

MPS NEWS

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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

President's Column

March Madness

After a cold January and February, we all are looking forward to spring or at least some reprieve from the dark days. It is already staying light longer and the COVID numbers are improving.

It is the time of year for the MPS election. Our 2022 election starts March 1 and we have a great slate of candidates. Please look at the [website](#) and read the biographies. You will receive an email on March 1 that includes your link to cast a ballot. If you missed it, please look for a message from "The Maryland Psychiatric Society" with "Your 2022 MPS Election Ballot" in the subject line. Our elections are often very close by even a few votes so be sure to exercise your choices!

This is also the time of the year when we recruit volunteers for the next officer year which runs April 2022 to April 2023. We are working on our committees and looking for volunteers. Incoming President Jessica Merkle-Keller, M.D. will be appointing Committee Chairs. She will also appoint new committee members. Please look at the committee list and [volunteer to become a member of the committee that would interest you](#). For example, our Legislative Committee requires attention during the legislative session and then is mostly off for the rest of the year. We have so many opportunities for members to become involved and have a say, so look at the website and contact us if you have any questions.

Recently, the MPS listserv brought up questions about Medical Aid in Dying or MAID. This year there is not a bill in the Maryland legislature, so it is a good time

for us to reflect. There have been differing viewpoints on the listserv and a call for a survey of the membership to help us know the range of thinking about this topic. We plan to wait until after the legislative session to conduct the survey. We will enlist the help of members with opposing views to write the questions. This is a complicated issue that will require some thought on the part of all of us. I look forward to working together on this important issue.

Thanks to all our members for continuing to make this a vibrant, active organization.

Ginger Ashley, M.D.

Last Call for 2022 MPS Dues

If you haven't already you must renew your annual membership by March 31st to avoid a loss of MPS/APA membership!

- Mail your check made payable to "MPS" to 1101 St Paul Street, Ste 305, Baltimore, MD 21202 **-OR-**
- Pay online using a debit or credit card or Paypal account at [this link](#) or via your MPS [member account](#).
- [Payment plan options](#) are available.

If you have not received an invoice, or if you have questions or concerns please email mps@mdpsych.org.

The MPS Council
will meet by
videoconference on
March 8th at 7:30 PM.
All members welcome!

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

The 2022 MPS election begins March 1

Electronic ballots are being used for voting again this year for all members who have an email address on file. Others will receive and return a paper ballot to vote.

Ballots will be emailed March 1 and all votes must be cast or postmarked by 11:45 PM on March 31, 2022.

Look for an email from Maryland Psychiatric Society with "Your 2022 MPS Election Ballot" in the Subject line of the message.

Candidate biographies are included with the online ballot, or can be [viewed here](#).

If you have questions, email Meagan Floyd at mfloyd@mdpsych.org.

Calling All Members! 2022-2023 MPS Opportunities

Engage, Network, and Make a Difference in How Psychiatry is Practiced in Maryland

The annual MPS leadership cycle begins again next month with the installation of Jessica Merkel-Keller, M.D. as President. The MPS offers multiple ways for members to be involved, including volunteering for [committees](#), joining an email "[interest group](#)" and other ways that we haven't imagined yet. **This is your organization representing your profession. Here is your chance to have a say!**

Your energy and ideas can help the MPS effectively focus on issues that are important to you! Participation from members is essential to accomplishing MPS goals. To review the participation opportunities available to members and sign up for those of interest, [please click here](#).

National COVID Emergency Extended

On February 18, President Biden [extended the national emergency](#) due to COVID-19 beyond March 1. The extension allows the federal government to continue flexibilities for legal constraints as well as spending to address the pandemic.

Share Your Inspiring Photos With MPS

There is no question that the past year has had its challenges! But, there have also been bright spots – moments of joy and days that brought smiles. To kick off this year's [Annual Meeting](#) on a positive, fun note we want to share member photos of things that brought joy this past year. It can be ANYTHING that was a moment of happiness – a vacation/trip, a new house, a picture of your dog in a Halloween costume, etc.

Please send your photo to mfloyd@mdpsych.org by April 20th. You can include a short caption if you'd like. The photos will be combined into a short presentation for the start of this year's virtual [Annual Meeting](#) (To be held on [Thursday April 28th](#) at 7 PM – be sure to register!)

Curbside Conversations

A resource available exclusively for MPS members, **Curbside Conversations**, facilitates members with in-depth knowledge of specific areas having informal chats with other MPS members seeking that information. The discussions are not formal consultations, but rather a collegial resource offered voluntarily to others in the MPS community.

Contact information for volunteer experts is available to MPS members for the categories below. Please email meps@mdpsych.org for details.

Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, including infants
ECT/TMS
First Episode Psychosis
Geriatric Psychiatry
Psychopharmacology
Substance Use Disorders/Addiction
Women's Mental Health/Perinatal Psychiatry

There are other categories with limited participation so visit [the website](#) if this list doesn't cover your need. Remember to consider this option whenever you're looking for information related to patient care!

Congratulations!

Two MPS RFM members were honored by APA Area 3 Council with their annual recognition award for outstanding leadership and contributions to psychiatry. We are pleased to spotlight:

Allison Bailey-Greene, M.D.	JHH
Joan Han, D.O.	UMD-SP

Well deserved!

February 8 Council Highlights

Support for MPS Strategic Priorities

Dr. Ashley reported on efforts toward [MPS priorities](#) since the January Council meeting. The first [home page ad](#) from Sheppard Pratt is up, a new source of non-dues income. The Executive Committee met with the financial advisors; no changes are planned. MPS emailed info about the eRx waiver and telehealth survey to engage non-members.

Executive Committee Report

The MPS sent [letter to Baltimore City Commissioner of Health](#) calling for more shelters for covid-positive people. We are taking a proactive role on the future of telehealth coverage by alerting members to the [NORC survey to inform telehealth policy](#), urging those who receive an invitation to participate. Finally, she noted that Aliya Jones, M.D. will step down as Behavioral Health Administration Deputy Secretary on May 24.

Legislative Committee Report

Dr. Hanson said over 1800 bills have been introduced so far, of which the committee has reviewed 52 and taken a position on 20. Priority bills are posted on the [website](#). Prior authorization legislation, introduced by Senator Ready per MPS and WPS request, is out – [SB688](#). The MPS is opposing a bill to allow behavioral health providers licensed out of state to practice via telehealth and a bill to authorize clinical nurse specialists (CNS) to prescribe without limitations or supervision. MedChi opposed the CNS bill but is getting pushback from certain physicians. MPS is alerting members to contact their legislators with concerns about the CNS bill.

Membership and Recruitment Committee Report

Council reviewed the committee's plan for contacting members at risk of being dropped for non-payment of 2022 dues. A list of those who owe MPS and/or APA will be provided at the next meeting.

Nominations and Elections Committee Report

Dr. Hackman reviewed the slate that was approved last year. Cynthia Major Lewis, M.D. has withdrawn from the Council race as she is overextended.

Old Business

Dr. Ehrenreich returned to the concern expressed last meeting about access to acute care. He explained that MPS will meet with BHA the following week and requested ideas to raise. Dr. Hightower suggested we try to encourage more RRP's and housing providers who can accept the patients needing discharge, thereby expanding the number of available beds. Dr. Hansen recommended using specialized halfway houses for conditional release supervision of forensic patients (e.g. Hamilton House). Dr. Triplett shared that the Maryland bed registry is being revived starting tomorrow. A report is to be submitted each morning to Sheppard with the number of available beds. The prior registry did not work out; all beds are not equal, nor are patients. Concerns were

raised as to whether the registry could be used to charge institutions with EMTALA violations. Ideas for possible registry improvements include looking at other state programs, reviewing Maryland crisis services reform work on urgent BH care, and shifting the focus to the patients who are waiting.

Dr. Shaya made a motion that the Executive Committee consider forming a task force of health system representatives, possibly including VA and state hospitals, to address emergency psychiatric service needs and report back within 6 months. Council voted unanimously in favor.



2022 Maryland Psychiatric Society Annual Meeting

Thursday April 28, 2022 7-8:30 PM
This won't be your usual virtual meeting!

This once-a-year [program](#) is FREE of charge!

Door prizes will be given in three categories:

- Resident Fellow Members
- Early Career Psychiatrist Members (within 7 years of starting practice)
- All other members

We have a lot to celebrate! [Join with your colleagues](#) in this interactive event that will include some fun in addition to information about the past year in Maryland psychiatry and a vision for the future.

We will welcome **Jessica Merkel-Keller, M.D.** as 2022-2023 MPS President. **Carol Vidal, M.D., M.P.H** will become MPS President-Elect and **Doris Balis, M.D.** will become Secretary-Treasurer.

- Best Paper Contest and Resident/Fellow Poster Competition awards will be presented.
- We'll recognize new Fellows, Distinguished Fellows, lifer members and more!

[Register today!](#)

Maryland News

MPS Bills Of Interest

OPPOSE:

[HB1177](#): **Expert Witnesses – LCSW**: Altering a provision of law authorizing a licensed psychologist to testify as an expert witness on certain issues in a court or administrative hearing to also include a certified social worker-clinical licensed under the "Maryland Social Workers Practice Act" and qualified as an expert witness.

[HB982](#): **Health Occs – Faith-Based Counseling – Exemption**: Establishing an exemption from licensure requirements under the Maryland Professional Counselors and Therapists Act for an individual offering faith-based counseling services in coordination with a religious organization; prohibiting an individual who receives an exemption from offering medical care, medical detoxification, or medical withdrawal services; and authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to revoke an exemption under certain circumstances.

