The President’s Message

A major theme of Division 54’s strategic plan is to translate research into practice. In line with this theme, I have set three presidential initiatives that focus on advancing clinical practice: defining outcomes of pediatric psychology interventions; advancing payment for Health and Behavior Codes from Medicaid; and being a sponsor for an Institute of Medicine Forum on “Addressing the Mental Health Crisis in Children and Adolescents in Primary Care.”

Previous presidential initiatives have done an incredible job of galvanizing us to define and identify empirically supported treatments and to disseminate information about which treatments have empirical support. This has been accomplished through articles in the Journal of Pediatric Psychology, on our website (www.societyofpediatricpsychology.org), and through books such as Effective and Emerging Treatments in Pediatric Psychology (Spirito & Kazak, 2006). However, there is a gap between knowledge and implementation of evidence-based treatments in real world settings.

In 2001 the Institute of Medicine (IOM) published Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century demonstrating that healthcare delivery and outcomes in the United States were far from what they should be. Specifically, they decried the chasm between what we recognize as good care (e.g., from research studies) and the care typically being given (i.e., the clinical settings). While I do not know of any studies on the length of time between research identifying effective interventions and adoption of these interventions in clinical settings within psychology, there are data to suggest that clinical adoption of new, evidence-based treatments in medicine has a 17-year lag time from discovery to incorporation in the clinical setting (Balas, 2001). It is likely that our profession does not fare any better in the translation of interventions from “bench to bedside.”

Defining Outcomes

In order to close this gap our colleagues in medicine are being asked to demonstrate they are improving outcomes, not just delivering care. This is a paradigm shift from “fee for service” to “pay for performance” in reimbursement for health care. Currently half of commercial HMOs are piloting some form of pay for performance standard and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid have several demonstration projects underway. While the pay for performance approach is not universally adopted or enforced (most programs are voluntary, with those practitioners who demonstrate better outcomes being paid higher rates of reimbursement), defining outcomes is becoming crucial.

I believe it is important for our Society to take the lead in defining the expected and measurable outcomes of our interventions, so that these are not defined for us by others such as third party payers. But most importantly, I think we should do it because it is the right thing to do for our patients, so they can judge the benefit of the service they receive and we can improve the interventions we deliver in the real world clinical setting.

Members at Large Tonya Palermo and Gerard Banez have agreed to co-chair a task force on defining outcomes. Over the next three months, they will ask other Division 54 members to serve on the task force and begin to identify two conditions that can serve as models for how to go about defining outcomes for pediatric psychology interventions. Based on pilot work we have done at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, in conjunction with the Division of Clinical Effectiveness and Transformation of Care, guiding principles will be that the outcome assessment is (a) evidence based, (b) not burdensome to theclinician or patients, and (c) useful in guiding treatment and judging progress by both clinician and patient.

Advancing Payment

The second and related initiative focuses on gathering and disseminating information on how SPP members can work with their state Medicaid to get the Health and Behavior Codes recognized and reimbursed. Health and Behavior Codes already are recognized and reimbursed by Medicare. While this is incredibly important, it does not cont’d. on p.2…

SPP President Lori Stark, Ph.D.
address the health care needs of children, as Medicare primarily covers adults. Medicaid also differs from Medicare in that it is administered by the states and not the federal government. This means that psychologists in each state must convince their state Medicaid office of the value in recognizing and reimbursing these codes. It also means there is no central depository for information on which states have Medicaid reimbursing Health and Behavior Codes.

Christina Adams and Larry Mullins, both of whom serve as Division 54 representatives to the Interdivisional Health Care Committee, have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the Health and Behavior Codes Task Force. Their goals are to identify (a) those states whose Medicaid programs recognize and reimburse Health and Behavior Codes, (b) the states’ means of getting the codes reimbursed, and (c) the common themes of successful reimbursement strategies. This information will then be disseminated to our membership through report or publication. They anticipate needing a lot of grassroots support in gathering these data. So if they contact you, please consider joining their task force.

Sponsoring IOM Forum

A final initiative is to continue Division 54’s sponsorship of the IOM’s initiative to find creative ways to address the mental health crisis in youth through primary care. In November 2006, Division 54, along with Division 53 and the APA, contributed funding to support the IOM’s Board of Children, Youth and Families in holding a planning meeting to identify how the IOM should move to address this important topic. Division 54 representatives at the workgroup meeting included Don Wertlieb and Terri Stancin. The result of the planning meeting was to advocate that the IOM conduct a forum on Improving Mental Health Services for Children and Youth in Primary Care Settings.

Forums are intended to bring together experts and stakeholders of diverse backgrounds on a topic in a neutral setting to foster dialogue and discussion that will stimulate new approaches to complex problems. It is important to note that forums do not provide formal policy advice or recommendations, but rather seek to identify and disseminate relevant research and to identify opportunities to collaborate across disciplines. Proceedings of forums are, however, typically published. Given Division 54’s close collaboration with pediatricians, continued support and contribution to the ongoing dialogue will be important both from our own membership as well as from other children-focused APA divisions.

