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PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE NEWS



Division 28
American
Psychological Association

From the President's Desk

-Kimberly C. Kirby, Ph.D.

There have been thirty-eight presidents of Division 28 who have preceded me, which incidentally puts me in the lovely position of again being able to honestly say that I'm thirty-nine. Reading the names of those before me is humbling and makes me realize how very fortunate I am to have had the support of so many of my colleagues across the nation. I thank you for placing your trust in me, and I look forward to serving you to the best of my abilities throughout this year.



Changes in Your Executive Committee

The division owes sincere thanks to my immediate predecessor, Suzette Evans, for the hours of labor and the steadfast leadership she provided as president during the past year. Suzette continues to make a valuable contribution to the division as past-president and for this I am truly grateful. Thanks also are due to David Penetar (Member-at-Large), Drake Morgan (Secretary), Anthony Liguori (Divisional Awards), Joshua Lile (Membership), and Ryan Vandrey (Convention Program Chair) who also have provided many hours of service and completed their terms on the executive committee at the end of 2007. And finally, let me offer a warm welcome to Stacey Sigmon (Member-at-Large), Mark Smith (Secretary), David Festinger (Divisional Awards), Nicole Avena (Membership), and Wendy Lynch (Convention Program Chair) who are filling those positions; to John Roll, our new President-Elect; to Bill Stoops who is taking John's place as our Newsletter Editor; and to Jennifer Perry who has stepped into a new position on the executive committee, that of Early Career Psychologist Representative.

Continued on Page 2.

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Letter from the Editor

-William W. Stoops, Ph.D.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the new editor of Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse News, the official newsletter for Division 28. I completed my undergraduate education at Davidson College and received my Ph.D. and postdoctoral training at the University of Kentucky. In March of 2007, I took an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Behavioral Science in the University of Kentucky College of Medicine.

I want to share with you my visions for this newsletter, let you know about some new things that will be added (and things that will be staying the same), and notify you of two important changes that have occurred. This newsletter is the main communication source, other than the listserv, for our division. Over the next three years, I want to use this medium to foster an understanding of the history of our division, better engage all of our members, and recruit new members. To that end, the newsletter will start featuring some new, regular columns. First, I will be inviting senior investigators to give their perspectives, particularly as they relate to the origins of the division. In this issue, you will find the first such column, written by Dr. Bernard Weiss, about toxicology research and how it featured in the creation of our division. Second, you can look for columns in upcoming issues called "Research Spotlight." These columns will feature research descriptions from one preclinical and one clinical investigator on current, complimentary findings. It's my hope that these columns will provide important information to our membership, but also let individuals who are not members know about the current research interests of the division.

Continued on Page 3.

From the President's Desk, continued from Page 1.

Issues for the Division this Year

It is early in the year and previous experience tells me that I can't predict all of the hot topics that the division will face in 2008. However, I'd like to outline my primary goal for the year and mention two of the activities that recently have been keeping the executive committee occupied.

Membership

Devout newsletter readers may recall that two of Suzette's three presidential columns last year mentioned that membership in the division has been dropping and that our membership is aging. In 2006, only 11.7% of our membership was under 50 years old, down from 14.3% in 2005. While two data points do not make a trend, the overall membership has been slowly decreasing since 1971. Should it continue to drop, we will eventually risk losing our status as a division and our programming hours at the convention. As such, it is critical that we make efforts to increase our membership and especially to attract and retain students and early career psychologists. We have been making strides in increasing our student members since adding a student representative to the executive committee. As our Early Career Psychologist Representative, Jennifer Perry will join Andrea Vansickel (Student Representative) and Nicole Avena (Membership) to help us to

Continued on Page 9.

Letter from the Editor, continued from Page 2.

Lastly, we will start including columns from candidates for elected positions in the division (i.e., president, member-at-large, and council representative) to inform our membership about their positions to help members make informed decisions before voting in our yearly elections.

