS and its small business collaborator, eNursing LLC, received \$750,000.00 of Phase II funding from the Small Business Innovations Research (SBIR) Program of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) for developing a ten-module, internet-based, interactive continuing education program to train psychologists and other mental health providers who work with clients and caregivers who are near the end of life. During the past six months, program staff has been working with a large cadre of experts to develop the training modules and prepare for a large-scale study to evaluate their effectiveness.

Disability Issues in Psychology Office

The central mission of the Office on Disability Issues in Psychology is to work toward the elimination of bias against and the promotion of equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in education and training, research, and professional practice. The office serves as an information and referral resource on disability issues; develops and disseminates reports and other written materials on professional and consumer issues; monitors the welfare of these groups as consumers of psychological services; and promotes the development and application of psychological knowledge to address public policy issues affecting them. Please visit the office's web site at www.apa.org/pi/disability for more information on disability issues in psychology.

- **Barriers to Students Project**

The overall goal of this project is to develop evidence-based information and resources identifying the major barriers to training by students with disabilities and how those barriers can be addressed. The project seeks to increase the capacity of educators and directors of training by providing resources that will improve and increase learning opportunities for students with disabilities. Resource materials will be developed from data and information gathered by three separate on-line surveys soliciting information from psychology students with disabilities, directors of training, and internship directors. The Disability Issues Officer is currently working with the APA Research Office to develop these survey instruments.

- **Mentoring Program**

The office oversees and provides functional support to its on-line Disability Mentoring Program. Launched in 2002, the program supports psychology students with disabilities, disabled psychologists entering the field, and newly disabled psychologists in their educational and professional pursuits by providing them with a mentor. Mentors are APA-member psychologists with disabilities. To date, there are forty-four mentor-mentee matches. The mentoring database is currently being updated to include enhanced reporting capabilities, improved mentor-mentee matching features, and compliance with Section 508. For further information on our mentoring program, please visit www.apa.org/pi/cdip/mentoring/homepage.html

- **Task Force on Training Issues in Psychological Testing and Assessment for Graduate Students with Disabilities.**

The major charge of this task force is how to best facilitate the acquisition of test instruments and manuals in electronic format suitable for visual viewer software for graduate students with visual impairments who are mandated to meet training requirements in testing and assessment. Currently, the handbook product of the task force is being developed to be submitted into the governance pipeline for review and final approval.

- **APA Task Force on Guidelines for Assessment and Treatment of Persons with Disabilities**

The major charge of this task force is to develop a set of guidelines focused on assessment and treatment involving persons with disabilities. The task force was funded again this year and had its first meeting at the end of June. During this meeting, the Task Force reviewed its draft of the guidelines document with a focus on content, redundancies, generic coverage across disabilities, references, and additional guidelines to be added.

- **Legislative Activities**

APA advocates policy by participating in coalitions, by preparing testimony, letters, and other educational materials, and by assisting APA members in their advocacy efforts. The APA Public Interest Government Relations Office has the primary responsibility for federal advocacy on disability issues and concerns; advocacy goals and activities are coordinated with the Office on Disability Issues and the Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP).

- **Disability-related Coalitions**

The disability issues officer continues to be actively involved with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with mental and physical disabilities. The office serves on CCD's Rights, Prevention, and International task forces.

- **Articles for Division 22's *Rehabilitation Psychology News***

In order to share disability-related information with Division 22, Rehabilitation Psychology, the Committee and staff develop articles four times per year for the division's *Rehabilitation Psychology News*. In 2007, the following articles have been submitted for publication:

1. Kuemmel, Angela (Spring 2007). Conference Accessibility: A Student's Perspective of CDIP's Work.
2. Shigaki, Cheryl L. (Winter 2007). *CDIP Update: CDIP Report: Future Focus on Access to Training for Students with Disabilities*

- **Governance Support**

The Office on Disability Issues provides continuous staff support to APA's Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP). Current priorities of the Committee include:

- Development of a proposed APA resolution on the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The development of several convention activities, including one symposium, a CE workshop, and conversation hour on mentoring.
- The development of disability-related information and content for introductory psychology courses at the community college and high school levels.
- Increasing the visibility of disability issues within the APA.

Through its nomination process, the committee actively seeks diversity in its own membership, including race and ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, and disability status. In 2006, the Committee was diverse in its membership with respect to ethnicity, gender, geographic location, and disability status. Specifically, the Committee included two Asian-American members, two women and four men, and five members with disabilities. In its nomination slates for 2007, the committee prioritized a balance of disability, gender and ethnicity. The committee continuously advocates for inclusion of, and sensitivity to, diversity and cultural issues as publications, policies and programs are developed within the association.

Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs

Major recent accomplishments of APA's Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) include the following:

Coordinated the solicitation and review of, and response to comments of governance groups and others on the draft of the CEMRRAT 2 Task Force's *A Portrait of Success and Challenge - The Progress Report: 1997-2005*. Responses were received from 19 groups.