I look forward to a productive and busy year and hope to see you at the National Conference in Miami in April. Please feel free to contact me or the task force chairs for more information on these initiatives.
APA and Division 54—See you in Beantown!

By: Anna Maria Pattiño-Fernández, Ph.D.
Division 54 Program Chair, 2008

The 115th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association will be held August 14-17, 2008, in Boston—a city known for its vibrant streets, prestigious colleges, universities, hospitals, world-renowned museums, and rich history. There is Faneuil Hall, Quincy Market, Harvard Square, The North End, The Sound End...oh, and a spectacular convention too!

Division 54 has assembled an exciting program this year. Three paper sessions will cover a wide range of topics. These sessions include, Caregivers of Children with Type 1 Diabetes, Interventions in Pediatric Psychology, and Innovative Topics in Pediatric Psychology. In addition, we are collaborating with Division 53 on a paper session entitled Emotional and Behavioral Functioning in Young Children.

Three outstanding symposia and one workshop should also pique your interest: Health Screening in Diverse Pediatric Settings: Practical Strategies; Mental Health Research and Treatment for Ethnic Minority Youths; and Collaborating toward Increasing Evidenced Based Practice (co-sponsored by Divisions 16, 37, 53, and 54). A workshop entitled Educational Issues and Interventions for Pediatric Cancer Survivors is also scheduled during convention programming.

In response to comments received about the length of the poster sessions in years past, we will have two poster sessions that will be one hour each. In addition to providing more time to view posters, this will allow us to co-host a session with Division 53. Student poster award winners will be recognized at each session.

As in past years, we will collaborate with Division 53 through our joint social hour and the Internships/Postdoctoral Fellowships on Parade, which provides opportunities for trainees and professionals to network during a fun social event. A newcomer to Internships on Parade, Division 37 (Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice) will also be sponsoring the event with us. Finally, informal programming will be scheduled in the SPP hospitality suite, including both social events and educational opportunities.

We hope you will join us for a fun and exciting convention in Boston. This venue promises to be unique and entertaining. Look for the schedule of events in the next issue of Progress Notes. For more information, visit the APA website at www.apa.org and select the link for conferences.

Save the Date
International Forum on Pediatric Pain

The 7th International Forum on Pediatric Pain will be held in a beautiful beach resort in White Point on the south shore of Nova Scotia, from October 2-5, 2008. The IFPP is a small, focused meeting and an excellent way for anyone with an interest in pediatric pain to get a comprehensive update on innovations in research and practice in the area. Also, as anyone who has attended the meeting in the past can attest to, the meeting is a fun time—a regular feature of the meeting is the Saturday afternoon “Nordic swim,” a chance to see your favorite pediatric pain professionals in costume braving the cold Atlantic waters in competition for the coveted lobster trap trophy!

The theme of the next meeting is “Assessing Pediatric Pain: Current Evidence and Practice” and will feature presentations by internationally recognized faculty. Some prominent pediatric psychologists who will be presenting at the meeting include: Ron Blount, Tonya Palermo, Carl von Baeyer, and Lynn Breau.

More information about the meeting and poster abstract submission is available at: http://pediatric-pain.ca/ifpp/ or by e-mail at christine.chambers@dal.ca.

We look forward to seeing you at White Point!

Fellow Status

Members of the Society of Pediatric Psychology are encouraged to consider becoming a candidate for Fellow of Division 54. Fellow status reflects recognition by colleagues and the APA of extraordinary contributions to our discipline. Criteria include having a national impact on psychology, sustained contributions to pediatric psychology for more than five years, distinctive contributions to pediatric psychology that are recognized by others as excellent, and contributions whose impact extends beyond the immediate setting in which the candidate works. Areas of unusual and outstanding contributions include research, teaching, administration, professional service, and practice.

Please visit SPP online for more details about Fellowship status and application instructions.

Division 54 Elects New Fellow

Division 54 congratulates Paul Robins, Ph.D., who achieved Fellow status in 2007.
Daniel L. Clay, Ph.D.

Daniel L. Clay is the associate dean for Administration, Research, and Innovative Programs in the College of Education at Auburn University. He is responsible for research, technology transfer, budget, international programs, and administration of the College. Prior to that time, he spent nine years at the University of Iowa and one year at Western Illinois University.

Clay’s research and clinical work has focused on diversity issues in pediatric psychology including the application of evidence-based treatment approaches to families with low-income and minority backgrounds, treatment adherence, family adjustment, and integration of children with chronic illness into schools.

