The President’s Message

Congratulations to the University of Miami for hosting a successful and enjoyable National Conference on Child Health Psychology. There were over 500 registrants. Given that we currently have 1,475 members, that means over a third of our membership attended. The high attendance should be encouraging to those of you who will be responding to the RFA to host the conference in 2010. Clearly, if there is a conference, members will come. You can find the call for proposals to host the 2010 Conference in this edition of Progress Notes.

Psychologists as Administrators

While I could comment on the importance and impact of all of the sessions at the recent conference, one session in particular stands out, the Roundtable Discussion hosted by Dan Clay and Russell Hoffmann entitled, “Psychologists as Administrators: Pros, Perils, and Everything in Between.” This session was noteworthy because of the enthusiasm shown for this topic by those who attended the session. Dan and Russell led and participated in a discussion with Ron Brown, Mary Jo Kupst, and myself on topics such as how we chose an administrator path, the experiences and training we received for this path, as well as our perceptions of the benefits and costs of being an administrator. What quickly became obvious was that none of the panel members felt they actually “chose” an administrator path or set a goal to become an administrator.

A common theme among the panelists was that becoming an administrator simply evolved over time. Many panel members described being asked to do a task and having done it well, being asked to complete another task, and eventually being asked to apply for and assume leadership positions, most of which involved considerable administrative responsibilities. It was clear from audience participants, many of whom were early- and mid-career psychologists, that SPP members are seeking information on administrative tracks, and perhaps even mentorship in developing leadership skills that will lead to administrative positions in the future. Perhaps this is a sign of the maturity of our field.

New Task Force on Psychologists in Leadership and Administrative Roles Created

As pediatric psychologists, our numbers have grown and our work has become more integral to academic medical centers. This is evident as psychologists operate in psychology divisions both within departments of psychiatry and departments of pediatrics (independent of psychiatry). Thus, there are increasing opportunities for the growth of pediatric psychology in medical settings, as well as the potential for growth in leadership positions within our discipline. As we look around we also see that leadership positions within our field have led to larger roles in academic settings, such as Ron Brown’s position as dean of the College of Health Professions at Temple University, and Danny Armstrong’s position as associate chair of Pediatrics and director of the Mailman Center for Child Development, just to name a few. This led to an apt question raised by Wayne Holden, with regard to “what are we doing about succession planning?” This was by far the hardest question for the panel to address. If the five panel members felt they had arrived at their current positions unexpectedly, how could or should we systematically think about succession planning.

In one of the premier books on business companies that create and sustain greatness, Good to Great (Collins, 2001), succession planning is one key element that differentiated the companies whose greatness was short lived versus those who sustained greatness beyond one CEO. Thus, to sustain the growth and success achieved by the Society for Pediatric Psychology, it may be time to turn our attention to developing the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and administrators as our future leaders. It is essential to develop future leaders for the current and growing demand for psychologists in leadership and administrative roles within divisions as well as at the institutional level.

As the discussion continued, it became clear that there was not only enthusiasm, but energy for “doing something” within... cont’d. on p.2...
SPP to meet members’ interest in preparing for leadership and administrative roles. Deidre Donaldson, director of Pediatric Psychology Services at the May Institute and Russell Hoffmann, director of Psychology at St. Louis Children’s Hospital agreed to lead this effort. They formed the Task Force on Psychologists in Leadership and Administrative Roles, complete with an aims statement and a 12-month plan. The Task Force’s aim is to “expose SPP membership to best practices in administration and management through the provision of information, a conceptual framework, training and mentoring opportunities, and useful tools for improved support and performance in areas of management and leadership.” Their first goal is to have a list of references on excellent leadership and management books and conceptual framework on the SPP website by the end of June 2008 with an eventual goal of creating an interactive mentoring structure for SPP members within a year. The goals and timeline are aggressive such that this task force will lead by example while increasing our collective awareness of effective leadership.

