

MPS NEWS

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September 2023

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Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please email heidi@mdpsych.org.

MPS News Design & Layout
Meagan Floyd

The MPS Council will meet by videoconference on September 12 at 7:30 PM. All members welcome!

President's Column

The End of an MPS Era

As I send my children to their first day of school, this time with one of them starting high school, I reflect on how some periods of life are distinctive for lightning change. MPS has had a whirlwind of change lately. We have a new Council that will start holding regular meetings in September, we are preparing for important upcoming staff changes, and we have a new office. Meagan and Heidi have been working relentlessly this summer to clean out the condo in Saint Paul Street and prepare it for sale. I am happy to announce that we have had an offer for the price we asked. The reduced office expenses will save close to 20 thousand dollars in our yearly budget, and offset the decrease in revenue from loss of members and ads that has accelerated post-pandemic. This will also allow us to compensate staff better and hire a new staff member in preparation for Heidi's retirement. If you are not overwhelmed with all this change yet, you must be someone who has already acclimated to a very busy (and maybe too exciting) life!

Our move to the new office in the MedChi building on Cathedral Street took place on August 15. We are hoping to hold our upcoming annual committee chairs meeting in that space. This will be the first in person business meeting after 3 years of virtual meetings. We hope to use the great spaces available at the MedChi building for other future member events.

During the move, as with every home move, a series of memories came to the surface, although this time, the awakening of these memories was not brought about by photographs of a once younger family, but by documents. These institutional

memories of a younger organization are worth remembering.

For example, we found documentation showing that several MPS members had lent money to MPS via notes payable for the condo in Saint Paul Street to be purchased. The notes were repaid monthly and a prepayment of balances in full was completed as of 1992. Psychiatrists who lent the money for the purchase were Drs. William Abramson, Richard Anderson, Roger Harris, Jesse Hellman, Arthur Hildreth, Gary Nyman, Lee Crandall Park, and Bernard Shochet.

The long relationship with Washington Psychiatric Society (WPS) is also documented in files that show that WPS was fully engaged in Maryland under Dr. Larry Kline's leadership in the mid-late 80s. Others, like Carol Davis and Linda Hughes at APA, advocated strongly for the APA and District Branches collaborative relationship.

Over the years, MPS advocacy has focused on maintaining good quality of care for patients by ensuring that proposed legislation on issues such as psychologists' admitting rights, social workers diagnosing, and nurses prescribing preserved patient care quality. This advocacy has also addressed issues related to patient privacy, insurance benefits, parity, medical care databases, board of physicians' laws, and health reforms. Notably, MPS once appealed a case to the U.S. Supreme Court to ensure reimbursement of services for dually eligible Medicare and Medicaid patients.

As we prepare for staff changes, we would like to remember other executive directors that came before Heidi Bunes – Carol Antlitz, Jen Gajewski, Judy Jacobson, and Kery Hum-

mel, and staff members like Meagan who moved up into the position (Jen Gajewski), as well as Florence McGee, executive secretary, and Robert Dillard. We would also like to thank the many [stellar presidents](#) who invested large amounts of time into position statements and other MPS actions to address issues faced by psychiatrists and patients.

With every change, there is a chance to look back, but because life is busy, we don't always get to reflect on the past until we are forced to by a major event. This move has been one of those major events for MPS. It has also been an opportunity to remember how thankful we are for a passionate and skilled membership motivated to solve issues affecting people with mental health needs and capable of creating change. We are convinced that MPS, with its ability to adapt and its skillful staff, can continue to channel that ongoing drive for improvement to help the changes we want to see become a reality.

Carol Vidal, M.D., Ph.D.

[If you want to know more about MPS history, visit the [website](#).]

2023-2024 MPS Membership Directory

Thank you to members who updated their practice information! The annual MPS directory is going to print, and we expect copies to arrive in members' mailboxes this month. The directory contains information on all MPS members, including a referral index, while the online [Find a Psychiatrist](#) lists only members who have opted in. Members can also access an online member directory after [logging in](#) via their MPS member account. Members can update their profiles via the same account. For assistance, please email mps@mdpsych.org.

WE HAVE MOVED

The MPS Office Has Moved

You can reach us at:

1211 Cathedral Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone/Text: 410-625-0232

Fax: 410-547-0915

MPS Members Out & About

Dina Sokal, M.D. (and other authors) will read short stories on the theme of families at the Ivy Bookshop on September 7 beginning at 6 PM. For more info or to register [click here](#).

Congratulations!

Zachary Cordner, M.D., Ph.D. was selected for a Johns Hopkins Clinician Scientist Award, which will fund his work to better define the biological mechanism of psilocybin, which appears to effectively treat depression.