Clay has served Division 54 in numerous capacities. He was editor of Progress Notes for four years, served as the APA program chair for the Division’s inaugural convention program, represented the Division for several years on the APA Interdivisional Healthcare Committee, served on numerous task forces and committees, and has served for many years on the editorial board of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology.

He is a Fellow in Division 54 and received the Early Career Research Award by APA Div. 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology), authored the award-winning book Helping Schoolchildren with Chronic Illness, and currently serves on federal grant review panels for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education.

Clay received his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a specialization in pediatric psychology in 1994. He completed his internship in the Department of Pediatrics at Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine.

Candidate’s Statement

The field of pediatric psychology has grown in size and strength through interdisciplinary partnerships, continuing transformation of sound science into practice, and through strong advocacy for healthcare rights of children and their families. SPP has a commendable history of rising to the challenges of an ever-changing healthcare marketplace, yet our work has just begun as pediatric psychology grows to meet the expanding needs of children.

If given the opportunity to serve as president of Division 54, I propose an emphasis on diversity issues in pediatric psychology: Given the disparities in healthcare and health outcomes for low-income families and those from minority backgrounds, it is imperative to recognize the role of social class and cultural issues in behavioral determinants and treatment effectiveness. Likewise, we must strive for training and treatments that result in optimal and equitable treatment for all families, regardless of cultural or economic backgrounds.

I am honored to be nominated for Division 54 president and would consider it a privilege to carry on the notable good work of previous leaders. Thank you for your consideration.

Lewis P. Lipsitt, Ph.D.

Lewis P. Lipsitt is a professor emeritus of Psychology, Medical Science, and Human Development at Brown University. On faculty since 1957, Lipsitt would bring to the Division 54 presidency a history of 50 years of dedicated work with children, from newborns to adolescents. A researcher on the effects of perinatal factors in lifespan development, and founding editor of the journal Infant Behavior and Development and two series relating to pediatric psychology (Advances in Infant Behavior and Advances in Child Behavior and Development,) he has done studies of adolescent suicide and on crib death. Lipsitt is a member of the Brown University board of advisors for the National Children’s Study, and continues to collaborate on a longitudinal study of newborns (born ca. 1960), who are still being followed.

Believing deeply that the behavior sciences, pediatric psychology, and socio-therapeutic interventions have been underrepresented and insufficiently used in medical settings, Lipsitt now promotes the scientific importance and efficacy of behavioral, experiential, and community interventions in childhood.

Educated at the University of Chicago, University of Massachusetts (Amherst), and the University of Iowa, where he received his Ph.D. in child development and experimental child psychology, Lipsitt was one of the earliest licensed RI psychologists, founded the first infant behavior lab in RI, served several times on the APA Council of Representatives, and was president of APA divisions 1 and 7.

Candidate’s Statement

I am honored to be a candidate for the presidency of Division 54. I would use all of my resources of intellect, energy, and compassion to promote the diversifying field of pediatric psychology. First as a clinical psychologist in the U.S. Air Force, then through my studies of infants and children growing up, I’ve been keenly aware of the extent to which adverse early development, as well as the conditions that enable some children who began life under handicapping conditions to manage with help to become “resilient.”

The availability of knowledgeable professionals with evidenced-based interventions can converge to either facilitate or discourage developmental advancement, particularly those born at risk or growing up in adverse socio-environmental circumstances. I am presently leading a study group at Brown University on “development, adversity, and resilience,” one goal of which is to critically and empirically evaluate the conditions which fail many children in their attempts to reverse the downward spiral of successive adversities.

I would look forward as Division 54’s president to capitalizing on the past work of my zealous predecessors, and will convene subgroups of experts in various facets of the pediatric psychology enterprise, including infancy, to improve notice of our expertise and maximize the usefulness of our talents.
Candidate’s Statement

The Society of Pediatric Psychology has played a critical role in contributing to my growth and development as a pediatric psychologist. I am delighted about the possibility of sharing my vision for monitoring and further developing SPP membership.

I would develop methods to continue to build the membership base in North America by reaching potential student members early in their training and providing motivation for existing members to maintain their membership. I would also work to broaden the membership base of SPP by actively targeting international pediatric psychology trainees and colleagues. For example, there are many Canadian pediatric psychology trainees and professionals who have yet to join SPP but who could easily be introduced to the benefits of such membership.

Also, as someone who is based in an interdisciplinary research and clinical setting, I am convinced that many of our colleagues in other disciplines would be interested in becoming a part of SPP, and we would have much to gain by their added complementary perspectives as members. My enthusiasm, organizational ability, and creative problem-solving skills were put to good use when I was program chair for the APA convention in Toronto and planned a successful program for the division. Through this experience with the Executive Committee and my experience on the Membership Committee of the Canadian Psychological Association, I have gained background on issues related to membership in SPP as well as other professional organizations in general. It would be my pleasure to have the opportunity to address these matters as member at large.