Task Force Update/ New Historian Position Created

I would also like to provide an update on the accomplishments of the task forces introduced in the last newsletter. The Defining Clinical Outcomes for Pediatric Psychology Interventions Task Force led by Tonya Palermo and Gerard Banez has identified pediatric chronic pain as the initial condition for which an outcomes model will be drafted. This task force will define a process for identifying relevant outcome measures, review the utility of those measures, and identify processes for getting outcome measures into clinical practice. It is anticipated that the processes they develop will serve as a model for defining outcomes for other conditions treated by pediatric psychologists.

Christina Adams and Larry Mullins have also been busy on the Health and Behavior Codes Task Force. They are undaunted by the assessment of the Interdivisional Health Care Committee (IHC), which felt tackling reimbursement by the Medicaid system would be impossible. FYI: There are 55 Medicaid systems—more than there are states! Christina and Larry have developed a plan of contacting each Medicaid office that is currently reimbursing H&B codes to identify the reason(s) they decided to reimburse the codes and the procedures they went through to get the codes approved for reimbursement. They will then disseminate the success stories in future issues of Progress Notes. This will allow pediatric psychologists to gain: a) information on reasons Medicaid would consider reimbursing H&B codes; b) specific strategies for getting the codes reimbursed that have been successfully employed; and c) examples of other states’ policies on H&B codes that pediatric psychologists can consult as we approach our own state Medicaid system. The Task Force has identified seven state Medicaid programs that currently reimburse psychologists for H&B codes: Alaska, Colorado, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, Utah and Wisconsin. If any of our members who practice in these states were part of the process to get the H&B codes reimbursed or have any information on this process, please contact Larry Mullins at larrymullins@okstate.edu or Christina Adams at cdadams@phhp.ufl.edu.

Finally, SPP created a historian position and appointed Michael Roberts, who will feature and document SPP’s history through a regular column in Progress Notes. We will also be able to learn about how effective leadership has shaped our past accomplishments and energizes our current initiatives.

SPP’s Strength and Future is its Membership

In keeping with the administrative theme of the column, a second key factor in companies that go from good to great is having the “right people on the bus.” With this theme in mind and in closing, I would like to acknowledge the leaders of all ongoing initiatives, task forces, and committees. I would also like to recognize the commitment and hard work of the elected officers of SPP, past and present, many of whom created the vision of what pediatric psychology and the Society could be.

Most of all, SPP’s strength and future is in its membership. Every person’s participation in SPP, contribution of time and ideas, and accomplishments in the field contribute to our collective success. Together, we will accomplish our core membership goals, which are to strengthen the sustainability and visibility of pediatric psychologists, foster leadership and professional development, and grow and diversify our membership.

Request for Applications

National Conference on Child Health Psychology
April – May, 2010

The Board of Directors of Division 54 requests applications to conduct the National Conference on Child Health Psychology in 2010. For application instructions, visit www.societyofpediatricpsychology.org.

In advance of submitting materials, applicants should contact SPP President Elect Kathleen Lemanek, Ph.D. at kathleen.lemanek@nationwidechildrens.org. Proposal deadline is: November 15, 2008.
2008 Division 54 Award Winners

Martin P. Levin
Mentorship Award

Logan Wright Distinguished Research Award

Lee Salk Distinguished Service Award

Routh Early Career Award in Pediatric Psychology

Michael C. Roberts, Ph.D.

Ronald T. Brown, Ph.D.

Glen P. Aylward, Ph.D.

Kevin A. Hommel, Ph.D.

The Martin P. Levin Mentorship Award was given to Michael C. Roberts, Ph.D., ABPP, of the University of Kansas Clinical Child Psychology Program. This award, sponsored by SPP and the Levin Foundation, honors pediatric psychology faculty who mentor students in an exemplary way, providing professional advice and guidance through various graduate program phases.