Idris Lepla, M.D. and **William Tobolowsky, M.D.** are co-first authors on a review paper published in the *Journal of the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry* that focused on educational resources available to the consultation-liaison psychiatrist who wants to teach other medical professionals about how to work effectively with agitated patients.

September is Recovery Month

[National Recovery Month](#) is held in September to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation's strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible.

Join us for a FREE Psychiatric Career & Practice Fair!

September 28th
5:30- 7:30PM

Hotel Indigo Baltimore
24 West Franklin Street

[CLICK HERE TO RESERVE
YOUR SPOT TODAY!](#)

- FREE cocktails!
- Heavy appetizers!
- Connect with Maryland colleagues!
 - Giveaways!
 - Meet with Employers!
 - Practice Resources!
 - Discounted Parking!

Confirmed Vendors Include:

- American Professional Agency
- Eating Recovery Centers
- Intra-Cellular Therapies
- Maryland Addiction Consultation Services
- Permanente Medicine: Mid-Atlantic Medical Group
- Sheppard Pratt

2023 MPS Member Survey Results

A total of 148 members gave input to the MPS via the annual survey that helps guide how committees, Council and staff work over the next year. About the same as in 2022 when 152 responded, the results represent 19% of the membership.

Continuing Medical Education

Members shared over 100 CME needs, with psychopharmacology-related topics by far the most frequent at about 25%. The other CME topics were wide-ranging, with a few listed 5 or more times, for example, addictions, opioid prescribing (related to the new DEA training requirement), ADHD, and child and adolescent psychiatry. Eighty-two percent of respondents indicated they would attend a psychopharmacology update. The next most desired topic was management of psychiatric disorders in pregnant patients, followed by borderline personality disorders.

Preferred CME format was polled, with the following results:

- 22 percent indicated they would be most likely to attend in person CME programs,
- 70 percent said they would be most likely to attend virtual CME programs, and
- 15 percent were unsure.

Legislation and Advocacy

The 2023 survey polled six priorities for legislation and advocacy. Four were ranked higher than the rest, with Scope of Practice ranked the same as Access to Equitable, Quality Care, however scope was chosen most frequently as the top priority. These were followed by Reimbursement/Parity and Licensure Requirements/Mandatory Training. Addressing Social Determinants of Health was ranked next and Outpatient Commitment/Involuntary Treatment was lowest. While the surveys are not directly comparable, this year respondents put a higher priority on Scope of Practice compared with the past two years.

Telehealth Check In

After the pandemic restrictions were lifted, MPS asked how patients are being seen.

- Telehealth only and In Person only were each reported by 15 percent of respondents, and 70 percent of respondents indicated both.
- Of those who see patients via telehealth, 88 percent use both audio and visual and 12 percent use audio only.
- Over 50 percent were either concerned or very concerned about possibly needing an in-person visit to prescribe controlled substances via telehealth.
- Regarding the possibility that future audio-only telehealth reimbursement could be lower than for audio-visual or in person visits, 36 percent indicated it would not limit patient access at all, while 34 percent said it would minimally impact access and 30 percent reported it would have a significant impact.

Police Executing Emergency Petitions

Most respondents did not report seeing an increase in problems with police executing emergency petitions (EPs). After excluding those who do not use EPs, 62 percent had not experienced more problems while 38 percent had.

MPS Psychedelics Interest Group

The majority of respondents were not interested in participating in a new MPS Interest Group focusing on psychedelics; however, 24 percent indicated Yes and another 18 percent were Unsure.

Collaborative Care Model (CoCM)

[Find a Psychiatrist](#) includes CoCM among members' areas of interest and MPS has established a [CoCM Interest Group](#).

This year's survey asked whether respondents have interest in being a paid CoCM psychiatrist consultant to a PCP and their care manager for at least one hour per week. Thirty-seven percent (51 members) replied Yes.

Suggestions for Increasing and Retaining Members

MPS received ideas from 105 members about how to increase and retain members that ranged from decreasing dues, to more active engagement like social events and networking opportunities, to focusing on residents and younger members, to more and free CME programs and continued advocacy. These are a sampling of suggestions from the list in the complete [survey results](#).

Additional Efforts to Improve Diversity

As part of the MPS [initiatives to address structural racism and inclusion](#), the survey asked members for their ideas about other ways the organization can improve diversity. Many respondents suggested more diversity in leadership and direct personal outreach. Engaging trainees and mentorship were other ideas. These are just a few from the list in the complete [survey results](#).