[HB 276](#): **Clinical Nurse Specialists – Prescribing Authority**: Defining "clinical nurse specialist" and "practice as a clinical nurse specialist" for the purpose of authorizing clinical nurse specialists to prescribe drugs and durable medical equipment under regulations adopted by the State Board of Nursing; altering the definition of "authorized prescriber" for purposes of the Maryland Pharmacy Act to include clinical nurse specialists; and authorizing a licensed physician to personally prepare and dispense a prescription written by a clinical nurse specialist.

SUPPORT:

[SB688](#): **Utilization Review for Coverage of Prescription Drugs**: Establishing certain requirements on utilization review of prescription drug and device coverage by health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations; providing that a denial of coverage for a prescription drug or device made during the course of utilization review is eligible for an expedited appeal under certain circumstances; etc.

[HB657](#): **Standardized Behavioral Health Screenings – Students**: Requiring the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports to develop, in consultation with certain stakeholders, guidelines for developing a standardized behavioral health screening to identify students with behavioral health services needs; requiring that the screening be given to the parent or guardian of each student when the student enrolls for school and every year thereafter; and requiring each behavioral health services coordinator to develop and implement a certain standardized behavioral health screening.

See the complete list of bills on the [MPS website!](#)

SLRP and MLARP Applications Open

The Maryland Department of Health administers the State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) and the Maryland Loan Repayment Assistance Program (MLARP). The SLRP provides educational loan repayment funds to physicians who serve a 2 year obligation in a health professional shortage area (HPSA) or medically underserved area (MUA), either in primary care or mental health. The MLARP provides educational loan repayment funds to physicians and medical residents who serve a 2 year obligation in a HPSA or MUA or state designed health professional shortage area. Eligible physicians and PGY4 residents can apply beginning March 1. **The deadline is April 15.** [Click here](#) for more information and requirements.

Negative Balance Recoupment Update

In December 2021, many providers received a *Notice of Recoupment of Retro-Eligibility and Overpayments* letter from Optum and had the opportunity to complete the *Negative Balance and Claim Lifecycle Report Survey*.

During the week of February 7, Optum Maryland placed letters in provider Incedo mailboxes that confirm their survey responses and provide specific information on recoupment. Providers who received the *Notice of Recoupment of Retro-Eligibility and Overpayments* letter, but never responded to the survey, also received this letter.

Please contact Optum Maryland Customer Services at 1-800-888-1965 if you have any questions.

BHA-MedChi Webinars

The Behavioral Health Administration and MedChi webinar series, *Helping the Helpers and Those They Serve*, is for behavioral health and medical providers of all disciplines in both community and hospital settings. They enhance health care worker self-care and the care they provide by addressing the pandemic, social justice issues, and other stressors. **CME credits are free.** Recordings and slides are archived on the BHA/MedChi [webinar page](#). Programs run **5 to 6 PM**:

March 10: [Sleep Better by Dealing with Rumination](#)
Alex Chan, PhD. Moderator: Jennifer Greenspun, LCSW-C.

March 24: Pending

April 14: [The Power of Positivity in the Workplace](#)
LaTanya Eggleston, MA. Moderator: TBD.

Maryland News

Maryland CDS Renewal Problems

The Maryland Department of Health network security incident has impacted its systems. MPS members have shared on the listserv that delays have occurred with Maryland CDS renewals. For example, online renewal mid-month was not in time to receive a certificate by expiration at month end.

OCSA has [posted](#) clarification, " All pending renewal applications that were submitted at least 2 weeks before their expiration date are hereby extended until a final determination on the application has been made by OCSA. Any registrant whose registration is due for renewal should submit their renewal application timely, and their existing registration will similarly be extended until OCSA makes a final determination. When the MDH network resumes normal operations, an email notification will be sent to all registrants and a notice will be posted on our website at <https://health.maryland.gov/OCSA>."

The [CDS website](#) specifies that applicants can renew their registration up to 60 days before or 30 days after the expiration date listed on the certificate.

A member reported that when the [link to check application status](#) did not work, a call to (410) 764-2890 and email to Maryland.OCSA@maryland.gov were successful in obtaining a personalized "Temporary Renewal of Controlled Dangerous Substance Registration" letter, which explained that renewal processing was delayed due to the cyber attack and extended the CDS expiration by two months. This letter was helpful when the DEA Diversion Control Division emailed that the state CDS license was past its expiration date, and if this was not corrected, the DEA registration could be terminated. The member used the [DEA website's](#) "make changes to my DEA registration" link to update the CDS expiration date to reflect the date in the Temporary Renewal letter. The local DEA Diversion field office requested a copy of the Temporary CDS Renewal.

Stay Connected!