Biographical Information and Statements

The slate of candidates for the 2008 election for president and members at large for Division 54, Society of Pediatric Psychology (SPP) is complete. Each candidate has submitted biographical information and statement related to the nomination. We strongly encourage you to submit the ballot mailed to you by APA.

Cheryl L. Brosig, Ph.D.

Cheryl L. Brosig is an associate professor of pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She led the inpatient consultation/liaison program at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee until recently, when she took on a new position as the coordinator of Behavioral Health Services within the Herma Heart Center at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. She received her Ph.D. in 1996 from Loyola University, Chicago, after completing her internship in pediatric psychology at Children’s Hospital in Boston. Subsequently, she completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Brosig has been active in teaching/training pediatric residents in their developmental/behavioral rotation, and is currently involved in the education of medical students and cardiology/critical care fellows regarding aspects of pediatric psychology. Her current research explores neurodevelopmental and psychosocial outcomes in children with congenital heart disease and children who have received solid organ transplants.

Brosig has been an active member of SPP, and most recently served on the Task Force for Patient Access to Clinical Services. The task force worked to identify barriers that prevent patients from accessing pediatric psychology services and made recommendations to improve patient access to pediatric psychology services.

Candidate’s Statement

I am honored to be nominated to serve as SPP member at large. Belonging to SPP has been a critical factor in my career development, so I look forward to the opportunity to give back to the organization. Working to recruit new members is something I will strive to do, as I believe strongly that anyone involved in pediatric psychology can benefit from the networking opportunities and mentorship that SPP provides. In addition, I believe that SPP can benefit from fresh ideas and perspectives that new members would bring to the organization. Along these lines, I will work closely with the Student Advisory Board to assist with recruiting students, who will hopefully pursue full membership to SPP when their training is complete.

In addition to increasing membership within SPP, I would like to enhance our relationships with other APA divisions, such as Division 12, Section VIII—the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers (AP AHC), as we share many things in common.

Finally, because pediatric psychologists have a great deal to offer in the areas of disease prevention and health promotion, I would like to work to strengthen our relationships with primary care pediatricians as well as family medicine physicians. Becoming more integrated in these areas of health care will result in children and families having improved access to pediatric psychology services.

Christine Chambers Ph.D.

Christine T. Chambers is an associate professor of pediatrics and psychology at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada, where she is based in the Centre for Pediatric Pain Research at the IWK Health Centre. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Pain and Child Health. She completed her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of British Columbia and her internship at the Brown University School of Medicine.

Chambers’ research examines developmental, psychological, and social influences on children’s acute and chronic pain. Clinically, she works with children with a variety of chronic medical conditions and their families through the Pediatric Psychology Service at the IWK. She is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology.

Chambers worked with the SPP Executive Committee when she was the program chair for the APA Annual Convention held in Toronto in 2003. She is the recipient of a number of early-career awards, including SPP’s Routh Early Career Award in Pediatric Psychology in 2005. She is currently the associate editor of SPP’s newsletter Progress Notes.

Candidate’s Statement

I have completed my doctorate in clinical psychology, with a specialty in chronic pain and child health, at the University of British Columbia. I have had the privilege of working with children and families in a variety of clinical settings, including the Centre for Pediatric Pain Research at the IWK Health Centre.

Through my experience on the Membership Committee, I have gained valuable knowledge about the needs and interests of our members. I am committed to working with the SPP Executive Committee to ensure that our organization continues to thrive and provide valuable services to our members.

I believe that SPP can benefit from fresh ideas and perspectives that new members would bring to the organization. Along these lines, I will work closely with the Student Advisory Board to assist with recruiting students, who will hopefully pursue full membership to SPP when their training is complete.

In addition to increasing membership within SPP, I would like to enhance our relationships with other APA divisions, such as Division 12, Section VIII—the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers (AP AHC), as we share many things in common.

Finally, because pediatric psychologists have a great deal to offer in the areas of disease prevention and health promotion, I would like to work to strengthen our relationships with primary care pediatricians as well as family medicine physicians. Becoming more integrated in these areas of health care will result in children and families having improved access to pediatric psychology services.
Larry L. Mullins, Ph.D.

Larry L. Mullins received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1983, and completed his internship at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC). He is currently a professor in the Department of Psychology at Oklahoma State University and also maintains a faculty appointment at the OUHSC. He has served as both associate director of Clinical Training and director of OSU’s Psychological Services Center.

Mullins has maintained an active, funded research program for over 20 years, focusing on identifying predictors of coping and adaptation to pediatric chronic illness, as well as the development of family-focused early intervention approaches. He serves on the editorial boards of Journal of Pediatric Psychology; Families, Systems, and Health; Rehabilitation Psychology; Trauma and Practice; and Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings.