Article Suggestions for *The Maryland Psychiatrist*

Respondents gave excellent recommendations for [The Maryland Psychiatrist](#) articles. Topics were wide-ranging, with some focused on practice-related issues, such as case studies and clinical services at Maryland institutions. Others suggested exploring controversial issues, personal stories, and profiling member psychiatrists, etc. Please see the [survey results](#) for a complete list. [Members interested in submitting articles to be published can email mps@mdpsych.org.]

Satisfaction and Value

Overall, 87% of respondents are satisfied with the MPS (37% very satisfied), while 9% are neutral and 4% are unsatisfied. The rates of satisfaction are almost the same as 2022, however 4 members were unsatisfied vs. 1 last year.

Respondents indicated the member benefits that are most important. Again this year,

Continued on next page

2023 Survey Results (*continued*)

Influencing how psychiatry is practiced in Maryland received the highest total, followed by *MPS News* and legislative reports and representation with state government, which had about the same votes. The Listserv and CME activities came next with similar totals, and the annual membership directory and APA membership followed. Benefits that received a moderate response were Having a place to turn with questions, *The Maryland Psychiatrist*, MPS committees and interest groups, and Networking events. Consistent with results in recent years, Curbside conversations, Online Find a Psychiatrist, Patient referrals, and Connecting via MPS social media accounts were least important to respondents.

Concerns about Psychiatry in Maryland

Respondents expressed nearly a hundred wide-ranging concerns, with some of them shared repeatedly, including the following which were also prominent last year:

- Quality of care provided by mid-level practitioners and scope of practice
- Equitable and accessible care, particularly access to MDs, inpatient care, and state beds
- Parity and reimbursement
- Prior authorization and other administrative and regulatory burdens

Also of note, a few shared a sense of isolation and feeling undervalued.

How MPS Can Better Serve Members

Seventy-seven respondents gave feedback about what they want the MPS to do in the future. Over a third essentially said keep up the good work. Other very frequent responses included:

- Advocacy and work with state government
- Building community via social events in different locations
- CME programming
- Increasing participation and diversity

Please see the [survey results](#) for a complete list.

Respondent Characteristics

- 42% private practice (vs 38% last year), of which 59% are solo, 23% academic (vs 29%), 12% private/public (vs 13%) and 14% public sector (vs 13%). Almost 4% were retired compared with 1% last year.
- 9% 1-5 years of practice, 10% 6-10 years, 16% 11-20 years, 61% over 20 and 5% still in training. These demographics indicate less participation from younger members compared to 2022.
- 75% Central Maryland, 6% DC Suburbs, 5% Western Maryland, 2% Eastern Shore, and of the rest many are in Central MD.

[Click here](#) for more details.

Congratulations to survey participants, Drs. Amy Huberman, Jennifer Palmer, and Stuart Varon, who were selected randomly to win a \$100 credit toward MPS dues or an MPS event.

AMA Addresses Racism in Medicine

The AMA offers a one-hour CME module, [Racism in Medicine: Historical Foundations and Strategies for Advancing Health Equity](#), that explores the roots of racism in medicine, as well as how physicians can continue their health equity education and help chart a new course for their profession.

The [AMA Ed Hub™ Health Equity Education Center](#) has interactive, audio and video modules to help physicians confront injustice and advance equity.

Its [Advancing Equity through Quality and Safety Peer Network Series](#) helps learners integrate equity into their quality and safety infrastructures to ultimately help improve health outcomes for historically marginalized populations.

PRMS Diversity in Psychiatry Webinar

The second PRMS virtual webinar in 2023, PRMS Psych-cess: Diversity in Psychiatry, will take place via Zoom on Thursday, **September 21**, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. A panel of four knowledgeable psychiatrists, Drs. Tanuja Gandhi, Napoleon Higgins Jr, Alan Rodriguez Penney, and Eunice Yuen, will lead a discussion on their diverse experiences as physicians studying and practicing psychiatry, as well as treating cultural and ethnically diverse populations.

To register for this FREE event, visit [PRMS.com/Psych-cess](https://prms.com/psych-cess). (View previous Psych-cess webinars at the same link.)

FDA and DEA Issue Joint Letter on Stimulants

Leaders of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published a [letter](#) in August with steps to address shortages of prescription stimulant medications. They called on manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, and payors to do all they can to ensure access for patients. DEA and FDA called on manufacturers to confirm they are working to increase production to meet their allotted quota amount and relinquish their remaining 2023 allotment if they do not. FDA is asking professional groups and healthcare providers to accelerate efforts to support appropriate diagnosis and treatment of ADHD. FDA has taken steps to support development of alternative treatment options. [Click here for the full letter.](#)

The MPS, APA and other professional organizations have brought the shortage to the attention of government officials and would like to hear from members about whether the steps are effective in resolving the problem. Please email mpps@mdpsych.org to share your experience and/or concerns.