Join the MPS Listserv

Join the online MPS community to quickly and easily share information with other MPS psychiatrists who participate. To join, click [here](#). You will need to wait for membership approval and will be notified by email. If you have any problems, please email mps@mdpsych.org.

Engage with Digital Options

To stay informed, visit the [MPS website](#) regularly and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Important Reminder! NORC Survey Help Inform Future Telehealth Policy

NORC survey invitations to a randomly selected sample of providers across the State are imminent. The letters invite providers to go to a website and enter a PIN number to take a survey. The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete and is voluntary and confidential. Responses will be used in aggregate only and the information will only be disclosed to researchers at NORC. The survey will be fielded for about eight weeks.

Given the importance of telehealth during the continuing pandemic and beyond, it is critical that psychiatrists and their staff be alert to US Postal Service mail (at the NPI address on file with the [National Plan and Provider Enumeration System](#)), specifically a letter from NORC at the University of Chicago that could include a survey invitation. Recent telehealth expansion has helped limit COVID spread and has also improved access to care for those with challenging social determinants of health, such as rural location and access to transportation and childcare. Audio only coverage accommodates patients who are unable to use or without broadband service and video technology.

If you received a letter, PLEASE RESPOND. The survey will inform recommendations on telehealth audio-visual and audio-only coverage and reimbursement for the 2023 legislative session when the Maryland General Assembly will decide whether to continue [Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021](#) provisions covering audio-only telehealth and requiring the same reimbursement for telehealth visits as for in person.

Please contact mdtelehealthsurvey@norc.org with questions. For more information on study activities, [click here](#).

Implicit Bias Training Required for 2022 License Renewal

The Maryland Board of Physicians posted a [notice](#) regarding the [new law](#) that goes into effect on April 1, 2022 requiring all renewing licensees to [complete an implicit bias training program](#) approved by the Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program. Licensees whose last name begins with A-L and expires 9/30/2022 must complete one course of the program as a condition of license renewal. Those whose last name begins with M-Z and expires 9/30/2023 have another year to complete the course. **This is a one-time requirement.** [Click here](#) for a list of approved training program courses.

Maryland News

MPS Introduces Legislation on Prior Authorization Reform

Prior authorization is a reoccurring complaint we hear from members. While prior authorization is promoted as a savings mechanism, members know that these protocols often keep patients from treatment when they allow insurers and PBMs to impose extensive paperwork requirements, multiple phone calls, and significant wait times for treatments and medications. We are pleased to announce that MPS and WPS introduced [Maryland Senate bill 688](#) to reform prior authorization and ensure patients have timely access to medications.

A group of members from MPS and WPS worked with APA's State Government Relations team over the summer to draft legislation that addresses these particular concerns. This fall, Senator Ready agreed to sponsor the bill and during [this month's hearing](#), (Forward the video to 2:31:26 for bill testimony) he highlighted how SB 688 would not just protect patient access to medications, it would also help to alleviate some of the pandemic burnout clinicians are experiencing. Thank you to Robert Herman, MD, Joseph Collins, MD and Jennifer Dorr, MD, for traveling to Annapolis to offer outstanding and strong in person testimony in support of this bill!

Specifically, SB 688 would:

- Eliminate prior authorization for generic medications that are not controlled substances.
- Eliminate prior authorization for dosage changes of the same medication.
- Eliminate prior authorization for generic and brand drugs after patients have been on these medication for six months without interruption.
- Require insurers and PBMS to adhere to a 48-hour appeal process to ensure timely access to medications for patients.
- Prohibit plans from denying medication on the grounds of therapeutic duplication if the patient has already been subject to review for the same dosage and it was previously approved.
- Require denials and denial reviews be conducted by physicians in the same or similar specialty as the health care provider whose recommended treatment is under review.

MPS worked with MedChi to pass a resolution in support of the language and this has ensured that the broader House of Medicine is in support of the bill. Increasingly, legislators across the country are recognizing how onerous prior authorization is on clinicians and that time spent on burdensome requirements would be better spent on direct patient care.

What's next? We will continue to work to advance the bill this session and look for opportunities to work with legislators on solutions to our patients' most pressing needs. We are hopeful that this partnership between MPS, WPS, APA, and our lobbying team will continue to be a resource to our legislature and that our members will soon be able to see the fruits of our advocacy. We will be calling on MPS members to send letters to your Senators as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Be on the lookout for legislative alerts from the MPS during the 2022 General Assembly. As a reminder you can always see the complete list of bills of interest to MPS members on the [MPS website!](#)

Kathy Orellana
Senior Regional Director
APA State Government Relations

Support the MPS Advocacy Fund!