Mullins has twice received Psychology Teacher of the year award from the Oklahoma Psychological Association (OPA), and in 2002 received the Distinguished Psychologist award from OPA for his commitment to education and training. In 2006, he received the Martin Levin Award Mentorship Award from the Society of Pediatric Psychology. He currently serves as Division 54’s representative to the Interdivisional Health Council.

Candidate’s Statement

It is abundantly clear that the last decade has witnessed tremendous growth in the subspecialty of pediatric psychology, and our members can be proud of the significant contributions of the Division’s leadership. It is also clear that we will continue to be challenged on a number of fronts. Challenges in the area of reimbursement and the adoption of the new Health and Behavior codes are of paramount concern, as is the need to disseminate empirically supported treatments. Concerns that I believe I share with many others is our ability to address these issues rapidly and effectively, and to continue to develop the mechanisms and infrastructure to do so at a national level. If given the opportunity to serve as member at large, I would encourage the continued development and refinement of such mechanisms.

The education and training of future pediatric psychologists is also a primary are of concern; clearly, we cannot grow as a profession if our numbers do not continue to increase as they have in the last decade. Importantly, I believe that the continued growth of pediatric psychology can be facilitated by a number of approaches, including: 1) the effective “marketing” of pediatric psychology to traditional academic programs around the country; 2) the development of training models that link and integrate undergraduate, graduate, and internship programs; and 3) the expansion of both regional and national child health psychology conferences. Finally, I would certainly enjoy the opportunity to liaison with SPP conference coordinators and provide input on critical issues such as those mentioned above.

Lissette M. Perez, Ph.D.

Lissette M. Perez is a pediatric psychologist at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital in Hollywood, Florida, where she coordinates the pediatric psychology services and participates in several multi-disciplinary clinics, including Hematology-Oncology, Craniofacial, Cystic Fibrosis, and Renal-dialysis. Her areas of clinical/research interest include program development, consultation-liaison services, and prevention and intervention services for medically ill children.

Over the last four years, Perez initiated and developed a comprehensive pediatric psychology program at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital, including the training and supervision of doctoral level students. She is a mentor for the Division 54 Mentoring Program and she has served as a reviewer for the Division 54 APA Conference.

Perez received her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University in 2000, and completed her clinical internship at Children’s Hospital of Boston, where she also held a teaching appointment at Harvard Medical School. After her internship, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Miami, Department of Psychology.

Candidate’s Statement

I am excited about the nomination for the member-at-large position! The society for pediatric psychology has been my professional home since my early days in graduate school. It served as a guide to prepare for a career as a pediatric psychologist. Thus, I have always turned to Division 54 for the most up-to-date information on training opportunities and to learn about the latest mission of the organization.

Since graduate school, I have had numerous opportunities to implement meaningful programs and behavioral health services. I strongly believe that the responsibilities inherent in these positions have prepared me to help an organization reach its mission of increasing membership diversity and coordinating membership functions. I also have a strong interest in educating students, especially in the areas of 1) Division 54 membership 2) participation in the mentoring program 3) increasing use of evidenced-based treatments, and 4) awareness of postgraduate school realities (i.e., licensing, insurance, professional practice, and grants).

As it did for me, I believe that an increase in student participation would enhance overall training and development as a professional in the field of pediatric psychology. I would make it one of my goals to increase both the national and international membership of the organization and encourage increased participation in the mentoring program.

It is with great appreciation that I would take on this new role and hope to serve all current and future members.
Notes from the SPP Midwinter Meeting

The SPP Executive Committee (EC) met for its Midwinter Meeting Jan. 31 through Feb. 1, 2008 in Austin, Texas. Complete meeting minutes are available online at www.societyofpediatricpsychology.org. Here are some highlights.

1. The EC reviewed the Bylaws and Officers Manual to ensure they reflected our current practices. The EC had previously voted to create two new standing committees: a SPP History Committee and the Diversity Committee (this was previously an ad hoc committee). The proposed bylaws changes will be sent to the membership for a vote later this year.

2. Member-At-Large Gerard Banez outlined the process by which institutions can apply for funding to support SPP national and regional conferences. The EC approved an increase in the funds available to support SPP conferences from a $2,500 loan to a $5,000 loan for regional and national conferences and a $3,000 donation to the National Conference.

3. JPP Editor Denny Drotar reported on the journal’s activities and transition to the new editorial team. See page 11 for a summary of his report.

4. Past President Alan Delamater reported on the creation of an interdisciplinary Task Force on Media and Pediatric Health Promotion, chaired by Carolyn Ievers-Landis. Look for additional details about this task force in coming issues.