Maryland News

Fix Prior Authorizaion

In many cases prior authorization denials are eventually reversed after costly and dangerous delays in patient care. The waste of time and resources and the risk to patients are problematic, to put it mildly. The utilization review system is broken, and it's time for us to [Take Back Healthcare](#). At the request of the Maryland General Assembly, MedChi is leading a workgroup of medical societies (including MPS), insurers, pharmacy benefit managers, health practitioners, and other stakeholders to address prior authorization hurdles that harm patients.

Help us advocate for psychiatrists and patients. Send your prior authorization denial story to TakeBack-Healthcare@medchi.org or complete this [online form](#). Be sure to adhere to HIPAA regulations and omit any identifiable information. MedChi will ensure that submitted materials are not associated with the submitting physician or practice.

*Gene Ransom, III CEO
MedChi The Maryland State Medical Society*

DUR Board Seeks Nominations

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is currently accepting applications and nominations for licensed and actively practicing physicians to serve on the [Maryland Drug Use Review \(DUR\) Board](#) starting January 2024. The DUR Board meets quarterly to advise the Maryland Pharmacy Program. Based on their analysis of patterns of drug use among Medicaid recipients and their professional experience, the Board recommends policies, medical criteria, and programs to guide prescribers, providers, and patients. Board members are appointed to serve one term of three years with the option to serve an additional three-year term. Interested physicians and pharmacists should apply **by September 15** to the MDH Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations at <https://mdhappointments.health.maryland.gov/BoardAppointments>.

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention

The next meeting of the [Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention](#) will be held virtually on **September 20th from 1 to 3 PM**. These meetings are open to the public and are live-streamed from the Maryland Department of Health Office of Suicide Prevention's [Facebook page](#).

The Commission currently has four vacancies for terms ending in 2026. [Click for more information.](#)

2023 License Renewal Reminders

Last names M-Z whose licenses expire 9/30/23 must renew by the end of this month. [Click here](#) to log in for apply for renewal and pay the fee.

Implicit Bias Training is required for renewal. This is a one-time requirement. You must attest on the renewal application that you have completed training. If you need to find a course, [click here](#) for a list of approved courses provided by the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. The Board of Physicians will accept any implicit bias training accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) completed since your last license renewal in 2021.

If renewal is not completed by September 30, your license will expire and you will need to apply for reinstatement, which includes applying for a new criminal history records check. Physicians who fail to renew their medical licenses are not authorized to practice medicine.

A new Emeritus Status is available beginning October 1st to retired physicians who meet certain criteria. [Click here for details or to apply.](#)

[Click here for more 2023 renewal info.](#)

2023 Opioid Settlement Payment

Attorney General Anthony Brown [announced](#) that Maryland and its subdivisions received nearly \$24 million as 2023 installments due under opioid crisis settlements with pharmaceutical distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisource Bergen and manufacturer Johnson & Johnson. Maryland and its subdivisions will receive \$395 million over the course of 18 years to resolve the companies' liability to the State for illegally marketing and distributing opioids before the settlements' 2022 effective dates. All funding is committed to abating the opioid crisis. Please see the [link](#) for an accounting of the distribution. In a [KFF poll](#), three in ten U.S. adults said they or someone in their family have ever been addicted to opioids.

CME on Abortion in a Sanctuary State

On **September 20**, MedChi's Committee on Ethics and Judicial Affairs and the Center for a Healthy Maryland will present a webinar panel discussion entitled [ABORTION: Ethical and Legal Ramifications of Maryland Being a Sanctuary State](#). The virtual event runs from 6 to 8:30 PM and carries 2 CME credits. [Click here](#) for details and a link.

Maryland News

Funding for Mental Health Services and Awareness Training

SAMHSA [announced](#) that Maryland has been awarded \$1,295,259 through the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant program. The funding is part of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act's safety net for mental health services for vulnerable populations, including those impacted by gun violence, disasters, and other emergencies.

Strengthening Families in Recovery Pilot

The Maryland Department of Health [announced](#) \$2.7M over three years to support pregnant Marylanders in recovery. In our state, nearly 30,000 women with children have substance use or opioid use disorders, according to the [National Survey of Drug Use and Health](#). This pilot program, which plans to enroll 750 women, is funded by a three-year, \$900,000 per year SAMHSA grant. The money will fund additional recovery support coordinators, pregnant parenting women navigators, and family support coaches to help enrollees navigate administrative barriers. Strengthening Families in Recovery will be offered in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Prince George's County, Washington County and Worcester County. [Click here](#) for the goals of the project and more details.