Psychiatry faces legislative and regulatory threats and opportunities in Maryland. MPS has successfully addressed access issues, scope of practice, unfair reimbursement practices, and additional burdensome training requirements. To ensure sufficient resources to sustain government affairs activities and legal counsel for effective representation of psychiatrists and their patients, we need financial support. [Please donate](#) to our advocacy fund; every contributor, every member strengthens our collective position! *Payments to the Advocacy Fund are not charitable donations, but they may be fully tax deductible as a business expense; check with your tax preparer.*

Free CME on Prescribing LAI Antipsychotic Medications

A **March 3** SMI Advisor webinar from 3 to 4 PM will provide an overview of current professional practice guidelines and scientific publications on long-acting injectable (LAI) antipsychotics for the treatment of schizophrenia. This activity provides information on the use of LAIs and specific advantages of selecting evidence-based treatment to improve patient outcomes. [Click here](#) for more info. [Maryland regulations have been proposed](#) to implement a new law that allows pharmacists to administer LAIs, which will expand patient access to these medications. Watch for an update after the regulations become final.

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.

William B. Hall, M.D.
Sandeep M. Nayak, M.D.

Transfer Into Maryland
Venera R. Miller, M.D.

Reinstatement
Matthew E. Peters, M.D.
Charles M. Richardson, M.D.

APA News & Information

2022 APA Election Results

Please note that these results will be official once approved by the Board of Trustees.

<u>President-Elect</u> :	Petros Levounis, MD, MA
<u>Treasurer</u> :	Richard Summers, MD
<u>Trustee-at-Large</u> :	Michele Reid, MD
<u>Area 3 Trustee</u> :	Geetha Jayaram, MBBS, MBA
<u>Resident-Fellow Member Trustee-Elect</u>	Seth Daly Stennis, MD

APA Raises Concerns to Congress on FDA REMS

On January 27, APA signed onto letters to House and Senate leaders to express concerns about the recent FDA modifications of the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) for clozapine and isotretinoin. The letters explain that changes to these REMS create unnecessary disruptions to patient care and could result in relapse with devastating effects, including hospitalization, suicide attempts, and even violent acts. The letters urge Congress to request that the FDA halt the REMS program changes until a thorough review of the programs is completed to reduce disruptions to treatment. Further, the [House letter](#) and the [Senate letter](#) request hearings to discuss these issues.

APA Action Paper Deadline

The deadline for action papers to be considered at the May 2022 Assembly meeting is **March 24**. An Action Paper is the product of an idea about how the APA can work on behalf of its members. To review the 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 March 7 so that hopefully an Action Paper can be drafted before the deadline for the May meeting. The Assembly meets again in November if you need more time. [Click here](#) for more details.

APA Joins Letter to Congress on Telehealth

On January 31, APA [joined a letter](#) to House and Senate leadership on how Congress can best support healthcare providers and patients by continuing and expanding access to telehealth services. Telehealth flexibilities that were created as a response to the current public health emergency have improved patient access to care and have impacted both public health programs and private health coverage, so continuing these services will provide certainty to beneficiaries and providers. The letter asks for the continuation of all telehealth waivers through December 31, 2024, that the Department of Health and Human Services evaluate telehealth and create an aggregate report on their findings for Congress, and to consider permanent telehealth legislation in 2024.

APA Raises Concern on No Surprises Act Burden

APA signed onto a [letter](#) with a coalition of other behavioral health associations, including the American Psychological Association, expressing concern to CMS that the No Surprises Act requirement that patients be provided with a good faith estimate (GFE) adds to providers' administrative burden. The coalition points out that psychiatrists/therapists have a longstanding practice of reviewing costs of care with patients upfront, as required by their professional ethics, and are requesting an exemption. In late January, CMS invited APA and the other signatories to a listening session to gain a better understanding of how the GFE requirements impact the delivery of MH/SUD care. CMS anticipates hosting more sessions with the behavioral health community.

Promoting Positive, Inclusive Conversations

[Well Beings](#) is a public media campaign addressing critical health needs in America. It has created a [Mental Health Language Guide](#) that helps identify the right words for conversations about mental health concerns. It also includes a glossary and a list of other resources. The APA Foundation is a supporter of the initiative and a contributor to the guide.

APA Annual Meeting

The APA's 2022 annual meeting will be held May 21 to 25 in New Orleans. See [Annual Meeting Safety Considerations](#) and [Learn more](#).

APA News & Information

APA Praises Legislation to Address MH Problems and Burnout

APA joined five physician groups in commending passage of the [Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act](#) (HR 1667). The legislation establishes grants to prevent and reduce suicide, burnout, and mental and behavioral health conditions among health care professionals. After passing both the House and Senate, the bill now heads to President Biden's desk for signature. According to a [news release](#), the Act will:

- Establish **grants** for health profession schools, academic health centers, hospitals, etc. to help them train health workers in strategies to prevent suicide, burnout, and mental health conditions, including substance use disorders.
- Identify and disseminate **best practices** for reducing and preventing suicide and burnout among health care professionals and training them in strategies to promote mental health.
- Establish a **national campaign** targeting health care professionals to encourage them to seek support and treatment for MH/SUD and stigma associated with seeking care for these conditions.
- Establish **grants** for health care professionals and professional associations for employee education, peer-support programming, and mental health treatment.
- **Study** the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of health care professionals.