5. President Elect Kathy Lemanek discussed the Diversity Initiative within APA and Monica Mitchell, the co-chair of SPP’s Diversity Committee proposed a number of ideas to highlight and promote diversity in pediatric psychology including establishing a diversity keynote address at regional and national SPP conferences. Mitchell pledged $1,000 from the last regional meeting in Cincinnati to fund the first of these keynote speakers at the next regional meeting in 2009. Look for more information and resources in the next issue of Progress Notes.

6. President Lori Stark introduced her Presidential Initiatives for 2008. Of particular importance is the translation of research into practice, adoption of “real world” outcome measures for research studies, and securing Health and Behavior Code reimbursement from Medicaid. See Stark’s column on page 1 for more information.

7. APA Council Representative Annette La Greca reported on recent activities. Of particular relevance were discussions related to the recognition of specialty areas by the APA Commission on Accreditation and ensuring that pediatric psychology is represented within the specialities of both child clinical and health psychology.

8. Student Representative Amy Sato reported on activities of the Student Advisory Board. In order to increase the number of submission for the “Student Spotlight,” the EC approved Sato’s proposal to allow students to self-nominate with a letter of endorsement from their advisor.

9. Carolyn Ievers-Landis and David Elkin provided a financial report for the fiscal year ending 2007. The EC discussed initiating a Capital Campaign to help support SPP’s strategic plans. Look for more information about the campaign online.

Student Awards

Nancy Bandstra, Dalhousie University
“The role of child life in pediatric pain management: A survey of child life specialists”
Faculty advisor: Christine Chambers, Ph.D.

Honorable Mention:
Robin Everhart, Syracuse University
“A cumulative risk model predicting caregiver quality of life in pediatric asthma”

Routh Student Research Grant

Katie Devine, University of Georgia
“Longitudinal investigation of the impact of perceived barriers on medication adherence, clinical outcome, and quality of life in adolescent pediatric transplant recipients”
Faculty advisor: Ronald Blount, Ph.D.

Honorable Mention:
Erin Moon, Dalhousie University
“The socialization of child pain responding: The impact of gender variation on parent behavior during child pain”
Faculty advisors: Patrick McGrath, Ph.D. and Christine Chambers, Ph.D.

Lizette Peterson Homer Injury Prevention Award

Despina Stavrinos, University of Alabama at Birmingham
“Relationship between executive function and pedestrian injury risk in children”
Faculty advisor: David Schwebel, Ph.D.

A special thank you as well to our excellent panel of reviewers!

Kristi Alexander
Jeanne Antisdel
Lamia Barakat
Joe Bush
Dan Clay
Ed Christophersen
David Elkin
Kurt Freeman
Cindy Gerhardt
Rachel Greenley
Jami Gross
Grayson Holmbeck
Shoshana Kahana
Astrida Kaugars
Mariella Lane
Celia Lescano
Debra Lefkowitz
Deidre Logan
Colleen Lukens
Lisa Meltzer
April Nesin
Ahna Pai
Kristin Riekert
Jennifer Schurman
Ken Tercyak
Kristin Valerius
Tammie Young-Saleme
Nataliya Zelikovsky

Robin Everhart, M.S.
Katie Devine, M.S.
Nancy Bandstra, M.S.
Despina Stavrinos, M.S.
Postdoctoral Fellowships and Training

As a graduate student in pediatric psychology, I am interested in learning more about postdoctoral training. For instance, what kinds of experiences are involved in a postdoctoral fellowship, what is important to look for, and how do I apply?

Nancy Bandstra, M.S., graduate student
Dalhousie University

After speaking with a few trainees who decided to do a postdoctoral fellowship, I’ve learned that postdoctoral training can provide time for new graduates to more slowly transition from graduate training to professional work while refining their unique career objectives without the pressures of a full-time tenure track position or a demanding clinical caseload. For example, this may involve gaining exposure to skills needed in developing an independent research career (e.g., publishing, teaching, mentoring, grant-writing, lab management). This period is also invaluable for establishing clinical mentors, gaining licensure, and securing employment. It seems like a postdoctoral experience depends largely on the goals of the applicant. Thus, students considering pursuing postdoctoral training should share their objectives with potential mentor(s) so as to develop an individualized experience best suited to their unique needs.

Neha Navsaria, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

If you initially do not find a position that matches your interests, be patient because there will be many opportunities surfacing over the year. Many post doc positions are funded by grants; therefore, a current position may not exist the following year due to funding issues. Similarly, openings are posted throughout the year because staff is waiting to hear about funding. Use your networks to find positions. An old supervisor might be offering a post doc or working in a department that may offer one, it doesn’t hurt to ask!