Survey on Expansion of TCM/1915(i)

The Behavioral Health Administration is [soliciting feedback](#) on ways to expand access to the Targeted Case Management (TCM) and 1915(i) programs, which are used to provide wraparound services and other home and community-based care to youth with high-intensity behavioral health needs. A review of these programs and recommendations for expanding access to these services is a requirement of [SB 255/HB 322](#). The survey is an important part of the bill implementation process. **Please take advantage of this opportunity by [completing the survey](#).** The survey link will be live until close of business on Friday, **September 15**.

Supporting Homeless Youth Mental Health and SUD Treatment

Damascus House Community Development Corporation in Upper Marlboro, MD was awarded a \$384,467 [SAMHSA grant](#) to provide comprehensive, coordinated, and evidence-based treatment and services for individuals, including youth, and families with substance use disorders (SUDs) or co-occurring mental health conditions and SUDs who are experiencing homelessness.

Reducing Suicide Risk CME

A CME lecture will be held **September 28** at 6:30 p.m. as part of the Maryland Physician Health Program (MPHP) 45th Anniversary Celebration. Jill Harkavy-Friedman, PhD, Senior Vice President of Research, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, will present [Taking Care of Our Mental Health: Reducing Suicide Risk Through Connection](#). This is the fourth in the MPHP Lecture Series, "Lemons to Lemonade," and carries 1 CME credit. [Click here](#) for details and a link.

Prescription Drug Affordability Board Meetings

September brings two virtual meetings of the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board. The **September 13** meeting will include votes to finalize regulations. An agenda for the **September 18** meeting will be posted at [this link](#). Comments from the public will be received during the meetings or in writing beforehand. Please [click here](#) for more information.

SAMHSA Report on CSC for First Episode Psychosis

A new SAMHSA report is available on [Coordinated Specialty Care for First Episode Psychosis: Costs and Financing Strategies](#). Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) is a multicomponent, evidence-based, early intervention service for people experiencing a first episode of psychosis (FEP) that can improve their quality of life and social and clinical outcomes. Financing these team-based services can be challenging. Several core service components as well as the costs of training and coordinating teams with small caseloads, which are all essential for effective delivery of CSC, can be difficult to cover through fee-for-service billing and other existing mechanisms. Many states rely on federal Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) funds, which have been set aside for FEP services since 2014, to cover their CSC team and service costs. MHBG funds are not a sufficient, so utilizing a wider array of financing approaches can allow states to implement CSC on a broader, more equitable basis. This [report](#) examines the costs of providing CSC services and financing strategies.



**Shine a Light.
Speak its name.
September 17, 2023**

APA News & Information

July APA BOT Highlights

Following the APA elections, there are new members of the Board of Trustees (BOT) whose names are published on the [APA website](#).

Legislative: Twenty states have now passed legislation that restricts gender-affirming care. The APA can assist District Branches in responding to such legislation and is in contact with Congress opposing these efforts at the federal level, consistent with APA policy. APA is participating with other medical societies in challenging the politicization of medical decisions in courts throughout the country.

Financial: The APA is in good financial standing. Revenues generated by the sale of DSM 5 TR are strong. The independent audit firm report contained an unmodified (clean) opinion showing an appropriate system of internal controls. Revenues from the annual meeting fell short of expectations.

APA Foundation: Great development of "Mental Health Works" movement with actionable and deliverable goals. Boston public relations and marketing firm Finn Partners is assisting with marketing. [Click here](#) for a campaign summary, including sample creative materials. Metrics for how information is accessed and utilized are being collected. Overall, the APA has reached more people than ever before.

Division of Research including PsychPro and DSM: While PsychPro has demonstrated success in research, including creating new quality measures, it has faced technology problems impeding progress, which are being addressed. An ongoing DSM committee with a new chair is being planned for the next DSM iteration. The Annual meeting reflected not only the clinical and scientific updates in psychiatry, but also celebrated diversity and inclusion as well as innovations in psychiatry. The new RFM (Resident-Fellow Member) and IMG (International Medical Graduate) tracks were well received and highly successful. A new, extensive resource document for IMGs is useful, reflecting the thoughtful and labor-intensive work that went into it, both by staff and members.

External Communications:

- APA launched a TikTok channel with the help of the Council on Communications, leveraging member participation through a social media booth at the Annual meeting.
- Our animated explainer video series continues to grow with the addition of videos on gambling addiction, eating disorders, autism spectrum disorder, and vaping, in support of Dr. Levounis's addiction theme. To date, these videos have been viewed nearly 540,000 times.
- APAPAC has contributed \$153,000 to campaigns and committees in 2023, with 55% of contributions given to Democrats and committees and 45% to Republicans.

