

MPS NEWS

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Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please email jhritz@mdpsych.org.
MPS News Design & Layout
Jora Hritz

**The MPS Council
will meet via Zoom on
November 4 at 7:30 PM.
All members welcome!**

President's Column

The Future of MPS

Recently, MPS hosted the annual meeting for committee chairs. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce committee chairs to one another and learn about what each committee has been working on and plans to do in the upcoming months. During the meeting, we also took the opportunity to discuss strategic priorities. As it does each year, the topic of engaging younger members came up. In past years, MPS has done a relatively good job engaging resident and fellow members, thanks to strong partnerships with training programs in the area. The challenge is, and has always been, how do we continue to engage members as they transition from trainee to Early Career Psychiatrists (ECPs)?

Communication with other APA district branches has revealed similar difficulties with engaging ECP members. In fact, medical professional organizations across the country have seen a dip in membership with notable reductions in ECPs. The solution to this problem continues to evade MPS leadership despite attempts to address the issue with a variety of strategies. Past polls of newer members highlighted a lack of diversity as an issue that caused some reluctance to become more involved in the organization. Thanks to strong work from the Community Psychiatry & Diversity Coalition, strides have been made in this area. Strategies have also included reduced dues, administrative fellow awards, career nights, social events, reduced or free participation in events for trainees and early career members, social media groups and many more. Still, the challenge remains and has led to question if we need to shift our

expectations about ECP involvement. Are people less likely to engage with professional organizations these days? With the advent of virtual CMEs from a variety of sources, has the primary motivation for engagement been lost? Is it unrealistic to expect that ECPs will be more involved considering the challenges of starting a new career while many also attend to young families?

We continue to seek answers to these questions and ask for everyone's assistance in securing and bolstering the membership of our ECP group. [My monthly interview is with Dr. Hannah Paulding](#). Dr. Paulding was an active member of MPS as a trainee and recently transitioned from her child fellowship to becoming a new attending at Sheppard Pratt. The interview explores issues related to ongoing MPS involvement during the new phase of her career. In the meantime, we encourage our ECPs to reach out. Tell us what you need and/or what you would like us to do differently so that we can secure and amplify your involvement.

*Ronald Means, M.D.
MPS President*



2026 MPS Dues Notices

The 2026 MPS dues invoices will be emailed the first week of October and will be sent via USPS later this month.

To pay your MPS dues:

- Send your check to the MPS office (1211 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201), which reduces our credit card processing costs.
- Pay via Zelle: 410-625-0232 which also helps to reduce credit card processing costs. (See QR code on this page.)
- You can also pay dues via credit or debit card or PayPal at www.mdpsych.org (Select "Contact" and scroll to the "Pay Now" button).

Please email mps@mdpsych.org with questions or call the office at 410.625.0232. Thanks for your continued support of the Maryland Psychiatric Society!

MPS Best Paper Awards

The MPS established annual "best paper" awards to recognize outstanding scholarship by young psychiatrists in Maryland. Previous winners are listed [here](#). The Academic Psychiatry Committee is currently soliciting nominations for the 2025 Paper of the Year Award in three categories:

Best Paper by an Early Career Psychiatrist Member (ECP): Eligible psychiatrists are ECP members who are first authors of papers published or in press in 2025. The winner will receive a **\$200 cash prize** as well as a complimentary ticket to the MPS annual dinner in April 2026. Dinner ticket funding courtesy of the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry.

Best Paper by a Resident-Fellow Member (RFM): Eligible psychiatrists are Resident-Fellow members who are first authors of papers that were written, in press, and/or published in 2025. The winner will receive a \$200 cash prize as well as a complimentary ticket to the MPS annual dinner in April 2025. Dinner ticket funding courtesy of the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry.

Best Paper by a Medical Student Member (MSM): Eligible students are Medical Student Members who are first authors of papers that were written, in press, and/or published in 2025. The winner will receive a \$200 cash prize as well as a complimentary ticket to the MPS annual dinner in April 2025. Dinner ticket funding courtesy of the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry.