Of course, favorite items like the presidential column, communications from our student representative, and updates on convention programming will appear regularly in the newsletter. If you have any ideas for additional topics for any of our columns, please email me at william.stoops@uky.edu

Now for some final words about recent changes: As this is a thrice-yearly publication, I hope to distribute issues in the Spring, Summer, and Fall/Winter. The deadlines for columns in these issues will be March 1, July 1, and November 1, respectively. I expect release dates of electronic versions will be no later than March 30, July 30, and November 30, respectively, with mailed copies coming shortly thereafter. With respect to mailing copies of the newsletter, we have stopped widely distributing hard copies and the publication is now distributed electronically. A limited number of hard copies will be printed, however, so if you wish to continue receiving one of these, please contact me at the email address listed above.

I'm excited about our upcoming editions and hope you will enjoy them.

Stephen Higgins to Present G. Stanley Hall Lecture

-Ryan Vandrey, Ph.D.

Stephen Higgins, a Fellow of Division 28, has been selected by APA to give one of the distinguished G. Stanley Hall Lectures at the APA national convention this year. The G. Stanley Hall Lecture Series began in 1980 to advance the teaching of introductory psychology. Held each year at the annual convention, the Series reflects APA's commitment to undergraduate education and the awareness of the complexities of the teaching enterprise. The Lecture Series was originally conceived of by APA's Committee on Undergraduate Education as a way to help introductory level teachers develop a coherent picture of recent developments in the wide range of different psychological disciplines. The Program is now supported by APA's Education Directorate and administered by the Society for the Teaching of Psychology (Division 2). Each year, four speakers are invited to give one-hour lectures at APA. In these lectures, renowned experts convey to interested teachers the latest information in their fields. Over the years the collection of speakers has included groups of highly respected and honored psychologists (APA presidents Bill McKeachie, Florence Denmark, and Dick Suinn), and represented a number of specialties. However, this appears to be the first time that a G. Stanley Hall Lecture topic will feature work in psychopharmacology or substance abuse.

Dr. Higgins' lecture is titled "Reinforcement and Substance Use Disorders". Reinforcement plays a central role in the genesis, maintenance, and recovery from substance use disorders (SUDs). Evidence supporting that position will be reviewed using problems of cocaine and nicotine dependence as exemplars. New developments in the study of reinforcement and behavioral choice that are fundamental to understanding SUDs will be reviewed as well. How this information can be applied clinically will be illustrated through the use of contingency management in the treatment of SUDs. Lastly, important future directions needed to

Continued on Page 8.

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From the Candidates

Below are statements from the candidates running for Division 28 office. Look for your ballots in April.

President:

Mark Greenwald, Ph.D. What do we share in APA Division 28 that is not available to us elsewhere? Psychopharmacologists, who by definition are interdisciplinary creatures, are fortunate to have multiple venues in which to express their talent and curiosity. We have the luxury of choosing to participate in other activities outside our division. What, then, drives our communal behaviors? I would suggest that Division 28, not only due to its comfortable (relatively smaller) size compared to other APA divisions and alternative organizations, has a unique “feel” and vernacular that can: facilitate scientific communication, provide a haven for mentorship and life-long connections, and enable us to channel our productivity in ways that may not fully be appreciated in other outlets. If elected President of Division 28, I would focus on two major issues with the guidance of member input. First, we must ensure the future health of our division, which presently is enriched (to our benefit!) with a higher proportion of mid- and senior-level scientists. We need to retain and leverage the wisdom of these individuals, but also expand the pipeline of early career scientists, connect them to our members, promote their skills, and encourage initiatives to recruit their peers. Second, we must increase opportunities for communication and collaboration between preclinical/clinical and behavior/neuroscience experts, which may improve translational science (NIH *zeitgeist*) and stem the divisional decline in preclinical membership. These are major challenges of course; however, we are behavioral experts and can creatively apply ourselves to this task!