Roberts is professor and director of the Child Clinical Psychology Program in the Dept. of Applied Behavioral Sciences and the Dept. of Psychology at the University of Kansas, where he has been since 1991. Roberts has a long and distinguished record of excellence in teaching and dedication in mentoring psychology students. He received the Frank B. Morrison Teaching Award from the Univ. of Kansas College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Education and Training in Psychology.

Throughout his career he has been active in mentoring many students at all levels of training, including undergraduates, graduate students, fellows, and junior faculty. His mentoring has focused not only on teaching, research, and clinical skills, but also on professional and personal development.

The Logan Wright Distinguished Research Award was given to Ronald T. Brown, Ph.D., ABPP, of Temple University. This award recognizes excellence and significant contributions in establishing the scientific base of pediatric psychology.

Brown is currently professor of Public Health, Psychology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and dean of the College of Health Professions at Temple University. Prior to that he held faculty appointments at the Medical University of South Carolina and Emory University. He is a prominent researcher in the field of pediatric psychology and has made substantial contributions in a number of areas, including the psychopharmacologic treatment of ADHD, and neuro-psychological factors in cancer, and sickle cell disease. Brown has published over 125 papers, 60 chapters, and nine books. His research has been supported by the NIH for over 20 consecutive years, and he has served on many grant review panels at the NIH. Brown was the editor of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology from 2003 through 2007.

The Lee Salk Distinguished Service Award was given to Glen P. Aylward, Ph.D., ABPP, of Southern Illinois University Medical School. This award recognizes service to the field of pediatric psychology, including public or political advocacy or leadership.

Aylward is professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, and chief of the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics in the Dept. of Pediatrics, where he has been on the faculty since 1979. Aylward’s contributions to pediatric psychology are many, including not only clinical, research, and administrative work, but also service to SPP, as well as representing pediatric psychology within the medical community. He has served as SPP president, Fellows chair, program chair, and on the Journal of Pediatric Psychology editorial board. Aylward has held leadership positions in several medical organizations, including being the president of the Society of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. He has also served as associate editor for the Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics since 2003.

Aylward has advanced the field of pediatric psychology and influenced the development of outstanding clinical services for children with neurodevelopmental disorders.

The Routh Early Career Award was awarded to Kevin A. Hommel, Ph.D., of the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. This award recognizes significant contributions to the field of pediatric psychology in research, clinical training, and/or service during the early career.

Hommel is an assistant professor of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. He formerly held a faculty position at the University of Pennsylvania and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Hommel’s current research, funded by a K award from the NIH, focuses on behavioral treatment of non-adherence in children with irritable bowel disease. He has also active in several other areas in pediatric psychology, including asthma, headache, and rheumatoid arthritis. Hommel has published over two dozen peer-reviewed articles as well as several chapters. He has also been active in SPP and served as program chair for SPP for the 2007 annual APA meeting.
Nicole Fenton is our first undergraduate Student Spotlight award winner! She is a senior at the University of Georgia under the mentorship of Ronald L. Blount, Ph.D. Fenton’s work in Dr. Blount’s lab has focused on investigating the effects of medication adherence and family factors on medical outcomes and quality of life in transplant recipients. She has co-authored several paper and poster presentations related to these projects. In addition, Fenton has an extensive list of relevant clinical and community volunteer experiences, including her work at Camp Independence, a sleep away camp for pediatric transplant recipients.

Fenton was recently accepted to join the graduate program in clinical psychology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill to work with Karen Gil, Ph.D. Her long-term goal is to pursue a career as a professor at a research university. As a researcher and pediatric clinician, she hopes to directly apply her research findings to improve the lives of children with chronic illnesses.

The SPP Diversity Committee has arrived in full force! Lori Stark has appointed us as committee co-chairs. Committee members include Chanele Bishop, John Chaney, Daniel Clay, Lori Crosby, Melia Lescano, Anna Maria Patino-Fernandez, Amy Sato, and Dawn Witherspoon.