Please see the following for more information related to postdoctoral training in pediatric psychology:


APA Waives Registration Fee
Get Travel Assistance

Students, if you are a member of APAGS and the first author of a poster or paper, APA will waive your convention registration fee. In addition, the Science Directorate of APA sponsors an annual competition for graduate student travel awards. For more information about this award visit www.apa.org/science/travinfo.html. Deadline is April 19, 2008.
**Student Spotlight Award**

Katie Devine is a doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Georgia and has recently completed a predoctoral internship in Pediatric and Child Clinical Psychology at the University of Florida Health Science Center in Gainesville. Devine has a strong interest in a number of areas, including pain, adjustment to illness, medication adherence, and quality of life.

As the recipient of SPP’s Routh Student Research Grant under the mentorship of her advisor, Ronald Blount, Devine is currently examining health-related quality of life in adolescent transplant recipients and their families over time. In addition to her exceptional research experience and multiple peer-reviewed publications, Devine is an outstanding clinician who participates in training and supervising other graduate students at UGA. Her long-term career goals include obtaining a faculty position at a university or academic medical center where she can conduct research and clinical work, utilizing research to inform treatment interventions for a variety of pediatric populations.

**Call for Student Leaders**

**Seeking Student Advisory Board Members**

The SPP Student Advisory Board is accepting applications for Student Representative and five Student Advisory Board members. Two-year terms begin Jan. 2009; transition Aug. 2008.

Applicants must be D54 student members enrolled in a graduate program in psychology with specific interests in pediatric psychology and must not be eligible for program graduation until after term completion in January 2011.

To apply, please email the following by **April 15, 2008** to SPP Student Representative Amy Sato, M.S at **SPP.StudentRep@gmail.com**:

1) A copy of your curriculum vita, 2) Your contact information (e-mail, phone, and address), 3) a letter of recommendation from your primary mentor, and 4) a short statement (less than a page) indicating your interest in serving as the Student Representative or on the Student Advisory Board, including highlights of how you would contribute.

**Student Awards**

**Routh Student Research Grant**

SPP has established an annual research scholar grant program for student members. Research proposals should address areas consistent with the field of pediatric psychology and must be research conducted under the supervision of a faculty advisor, including work leading to a master’s or doctoral degree or independent study. Funding is available up to $1,000.

**Deadline:** **October 1, 2008.**

**Student Research Award Competition**

SPP encourages and rewards quality research on issues related to pediatric psychology and health care of children. All research must have been completed while the candidate was a student. The student must be the primary (first) author. Only empirical studies will be considered. An award of $500 is available.

**Deadline:** **October 1, 2008.**

**Lizette Peterson-Homer Injury Prevention Grant Award**

This grant, open to students and faculty, provides support for research related to the prevention of injuries in children and adolescents. Funding is available up to $1,500.

**Deadline:** **October 1, 2008.**

**Student Travel Awards**

Available for SPP student members who are first author of a poster or paper to be presented during the D54 programming at the APA Convention. Four $250 grants are available.

**Deadline:** **April 1, 2008.**

**Student Poster Awards**

Available for SPP student members who are first author of a poster to be presented during the D54 poster session at the APA Convention.

**Deadline:** **July 15, 2008.**

**Send all award applications (preferably electronically) to:**

Tonya Palermo, Ph.D.
Department of Anesthesiology and Peri-Op Medicine
Oregon Health and Science University
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, OR 97239
E-mail: palermot@ohsu.edu

For more information, visit **www.societyofpediatricpsychology.org**.
Psychologist Position
Pediatric Psychology Position at CHOP

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

Primarily a clinical position, there are also ample opportunities for clinical research in collaboration with the Division of Gastroenterology. Applicants must have a doctoral degree in psychology, relevant postdoctoral experience in pediatric, clinical child and family psychology, and have completed an APA-accredited internship. Research experience will also be considered. Pennsylvania licensure required. Review process will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. Applicants should send a CV, letter of interest, and three letters of recommendation to Paul M. Robins, Ph.D., clinical director, Dept. of Psychology, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, 34th St. and Civic Center Blvd., Philadelphia, PA. 19104-4399. Fax: 215-590-5637. Send electronic inquiries/submissions to robinsp@email.chop.edu.

To learn more about the Department of Psychology, visit www.chop.edu/consumer/jsp/division/service.jsp?id=26704. The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and the Department of Psychology is committed to fostering diversity in its faculty, staff, and trainees.

Pediatric/Child Clinical Psychologist
Geisinger Health System

Geisinger Health System in Danville, Pennsylvania, seeks a pediatric/child clinical psychologist. Experience in areas of disruptive behavior disorders, ADHD, parent training, pediatric obesity, and evidence-based treatment desired. Opportunities for research and clinical faculty appointment through Temple Medical School.

Primary responsibilities: 1) provide a range of clinical services to children, adolescents and families; 2) provide clinical supervision to psychology residents; and 3) collaborate with physicians including pediatric subspecialists in outpatient clinics and in our Children’s Hospital.

Contact Paul Kettlewell, Ph.D., search director, at kkardisco@geisinger.edu or call 800-845-7112. For more information, visit www.geisinger.org/docjobs.