The legislation also directs HHS to develop policy recommendations to remove barriers to accessing treatment and identify strategies to promote resilience, according a [congressional summary](#) of the bill.

March Marks Release of DMS-5-TR

This month APA Publishing will release the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR)*. Significant changes include the addition of prolonged grief disorder and the inclusion of symptom codes for suicidal behavior and nonsuicidal self-injury, refinement of criteria, and comprehensive literature-based updates to the text. The revised manual includes clarifying modifications to the criteria sets for more than 70 disorders, updates to descriptive text for most disorders based on literature reviews, and a comprehensive review of the impact of racism and discrimination on the diagnosis and manifestations of mental disorders. [Click here](#) for more details.

APA Resource on Interprofessional Consultation Codes

The CPT Coding and Reimbursement Section of the APA Practice page includes a [billing guide](#) for Interprofessional Telephone/Internet/Electronic Health Record Consultations related to specific CPT codes. The guide for psychiatric consultants explains two code sets and their differences, and provides case examples:

1. Interprofessional Consultation Codes

*Consult with Discussion: 99446, 99447, 99448, 99449 (written and verbal report)

*Consult without Discussion: 99451 (written report/feedback only)

2. Traditional consultation when you see the patient face-to-face (in-person or via telehealth)

*Consultation codes: 99241-99245 (outpatient) or 99251-99255 (inpatient)

OR

*New patient/Initial Day E/M codes (for Medicare and several other payers): 99202-99205 (outpatient) or 99221-99223 (inpatient)

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.](#)

Time is Running Out!

Renew Your 2022 Membership THIS MONTH!

If you haven't already, please pay your 2022 dues now. Members who do not pay MPS and APA dues or schedule a payment plan will be dropped as of **March 31**. We want to help members remain in good standing! Please [contact the MPS](#) with questions, or to discuss dues relief options or [payment plans](#).

Monthly Zoom Meetings for Psychiatrists

MPS member Laura Gaffney, M.D. organizes virtual gatherings for psychiatrists via Zoom. They are usually held the 2nd Thursday of the month in the evening. To join or ask questions, email her at gaffneylr@gmail.com.

Medicare Updates

MIPS Resources

Explore MIPS Measures & Activities

To become familiar with the 2022 measures and activities for each performance category under traditional MIPS, use this [CMS tool](#). Use different links to plan for [MIPS Value Pathways](#) and [APM Performance Pathway](#).

Small Practice Support

CMS is launching a monthly newsletter in place of its Small, Underserved, and Rural Support initiative, which ended in February, to continue providing support and educational resources. [Sign up here](#). Information and resources are also available on the [CMS website](#).

Participate in Field Testing of Possible MIPS Cost Measures

CMS requests clinician feedback on five episode-based cost measures are currently being field tested before consideration of their potential use in the [cost performance category](#) of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Two of the measures relate to psychiatric practice:

Major Depressive Disorder
Psychoses/Related Conditions

Clinicians and groups who meet the attribution requirements for at least one of the measures will receive a Field Test Report. All stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the draft measure specifications through an online survey that has been extended to **close on March 25**. For more information, watch the January 10 [2022 MACRA Cost Measure Field Testing Webinar](#) and visit the [field testing feedback webpage](#).

AMA Toolkit to Advance Racial and Health Equity

Last month, the AMA announced a new toolkit with five steps to help health systems embed equity into medicine and achieve optimal health for each patient. [Racial and Health Equity: Concrete STEPS for Health Systems](#) is part of AMA's continuous learning, improvement, and accountability envisioned in the its [Organizational Strategic Plan to Embed Racial Justice and Advance Health](#).

Apply for Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellowship

The inaugural AMA-Satcher Health Leadership Institute Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellowship is a postdoctoral fellowship designed to enhance physicians' advocacy leadership skills to improve health outcomes and advance health equity in the areas they serve or may serve. The fellowship is open to all physicians and residents who have a demonstrated interest in health equity and health advocacy. It runs from September 2022 to November 2023. Participating fellows will receive a stipend of \$15,000 for their participation and would be eligible for up to 28 CME credit hours. The application **deadline is March 14**. [Click here](#) for more details.