The Diversity Committee is conceptualizing diversity in the broadest range, beyond race and ethnicity. While race and ethnicity remain an important piece of a diversity focus, included in the conceptualization are other variables that can affect a child and family, such as socioeconomic status, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, family composition. This list is not comprehensive but intended to provide a starting point for discussions on multiculturalism and diversity in the education, training, and research of pediatric psychologists.

We have initiated several very exciting projects. The Diversity Committee is committed to recognizing quality student and early-career research on diversity issues in pediatric psychology. At the 2008 National Conference in Child Health Psychology in Miami, the committee presented the Celebrating Diversity in Research Student Poster Award. Of the more than 400 posters that were presented at this year’s conference, Jessica Valenzuela, Ph.D. was selected as the winner of this year’s award. Valenzuela, whose poster was entitled, “Psychometric Findings for a Spanish Translation of the Diabetes Self Management Profile,” is a graduate of the University of Miami and a post-doctoral fellow at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. Award Finalists who received Honorable Mention include: Betty Lai, University of Miami; Courtney Moin, University of Miami; Karen Petty, Medical College of Georgia; and Natalie Williams, University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The Diversity Committee is also excited to announce the introduction of the Diversity Research Grant. This $1,000 award provides funding for an individual conducting research on a topic related to diversity, broadly defined. Applicants will need to describe how the proposed research makes a contribution to diversity in pediatric psychology. Eligible applicants are SPP members who are students or junior faculty (within 7 years of receipt of the doctorate). Application deadline is June 1, 2008, and the winner will be announced at the APA Convention. Visit the SPP website for additional details on the award and application process.

Also at the APA convention, the Diversity Committee is planning a roundtable discussion to discuss recruitment and retention of diverse participants in pediatric psychology research. Leading the discussion will be Amy Sato, Lori Crosby, and Celia Lescano. This program will be held in the Division 54 suite; if you’re interested in attending, check the convention hotel lobbies for signs that list the location.

Many resources related to diversity exist both within APA and in the general literature. With this in mind, the Diversity Committee is preparing a page on the SPP website to provide links to relevant sites. Links are provided to specific documents, such as “Surviving and Thriving in Academia: A Survival Guide for Women and People of Color” and “Answering Your Questions about Sexual Orientation,” as well as to publications provided by various APA offices. We hope, in the future, to provide you with more information about the committee’s initiatives by posting them on the website.

As many of you already know, JPP Editor Denny Drotar has assigned associate editors to new priority scientific content areas for our field. One of these content areas is Diversity and Health Care Disparities. The Diversity Committee, in conjunction with Beth McQuaid, associate editor for this content area, strongly encourages you to consider submitting relevant manuscripts to JPP on this important topic. The Committee is pleased to see the Journal’s commitment to diversity on a broader scale.

If any of you have thoughts about how to advance diversity initiatives within SPP, please feel free to contact us at nelghoroury@metrohealth.org and monica.mitchell@cchmc.org.
The 116th APA Annual Convention will be held in Boston, Massachusetts this year—one of our nation’s most beautiful cities. Most of the convention programming will be scheduled in one facility, the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. SPP has an exciting program of symposia, workshops, paper presentations, and poster presentations scheduled from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Thursday through Sunday for this year’s convention.

There are several outstanding aspects of this year’s program. We will have four paper sessions focused on caregivers, interventions in pediatric psychology, emotional and behavioral functioning of young children, and innovative topics in pediatric psychology. In light of our members’ requests, we also have a discussion session focused on practicalities and politics of EPIC/EMR in pediatric psychology practice. Highlighting important areas in our field are symposia on mental health research and treatment for ethnic minority youth, increasing evidenced based practice, and behavioral health screening in diverse pediatric settings. In addition, the APA Presidential Task Force on PTSD will present a symposium on treating PTSD in youth and the lessons learned from different areas of trauma. Each of these symposia is sure to provide a lot of information and opportunity for discussion. Also, we have two great poster sessions planned. On Thursday afternoon, the poster session will highlight diverse areas of research in the field of pediatric psychology. The poster session on Saturday morning will include research presentations from both pediatric and child clinic psychology. Finally, be sure to attend the presidential address and awards ceremony on Saturday.