Discussion on AI and Corporatization of Psychiatry: APA RFM Trustee German Velez, M.D. led the Board in a discussion of Artificial Intelligence (AI), its use in psychiatry, and APA's role in developing medical and ethical standards for AI tools. APA will be at the forefront leading the way in applying AI tools for practice.

Transgender care: Area 2 Trustee Ken Ashley, M.D. presented data concerning WPATH 8 Guidelines for treatment of Gender Dysphoria and studies conducted on gender-affirming care in persons under the age of 18 years old. Dr. Ashley addressed board member questions about treatment in the UK, Finland, and Denmark, as well as outcomes in the U.S.

The BOT voted to retain and/or modify some [position statements](#) with edits based on the position statement rubric, and to approve the Committee on Women's Mental Health becoming an APA Council. It also approved proposed revisions to the "[Procedures for Handling Complaints of Unethical Conduct](#)" (approved by the Assembly in May 2023), to take effect on October 1, 2023.

Please email gjayara1@gmail.com with any questions.

Geetha Jayaram, M.D., Area 3 Trustee

APA Action Paper Deadline

An Action Paper is the product of an idea about how the APA can work on behalf of its members. It is analogous to legislation that directs the organization to do specific things based upon the will of the members. For complete details on the APA website, please click [HERE](#). [You need your member login to access the information.] To suggest an idea for APA action, please contact one or all of the MPS Assembly Representatives, [Anne Hanson, M.D.](#), [Elias Shaya, M.D.](#) and [Brian Zimnitzky, M.D.](#) by **September 4** so a draft Action Paper can be submitted before the September 7 deadline for the November 2023 Assembly meeting. The Assembly meets again in May if you need more time. [Click here](#) for more details.

APA Advocacy 101 Webinar

On **September 13**, APA Government Relations staff will cover the basics of physician advocacy, analyze key legislative issues facing the field of psychiatry, and identify ways to get involved at both the state and federal level. This is part of the monthly APA Policy and Practice Insights lunch-and-learn series where members can engage directly with APA staff and subject matter experts. [Click here to register](#).

APA News & Information

AI in Psychiatry

The APA Membership and Practice Management teams presented a webinar on August 16, **AI in Psychiatry: What APA Members Need to Know**. Drs. Darlene King and Khatiya Moon discussed some key considerations around how “generative AI” and related technologies may affect mental health and the practice of psychiatry. [Presentation Slides](#) are available, or email LaToya Coles at lcoles@psych.org for access to a recording of the event. Some of the resources mentioned in the presentation are below:

- **APA guidance** on key legal, ethical, and clinical considerations in the use of [AI](#) in clinical settings.
- **APA’s [App Evaluation Model](#)**, designed to help clinicians and patients assess digital interventions for mental health.
- **HIPAA support:**
 - ◊ **New member benefit** – discounted services from The Compliancy Group, which assesses your practice for HIPAA risk, helps implement appropriate processes for compliance, and provides documentation in case of an audit. Find more information [here](#).
 - ◊ **[Practice guidance on HIPAA](#)**, including [HIPAA throughout your practice](#), more information on HIPAA compliance, links to audit tools, and a template PHI Authorization Form.
- **APA Practice Management HelpLine:** email practicemanagement@psych.org for assistance in resolving practice management questions.
- **Recorded member webinars**, including the [Policy and Practice Insights Series](#)
 - ◊ HIPAA Compliance for Telehealth
 - ◊ Health Care Policy and You: How Does APA’s Membership Inform Policy?
 - ◊ Telepsychiatry Reimbursement: Who Pays for What?
 - ◊ Telepsychiatry and the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

APA Supports Mental Health Initiatives in Congress

APA [sent a letter](#) to the House Energy & Commerce Committee expressing gratitude for investments in mental health and substance-use disorder (MH/SUD) care, urging Congress to reauthorize SUPPORT Act programs and support legislation to enhance access, decrease stigma, and coordinate mental health care.

APA also [sent a letter](#) to the House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairs and Ranking Members supporting clean reauthorization of the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program.

2023 Mental Health Services Conference

The Mental Health Services Conference, to be held October 12 - 14 in Washington D.C., is a multidisciplinary event presented by APA in collaboration with SMI Adviser and the APA Foundation, designed to empower all mental health service providers with practical tools and innovations to shape future community collaboration. [Click here](#) for information or to register.

Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit

With the support of the CDC Foundation, the APA has created a [toolkit](#) with educational materials for addressing perinatal mental health. It includes eight fact sheets for clinicians and patients, a white paper, and a four-part webinar series.

APA Applauds Expanded Enforcement of Health Breach Notifications

APA [supports FTC’s efforts](#) to increase consumer health data protections through enhancing the definition of “health care services or supplies” to “include any online service ... that provides health-related services or tools,” including mobile applications that host “wellness” data, like sleep, fitness, or diet information. This is a critical starting point in establishing accountability and transparency for protection of health-related data by non-HIPAA-covered entities. [Click here to read more](#).

FREE APA Course of the Month

Each month, APA members have free access to an on-demand CME course on a popular topic. [Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit](#).

Submit Abstracts for 2024 APA Annual Meeting

Abstract submissions are being accepted for the 2024 APA Annual Meeting, May 4 to 8 in New York City. The theme is “Confronting Addiction: From Prevention to Treatment.” Submit ideas **by September 7** for general sessions, courses, and posters to the biggest psychiatric meeting of the year. [Click for details](#).

Medicare Updates

2022 MIPS Performance, Final Score and Targeted Review

Please check your email this month for a Quality Payment Program (QPP) listserv message announcing the release of the 2022 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Performance Feedback, 2022 MIPS Final Score, and 2024 MIPS Payment Adjustment. You can also view your information on the [QPP website](#) after signing in with your Health Care Quality Information Systems (HCQIS) Access Roles and Profile (HARP) system credentials, which are the same as for submitting your 2022 MIPS data.

The 2022 final score for MIPS eligible clinicians determines their payment adjustment in 2024; a positive, negative, or neutral payment adjustment will be applied to the Medicare paid amount for covered professional services furnished in 2024. If there is an error in the calculation of your MIPS payment adjustment factor(s), you can request a targeted review **until October 9**. (Click "Targeted Review" on the left-hand navigation). Some circumstances for targeted reviews include:

- Data were submitted under the wrong Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) or National Provider Identifier (NPI).
- Eligibility or special status issues (e.g., Qualifying APM Participant (QP) status should not receive a payment adjustment).
- Performance categories weren't automatically re-weighted even though you qualify for reweighting due to extreme and uncontrollable circumstances.

Patient MBIs May Change

CMS sent letters to people with Medicare who may have been affected by a [recent data breach](#). They are distributing 47,000 new cards with new Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers (MBI) to those affected. [Learn](#) what to do with claims submissions, etc. if your patient's MBI changes. Ask your patient for their new Medicare card if you get "invalid member ID" when [checking Medicare eligibility](#). Access the [Novitas MBI look-up tool](#) if your patient didn't get a new Medicare card.

Resources for Treating Patients With SMI

SMI Adviser has resources to assist in treating patients with serious mental illness (SMI), including a [clozapine dose planner](#) and a [long-acting injectable antipsychotic conversion tool](#). Find these and other tools under the "Our Tools" menu on the [SMI Adviser website](#).

MPS Membership

The following individuals have applied for membership. Unless any current members have evidence that an applicant does not meet the criteria for ethical and professional standards, these actions will be approved 14 days after publication.

Lydia Adnane, M.D.
Sandra Ahn, M.D.
Anthony Arnette, M.D.
Kahlo Baniadam, M.D.
Greti Barokas, M.D.
Shyam Bhatt, M.D., MPH
Christopher Bodurian, M.D.
Laura Chen, M.D.
Herbert Chen-MacLean, M.D.
Stephen Cheng, D.O.
Deborah Choi, M.D.
Anna Dowling, M.D.
Jared Hinkle, M.D., Ph.D.
Asako Inagawa, M.D.
Bahareh Jabbari, M.D.
Jill Lally, M.D.
Victoria Lenihan, M.D.
Kate Levenberg, M.D.
Joseph Norton, M.D.
Elizabeth Olson, M.D.
Emily Pocius, M.D.
Omar Qari, M.D.
Jessica Reddy, M.D., Ph.D.
Mario Rullo, M.D.
Stephanie Tran, M.D.
Abraham Voorhis, M.D.
Jonathan Weiss, M.D.
Shayna Welch, M.D.
Aisosioya Williams, M.D.
Nicole Wong, M.D.

Transfers Into Maryland

John Johnson, M.D.
Rotsna Pradhan, M.D.