CLASSIFIEDS

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Ellicott City/Waverly Woods/Columbia/Glenelg: near Rt. 70, Rt. 32 and Rt. 29. Office and Group room is in a beautiful suite ready for Daily and Hourly rentals. Includes large fully furnished offices with 2 windows, Chairs for groups, large beautifully decorated waiting room, receptionist/file room, 2 bathrooms, Kitchen and a warm community of other therapists (including a psychiatrist) who cross refer. WiFi and fax available. Free ample parking. Great option to hold telehealth sessions. Contact Jenniferplassnig@gmail.com or 410-203-2411.

BETHESDA: Offices for rent in psychotherapy suite carefully following CDC guidelines for safe opening. Furnished and unfurnished space available. Flexible term. Free WiFi, beverages, color copier. Very friendly and professional clinicians. Contact Keith Miller: 202-360-9996 or keith@keithmillercounseling.com.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO RENT OFFICE SPACE FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE? Multi-office space office home to a great network of well-established mental health professionals and all of the amenities you need to build a successful practice! Conveniently located in **Ellicott City, MD** to both Baltimore and Washington areas. Daily/PT time/ Full time availabilities. Offices can be used for Telehealth, In-person, and/or Hybrid sessions. All amenities available to run a successful practice including wifi, copier, fax, staff kitchen, handicapped access, multiple restrooms, offices with good sound proofing, and very convenient to Rts 29 and 40, MD-32, I-70, and I-695. Safety is our number one priority-following CDC Covid-19 Guidelines. Contact: Dr. Mike Boyle 410-206-6070 or 410-465-2500.

Employment ads on the next 5 pages!

CLASSIFIEDS**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Timonium Private Practice: Well-established, adult psychiatric office practice in search of an assistant (M.D. or PMH-CRNP) who may be interested in expanding his/her own practice, with the option to take the practice over within the upcoming 1-3 years. Inquiries may be placed at a.w.forrester@att.net.

The Johns Hopkins University Counseling Center (CC) is seeking 1-2 part-time psychiatrists for a total of 30-40 hours per week (more hours during the semesters and less during the summer). Our Consulting Psychiatrists provide psychiatric services to students including: evaluations, medication monitoring, and consultation with CC clinicians. To apply, send a letter of interest with resume to Rosemary Nicolosi, Psy.D. (Counseling Center Director of Clinical Services) via email (rnicolo1@jhu.edu) or fax (410-516-4286). Alternatively, contact Dr. Nicolosi via email for more information.

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.

Psychiatrist – Remote Available: Carroll Counseling realizes the strength of our practice is our exceptional staff. Our professional and innovative culture supports our clinicians in building a thriving and profitable caseload. We are currently seeking an exceptional Psychiatrist and offer the option of telehealth, onsite or a hybrid model. Strong compensation – salaried or uncapped reimbursement options, Excellent comprehensive benefits, Sign-on bonus, Highly Flexible Scheduling, Longevity bonuses, Professional Development/CME. Carroll Counseling Center is a multi-disciplinary group providing psychotherapy and psychopharmacology services for children, adults and families throughout the greater Baltimore and Frederick, Maryland area. Carroll Counseling is a proud member of the Refresh Mental Health network – a nationwide network that includes leading, private practices with unique and specialized programs. This relationship enhances our practice with additional resources while allowing us to maintain our local leadership and solid reputation in the community – as well as allowing you to focus on what you do best – providing exemplary care! For consideration or additional information contact Rachel Klockow, Refresh Mental Health, rklockow@refreshmentalhealth.com; (954) 801-5594.

Inpatient Psychiatrist - Adult

Brook Lane in Maryland is seeking a full-time board certified Psychiatrist to fill the position of Inpatient Adult Psychiatrist. Brook Lane provides a continuum of mental health services over four locations and telehealth for people throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Brook Lane is seeking an Inpatient Adult Psychiatrist for our four unit, 57 bed, Joint Commission accredited Inpatient Hospital located on a 100+-acre campus in Hagerstown, Maryland.

The Inpatient Adult Psychiatrist provides comprehensive psychiatric services, as leader of multi-disciplinary team, to patients and clients of Brook Lane. The Inpatient Adult Psychiatrist will provide hospital coverage on a 7-On/7-Off rotation and is expected to see an average caseload of approximately 16 patients per day.

Requirements include Board Certification in Psychiatry meeting medical and allied clinical staff rules and regulations for active staff membership. Brook Lane is located just outside of the Baltimore/Washington DC metro area. Brook Lane offers competitive compensation and a benefits package, which includes annual leave accrual, CME assistance and leave, medical, dental, vision insurance, life and disability insurance, 401(k) retirement plan and matching.

Full description and requirement are available at www.brooklane.org career opportunities. Online application and CV submission is available under Inpatient Medical Director Position on the career center. If you prefer to apply by email, please send CV and letter of interest to humanresources@brooklane.org.