Continuing education (CE) credits will be offered for certain presentations. Check the final APA program for CE sessions offered through Division 54.

This year Division 54 has partnered with Divisions 37 and 53 for the annual Social Hour and Internships/Fellowships on Parade on Saturday at 6 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity for students to network and gather information on internships and postdoctoral fellowships in child clinical and pediatric psychology. In addition, our Hospitality Suite will be offering several informal discussions and social hours that should interest both students and professionals. [See sidebar, this page.] This forum gives individuals the opportunity to discuss pertinent pediatric psychology issues in an informal setting. Refreshments will be available to attendees.

This convention promises to provide a variety of stimulating presentations, interaction with colleagues across the country, access to excellent museums, nightlife, shopping, and cuisine. See you all in Boston this August!

The terrific programming would not be possible without the time and effort of our reviewers. The Program Committee would like to formally thank the following individuals who served as reviewers for proposals submitted to Division 54:

- Monica Mitchell, Ph.D.
- Debra Lefkowitz, Psy.D.
- Lori Crosby, Psy.D.
- Amy Baughcum, Ph.D.
- Richard Boles, Ph.D.
- Meredith Dreyer, Ph.D.
- Anai Cuadra, Ph.D.
- Melissa Alderfer, Ph.D.
- Diana Shollmer, Ph.D.
- Meg Zeller, Ph.D.
- Liz Willen, Ph.D.
- Maria Goldman, Psy.D.
- Kristen Marciel, Ph.D.
- Korey Hood, Ph.D.
- Christopher Houck, Ph.D.
- Lisa Schwartz, Ph.D.
- Monica Dowling, Ph.D.
- Carrie Piazza-Waggoner, Ph.D.
- Tanya Diver, Ph.D.
- Alexandra Quittner, Ph.D.
- Lissette Perez, Ph.D.
- Kimberly Driscoll, Ph.D.
- Kevin Smith, Ph.D.
- Kevin Hommel, Ph.D.
- Rachel Tunick, Ph.D.
- Julie Simons, Ph.D.
- Diana Shollmer, Ph.D.
### Thursday, August 14, 2008

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Division 53</th>
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| 8–9 am | Business Meeting: JPP Editorial Board  
Chair: Dennis Drotar  
Sheraton Boston Hotel Berkeley Room |  
8–9 am Symposium: Refining Interventions to Improve Engagement and Outcomes Among Suicidal Youth  
Cochairs: Joel Sherrill, Cheryl King  
Meeting Rm 157B |
| 9–10 am | Symposium: Refining Interventions to Improve Engagement and Outcomes Among Suicidal Youth  
Cochairs: Joel Sherrill, Cheryl King  
Meeting Rm 157B | Symposium: Behavioral Health Screening in Diverse Pediatric Settings—Practical Strategies  
Chair: Linda Alpert-Gillis  
Meeting Rm 251 |
| 10–11 am |  
11 am–12 pm Symposium: Best Practices in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology—The Assessment and Treatment of ADHD  
Meeting Rm 153A |  
12–1 pm Poster Session: Externalizing Disorders and Related Constructs  
Exhibit Halls A and B1 |
| 1–2 pm | Poster Session: Externalizing Disorders and Related Constructs  
Exhibit Halls A and B1 | Workshop: Educational Issues and Interventions for Pediatric Cancer Survivors  
Chair: Lisa Northman  
Meeting Rm 251 |
| 2–3 pm | Symposium: From DSM-IV to DSM-V—Integrating Developmental Psychopathology  
Chair: E. Jane Costello  
Meeting Rm 206B | Poster Session Exhibit Halls A and B1 |
| 3–4 pm |  
3–4 pm |  
4–5 pm |  
4–5 pm |  
5–6 pm |  
5–6 pm |  
6–7 pm |  
6–7 pm |
## Convention Programming in Boston