Staffed the May 21-22, 2007 annual meeting of the Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training Task Force (CEMRRAT2) at which it: (a) revised and approved its 2007 *Progress Report* and Resolution; (b) confirmed the winners of the 2007 Suinn Award for excellence in graduate education; (c) identified the categories and funding amounts for the 2008 grant categories of the CEMRRAT Implementation Fund; and (d) finalized plans for its 2007 convention program.

Completed award announcement and payments totaling \$75,700 to the 19 recipients of 2007 CEMRRAT Implementation Grants.

Administered the AEI-funded 2007 "Promoting Psychological Research and Training on Health Disparities Issues at Ethnic Minority Serving Institutions Grants (ProDIGs)", including awarding five small grants to early career faculty totaling \$30,300 for specific and highly focused activities that are preliminary, related to the preparation of a federal or foundation funding proposal, and encourage student involvement in health disparities research training. Awardees

are required (and receive additional funding) to participate in a 6-day Psychology Summer Institute and professional development activity on July 22 - 28 in Washington, DC that is coordinated by the Minority Fellowship Program.

Staffed the semi-annual meeting of the Council of National Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests (CNPAEMI), which was held June 21-22, 2007 in Garden City, Utah in conjunction with the annual retreat and conference of the Society of Indian Psychologists.

At the request of the CEO, initiated an American Indian Mascot Staff Education Program, which was formally kicked-off with the OEMA Film Series showing of the documentary, *In Whose Honor?* A cross-Directorate staff ad hoc committee has been established to guide this effort with consultation from the American Indian mascot subcommittees of CEMA and the Society of Indian Psychology. The ad hoc committee has conducted its initial meeting where it identified goals, preliminary major activities of the staff education program, and issues on which consultation is desired.

Government Relations Office

Note: The PI Public Interest Government Relations Office organizes its work differently from other offices within the PI Directorate, and therefore the description of activities appears in a different format than prior sections.

APA's Public Interest Government Relations staff is actively engaged in promoting psychology in the public interest in Congress and with the Administration. Public Interest Government Relations Office (PI-GRO) activities include the preparation of legislative background materials, statutory provisions, and formal comments on proposed legislation and regulations, as well as mobilizing the APA membership for grassroots advocacy efforts. The office also identifies and invites psychologists to testify at congressional hearings and briefings, and to represent the association on federal agency advisory councils and at executive branch meetings. Additionally, PI-GRO staff administers the APA Congressional Fellowship Program, through which four psychologists spend a year on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee. The office also offers a yearlong public policy internship program for psychology graduate students. This summary provides highlights of a variety of policy initiatives undertaken in each of the key public interest areas since January of 2007.

- ***Aging.*** In honor of Older Americans' Mental Health Week in May, PI-GRO staff organized a congressional briefing cosponsored by APA, the Older Women's League (OWL) and the National Coalition on Mental Health. The briefing, entitled "Promoting the Mental Health of Older Adults: An Action Agenda for an Aging America," featured APA members **Peter Lichtenberg, Ph.D., ABPP** and **Sara Honn Qualls, Ph.D.** The briefing highlighted four important policy issues related to mental health and aging: integrated care/*Positive Aging Act*; elder abuse/*Elder Justice Act*; the geriatric mental health workforce crisis; and Medicare parity. PI-GRO staff continues to work with congressional cosponsors and other organizations in support of the *Positive Aging Act* (S. 982/H.R. 1669), which was reintroduced in March. Additionally, PI-GRO staff worked

with the APA Office on Aging, Education GRO, and the Executive Office to send a letter on behalf of APA requesting the addition of a geropsychologist to the Institute of Medicine's Committee on the Future Health Care Workforce for Older Americans.

- ***Children, Youth, and Families.*** In preparation for the reauthorization of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), PI-GRO staff, in partnership with Education GRO, developed association-wide recommendations to the law. The final recommendations were distributed to key congressional staff along with a list of experts to serve as potential witnesses for hearings regarding this important law. On a related front, PI-GRO efforts led to the invitation of APA member **Dewey Cornell, Ph.D.**, professor of Education at the University of Virginia and director of the Virginia Youth Violence Project, to present testimony at a hearing convened by the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor entitled "Best Practices for Making College Campuses Safer." Dr. Cornell's testimony focused on the use of threat assessment as a violence prevention approach. The use of threat assessment guidelines was one of APA's key recommendations to Congress for the reauthorization of NCLB under provisions related to violence prevention. He also emphasized the need for additional research in this area and the importance of funding violence prevention programs.
- ***Ethnic Minorities.*** PI-GRO staff has been actively engaged in advocacy efforts to ensure passage of the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2007*. This important legislation lays the foundation for providing much-needed health care services in Indian Country. In addition, PI-GRO has been working in coalition with numerous other groups to increase health care coverage for legal immigrant children and pregnant women. Before they are eligible for federal Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, current law requires that legal immigrants be in the United States for at least five years in a "qualified immigrant" status. Congressional debate over immigration reform offers the opportunity to improve immigrants' access to health care. In addition, PI-GRO staff participated in a meeting organized by the Society of Public Health Education to discuss a plan of action to eliminate health disparities. The guest speaker was former Surgeon General David Satcher, MD. On a related front, PI-GRO staff continues to advocate for the role of behavior and psychology in the elimination of health disparities.
- ***Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons.*** PI-GRO staff has been closely following legislative and lobbying efforts related to the military's discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which states that a lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) identity is incompatible with military service. Briefing sheets summarizing the issue and the relevant psychological research have been drafted for the use of congressional staff, APA members, and other stakeholders. Rep. Marty Meehan (D-MA) introduced the *Military Readiness Enhancement Act* (H.R. 1246), which would repeal the military banning of LGB service members and require the reinstatement of individuals dismissed under the policy. PI-GRO staff is actively engaged in efforts to promote passage of this important legislation. PI-GRO staff is also engaged in advocacy initiatives in support of the *Employment Non-Discrimination Act* (H.R. 2015), legislation introduced by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) which would provide basic protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