<http://myprofile.cos.com/markgreen>

Hendree Jones, Ph.D. If elected President of Division 28, my focus will be on two important and intertwined issues pertaining to our mission statement. First, I will build upon the excellent work of our past presidents to further deepen and expand our relationship with the Science Directorate. A mutual exchange of resources and expertise will strengthen our visibility within APA and the public and renew our ability to meet our mission of promoting addiction science. An active relationship with the Science Directorate and the larger APA is essential to influencing those who determine support for our field including Congress, NIH, NSF, and the White House. Given the increasing concerns over dwindling funding and resources for our research and academic efforts at national and local levels, a focused effort on advocacy for our field has never been more critical. Second, I will motivate our current members into action with specific initiatives around the issues of advocacy for our field. Concurrently, I will work closely with the membership chair to stimulate new members to join our efforts and gain their allocation votes for council. Communicating the importance of public policy advocacy and the importance psychopharmacology research has on every day life will be the themes of my presidency.

Member-at-Large:

Scott Lane, Ph.D. The position of APA Division 28 Member-at-Large is a two year term that must be filled by a Division 28 Fellow, preferably with knowledge of the functions of the Division Executive Committee (EC). Member-at-Large duties include representing the general membership, serving on APA panels, reviewing candidates for Division awards (e.g., new Fellows) and carrying out duties assigned by the acting Division 28 president. This latter function may include serving as a liaison to the division on broader APA-related issues and reporting to the

Continued on Page 5.

From the Candidates, continued from Page 4.

EC. Carrying out these activities entails some experience with the practices of the EC and historical knowledge of individuals involved in past Division 28 decision making (i.e., past Presidents), who can be consulted for advice. I have been actively involved in Division 28 functions since 2000, having served as Program Chair for two consecutive years and assisting for a third year. This experience required regular participation in Division 28 EC meetings, and contact with EC members from other Divisions (6, 25, 50). I have continued my involvement in Division 28 affairs since that time, regularly attending the Division business meeting at the annual APA convention. This has kept me abreast of issues facing the Division, and in contact with Executive Committee members. This involvement should prove valuable in carrying out the duties of the Member-at-Large position.

Anthony Liguori, Ph.D. I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. I have been a behavioral pharmacologist for my entire career, and I have published research with rodents, primates, and humans. Much of my recent research has been in the areas of marijuana withdrawal and commonly used drug effects on simulated driving. I view the position of Member-at-Large as the culmination of my 19 years of involvement with Division 28. As an Executive Committee Member since 1998, I have pursued multiple opportunities to impact the Division. For example, as Division 28 Program Chair in 1999, I moved the two hours of presentations from the Award winners to the beginning of the program and originated the Student Poster Competition. Both of these changes are now staples of the annual program. I also believe that my six years as Division 28 Awards Chair (2002-2007) have provided me with added insight in preparation for the Member-at-Large

responsibility of assisting in the review of candidates for Division Awards. Most important, as the primary responsibility of Members-at-Large is to represent the general membership, I intend to address the need for the voice of the current membership to be heard at Executive Committee meetings. I look forward to the opportunity to interact with and gather opinions from individuals at all career stages during each APA Convention. From these interactions I will seek and compile underrepresented perspectives that will be vital to the decisions made by the Executive Committee.

Council Representative:

David Penetar, Ph.D. I would be pleased and honored to serve as Division 28's Council Representative. I have been a member of Division 28 for over 25 years and served on the Executive Committee for 10 years, as Program Chair, as Secretary, and as a Member-at-Large. In these roles, I had the pleasure of serving under superb presidents who were not only stellar researchers in the field of substance abuse, but were dedicated to working with APA as a promoter of psychological research, and public and scientific policy. They were excellent models to learn from. APA is a complex and inclusive organization representing diverse interests within the field of psychology. Although Division 28 has a small voice within APA, it has an important one. I will strive to continue that voice by active participation in Council's actions and insuring that the science of psychology is represented in the most effective ways possible.

Kenneth Sher, Ph.D. I currently serve as the Division 28 representative to APA Council of Representatives (COR), a position I was appointed to when the prior incumbent resigned last year. Since joining COR, I have been active in working with representatives from other divisions to promote evidence-based practice and to develop other initiatives in areas of common interest. If

Continued on Page 8.