Scholarly work of all kinds (e.g., scientific reports, reviews, case reports) will be considered. If you would like to nominate a paper and author, including your own, please email the paper to either of the co-chairs below by **January 31**. Please include a brief explanation of why you believe the work is worthy of special recognition.

*Matthew Peters, M.D. mpeter42@jhmi.edu
Traci Speed, M.D., Ph.D. speed@jhmi.edu
Academic Psychiatry Committee Co-Chairs*

Attention Sheppard Pratt Employees

If you are a Sheppard Pratt employee who is eligible to have your MPS and APA dues paid by your employer, please note that for 2026, employees must submit dues payments to MPS directly. You will then be reimbursed by SHPS. Once you send payment for MPS dues, email jhrizt@mdpsych.org for an MPS receipt and submit it to Lauren Hopper at SPHS via email at hopper@sheppardpratt.org who will process your request.

Ikwunga Wonodi Award Application Now Open!

The [Ikwunga Wonodi Social Justice and Health Equity in Psychiatry Award](#) is now open for application submissions. The Wonodi Award honors a Resident, Fellow, or Early-Career Psychiatrist who has demonstrated distinction in advocating for human rights and equity in psychiatric care for people with severe mental illness from historically marginalized and underserved communities through teaching, research, clinical work, and/or public health advocacy. For more information on the award and application guidelines, [click here](#) or [visit the MPS website](#). The deadline to apply is December 14, 2025. A winner will be announced prior to the Annual Meeting in April 2026. Any questions can be directed to jhrizt@mdpsych.org.

Poster Contest for Residents & Fellows

The MPS poster competition for our Resident-Fellow Members will be held again this year, with all entries displayed at our annual meeting in April 2026! The winner will receive a **\$200** cash prize as well as a complimentary ticket to the meeting. Two finalists will also be selected and will receive **\$100** each in addition to complimentary tickets. Dinner ticket funding courtesy of the Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry.

Winners in past years are listed [here](#). Please [click here](#) for complete details about the process and requirements. **The deadline to enter is January 31**. Electronic copies of posters are due **February 10**.

MPS Committee Chair Meeting Notes 2025

Attendees introduced themselves and talked about their committees' activities:

Community Psychiatry & Diversity is pleased to report that they have had several new members join their committee over the past year. They have brought in numerous speakers which has helped to revitalize the Committee and encourage new ideas. They are working to increase collaboration and advocacy with organizations within the state. The Committee developed an award last year in honor of Dr. Wonodi – and applications are now open for the cash prize, which will be awarded at the 2026 MPS Annual Dinner.

Legislative finalized the annual MOU review with Washington Psychiatric Society that outlines how we will coordinate the voice of psychiatry with the General Assembly and pay for representation by Harris Jones Malone. Several issues of interest to psychiatry were prominent in 2025 and MPS is working before the next session to submit an amendment again for the AOT bill pertaining to gun ownership. There have been rumors of psychologist prescribing bill for the 2026 session.

Editorial Advisory Board publishes two or three issues of [The Maryland Psychiatrist](#) per year and welcomes articles submissions from committees, members, and others. The next issue will be out this fall. In response to the survey question about what topics are of interest, members requested personal stories, interviews with psychiatrists, case studies and clinical services at institutions.

Program & Continuing Medical Education is holding virtual programs based on member preferences from the survey. A psychopharmacology update is planned for November. Depending on the topic, MPS will consider including psychologists and other physicians among attendees. When possible, junior researchers are being asked to present to assist early career members in their career path. An in-person meeting to be held at Sheppard Pratt will take place during the winter of 2026 and a joint, multi-day meeting with the Southern Psychiatric Society is planned for September 2026. The costs of accreditation remain high – even with virtual events. However, the Committee still feels as though free, or reduced cost CMEs are valuable to MPS members.

Ethics is now working with a new APA procedure. To improve consistency of how APA Principles of Ethics are applied across the country, complaints against members are now considered by the APA committee, which will forward them for investigation to the District Branch where the member belongs if warranted. The committee is considering a CME on dual agency and the physician rehabilitation program/procedures.