### Saturday, August 16, 2008

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9–10 am</td>
<td>Paper Session: Parental Influences on Child Psychopathology Meeting Rm 252A</td>
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<tr>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td>Symposium: School-Based Parent Training—Program Evaluation, Methodological Challenges, Reaching Under-Represented Groups Chair: Bruce Baker Meeting Rm 259B</td>
<td>Poster Session Exhibit Halls A and B1</td>
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<tr>
<td>12–1 pm</td>
<td>Poster Session: Internalizing Disorders and Contextual Issues Exhibit Halls A and B1</td>
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<td>1–2 pm</td>
<td>Invited Address/ Distinguished Career Award Chair: Sheila Eyberg Meeting Rm 208</td>
<td>Paper Session: Innovative Topics in Pediatric Psychology Authors: Kristin Kullgren, Christopher Houck, Mary Grimley Meeting Rm 204A</td>
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<td>2–3 pm</td>
<td>Presidential Address/ Awards Chair: Lori Stark Sheraton Boston Hotel Republic Ballroom A</td>
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<tr>
<td>3–4 pm</td>
<td>Business Meeting/Awards Ceremony Chair: Lori Stark Sheraton Boston Hotel Republic Ballroom A</td>
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<tr>
<td>6–7 pm</td>
<td>Social Hour: Internships and Postdoc Fellowship Training Programs on Parade Sheraton Boston Hotel Back Bay Ballroom D</td>
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### Sunday, August 17, 2008

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Division 53</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9–10 am</td>
<td>Symposium: Findings From the Multisite Child and Adolescent Anxiety Multimodal Treatment (CAMS) Study Chair: John Piacentini Meeting Rm 157C</td>
<td>Symposium: Lessons Learned—Challenges in Implementing Evidence-Based Treatment Chair: Robin Gurwitch Meeting Rm 260</td>
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<tr>
<td>10–11 am</td>
<td>Symposium: Mental Health Research and Treatment for Ethnic Minority Youths Chair: Anderson Franklin Meeting Rm 254A</td>
<td>Discussion: Practicalities and Politics of EPIC/EMR in Pediatric Psychology Practice Cochair: William Tynan, Vanessa Jensen Meeting Rm 157C</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 am–12 pm</td>
<td>Symposium: Getting Funded as a Student and Early-career Clinical Child Psychologist Chair: Julie Cerel Meeting Rm 153C</td>
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<tr>
<td>12–2 pm</td>
<td>Symposium: Best Practices in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology—The Assessment and Treatment of Youth Depression Meeting Rm 153A</td>
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**KEY**

- **Division 53 Substantive Programming**
- **Division 53 Non-substantive Programming**
- **Division 54 Substantive Programming**
- **Division 54 Non-substantive Programming**

**Cosponsored by**

- Divisions 37, 53, and 54
- Non-Substantive Programming

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All sessions take place in the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center unless otherwise indicated.

The Hospitality Suite is located in the Sheraton Boston Hotel. For complete schedule, see page 5.

* indicates CEUs are offered
Diversity training is essential to the professional development of students interested in pediatric psychology. In order to further promote diversity training, it is important to reflect upon ways to enhance this training. The Division 54 Diversity Committee identified training opportunities and areas of professional growth important to promoting diversity in pediatric psychology. Similarly, Student Advisory Board members reflected upon their training and identified needs in this area. This article is not meant to provide an exhaustive list of diversity-related training needs or objectives; however, we hope that the compilation of faculty and student perspectives will stimulate dialogue around this important topic.

Reflections from the Diversity Committee

Members of the Diversity Committee suggested several complementary approaches to promoting diversity training in pediatric psychology. Dr. Mitchell called attention to the need for training in clinical care and research aimed at reducing health disparities. This includes integrating public health and public policy perspectives into training in order to understand and improve socio-cultural factors related to health access and outcomes. She recommended training students in culturally sensitive approaches to research, such as community-based participatory research, and training on the application and outcomes of evidence-based practices in minority/ethnically diverse populations. Dr. Crosby added that it is important for pediatric psychology trainees to understand the relationships between racial identity and/or acculturation and chronic illness, and between culture and health perceptions. She emphasized the need for training in culturally sensitive personalized predictive medicine that takes into account personal preferences, individualized outcomes and response rates. In addition to these areas, Dr. Clay highlighted the need for trainees to understand cultural assumptions and biases of treatment approaches as well as cultural contributions to etiology, utilization, treatment effectiveness, and outcomes.

Drs. Clay, Crosby, and Mitchell emphasized the importance of diversity training in relation to working with other professionals. This includes modeling cultural sensitivity and competence for other health care professionals and training other professionals to work with diverse populations. Trainees should learn to consult with schools, community agencies, and public health clinics, which may not have access to the expertise of a pediatric psychologist but that tend to work with diverse populations who might have barriers to accessing traditional services.

Diversity Committee members also noted that promoting the growth of diversity in pediatric psychology includes the need for diversity among pediatric psychologists. Dr. Clay pointed to the need for professionals in pediatric psychology who “look like the people they are serving.” Indeed, as noted by Dr. Mitchell, programs will need to prioritize recruitment and retention to ensure diversity, broadly defined, in training.

Reflections from the Student Advisory Board

Diversity-related training needs identified by students fell, broadly, in three areas.

**Exposure to specific communities/populations.** One student expressed having limited exposure working with specific groups, such as Native American families and the LGTB community. Greater exposure to specific populations would enhance clinical judgment and encourage beyond a “group differences” mentality. Clinical opportunities with diverse populations may also translate into unique research initiatives, such as evaluating the use of empirically based treatments with specific communities or minority groups.

In addition to the need for exposure to diverse patient populations, students expressed a desire to be exposed to diverse training faculty and emphasized the importance of recruiting faculty from diverse groups.

**Didactic training.** An important and often understudied subject in graduate school is the topic of health disparities and access to medical care. Pediatric psychology students would benefit from exposure to classes, workshops, or other seminars exploring differences in disease prevalence, health care utilization, and access to healthcare among racial and ethnic minority groups. This knowledge could be used to help the student conceptualize individual cases or tailor interventions to better meet the needs of particular minority groups. Specific training in models that help clinicians elicit illness conceptualization from their patients of other cultures is needed.

**Conceptualizing culture.** Students also identified the importance of exploring the meaning of the term “culture” and conceptualizing culture in terms of strengths (rather than barriers). Students described “culture” as a confluence of many behavioral practices and beliefs, not bound by group ethnicity or language. Embracing the perception of cultural beliefs and practices as strengths may improve prevention and intervention design.
Gene Walker’s generous contribution to the Society of Pediatric Psychology to support an education award in pediatric psychology for student travel to professional meetings is characteristic of this generous and thoughtful educator. Although reveling in a reputation of being frugal, Gene has given of himself in more ways than we can enumerate (and likely more than even we know about). The financial gift to SPP benefiting students epitomizes his support for students, interns, postdocs, and colleagues through a remarkable career in psychology. We point to his article in the *Journal of Pediatric Psychology* for details on his development as a true “Pioneer in Pediatric Psychology” (Walker, 2000).

It seems appropriate that Gene should fund a travel award because Gene is an unabashed traveler. Although always professional, Gene has often provided thoughtful guidance to students about attending professional meetings (e.g., “You can always get a reprint of the paper, but you can’t get a reprint of San Francisco.”). Gene is also well known for his sense of humor that ranges from the wry to ribald; he appreciates jokes (including telling ones on himself) and scanning cartoons on issues of the day to distribute in emails. With his sage advice and humor, he has always been serious in his dedication to the science, practice, and education of psychology.