A Joint History: Behavioral Pharmacology and Behavioral Toxicology

-Bernard Weiss, Ph.D.

I suspect that many of Division 28's current members are unaware of how its roots are interwoven with toxicology. Although the Division's web site lists neurobehavioral toxicology as one of its major areas of research interest, substance abuse overwhelms every other area. Its recent APA programs demonstrate rather little interest in toxicology as it is practiced by psychologists and is emblematic, regrettably, of how often parts of APA seem to look inward rather than outward. Changing the name of the Division in 1990 to emphasize substance abuse encouraged these solipsistic tendencies. Instead of a division within APA that might have welcomed all scientists who study chemical influences on behavior, and given it much more influence over APA policy, we now have a division struggling to retain its former influence.

Psychopharmacology arose in the 1950s with the introduction of the major tranquilizers, a startling development because they provided, for the first time, the potential for treating serious behavioral disorders with chemotherapy. Its rise ignited two requirements: first, the need for a technology capable of evaluating chemicals for therapeutic potential; second, the need for a technology capable of understanding at a fundamental behavioral level its mechanisms of action. Schedule-controlled operant behavior dominated both at that time. An examination of the literature of that period, as well as of the publications that came later and that expanded its methodological range, will show that much, if not most of what we studied, although we labeled it behavioral pharmacology (the first name of Division 28), could just as easily be termed behavioral toxicology. Perhaps it was to be expected; after all, much of drug therapy can be interpreted as selective toxicity.

What we now call neurobehavioral toxicology (née behavioral toxicology) grew from much the same dual needs that sparked the growth of behavioral pharmacology. By the late 1960s, it had become clear that the vile waterways and irritating smog that propelled the founding of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1970 were more than esthetic offenses. They threatened public health. As the discipline of toxicology began to expand its purview to embrace the vast catalog of environmental chemicals, behavioral research on many of these same chemicals began to appear. The literature had grown enough by then for the Annual Review of Pharmacology to yoke together behavioral pharmacology and behavioral toxicology in one chapter (Weiss and Laties, 1969).

By 1972, it had grown to such an extent that we believed it warranted an international conference, the first ever devoted to the topic (Weiss and Laties, 1975). Coincidentally, in 1972, I was then President of the Division (No. 5). At that time, concerns were mounting steeply about how little health information we possessed about the thousands of commercial chemicals infusing our environment. Legislation then underway led to passage of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in 1976, which mandated reviews of chemicals for their health hazards

Continued on Page 7.

[A]fter all, much of drug therapy can be interpreted as selective toxicity.

A Joint History, continued from Page 6.

before marketing. But preceding the final legislation, the USEPA and the National Academy of Sciences had convened a workshop to discuss the methods then available for carrying out the forthcoming TSCA mandates. One chapter of the final report was devoted to behavior (Weiss et al, 1975), an unusual prominence in such a context.

I would be understating the situation to say that, since that time, neurobehavioral toxicology has penetrated nearly every arena of environmental health. The current standards for lead exposure are based on neuropsychological and behavioral indices. The headlines over methylmercury in fish are based on the same indices. Societal concerns about pesticide exposure, about polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and brominated fire retardants (PBDEs), and about many other environmental chemicals can also be traced to how they alter behavior. Behavioral disorders such as ADHD are increasingly being linked to environmental chemicals. Two journals (*Neurotoxicology* and *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*) publish a broad variety of behavioral articles. Scientists with behavioral training or interests comprise a significant proportion of the Society of Toxicology's Neurotoxicology specialty section. Some of us still strive to maintain connections with the profession of psychology (Weiss B, 1983;.Weiss B, 1992; Koger et al, 2005). And many of us, hopefully and loyally, still belong to the Division.

It is too late, at this stage of the Division's history, to regret the sundering of Division 28 from a salient area of research and public policy simply to highlight one of its constituencies. I hope, though, that its current members recognize the joint interests shared by those of us who work in the domain of toxicology and those of us who work in the domain of pharmacology. We're only a sidestep apart.