- ***HIV/AIDS.*** PI-GRO has been in communication with key congressional staff regarding the inadmissibility of HIV-positive non-citizens to enter the United States. PI-GRO staff reviewed a report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies' HIV/AIDS Task Force, chaired by former Senator Frist and Senator Feingold (D-WI) related to this matter and will continue to engage in communication with congressional staff about this important issue. In addition, PI-GRO staff submitted report language to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees encouraging SAMHSA to collaborate with the Health Resources and Services Administration to train health care providers to screen HIV/AIDS patients for mental health and substance use problems. While research demonstrates that almost half of persons with HIV screened positive for illicit drug use or a mental disorder, health care providers fail to notice mental disorders and substance use problems in almost half of patients with HIV/AIDS. Mental health and substance use screening is not common practice in primary care settings.
- ***Individuals with Disabilities.*** PI-GRO staff has been actively engaged in various activities both individually and as a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities. One of these efforts involved preparing and submitting comments on the Job Corps Health Questionnaire Form ETA 6-53. The comments highlighted the concern that the form may inappropriately exclude people with mental health problems, particularly those from diverse racial and ethnic minority backgrounds. In addition, the letter stated that the questionnaire may have the adverse effect of deterring mental health treatment. PI-GRO staff has been working with Congressional staffers on legislative language for the ADA Restoration Act of 2007. Currently, individuals with certain health conditions, such as epilepsy, diabetes, psychiatric diagnoses, and other mental health conditions that are controlled with medications or other disease management strategies are not covered by the ADA. They are routinely dismissed as “not disabled enough” to warrant protection of the statute. In response, the ADA Restoration Act offers a “re-write” of the ADA to bring it back to its initial intent and to eliminate disability-based discrimination.
- ***Socioeconomic Status (SES).*** PI-GRO staff has shared and disseminated resources to federal policy makers related to psychology's contribution to the understanding of SES, such as the Report of the APA Task Force on Socioeconomic Status. In addition, PI-GRO staff continues to monitor and support legislative initiatives that address issues of SES and the lives and well-being of the poor, including pay equity, temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), homelessness, access to quality health care, child care, and early childhood education. In addition, PI-GRO staff is currently developing an advocacy initiative in conjunction with the 2007 observance of World Poverty Day which will be held on October 17.
- ***Women.*** PI-GRO staff organized meetings for the chair of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls with the offices of Representatives Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Women's Policy, Inc. During these meetings, congressional staff was briefed on the findings of the recent Task Force Report, including some of its policy implications. In addition, PI-GRO staff distributed copies of the Task Force Report to key members of both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. PI-GRO staff

worked closely with the APA's Women's Programs Office in developing a fact sheet about Postpartum Depression (PPD). This briefing sheet was available to the public at a hearing convened on May 1, 2007 by the Subcommittee on Health of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce about the *Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act* (H.R. 20). This legislation, sponsored by Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL), seeks to expand and intensify medical research on the causes, diagnosis and treatments of PPD and postpartum psychosis. The fact sheet was included in the hearing congressional record.

Cross-cutting Initiatives

- ***Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Response.*** PI-GRO staff worked closely with Senators Clinton (D-NY) and Domenici (R-NM) to enhance the recently reintroduced *Public Mental Health Emergency Preparedness Act* (S. 1452). 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 when our nation is confronted with public health catastrophes. Specifically, PI-GRO staff successfully secured the inclusion of language to address the needs of potentially vulnerable subgroups, including children, individuals with disabilities, individuals with pre-existing mental health problems, older adults, caregivers, and individuals living in poverty.
- ***Hate Crimes.*** As a member of the Coalition on Hate Crime, PI-GRO staff worked toward the successful passage of the *Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007* (H.R. 1592) in the House of Representatives. PI-GRO staff continues to work to ensure passage of the *Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007* (S. 1105), an identical companion bill being considered in the Senate. This important legislation would expand federal hate crime law to recognize crimes motivated by actual or perceived religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability of any person. The bill would also provide assistance to local jurisdictions in the investigation and prosecution of bias-motivated crimes.
- ***Media Violence.*** PI-GRO staff is participating on the Joint Federal Communications Commission/Congressional Task Force on Media and Childhood Obesity and was selected to chair the Public Health committee. Under the direction of Sens. Brownback (R-KS) and Harkin (D-IA), the Task Force's aim is to work with the media, food/beverage, and advertising industries to make recommendations to stem the media messaging that may contribute to childhood obesity. Other members of the Task Force include the American Academy of Pediatrics, Disney/ABC, McDonald's, and the American Association of Advertising Agencies. The Task Force report is due to Congress in September of 2007.
- ***Military Service Members/Veterans.*** PI-GRO continues to work collaboratively with colleagues in the science, practice and education directorates to share psychological

research and clinical knowledge with federal policy makers regarding the mental and behavioral health care needs of service members/veterans. In particular, PI-GRO focuses on the needs of veterans from the public interest subgroups, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, ethnic minorities, women and families, and those who have experienced trauma and abuse. These efforts have included drafting and reviewing legislative proposals and meeting with congressional offices, federal agencies, and other stakeholder organizations.

- ***SAMHSA Reauthorization.*** PI-GRO staff worked closely with Education, Science and Practice Government Relations staff in developing APA's recommendations for the upcoming reauthorization of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). To this end, GRO staff identified the following four areas for special consideration in the pending reauthorization: 1) Integration of mental and behavioral health in primary care; 2) Prevention and early intervention; 3) Suicide prevention; and 4) Workforce development: Training and Data Collection and Analysis.
- ***APA Congressional Fellowship Program.*** The APA Congressional Fellowship Program, now in its 32nd year, places psychologists in congressional offices for one year beginning in September as part of the larger American Association for the Advancement of Science policy fellowship program. Over the first quarter of 2007, PI-GRO coordinated an inter-directorate selection committee that reviewed applications, interviewed finalists, and selected the 2007-2008 class of Congressional Fellows. The 2007-2008 Fellows include: **Alfred Amado, Ph.D.** (University of Maryland-College Park), **Kerry Bolger, PhD** (University of Wisconsin-Madison), **Gregory Hinrichsen, Ph.D.** (Albert Einstein College of Medicine), **Christina Moore, Psy.D.** (Independent Practice and International Mental Health Consultant), and **Catherine Zebrowski, Ph.D.** (Kennedy Krieger Institute). They will begin their orientation process in early September and will decide upon their congressional office placements soon thereafter.

For more detailed information on these and other initiatives, please visit the PI-GRO Web site at: <http://www.apa.org/ppo/pi/>

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns Office

The mission of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office is to advance psychology as a means of improving the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, as a means of increasing understanding of gender identity and sexual orientation as aspects of human diversity, and as a means of reducing stigma, prejudice, discrimination, and violence toward LGBT people. The office provides support and guidance to all aspects of APA governance in activities related to this mission. The office provides high-quality, timely, and cost-efficient psychological products and services to the APA membership and to relevant others who look to APA for psychological resources that promote beneficial change in society for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

The APA has established the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office because psychology as a science and as a profession has played a central role in policy debates and public

discussions both within the social movement to improve the social status of LGBT people and within the organized opposition to that movement and because the APA constituencies concerned about LGBT populations have high expectations for the organization's contributions to the important social issues related to the role and status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in society.

Currently, the LGBTCO provides support to the APA Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns, the International Network on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Issues in Psychology, the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation, the Task Force on Gender Identity, Gender Variance, and Intersex Conditions, and the Division 19 and Division 44 Joint Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Service, and maintains liaison relationships with APA divisions, especially Divisions 27, 44, and 51, and affiliated state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations that have an interest in lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues. The Office provides policy analysis and staff support for APA policy development, and advocates APA policy on lesbian, gay, and bisexual concerns in psychology. It promotes psychological knowledge development and dissemination, and provides technical assistance, information and referral, and consultation to APA members, other professionals, policy makers, the media, and the public. The Office includes the Healthy, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project, a five year, \$320,000 per year cooperative agreement with the CDC Division of Adolescent School Health. For more information about the activities of the LGBTCO, please see the office website www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/ or contact the office at lgbc@apa.org or (202) 336-6041.

- **The Addition of Transgender to the Mission of the Office**

The Office has been systematically adding transgender, as appropriate, to its publications and website to bring the office in line with the addition of transgender to the name and mission of the Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns by the Council of Representatives in February 2007. The Office has joined the World Professional Association for Transgender Health and invited Shannon Minter, an expert on transgender legal issues who works for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, to meet with the Committee in September.

- **Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns**

The Committee's spring 2007 meeting was dominated by the task of developing nominations for the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation. Other items that received attention at the spring meeting were the revision of the APA public information brochure *Answers to Your Questions about Sexual Orientation and Homosexuality*, the collaboration with TOPSS on a high school psychology unit lesson plan on sexual orientation, and oversight of APA participation in the International Network.

- **Task Force on Gender Identify, Gender Variance, and Intersex Conditions**

The Task Force on Gender Identify, Gender Variance, and Intersex Conditions was established by the APA Council of Representatives (C/R) at its February 2005 meeting. The Task Force was

charged with developing recommendations, based upon a review of current research on gender identity and intersexuality, relative to the following:

- (1) How APA should address these issues, including recommendations for education, training, and further research;
- (2) How APA can best meet the needs of psychologist and students who identify as transgender, transsexual, or intersex, including which entities have interest or expertise in these issues, and how to develop ongoing dialogue and sensitivity training in this area;
- (3) Review extant APA policies with regard to these populations and make recommendations for changes;
- (4) Make recommendations for collaboration with other professional organizations in this area.

The Task Force conducted a needs assessment survey of APA members and consulted with interested APA boards, committees, and divisions, relevant professional organizations, and community-based organizations. The Task Force is working on its report, which it expects to have completed for submission to APA governance in September 2007.

- **Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation**

The Board of Directors approved the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation and the President appointed six researchers and clinicians to review the current scientific research on therapeutic response to sexual orientation with an eye toward updating the Association's 1997 policy statement on the topic

The task force will review the scientific literature on therapeutic responses to sexual orientation, particularly any research published since the Association's resolution on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation was passed (1997). The Task Force will furthermore make recommendations on any revisions or updates to the resolution. Since the 1997 resolution was written, new research on sexual orientation conversion therapy has been published. This new science enables the Association to review its policy position and offer additional guidance to mental health professionals who treat persons with concerns about their sexual orientation.

The task force is expected to generate a report that will address the following:

(a) The appropriate application of affirmative therapeutic interventions for children and adolescents who present a desire to change either their sexual orientation or their behavioral expression of their sexual orientation, or both, or whose guardian expresses a desire for the minor to change;

(b) The appropriate application of affirmative therapeutic interventions for adults who present a desire to change their sexual orientation or their behavioral expression of their sexual orientation, or both;

(c) The presence of adolescent inpatient facilities that offer coercive treatment designed to change sexual orientation or the behavioral expression of sexual orientation;

(d) Education, training, and research issues as they pertain to such therapeutic interventions; and

(e) Recommendations regarding treatment protocols that promote stereotyped gender-normative behavior to mitigate behaviors that are perceived to be indicators that a child will develop a homosexual orientation in adolescence and adulthood.

- **Division 19 and Division 44 Joint Task Force on Sexual Orientation and Military Service**

The Joint Divisional Task Force that Division 19 and 44 formed to implement the 2004 APA Resolution on Sexual Orientation and Military Service and pursue other goals from the APA Task Force Report has been the primary locus of APA activities related to sexual orientation discrimination in the U.S military in the years since the resolution was adopted in 2004.

- **Network for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Issues in Psychology**

In the period from February-August 2007, two program goals have been the main focus of the Network and of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Office support to the Network. First, the Network has worked to increase lesbian, gay, and bisexual concerns and transgender issues in the programs of international psychological meetings, in particular the 2008 International Congress of Psychology and the 2007 Interamerican Congress of Psychology (SIP). Second, the Network has established a policy committee that will develop plans for policy initiatives for the Network. The first initiative to be considered will be one recommended by CIRP and included in the Resolution on Opposing Discriminatory Legislation and Initiatives Aimed at Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Persons. CIRP recommended that APA propose that the United States National Committee of Psychology, which represents the United States in the International Union of Psychological Sciences (IUPsyS), initiate a policy development process within IUPsyS related to sexual orientation discrimination.

- **Resolution on Opposing Discriminatory Legislation and Initiatives Aimed at Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Persons**

The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns and the Committee on International Relations in Psychology will consider implementation of the resolution during their meetings in September.

- **Revising and Updating *Just the Facts about Sexual Orientation and Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators, and School Personnel***

The LGBCO has taken the lead in revising and updating *Just the Facts about Sexual Orientation and Youth*, a 1999 publication of 10 education, health, mental health, and religious organizations that aimed to assist schools in responding to advocacy for schools to provide information to their students about “reparative therapies” and “transformational ministries.” The revision is expected to be published in early fall.

- **Sexual Minority Assessment Research Team**

Clinton Anderson, Office Director, has been appointed to the Sexual Minority Assessment Research Team, a Ford Foundation funded group that works to promote knowledge development

and dissemination on the scientific collection of data on sexual orientation. The group aims to promote the inclusion of sexual orientation questions on government-sponsored research and public health surveillance surveys by developing and disseminating knowledge about the reliability and validity of various methods for collecting sexual orientation data.

- **Media relations regarding sexual orientation conversion therapy**

The print and broadcast media have shown considerable interest in the issue of sexual orientation change efforts and in APA's Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation.

- **Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project (HLGBSP)**

In 2006, the Healthy Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Students Project was awarded a 5-year, \$1.6 million cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to build the capacity of youth-serving organizations to prevent HIV among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning youth below the age of 18. The project, now in its 9th year, has been continuously funded by the CDC since its inception. After completion in May of the first year of the current five-year award, the project's progress report received an exemplary technical review at CDC. The project has been awarded \$320,000 for the second year of the current award period and will continue to provide capacity building assistance to education agencies and youth-serving organizations.

Project staff has sought to identify education agencies across the country that both serve large numbers of students at high risk for HIV infection and have the infrastructure and capacity to make use of the project's professional development services. In response to a Request for Applications that was released in May, the project has begun negotiations with four education agencies to enter into four-year collaborative relationships. We look forward to signing memoranda of agreement with two large local education agencies—the District of Columbia Public Schools and the San Diego Unified School District—and with two state education agencies—the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the Massachusetts Department of Education. Project staff and trainers will work with education agency partners over the next four years to develop their local capacity to disseminate APA's professional development workshop, *“Preventing Health Risks and Promoting Healthy Outcomes among LGBTQ Youth: A Training Workshop for School Counselors, Nurses, Psychologists, and Social Workers.”*

The project's efforts to build the capacity of other youth-serving organizations to prevent HIV infections among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning young people has been met with initial success. In partnership with the Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) program housed in APA's Office on AIDS, the project has deployed behavioral and social scientists across the country to help community-based organizations improve their ability to implement effective, science-based HIV prevention activities. The project marketed its services to approximately 160 LGBTQ-youth-serving organizations and received requests for assistance from 11 of them. Capacity building efforts are currently underway with community-based organizations in Charlotte, Colorado Springs, San Francisco, Tampa, and Tulsa.

Finally, project staff continues to play an integral role in the nationwide effort to raise awareness of the HIV prevention needs of LGBQ youth. Hank Tomlinson, PhD, the project's Director, has presented papers or moderated panels at several conferences, including the annual meetings of the CDC/DASH Funded Partners, the American School Health Association, and the North Carolina Healthy Schools Institute.

Minority Fellowship Program

The MFP was established at APA in 1977 and is one of the oldest, most prestigious graduate fellowship programs of its kind in the U.S. The mission of the MFP is to increase the knowledge of issues related to ethnic minority mental health and neuroscience and to improve the quality of mental health treatment delivered to ethnic minority populations. It does this by providing financial support and professional guidance to individuals pursuing doctoral degrees in psychology and neuroscience. The office operates, and provides fellowship stipends directly from federal training grants from NIMH and SAMHSA, with additional support provided by the NIMH Office on Aids and NIDA. There are three distinct training fellowships administered by the MFP. The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services fellowship (predoctoral and postdoctoral support); the Mental Health Research fellowship (with subspecialties in HIV/AIDS Research and Substance Abuse Research); and the Diversity Program in Neuroscience fellowship (predoctoral and postdoctoral support).

February 2007

February 2nd – 4th, the annual winter meeting of the Diversity Program for Neuroscience was hosted at the APA building (9th Floor conference room). At this meeting, applications for fellowships were reviewed and progress reports of continuing fellows were reviewed. New Fellows were selected and continuing Fellows were reappointed. During the meeting, plans for the annual Summer Program in Neuroscience, Ethics, and Survival (SPINES) and for the summer Training Advisory Committee meeting were discussed. In addition, plans for submitting the competitive renewal in the spring was discussed.

March 2007

March 9th – March 11th, the MFP Advisory Committee convened to review applications for new fellowships and to review progress reports of continuing fellows under the MHSAS and MHR programs. New Fellows were selected, and continuing Fellows were reappointed. During the meeting, the committee continued to discuss the overall MFP direction, plans for the annual Psychology Summer Institute and the upcoming APA convention.

April 2007

April 30th, the MFP submitted its competitive renewal for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (MHSAS) program to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

June 2007

June 16th, the annual Summer Program in Neuroscience, Ethics, and Survival (SPINES) was kicked off at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. SPINES is a month-long program funded through an R25 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Even though the MBL is now the official grantee for this program, the Diversity Program in Neuroscience still plays a major role in running the institute because the DPN Director, Dr. Joe L. Martinez, Jr., and DPN Training Advisory Committee members, serve as core faculty for the program. In addition, DPN Fellows are required to attend and continue to make up the majority of students participating in the institute.

July 2007

July 7th – 8th, the annual summer Training Advisory Committee meeting of the Diversity Program in Neuroscience was convened at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. At the meeting, the committee undertook planning for the upcoming annual Society for Neuroscience meeting, which will be held in San Diego, CA in November 2007. The committee also reviewed the progress of DPN Fellows and reviewed the current participants in SPINES. SPINES adjourned July 15th, 2007.

July 22rd – 28th, the MFP will host its fifth annual MFP Psychology Summer Institute (MFP PSI) at the Hyatt Regency, Capital Hill, in Washington, DC. The goal of this program is to enhance the ability of MFP Fellows to transition into competitive positions in psychology departments or other professional settings by providing them with skills in grant concept development and grant writing. This is consistent with the goal of the MFP to not only fund graduate students in psychology, but to also ensure they can develop independent research careers or service providing careers in which they are placed in leadership positions. The institute has partnered with the APA Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) and invited the Promoting Psychological Research and Training on Health Disparities Issues at Ethnic Minority Serving Institutions (ProDIGS) grant awardees to attend and be part of the training experience. The institute's faculty is comprised of leaders in the field of research, services, and training from around the country. The APA CEO, Dr. Norman Anderson, provided the keynote address.