His earlier work at Baylor University included studying psychological effects of pornography (which fortuitously helped propel his departure and hiring at Oklahoma Health Sciences Center with the Oklahoma Children’s Memorial Hospital). At OU, he developed an outpatient clinic for assessment and treatment of children’s psychological problems presenting in a pediatric setting. Working with patients with encopresis and enuresis, Gene was part of the “pee and poop” team that drew clients from across the country and demonstrated effective psychological treatments for pediatric conditions. His work helped establish psychology’s value in medicine and he wrote numerous books and chapters on behavioral theory, research, and applications as well as a popular 1975 tradebook entitled, *How to Relax* (revised and reprinted over the years). He co-edited three editions of the *Handbook of Clinical Child Psychology* and a *Casebook in Child and Pediatric Psychology*. With colleagues at OU, Gene also published important works on child abuse and neglect.

His interest in the history of psychology, especially through autobiographies of the major players, produced two books that provide interesting insights into the early years of clinical psychology. For pediatric psychology, in particular, his SPP Presidential Address presented a history of the concept and organization as well as a view to the vital future of the field (Walker, 1988). Gene’s contributions to education and training extend not only to his personal mentoring, but also to his writings assisting students through professional development including how to benefit from practicum and a primer for early-career professionals. Clearly, Gene is a scholar of the first order.

Upon formal retirement from the medical school, Gene continues provide consultation and teach, including international workshops and courses, making contributions to society and the profession. Throughout his outstanding career at OU, Gene trained many of today’s active pediatric psychologists and all benefited from his gentle, calm yet dynamic presence. Many in the field cite Gene as their mentor (including ones who were mentored before the term became the Zeitgeist). Indeed, Gene is a mentor’s mentor and many continue to seek his wise counsel. That C. Eugene Walker would donate generously to the professional development of pediatric psychology students is quintessential Gene.

**References**


Pediatric Psychologist Position at CHOP

The Department of Psychology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is pleased to announce the availability of one and possibly two psychologist positions in the Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition of the Department of Pediatrics. The psychologist in this previously established position will provide outpatient clinical care, consultation, and training, in collaboration with GI Division faculty. Typical clinical presentations include functional GI disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, and liver disease. Psychologists also participate in the department’s APA-accredited Psychology Internship Training Program. Primarily a clinical position, there are also ample opportunities for clinical research in collaboration with the Division of Gastroenterology.

The Division of Gastroenterology, The Department of Psychology, and the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia are all respected leaders nationally in clinical care, training, and research. Together, we are committed to fostering the development of early-career psychologists along many possible leadership roles. Applicants must have a doctoral degree in psychology, relevant postdoctoral experience in pediatric, clinical child, and family psychology, and have completed an APA-accredited internship. Pennsylvania licensure is required. The review process will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Applicants should send a CV, letter of interest, and three letters of recommendation to Paul M. Robins, Ph.D., Clinical Director, Department of Psychology, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, 34th St. and Civic Center Blvd., Philadelphia, PA. 19104-4399. Fax: 215-590-5637. Electronic inquiries and submissions may be addressed to: robinsp@email.chop.edu.

To learn more about the Department of Psychology, visit www.chop.edu/consumer/jsp/division/service.jsp?ed=26704. The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and The Department of Psychology is committed to fostering diversity in its faculty, staff, and trainees.
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The field aims to promote the health and development of children, adolescents, and their families through use of evidence-based methods.

Founded in 1969, the field has broad interdisciplinary theoretical underpinnings and draws from clinical, developmental, social, cognitive, behavioral, counseling, community and school psychology.

Areas of expertise within the field include, but are not limited to: psychosocial, developmental and contextual factors contributing to the etiology, course and outcome of pediatric medical conditions; assessment and treatment of behavioral and emotional concomitants of illness, injury, and developmental disorders; prevention of illness and injury; promotion of health and health-related behaviors; education, training and mentoring of psychologists and providers of medical care; improvement of health care delivery systems and advocacy for public policy that serves the needs of children, adolescents, and their families.

Approved, August 10, 2006