Institute for Advanced Diagnostics and Therapeutics Virtual Symposium

April 1, 2022

12:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. ET

Transformational change is happening in psychiatry. From the rapid expansion in the uses of neuromodulation, to the introduction of medications that may relieve depressive symptoms in mere hours or days, to the groundbreaking research into the use of psychedelic medication combined with psychotherapy—psychiatry is experiencing a quantum shift in how we regard psychiatric illness and our capacity to relieve suffering in people with mood and anxiety disorders.

Sheppard Pratt continues to be a leader in the development of these novel interventions—most recently, through the creation of the Institute of Advanced Diagnostics and Therapeutics.

Through this symposium, you will learn about the components of the Institute and meet the clinicians leading this groundbreaking work. Our researchers will define the problem of difficult-to-treat depression and provide insight into the current and future clinical answers that will be uncovered through our research.

[Click here to register for FREE](#)

Program

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Difficult-to-Treat Mood Disorders: An Overview

Scott Aaronson, MD, Chief Science Officer, Institute for Advanced Diagnostics and Therapeutics, Sheppard Pratt

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Electroconvulsive Therapy: Making Treatment Better

Monica Rettenmier, MD, Service Chief, ECT, Sheppard Pratt

1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation: The Future is Now

Patricia Carlson, MD, Service Chief, TMS, Sheppard Pratt

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Break

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Psychedelics, MDMA, and Ketamine: Forging a New Path to Well

Scott Aaronson, MD, Chief Science Officer, Institute for Advanced Diagnostics and Therapeutics, Sheppard Pratt

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Group Q&A





MedStar Health

Join our team of behavioral health professionals!

We are looking for behavioral health professionals to join MedStar Health. Become part of an organization that recognizes and welcomes your experience, input, knowledge, and leadership—as a clinician and healthcare expert.



It's how we treat people.

MedStar Health offers a uniquely rewarding career in a major marketplace. Shape your future in health care in the kind of setting that's right for you and your practice. Become part of an organization that welcomes your experience, input and leadership— as a clinician and healthcare expert.

Psychiatry Openings Available:

- MedStar Franklin Square – Both Inpatient Adult and Child and Adolescent
- MedStar Harbor Hospital - Inpatient
- MedStar Union Memorial – Outpatient
- MedStar Montgomery Medical Center – Outpatient

As a MedStar Health clinician, you can expect:

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Please visit www.joinmedstar.net to see more details about our openings. Be the physician you were meant to be, here at MedStar. To learn more about this position or to apply, please send a CV to Karma Limes at karma.a.limes@medstar.net.

MedStar Health is an equal opportunity employer.



Make more than a living. Make a difference.

At Kennedy Krieger Institute, we believe in turning disabilities into abilities, the impossible into the possible, and hopes into realities. Join our team and see what makes us so special.

Now Hiring for a Child/Adolescent Psychiatrist

This part-time position is with our K-8 program at Kennedy Krieger School Programs' Fairmount Campus in East Baltimore, serving students ages 5-14.

Responsibilities include providing psychiatric evaluations and direct medication management for students, classroom observation, individual meetings with students, communication with parents, and communication with the school team and medical director. Attendance at team meetings may take place, as needed and as the schedule permits. Workdays and hours are negotiable. Supervision will be provided by the medical director.

Qualifications: BE/BC in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Enjoy a supportive work environment where children and families are at the heart of all we do.

For more info or to apply, please visit: [KennedyKrieger.org/Psychiatry](https://www.kennedykrieger.org/Psychiatry)

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The photograph used here is meant for illustrative purposes only, and any person shown is a model.



Kennedy Krieger Institute

Rewarding Opportunities for Psychiatrists Across Maryland

SHEPPARD PRATT IS SEEKING PSYCHIATRISTS TO WORK ACROSS MARYLAND IN A VARIETY OF TREATMENT SETTINGS, INCLUDING OUR NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON CAMPUS.

CURRENT OPENINGS INCLUDE:

Addictions Medical Director

Residential: Service Chief of a new Adolescent Residential Program

Inpatient Unit Chief: Trauma Disorders

Day Hospital Staff Psychiatrists: Eating Disorders

Outpatient Psychiatrist

Southern Maryland: Medical Director, Adult, Child & Adolescent

Consultation-Liaison Psychiatrist

Neuromodulation Services Psychiatrist

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be board certified or board eligible
- Must have a current license to practice in Maryland at the time of hire
- Individuals hired for inpatient, PHP, and residential school services must participate in a call schedule

WHY SHEPPARD PRATT?

- Physician-led organization
- Generous compensation package with comprehensive benefits, including medical, dental, vision, and life insurance; an extensive wellness program; and ample leave
- A network of the brightest minds in psychiatry
- Grand rounds, free CME opportunities
- State-of-the-art research and technology
- Cross-discipline collaboration

For more information, please contact Kathleen Hilzendeger, Director of Professional Services, at **410.938.3460** or khilzendeger@sheppardpratt.org.

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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