Practice For Sale

Child Clinical/Pediatric Psychology-based practice in the heart of sunny, South Miami, Florida. No insurance Panels. $500K+ gross per year. Established yearly renewable children’s hospital contract. Currently, three other Ph.D.’s along with established office and billing staff in place. Extensive referral network with schools, pediatric medical practices, psychiatry, and psychology colleagues. Excellent growth and practice development potential for motivated professional. Owner willing to remain for up to three-year transition. Sell with or without current office condo. Contact: Gary X. Lancelotta, Ph.D., at gxancelot@aol.com. Visit www.child-psych.com.

CALL FOR PAPERS — JPP Special Issue

Family Assessment in Pediatric Psychology
Issue Editors: Lamia P. Barakat and Melissa A. Alderfer

Historically, the Journal of Pediatric Psychology has propelled research examining family functioning and family influences to child health conditions through special issues focused on families and other systems, assessment in pediatric psychology, and most recently, evidence-based assessment in pediatric psychology. Research focused specifically on family assessment in pediatric psychology remains sparse, particularly in terms of evaluation of family functioning measures in the pediatric context and the development of pediatric-specific family measures for clinical and/or research purposes.

Consistent with recent recommendations regarding the importance of further development of family measures for use in pediatric psychology research, the Journal of Pediatric Psychology requests papers for a special issue on Family Assessment in Pediatric Psychology.

Goals of the special issue are to: a) promote the development and refinement of family assessment measures that will better elucidate family interaction patterns that promote resilience and enhance quality of life in pediatric populations; and b) highlight measures that might be incorporated into ongoing descriptive research focused on family variables as resistance factors or family-focused intervention research aiming to improve adaptation, adherence, and quality of life.

Of interest is innovative research documenting the psychometric properties and utility of the standard measures of family functioning in pediatric versus non-ill samples and studies reporting on the development of and unique information that can be gleaned from pediatric-specific family measures. Particular attention will be given to manuscripts that incorporate unique approaches to the use of multiple informants and multiple methods of assessment.

Deadline for manuscripts is December 31, 2008. Direct potential topic inquiries to Lamia Barakat <Lamia.P.Barakat@drexel.edu> and Melissa Alderfer <alderfer@email.chop.edu>

CE Credits Available in Every JPP Issue

Don’t forget that in each issue of JPP there is one article for which members can receive CE credits! The articles are noted on the table of contents of each issue, and are available online. For more information, visit SPP online at www.societyofpediatricpsychology.org or the Oxford Press at www.oxfordjournals.org.

Upcoming articles for CE credits include:
**Journal of Pediatric Psychology Editor’s Report**

Greetings from the *JPP* Editorial Team! As we begin a new year, we want you to be aware of some changes and updates. Starting in 2008, all *JPP* manuscripts are being managed by a new team of editors (myself and associate editors: Lamia Barakat, Grayson Holmbeck, John Lavigne, Beth McQuaid, Tonya Palermo, Mike Rapoff, Lori Stark, Ken Tercyak, and Tim Wysocki). Please notice the new priority scientific content areas for our field, described in a series of editorials in *JPP*’s 2008 first issue. We invite you to review these and contribute.

The editorial board has a new look as well. Similar to many APA journals, *JPP* has instituted time-limited, potentially renewable three-year terms for the board and has appointed new board members to reward editorial experience and to increase diversity in age, stage of career, country, and ethnicity. We have also instituted a new board category: The reviewer panel, developed to provide interested reviewers with experience to prepare for a potential board appointment.

A mentorship program has been developed to provide experience for reviewers to obtain mentored review experience. This program, which has paired editorial board members with mentees in a range of settings, has received positive feedback. If you would like to become involved as a mentor or mentee, please e-mail me at dennis.drotar@cchmc.org.

Other reminders: Please remember that *JPP* continues to offer a program in which readers can obtain CE credit for reading selected articles. Please visit the SPP website for more details. Upcoming deadlines for special issues include: 5/1/08 Clinical effectiveness; 9/1/08 Quality improvement; and 12/31/08 Family assessment.

Finally, a note of congratulations is due to Ron Brown and his editorial team for their outstanding work. They have set a high bar, leaving *JPP* with an impact factor of 3.157, making it the sixth ranking journal of 53 in the developmental psychology category!

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**Society of Pediatric Psychology**

**Division 54, American Psychological Association**

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*If you are a student affiliate of APA, you are eligible to join SPP at the student rate.

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Encourage a colleague to join!
Pediatric psychology is an integrated field of science and practice in which the principles of psychology are applied within the context of pediatric health. The field aims to promote the health and development of children, adolescents, and their families through use of evidence-based methods.

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

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

Approved, August 10, 2006

Visit Division 54 at: www.societyofpediatricpsychology.org