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Societal concerns about pesticide exposure, about PCBs and PBDEs, and about many ...environmental chemicals can also be traced to how they alter behavior.

Higgins, Continued from Page 3.

realize more fully the potential of this scientific knowledge will be discussed. Overall, this presentation will review some fundamentally important contributions that psychological science has made to SUDs while also addressing opportunities for new scientific advances and clinical applications.

The APA Convention will take place August 14-17 in Boston, MA. The exact date and time of the lecture has not been determined at this time, but will be included in Division 28 programming materials distributed prior to the meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS STEVE!!

From the Candidates, continued from Page 5.

elected to a new term, I plan to continue to provide a voice to Division 28 interests in APA governance by working with like-minded divisions to promote the scientific and applied interest of Division 28. In the past year, I have also served as Division 28's representative to the Task Force that revised the recommended curriculum for training for prescription authority. Throughout my career, I have been active in service to professional societies (e.g., APA, Association for Psychological Sciences, Research Society on Alcoholism) as well as federal agencies (e.g., NIH study section member, member of NIAAA's National Advisory Council and Extramural Advisory Board). I believe these experiences have prepared me well for effectively representing the Division's interests to the broader APA. The learning curve for Council Representatives is steep and it takes repeated interactions with other representatives to develop good working relationships with other divisions, a necessary precondition for fostering a receptive audience for Division interests. I hope to have the opportunity to use the knowledge I have gained and the social capital I've accrued to serve the Division for a three-year term.

Editorial Policy: *Psychopharmacology and Substance Abuse News* is a thrice-yearly publication of Division 28. It is devoted to keeping its members informed about the activities of Division 28 and to news and comments concerning all aspects of psychopharmacology and substance abuse. Articles, comments, announcements, and advertisements should be sent to Bill Stoops at william.stoops@uky.edu.

From the President's Desk, continued from Page 2.

better attract, serve, and retain members who are at the beginning of their careers. My primary goal as president this year is to make changes in the division that will help to sustain this effort in future years. Since several presidents before me have expressed concern and taken steps to address declining membership, I realize that we have a very difficult task ahead of us. However, I don't think any of my predecessors had three bright, energetic, early career colleagues working with them as a team to achieve this goal, so I believe we are starting with a significant advantage. I am hoping that we can conduct something approximating a functional analysis; identifying some of the antecedents and consequences of Division 28 membership and non-membership.

For example, as a student and a postdoc I was not actively involved in the division and confess that initially I was not even a member of APA. Looking back on the early stage of my career, it became clear that although I immediately received lots of reinforcers when I attended the annual meetings of the Association for Behavior Analysis (ABA) and the Committee (now College) on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD), my attendance was not similarly reinforced at APA conventions. At ABA and CPDD, I enjoyed visiting with my peers and discussing research with them as well as with more senior colleagues; I felt a part of a scientific community. In contrast, APA seemed big and impersonal and I often felt lost in a sea of people who didn't think or even look much like me. I suspect that my experience was not unique, since in a brief survey that Suzette conducted last year, one of the most common reasons that respondents gave for not attending the APA conference was that they found the meeting too large and diverse.

Then in 1990, John Grabowski convinced me to become a member of APA. John was the director of the Substance Abuse Research Center at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston where I was working in my first faculty position. He explained to me that it was important to be a dues-paying member of APA because the association actively lobbied for psychologists and could be influential in convincing Congress to support funding of psychological research. He also mentioned that APA defended and supported animal researchers whose laboratories came under the attack of animal rights activists. He probably gave other compelling reasons, but these were the two that resonated most for me and convinced me that the pricey membership fees were a very good investment. I was no longer dumping my money into an amorphous, impersonal organization; I was supporting causes that were important to me.

In 1995, I was asked to serve as Division 28 program chair for the 1996 conference in Toronto. I believe it was in-coming president Steve Fowler who actually offered the invitation, but that it was the out-going president -- John Grabowski -- who recommended me. To be honest, I'm not entirely sure that

Continued on Page 10.

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A thank you to our corporate members:

Janssen LP (corporate membership support), