

Women's Psych-E

E-newsletter of the APA Women's Programs Office: December 2005

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Public Interest Prepares for New Executive Director

As 2006 quickly approaches, the Women's Programs Office is preparing for the bittersweet departure of its Director, Gwendolyn Puryear Keita, PhD. As both Director of the Women's Programs Office and Associate Executive Director of the Public Interest (PI) Directorate, Dr. Keita has been a leader in efforts to increase recognition of psychosocial and behavioral factors in women's health and the emerging field of occupational health psychology. In all she has done and continues to do, she demonstrates a powerful personal and professional commitment to applying psychology's science and practice to promote the health and human welfare for all individuals. Dr. Keita will assume the position of Executive Director in January 2006, upon the retirement of Dr. Henry Tomes.

The Women's Programs Office would like to extend our whole hearted and enthusiastic congratulations to our leader and friend, Dr. Gwendolyn Keita! We will miss her as Director, but we greatly look forward to her leadership of the Public Interest Directorate as a whole.

NEWS

WHO Report Outlines Prevalence of Domestic Violence on Women's Health

Women who are victims of intimate partner violence are twice as likely to experience serious health consequences, according to a November report released by the World Health Organization. The report, based on a survey of 24,000 women in 10 countries, focuses on the association between intimate partner violence and women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, in addition to non-partner violence, sexual abuse during childhood and forced first sexual experience. Rates of intimate partner violence ranged from 15% in Japan to 71% in Ethiopia. In all cases, acceptance of and/or the perception of violence as 'normal' was higher among victims of violence. For more information or to obtain a copy of the report, please visit the World Health Organization website at www.who.org.

Study Examines Impact of Depression on Patients with Heart Disease

A study published in the November *Journal of American Psychiatry* examines the impact of depression on patients with heart disease. Using data from the Heart and Soul Study, researchers found that among 598 participants with heart disease, 106 (18%) had depressive symptoms. Patients with depressive symptoms had greater levels of norepinephrine, which may contribute to increased risk of future cardiac events. Researchers noted the importance of this finding and the need for future research in this area. The

Heart and Soul Study is an ongoing prospective cohort study of psychosocial and health outcomes in patients with coronary disease.

Otte, C., Neylan, T.C., Pipkin, S.S., Browner, W.S., & Whooley, M.A. (2005). Depressive symptoms and 24-hour urinary norepinephrine excretion levels in patients with coronary disease: Findings from the Heart and Soul study. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, *162*, 2139-2145.

See also, *Summit on Women and Depression: Proceedings and Recommendations*
<http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo/women&depression.pdf>.

Now available - 2006 Anxiety Disorders Association of America Calendar

Did you know....more than 19.1 million American adults ages 18-54 have an anxiety disorder AND women are more likely than men to have an anxiety disorder? The 2006 Anxiety Disorders Association of America calendar, *Women Talk: Open the Dialogue – Triumph over Anxiety Disorders*, contains these and other valuable statistics and resources on anxiety disorders, in addition to personal accounts of triumph over anxiety disorders. For more information, please visit the ADAA website at www.adaa.org.

ASSOCIATION NEWS:

Toward an Urban Psychology: Research, Action, and Policy

In 2000, about 80% of the U.S. population lived in urban areas and by 2007 half of the world's population will live in cities, rising to 75% by 2020. Urban dwelling influences all aspects of life, including health, parenting practices, and employment. As such, it must be of concern to psychologists. The final report of the Task Force on Urban Psychology, *Toward an Urban Psychology: Research, Action, and Policy* provides an examination of critical urban issues for psychology, summarizes the state of scientific research related to urban issues, and offers an agenda for action in urban psychology. The report also makes the case for greater involvement of psychologists in efforts to address urban issues. This report is now available on the WPO website at www.apa.org/pi/wpo.

Graduate Faculty Interested in the Psychology of Women

The American Psychological Association receives many requests for information concerning women faculty and psychology of women courses at various colleges and universities. In response to these requests, the WPO periodically surveys graduate departments of psychology about their activities relevant to women and/or women's issues in psychology. For more information, please visit www.apa.org/pi/wpo/gradfaculty2005.html

Financial Aid Directory for Women and Minorities in Psychology and Related Fields

The WPO developed the *Directory of Selected Scholarship, Fellowship, and Other Financial Aid Opportunities for Women and Minorities in Psychology and Related Fields* to assist students and professionals in identifying avenues of funding. For more information, please visit <http://forms.apa.org/pi/financialaid/>.

Policy Briefings: *As part of efforts to monitor issues relevant to women, WPO staff participates in and represents APA at meetings, briefings and conferences:*

On November 16, 2005, the American Psychological Association (APA) co-sponsored a Congressional briefing entitled "Ethnic Minority Children and Youth Facing Traumatic Events: Promoting Resiliency and Coping Strategies." APA CEO Norman Anderson, PhD, moderated that event which featured

remarks by Congressman Michael Honda, Chair of the Congressional Asian-Pacific American Caucus, as well as an expert panel of speakers who highlighted the plight of ethnic minority children and youth, including long- and short-term effects of trauma, as well as potential efforts to aid victims.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

CDC Seeks Public Comment for Research Guide

The CDC Office of Public Health Research, Office of the Chief Science Officer, Office of the Director, has embarked on the monumental task of implementing recommendations from a three workshops to develop the CDC Health Protection Research Guide, 2006-2015. A 60-day public comment period (announced in the November 18th Federal Register), will run from November 18 through January 15, 2006. To review the Research Guide and enter comments directly at the CDC Website, http://www.rsvpbook.com/custom_pages/50942/index.php.

CEMRRAT Grants 2006

The APA's Public Interest Directorate has been allocated \$100,000 to continue implementation of the CEMRRAT Plan as recommended by the APA Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training in Psychology (CEMRRAT). These small-grants "seed funds" energize, empower, and support interested individuals, organizations, and educational institutions committed to enhancing ethnic minority recruitment, retention and training in psychology. See http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/programs/cemrrat2_grant_fund_announcement.pdf for more information.

Volunteer applications sought for APA's representative team at the United Nations

APA is seeking psychologists who live in the greater New York area to volunteer to be part of the APA UN Representative team. Representatives work on selected areas of UN concern, and promote the use of psychological science and a psychological perspective in UN activities. For more information see www.apa.org/international/apauncall.html or email international@apa.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2006 American Psychological Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, August 10 – 13, 2006. <http://www.apa.org/convention06/>

Contributions, comments, and subscription requests may be submitted for consideration to Tanya L. Burrwell, Editor, at tburrwell@apa.org. Check the Women's Programs Office website at <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo>.