Dr. Means then reviewed the role of committee chairs and the MPS [Vision, Mission & Values](#). She noted the continuing [MPS Strategic Priorities](#) and the 2025 MPS member survey results and asked how the organization can continue to work toward the priorities while also responding to the survey input.

- Podcast interview series featuring psychiatrists.
- Expand the career fair to include psychiatrists in interesting roles who share their experience with attendees.
- Reach out to a larger group of members to involve them in grass roots lobbying, especially when their legislative priorities are at stake.
- Collaborate with local organizations who share common goals

Nominations for Anti-Stigma Advocacy Award

The [Maryland Foundation for Psychiatry](#) presents an annual award to recognize a worthy piece published in a major newspaper or on public media that accomplishes one or more of the following:

- Shares with the public their experience with mental illness in themselves, a family member, or in the community.
- Helps others to overcome their inability to talk about mental illness or their own mental illness.
- Imparts particularly insightful observations on the general subject of mental illness.

The article should be published or produced during the period from January 15, 2024 to January 9, 2025. A Maryland author and/or newspaper or major media outlet is preferred. [Click here](#) for past winners and published articles.

The award carries a \$500 prize, which is given at the Maryland Psychiatric Society annual meeting in April. Please send nominations to mfp@mdpsych.org by **January 9, 2026**.

The MFP is organized for educational and charitable purposes. For more information, please visit the [website](#).



Maryland Psychiatric Society
Presents

PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY UPDATE: 2025

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

7:00PM until 9:30PM

via Zoom

FREE for all MPS members
\$25 for non-members

2.5 CME Credits Available

**CLICK HERE to
Register**

Speakers and Objectives Include:

EDWARD SHORTER, PHD

Outline the history of American psychiatry, and how what was one discipline became two: psychiatry and neurology.

IDRIS LEPLA, M.D.

Describe the cardinal symptoms of catatonia and develop a differential diagnosis if a patient displays specific signs and symptoms of catatonia.

CYNTHIA FIELDS, M.D.

Provide an overview of common psychiatric complications of Parkinson's disease along with first-line strategies for treatment.

**Thank You to
Our Supporters**



Contact: JHritz@mdpsych.org

Accreditation and Designation Statement

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by American Psychiatric Association (APA) and The Maryland Psychiatric Society (MPS). APA is jointly accredited by the American Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team. The APA designates this live activity for a maximum of 2.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Maryland News

Informal Comment for Draft AOT Regulations

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) is seeking informal public comment on [draft Assisted Outpatient Treatment regulations](#) ahead of the July 1, 2026 implementation date.

There will be two public meetings to review the regulations. (Please [register for either meeting using this link](#))

- Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 10th, 2025, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

MDH welcomes informal public comments on the proposed regulations. **Comments will be accepted through November 30, 2025;** please [use this link to submit written comments](#).

Launch of Claims Self-Service Feature

Last month Carelon launched a new self-service tool allowing providers to bypass the customer service representative queues to review unlimited claims statuses. If you prefer speaking with a representative or would like to speak with a representative at any time, you can easily opt out of the self-service feature to join the queue for personalized assistance. Providers can access this feature by contacting the Carelon call center at 1-800-888-1965 and selecting "2" for claims status.

Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program

Are you interested in expanding healthcare access in underserved communities in Maryland? The Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Physicians and Physician Assistants (MLARP) is an excellent opportunity to do just that! MLARP's intent is to improve the recruitment and retention of the health professional workforce, especially in areas of Maryland experiencing professional shortages.

MLARP provides healthcare professionals with higher education loan repayment assistance in exchange for a service commitment at an eligible practice site. This opportunity provides physicians, physician assistants, and final year medical residents with up to \$100,000 in loan repayment grants, dependent on licensure/certification.

The next annual application period for MLARP is from March 1, 2026, through April 15, 2026. The application process is competitive, with a technical scoring process based on State and Federal priorities and funding availability. [Click here](#) to learn more.