August 2007

August 16th – August 20th, the MFP will participate in events at the annual APA Convention in New Orleans, LA. On August 16th, the MFP will hold its annual Professional Development Workshop for new Fellows. The MFP will also host its annual "New Directions Symposium," "MFP Special Topic Symposium," and Social Hour/Awards Ceremony at the APA Convention. In addition, the Student Poster Session will be held in conjunction with the Social Hour/Awards Ceremony.

Office on Socioeconomic Status

- **Office on Socioeconomic Status**

The Office on Socioeconomic Status (SES) is responsible for directing, overseeing, facilitating and promoting psychology's contribution to the understanding of SES in the lives and well-being of the poor. The Office develops and facilitates relationships and activities to advance

psychology as a major force in research, policy and advocacy related to SES through various activities and programs. Major tasks of the Office include managing and supporting the activities of the newly formed Committee on Socioeconomic Status (CSES).

- **Committee on Socioeconomic Status (CSES)**

In August 2006, Council approved the formation of a new continuing committee to address issues of socioeconomic status. The mission of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status (CSES) is as follows:

The mission of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status (SES) shall be to further the major purpose of the APA –“to advance psychology as a science and a profession and as a means of promoting health, education and human welfare”—by ensuring that issues of SES receive the full attention of the Association. The Committee will identify and act as a catalyst in the Association’s efforts to address issues of SES, and promote appropriate attention to SES in psychological research and practice. In this regard, the Committee shall: (a) collect information and documentation concerning SES; (b) promote scientific understanding of the roles of poverty and SES in health, education, and human welfare; (c) develop approaches to the application of psychology that take into account the effects of SES on psychological development and well being; and (d) advocate for social policy that will alleviate or reduce the disparities between SES groups.

CSES Call for Nominations

CSES is currently accepting nominations for two vacant seats on the committee beginning January 2008. Nominees are being sought who have expertise in psychological issues related to public health, social class and SES inequalities; have conducted research that aided in the scientific understanding of the roles of SES/social class in psychology; and have developed approaches to the application of psychology, taking into account the effects of SES on psychological development and well-being in children and/or adults. CSES is particularly interested in representatives from the practice and education communities. CSES has a strong commitment to full diversity in representation.

CSES Meeting

CSES met for the first time at the spring 2007 consolidated meetings in Washington, DC on March 23-25, 2007. Strategic planning and future directions discussed at the meeting included disseminating information about SES in a compelling manner, identifying issues surrounding the stigma associated with being poor, and emphasizing the importance of measuring poverty and other socioeconomic indicators as a way for psychologists to relate it to their work.

Additional activities initiated during the meeting included: 1) the development of CSES Operating Policies and Procedures; 2) the development of an SES network; 3) planning of Committee activities for APA’s 2007 Convention in San Francisco; 4) assigning monitors to other boards and committees; and 5) meeting with the Government Relations Office to discuss legislative priorities and advocacy issues specific to SES.

- **2007 Convention Activities**

CSES activities planned for Convention 2007 include: 1) a business meeting; 2) hosting the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status Network, which will provide an opportunity to brainstorm about potential directions for CSES and to meet committee members and other psychologists interested in issues related to SES; 3) making available in print and on-line highlights of SES-related convention programming; 4) distributing SES-related materials at the Public Interest Booth; and 5) attending various division executive committee meetings to discuss issues and activities of mutual concern.

Women's Programs Office

The Women's Programs Office (WPO) works to improve the health, education, well-being, and status of women psychologists and consumers of psychological services. WPO activities span the science, practice, education, and policy arenas. The Office works to:

- * coordinate APA's efforts to ensure equal opportunities for women psychologists as practitioners, educators, and scientists;
- * analyze initiatives and trends affecting women within APA and within psychology;
- * eliminate gender bias in research, diagnosis and treatment, and education and training;
- * promote the inclusion of women in research studies and encourage the analysis of sex and gender in the conduct and reporting of the results of research;
- * improve women's access to health and mental health services and promote the inclusion of psychosocial and behavioral factors in women's health research and practice;
- * monitor the welfare of women as consumers of psychological services, analyze the impact of governmental initiatives on women, and promote the development and application of psychological knowledge.

- **Governance Support**

WPO provides staff support for the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP), which met March 23rd-25th and will meet again September 28th-30th. WPO also staffed the Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls and is currently staffing the Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion.

Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls:

The Report of the APA Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls was released February 16, upon Council's adoption of the report and recommendations. Early press coverage was extensive, with nearly 200 news placements nationwide and internationally, including a full length feature in the Washington Post and coverage on CNN and in USA Today. Op-Eds appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle and Denver Post. Interest in the report remains strong. At this writing, the report on APA's web site has attracted almost 350,000 hits since it was released in February. The Public Interest Government Relations Office distributed copies to members of Congress, including members of the mental health, minority, and women's caucuses. In April, Task Force Chair Dr. Eileen Zurbriggen met with Congressman Bobby Rush (D-Illinois) and with Cheryl

Williams, Policy Director for Women's Policy Inc., to discuss implications of the report for federal policy. Copies of the report are being distributed to over 300 member organizations of the National Council for Research on Women and the National Council of Women's Organizations.