SAVE THE DATE

MPS Fall CME Event (Virtual)
Thursday November 16th from 7-9:30 PM

Featuring Presentations By:

Frederick Nucifora, D.O.:	Clozaril
Paul Kim, M.D., Ph.D.:	Esketamine
Robert Buchanan, MD:	LAI Antipsychotics

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

CLASSIFIEDS**OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE**

Office Suite For Sale: Osler Professional Center, 7600 Osler Drive, Suite 400 Towson, 21204; a condominium across the street from St. Joseph Hospital. It has three excellent rooms for seeing patients each with a large closet, a good sized waiting room, two bathrooms, and a storage room. Jesse Hellman: jessemhellman@gmail.com or listing agent Lyn Jablonski: ljablonski@trialliance.com

Ellicott City: Daily/Part-time/Full-time: Following CDC guidelines, Telehealth and in person. Includes Wi-Fi, copier, fax, staff kitchen, handicapped access. Convenient to route #'s: 40, 29, 32, 70 & 695. Contact [Dr. Mike Boyle](mailto:Dr.Mike.Boyle) 410-206-6070 or 410-465-2500.

Ellicott City/Waverly Woods/Columbia: Near Rt. 70, Rt. 32 and Rt. 29. Office and Group Room are in a beautiful suite ready for immediate occupancy. Daily and hourly rentals are available. Includes large fully furnished office with 2 windows, large beautifully decorated waiting room, receptionist/file room, 2 bathrooms, Kitchen and a warm community of other therapists who cross-refer. WiFi and fax available. Free ample parking. Contact Jenniferplasnig@gmail.com or 410-203-2411.

Take Advantage of MPS Member Benefits -Join the MPS Listserv!

MPS members are encouraged to join the listserv to easily share information with colleagues. An email message sent to the listserv goes to all members who have joined. Posts can be questions, information, thought-provoking articles and more. To join the listserv, please go to: <http://groups.google.com/group/mpslist>. The listserv is open to members only so you will have to wait for membership approval and will be notified by email. If you have any trouble, please call the MPS office at 410-625-0232.

Psychiatrists with Immediate Patient Openings Available:

The MPS maintains a list of members who can see new patients quickly. An *updated* "<https://mdpsych.org/> **MPS Members Actively Taking New Patients: Appointments Within 1-2 Weeks**" will appear on <https://mdpsych.org/> later this month. Please email mfloyd@mdpsych.org to be included (include name, patient types, insurances accepted, phone number/email, etc.) and/or consider referring patients to this resource. Patients can also try [Find a Psychiatrist](#), but the wait time may be longer.

Member Spotlight Opportunity

Have you recently worked on an exciting research project? Reached a milestone in your career and want to share it with other MPS members? Have some good advice for younger psychiatrists who are just starting their careers? Submit a short article and photo through this [Google Form](#) to showcase your experiences with the MPS community.

National Suicide Prevention Month

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) recognizes the entire month of September as **National Suicide Prevention Month** to improve awareness of this leading cause of death, and inspire people to learn how they can play a role in their communities to help save lives. This year, AFSP is highlighting the new **Talk Away the Dark** campaign – [click here](#) for details.

MedChi posted a [September calendar](#) full of actions you can take to learn, acknowledge, share, and care.

National Suicide Prevention Week begins with World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10.

National Suicide Prevention Week
September 10 – 16, 2023

Curbside Conversations is members with expertise in specific areas having informal chats with other MPS members seeking information. These are not formal consultations but a collegial resource offered voluntarily to the MPS community. Contact information for experts is available to **MPS members only** via email to mps@mdpsych.org.

Have You Published Lately?

The MPS would like to highlight recent journal articles published by its members. If you have published within the past year, please email the title, publication, date and preferably a link to mps@mdpsych.org. Please also include a photo and a sentence or two summary, if possible.

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES for Psychiatrists at Sheppard Pratt

Applicants must be board certified or board eligible and have a current Maryland-issued license at the time of hire. Some positions require an on-call schedule.
Current openings include:

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

Multiple Settings | Towson, MD

Psychiatrist

Inpatient Geriatric Unit | Towson, MD

Psychiatrist

Multiple Inpatient Settings | Towson, MD + Elkridge, MD

Scan QR code to
see all openings



At Sheppard Pratt, you will be surrounded by a network of the brightest minds in psychiatry led by a bold vision to change lives. We offer:

- Robust resources to develop your career
- Cutting edge research and technology
- A generous compensation package with comprehensive benefits

For more information, please contact:

Emily Patrick, Director of Provider Recruitment at emily.patrick@sheppardpratt.org

About Sheppard Pratt

Consistently recognized as one of the top national psychiatric hospitals for more than 30 years, Sheppard Pratt is the nation's largest private, nonprofit provider of mental health, substance use, special education, developmental disability, and social services. We employ more than 95 doctors who all share a passion for providing the best care to those we serve. Visit sheppardpratt.org to learn more about our services. *EOE.*