MHCC Issues Report on Enhancing Prior Authorization Processes

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) released a report required by the Maryland General Assembly about prior authorization, with recommendations aimed at improving transparency and reducing disparities in Maryland.

The [Prior Authorization Report](#) includes findings on payors' and pharmacy benefits managers' implementation of a State-mandated online process that enables real-time benefit checks at the point of prescribing. Compliance requires use of national standards by July 1, 2026. The online process will streamline prior authorizations by enabling the acceptance and approval of prior authorization requests, identifying patient out-of-pocket costs, and suggesting medication alternatives.

Prior authorization reform at the federal and state levels informed MHCC's recommendation for greater transparency. The MHCC will explore regulatory options in collaboration with partners across the state to ensure that the coverage criteria used by payors to determine medical necessity is publicly available and grounded in widely accepted treatment guidelines and high-quality clinical literature. The MHCC plans to build provider awareness of electronic prior authorization and real-time benefit check tools to reduce burden on providers and patients, and to improve timely access to care.

More information about MHCC can be found at: <https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/default.aspx>

Phone Consultations for Providers Treating SUD

The Maryland Addiction Consultation Service delivers support to prescribers and their practices, healthcare teams, and pharmacists in addressing the needs of their patients with substance use disorders and chronic pain. Addiction medicine specialists at MACS are available to provide clinical consultation and support, assisting you in caring for your patients with substance use disorders and chronic pain. Healthcare providers can call MACS at 1-855-337-MACS (6227) to be connected with a member of the team. All services are free to providers.

Examples of consultation topics include:

- Initiation, maintenance, or termination of buprenorphine
- Diagnostic questions
- Youth substance use and specific populations (e.g., pregnant patients and older adults)
- Pain management clinical concerns
- Alternative medication treatment
- Any legal or illegal substance use, including alcohol, cannabis, and stimulants

Maryland News

Correction: Requirements for Providers Referring to PRPs

On October 27th the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) released a correction to transmittal [PT 13-26 Requirements for Providers Referring to Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs](#) (PRPs). This updated transmittal provides corrections to the Medicaid enrollment requirements for licensed mental health practitioners who are referring participants to PRPs. To read the full PT 32-26 Transmittal, please select [this link](#).

Youth Behavioral Health Support for Providers

The Maryland Department of Health has resources for providers and health care workers supporting mental health and substance use programs and services. To learn about behavioral health resources and services for children and adolescents, visit health.maryland.gov/youthbehavioralhealth.

New Carelon Customer Service Support

Carelon removed the provider inquiry form from its website as of Oct. 10, 2025. For assistance, please call 1-800-888-1965 and follow the prompts, or submit inquiries through [ProviderConnect](#). Please note that any issues related to the [Availity](#) platform should be addressed directly with *Availity*, as Carelon's customer service does not manage these.

Gender Pay Equity Webinar

MedChi is hosting an upcoming Gender Pay Equity webinar, **"Closing the Gap: Empowering Female Physicians and Advancing Transparency,"** on **Tuesday, November 4th from 6:00–7:30 PM** (via Zoom). You can register here: [Sign up here](#).

Transforming Rural Health in Maryland

Thank you those who provided feedback to the Maryland Department of Health as they assembled its submission for the [Rural Health Transformation Program](#) (RHTP). Please see the [Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program webpage](#) for a copy of the submission. The RHTP presents an opportunity to improve health outcomes for rural Americans. Please continue to visit the [Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program webpage](#) on the [State Office of Rural Health website](#) for updates.

APA News & Information

APA Strategic Plan Framework for 2030

The APA Board of Trustees has approved *Psychiatry 2030: A Vision for Our Future*, our new strategic plan framework.

Key highlights

- Developed with input from more than 1,800 stakeholders, the framework clarifies APA's vision and mission, articulates the principles that guide our work, and sets our high-level goals and objectives through 2030.
- The framework reflects members' priorities across career stages and practice settings and is designed to strengthen APA's impact, member value, and long-term sustainability.