Key findings: Examples of sexualization abound in virtually every form of media, including television, music videos, music lyrics, magazines, movies, video games, and the Internet, in addition to advertising campaigns and products marketed to girls. Attitudes of parents, siblings, and friends can contribute to the pressure of sexualization. Sexualization is linked to negative consequences for cognitive and emotional functioning (including impaired performance on mental activities), mental health (including eating disorders, low self-esteem, and depression), physical health, and healthy sexual development. The report identifies strategies and programs that can help counter the negative effects of sexualization and provides recommendations for research, practice, education and training, public policy, and raising public awareness. The report, a summary, parent tips, list of media literacy resources, and the APA press release is available at: www.apa.org/pi/wpo/sexualization.html. Leslie Cameron served as staff liaison to the Task Force.

Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion:

Council established the Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion in February 2006, charged to collect, examine, and summarize the scientific research addressing the mental health factors associated with abortion, including the psychological responses following abortion and produce a report, based upon a review of the most current research. The Task Force convened its first meeting September 15-17, 2006 and held its second meeting from April 27-29, 2007. The Task Force also convenes monthly conference calls to address major issues as they develop and draft their literature review. The report will be completed in 2008. Tanya Burrwell serves as staff liaison to this Task Force.

Leadership Development Program:

The leadership program's goal is to empower, prepare, and support women psychologists as leaders to promote positive changes in institutional and organizational life. Increasing the diversity, number and effectiveness of women psychologists as leaders should help advance psychology as a science and profession and as a means of promoting health, education and human welfare. The first stage of implementation of this leadership program will be a focus group and email survey to mid-career women psychologists in a variety of settings across divisions, sections, and areas within APA, to evaluate specific leadership needs. For the half-day focus group, planned for September 2007 just prior to the Fall Consolidated Meetings, representatives from APA committees will be invited to attend, with 50 total participants expected. APA's Committee on Women in Psychology recently secured from the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) \$5,000 to support the program's development. The \$5,000 from ORWH will be used to contract with an outside expert who will conduct the focus group and produce a report. In addition, an e-mail survey will be distributed to psychologists not participating in the focus group, to ensure the widest possible input. Shari Miles-Cohen serves as staff liaison to the Planning Committee.

Surveys, Publications, and Resources:

WPO released the revised ***Women in the American Psychological Association 2006***, which provides data on the numbers of women participating as members and serving in leadership roles in psychology, including in divisions; in state associations; on the boards and committees that make up APA's governance structure; in the publications process as editors, associate editors, and reviewers; and in APA's central office. The 2006 revision includes data through 2005.

Available at: <http://www2.apa.org/pi/wpo/Womeninpsych2006.pdf>

Available summer 2007, the ***Directory of Selected Scholarship, Fellowship, and Other Financial Aid Opportunities for Women and Ethnic Minorities in Psychology and Related Fields***, lists financial aid opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and postdoctoral students, and professionals in a variety of social science disciplines, is the most requested document on WPO's website, registering up to 10,000 hits (or "pageviews") each month.

Searchable database accessible at:

<http://forms.apa.org/pi/financialaid/>

WPO staff wrote and disseminated ***Women's Psych-E***, a free monthly electronic newsletter that focuses on psychological aspects of women's health and well-being, research initiatives and opportunities for psychologists, announcements about meetings and conferences, WPO and the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP) news, and general information about women and psychology. (To subscribe, send an email to the editor, Tanya Burrwell at tburrwell@apa.org.)

Recent issues available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/wpopsyche.html>

The ***Summit on Women and Depression: Proceedings and Recommendations***, which was posted to the WPO website in 2002, continues to register between 3,000 and 5,000 hits (or pageviews) per month. Available at:

http://www2.apa.org/pi/wpo/summit_on_women_and_depression.pdf

Revisions to the survey of ***Internship Opportunities for Women in Psychology*** are under way and will be available later this year.

Other resources available at <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo> include:

- * ***Graduate Faculty Interested in the Psychology of Women (2005)***
- * ***Surviving and Thriving in Academia: A Guide for Women and Ethnic Minorities (1998)***
- * ***Women in Academe: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back (2000)***
- * ***52 Resolutions and Motions Regarding the Status of Women in Psychology: Chronicling 30 Years of Passion and Progress (2004)***

2007 APA Convention Events:

WPO will provide staff support for the following APA Convention events:

- Symposium: *Negotiation Skills Facilitate Career Advancement for Women in Psychology*
- Research and Training Funding: *Discussion with Representatives from Federal Agencies*
- Presentation of the 2007 Committee on Women in Psychology Leadership Awards*
- Symposium: *Sexualization of Girls--How Culture and Corporations Are Harming Our Daughters*

--Symposium: *Psychological and Health Impacts of Social Injustice* -- Vulnerable and Impressionable: Social Inequality and Children's Exposure to Health Risks

WPO will also provide staff support for the annual Committee on Women in Psychology Network meeting.