Members asked APA to:

- Remain firmly grounded in medical science, while leading in advocacy and innovation;
- Strengthen transparency and inclusion in decision-making;
- Define and own psychiatry's medical leadership within team-based care;
- Guide ethical and effective use of emerging technologies, including AI; and
- Keep parity, equity, and access central to our policy agenda.

New strategic plan framework will guide our work to:

- Champion psychiatry's leadership within the broader house of medicine and in medical leadership of the mental health care team.
- Empower members with the practical tools, data, and guidance needed to improve care and strengthen professional standing.
- Ensure operational and financial sustainability to serve future generations of psychiatrists.

APA is now moving into operational planning; translating the 2030 goals into concrete outcomes and initiatives. [Read the Announcement »](#)

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.](#)

APA News & Information

APA BOT October Meeting Highlights

Report of the CEO and Medical Director: Dr. Marketa Wills, CEO and Medical Director, provided the Board with a comprehensive written report of the Association's activities from July – October, which [can be accessed here](#). At the meeting she discussed a few topics: Voice of the Member, administration highlights, leadership and organizational updates, and a follow up on the APA Administration's 2025 Goals.

Dr. Wills shared feedback received from several district branch executives. They expressed concern about APA's stand on key federal advocacy issues, specifically regarding RFK Jr. which some viewed as overly cautious compared to other medical associations' public stances. Selected district branch executives were concerned that the Board of Trustees did not understand the concerns of their members. Additional concerns included the potential impact of pending dues increases on membership retention. District branches also reported challenges in communication flow, noting that information does not always move effectively between the Board and local branches unless a board member is directly involved in their district. While quarterly district branch leadership calls were acknowledged and appreciated, DB executives expressed a desire for more BOT member involvement so that they could have a more direct exchange with the Board. The discussion underscored the importance of improving two way communication and ensuring members feel connected to national governance activities.

Advocacy: The Federal Advocacy Conference achieved record attendance, with significant participation from board members, residents, and fellows (who were sponsored by the APA Foundation). The American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT) brought 34 members to attend the conference, making a significant investment to support their participation. Dr. Tracey Guthrie, President, AADPRT, expressed a strong commitment to continued partnership with the APA in advocacy efforts.

Leadership Update: Dr. Wills announced the appointment of Justin Singh as the Senior Vice President of Operations, Finance, and Transformation. The role recognizes Justin's strong background in growth, innovation, AI, and technology strategy, key areas aligned with the organization's future direction. Justin brings nearly two decades of experience leading transformation and innovation in healthcare, with a focus on operations, finance, and strategy.

Medical Leadership of the Cross-Functional Mental Healthcare Team: The Board of Trustees engaged in a strategic discussion on how APA will advance psychiatrists' medical leadership of interprofessional mental health care

teams in a rapidly changing practice environment. This conversation directly addressed commitments in APA's newly approved strategic goals to ensure physician leadership of care teams and to provide psychiatrists with practical resources to foster professional success. The Board noted that while APA supports state-level advocacy on scope of practice for patient safety, the organization has yet to establish a comprehensive clinical framework defining physician-led care, supervision standards, and roles in complex cases. Selected member feedback emphasizes a desire for APA to strengthen scope-of-practice advocacy while other members were concerned that APA was not facing the shifts in workforce trends and a need for collegial interprofessional interactions. Others expressed a wish for clearer standards for interdisciplinary teams and provide practical guidance to help psychiatrists to effectively lead teams and supervise in integrated settings. The Board supported moving forward with two parallel workstreams beginning in 2025: 1. Commissioning research to evaluate the evidence base demonstrating that physician-led care improves patient and financial outcomes; and 2. Establishing a clinical framework workgroup to develop a white paper defining standards for physician-led mental health care teams across practice settings. Both workstreams will report back to the Board with findings and recommendations to inform APA's strategy for supporting psychiatrists as medical leaders while protecting patient safety and advancing access to quality care. This complements the Administration's fourth-quarter 2025 initiative to gather feedback from early career psychiatrists, particularly those in integrated practice settings.

Report of the Joint Reference Committee: The Board approved the establishment of two new groups: an **Early Career Psychiatrist Caucus**, where the caucus will provide a forum for ECPs to address emerging issues, coordinate advocacy, and elevate priorities important to early career psychiatrists and the broader field through their ECP Trustee; and a **Spanish Language Communications Committee**, which will report to the Council on Communications and will guide APA's efforts to expand engagement with Spanish-speaking psychiatrists, patients, and communities. The committee will support the development of Spanish-language communications, including LaSaludMental.org, advise on culturally relevant messaging, collaborate across APA components, and strengthen Spanish language outreach through media and partnerships.

Report of the Treasurer: Dr. Steve Koh, Treasurer, provided a financial report as of August 31, 2025. Three of the five key financial metrics are meeting expectations year to date. The exception is the total forecasted revenue of \$57.6 million is \$0.6 million below the full year budget of \$58.2 million. This

APA News & Information

APA BOT October Meeting Highlights Cont.

reflects the below-budget registration revenue for the Annual Meeting. Dr. Koh reviewed the Finance and Budget Committee's guidance for developing the preliminary 2026 budget. Following this direction, the Administration prepared an operating budget encompassing revenue-generating areas, support functions, and programmatic departments, which reduces the use of APA reserves by \$1 million compared to the prior year. Staff are also preparing a draft budget for strategic initiatives for the Board's consideration in 2026. Mr. Carlton Davids, VP, Finance, noted that the preliminary budget does not include new staff positions.

The Committee to Protect Public Mental Health: The Board received an informational update regarding the Committee to Protect Public Mental Health, a group of mental health professionals, some APA members, and some APA past presidents, who are engaged in independent advocacy efforts. The committee recently issued public letters calling for the removal of the HHS Secretary and referencing their roles as past presidents in public communications. APA leadership had asked the past presidents not to use their title in public communications but did not get a positive response. The Board recommended following up with another request asking that members refrain from using official APA titles when not representing the organization's positions, consistent with APA policy, and in order not to dilute APA's messages. Board members emphasized the importance of maintaining unity, professionalism, and adherence to established advocacy guidelines and policies, while keeping communication channels open for constructive engagement with all members who share a commitment to public mental health.

Upcoming FREE CME: Diversity & Health Equity

Please find a listing of our upcoming educational offerings, all free and available for CME credit. Feel free to reach out with any questions - freynolds@psych.org Note: all sessions will be recorded and available in the APA Learning Center for self-paced viewing. You can [view past offerings here](#).

- 11/6 -7:00PM [Alzheimer's Disease Across Populations: Gaps and Opportunities in Research](#)
- 11/7 -11:00 AM - 4:00PM [2nd Annual APA Social Determinants of Mental Health Convening](#)
- 11/12 -12:00 [Meeting the Need: Alzheimer's Disease in Rural America](#)
- 11/12 -1:00PM [Digital Psychiatry & Mental Health Applications: Navigating Privacy, Equity, and Access](#)
- 11/18 - 7:00PM [Alzheimer's Disease Biomarkers: A New Frontier, But Who Benefits?](#)

Advisor Needed: AI in Psychiatry

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a developing phenomenon that is quickly being implemented within all aspects of our everyday lives – including the medical field. Whether AI is being used by clinicians to support administrative tasks or by patients as a temporary supplement to mental health services, its role in medicine is deeply impactful. This all begs the question: what are the ethical obligations of psychiatrists as they navigate AI in medicine and its impact on mental health? The Ethics Committee has been tasked with creating guidance that considers some of the clinical intricacies and ethical responsibilities related to using AI while prioritizing patient care. The final version will be published on APA's website and shared as a resource for APA members.

APA is seeking a Technical Advisor to join the Ethics Committee's workgroup. Ideally, they have firsthand experience with AI and are familiar with its technological background. The Technical Advisor will be a subject matter expert and may be asked to address workgroup questions related to the inner workings of various AI models and data collection. Given the nature of our committee, any experience with ethics is preferred. Apply Here: [Micro-Volunteer Opportunities](#)

New Early Career Psychiatrist Caucus

The APA Board of Trustees has approved the formation of an Early Career Psychiatrist Caucus, thanks to the interest and proactivity of several ECP members. This initiative directly aligns with the work championed by Dr. Gandhi as Chair of the Membership Committee. It's a true reflection of her vision and leadership that RFMs and now ECPs now have a space to connect, collaborate, advocate and continue refining how we all work together to support these broader member communities. This Caucus will be by and for ECPs, so anyone in the current ECP special interest group who is not an ECP will be given approximately 30 days during the transition period before they are removed from the group.

Any ECP interested in the ECP caucus can go to their member profile at <https://my.psychiatry.org/s/> and navigate to Special Interest Communities and select Early Career Psychiatrist to join now. That group will transition in late Nov/early Dec into the ECP Caucus. Once that group kicks off, the leadership will reach out and will let everyone know if there are officer positions and/or ways to get involved in projects, etc.

Medicare Updates

2024 Targeted Review Available Until November 14

[2024 Targeted Review Available Until November 14](#)

Review your 2024 MIPS final score on the [Quality Payment Program website](#).

- Individual clinicians, groups, subgroups, virtual groups, APM Entities (including Shared Savings Program ACOs), designated support staff and authorized third party intermediaries may request that CMS review their MIPS final scores through a process called targeted review.

When to Request a Targeted Review

If you believe there's an error in the calculation of your MIPS final score and associated MIPS payment adjustment, you can request a targeted review now.

The targeted review period will close November 14, 2025 at 8PM, 30 days after the release of MIPS payment adjustments.

For example:

- Data were submitted under the wrong TIN or National Provider Identifier (NPI).
- You have Qualifying APM Participant (QP) status and shouldn't receive a MIPS payment adjustment.
- Performance categories weren't automatically reweighted even though you qualify for reweighting due to extreme and uncontrollable circumstances.

Note: This isn't a comprehensive list of circumstances. If you have questions about whether your circumstances warrant a targeted review, please contact the QPP Service Center by phone at 1-866-288-8292 (TRS: 711) or by email at QPP@cms.hhs.gov.

Targeted Review Resources:

- [2024 Targeted Review User Guide \(PDF\)](#) – Reviews the process for requesting a targeted review and examples for when you would or wouldn't request a targeted review.

(1) Note: The federal government shutdown doesn't affect your ability to submit a targeted review request by the above deadline, however it may affect the response time to resolve a request.

2026 MIPS Payment Adjustment Information

The Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services (CMS) has released Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) payment adjustment information for the 2024 performance period/2026 MIPS payment year.

- Your 2024 MIPS final score determines the MIPS payment adjustment you'll receive in 2026.
- A positive, negative, or neutral payment adjustment will be applied to the Medicare paid amount for covered professional services furnished in 2026.

Access Your MIPS Payment Adjustment

- [Sign in](#) to the Quality Payment Program (QPP) website using the same credentials that allowed you to submit your 2024 MIPS data and check your 2024 MIPS final score. Refer to the [QPP Access User Guide \(ZIP, 4MB\)](#) for more information.
- Click "View Feedback" on the home page and select your organization (Practice, Alternative Payment Model (APM) Entity, Virtual Group).
 - Practice representatives can access individual, subgroup, and group performance feedback (final scores and payment adjustments).
 - APM Entity representatives can access APM Entity -level performance feedback (final scores and payment adjustments).
 - Virtual group representatives can access virtual group-level performance feedback (final scores and payment adjustments).
 - Third party representatives can't access final feedback or payment adjustment information.

If you don't have a HARP account or QPP role, please refer to the **Register for a HARP Account** (re: HARP account) and **Connect to an Organization** (re: QPP role) documents in the [QPP Access User Guide \(ZIP, 4MB\)](#) and start the process now.

New Prior Authorization Code Tool Available

Providers can now verify if a code is subject to any active prior authorization programs sponsored by CMS. The results given by the tool will advise if the code is subject to a prior authorization program. [Visit the website](#) to access the prior authorization code lookup tool today.

Member Publications

David Gorelick, M.D. co-authored a paper published in *JAMA Network Open* titled "[Developing Medical Cannabis Competencies: A Consensus Statement](#)." It discusses a consensus-based set of core competencies for educating medical students about medical cannabis.

Zac Cordner, M.D., Ph.D., and **Sarah Walser, M.D.** co-authored a paper published in *eClinicalMedicine* titled "[Considerations and cautions for the integration of psilocybin into routine clinical care](#)." It provides recommendations for moving forward in the field of psychedelic medicine.

Out & About

David McDuff, M.D. recorded a video on mental health in athletes that was shown on the jumbotron at a recent Maryland Terps football game. To see his video in full, [click here](#).

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.

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas Freitag, M.D.

REINSTATEMENT

Stephanie Solazzo, M.D.

TRANSFERS

Isabelle Duerr, M.D.

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> or email mps@mdpsych.org. 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 or text the MPS office at 410-625-0232.

CLASSIFIEDS**OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE**

Ellicott City: Full/part time office space with amenities and active in-office listserv for mental health professionals. Easily accessible via routes 40, 29,32, 695. Contact Dr. Mike Boyle at 410-206-6070, psycmike@gmail.com.

Early-Career Psychiatrist WhatsApp

The MPS ECP WhatsApp Group is a way for members who are within 7 years of completing their training to communicate and collaborate with each other. This group is similar to our MPS Listserv but dedicated to *only* our ECP members.

The purpose of the WhatsApp group includes:

- Peer Support: Provide a safe space for members to share experiences, challenges, and successes, and fostering camaraderie.
- Resource Sharing: Facilitate the exchange of valuable resources, including articles, tools, and strategies for clinical practice and professional development.
- Case Discussions: Create a platform for discussing clinical cases, ethical dilemmas, and treatment approaches, encouraging collaborative problem-solving and learning
- Networking Opportunities: Build connections that may lead to collaborations, referrals, and job opportunities within the psychiatric community.

[Fill out this form to join](#) and, once approved, we will send an invite link for access to the group.

Advertise Position Openings and Office Space with MPS!

The MPS offers timely ads in [MPS News](#) (includes online post), [The Maryland Psychiatrist](#) and the MPS [home page](#). [Click here](#) for ad rates. Please help MPS generate non-dues income by using MPS ads to connect with psychiatrists.



Psychiatrist Wanted for Lumin Health - a Leading Ketamine and Esketamine Medical Practice

About Lumin Health

Lumin Health was founded in 2022 in the Boston Metro area and has quickly become the largest ketamine/esketamine-providing medical practice in Massachusetts. We are a psychiatrist-led, multisite, academically-leaning medical practice that trains psychiatric residents, fellows, and nurse practitioner students. Our values include a strong commitment to integrating into a patient's outpatient team of providers; operating within and informed by evidence-based practice; creating a warm, hospitality-focused environment for patients; and presenting ketamine and esketamine as viable, trustworthy options for patients and referring providers.

Job Opportunity

We are looking for a psychiatrist to lead a multidisciplinary team who enjoys opportunities for teaching.

- **Full-time | 280-300K + Bonus**
- **Medical, Dental, Vision, 401(k) & PTO**
- **Monday-Friday**
- **Location: In-Person Clinic in Bethesda, MD**
- **Start date: Flexible - March-May**

Requirements: Board-certified/eligible Psychiatrist (MD/DO), licensed in-state. Ketamine/esketamine experience preferred but not required. Leadership experience is preferred but not required.

Join us in transforming mental health care! **Apply today** by emailing Adrienne Graham, Director of People at adrienne.graham@lumin.health.

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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:

Psychiatrist

The Center for Eating Disorders | Towson, MD

Medical Director

Outpatient Mental Health Center | Baltimore, MD

Service Chief

Adult Service Line | Towson, 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, scan the QR code or contact Kathleen Hilzendeger, Director of Professional Services, khilzendeger@sheppardpratt.org or 443-465-6142.

About Sheppard Pratt

Consistently ranked as one of the top ten psychiatric hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*, 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.



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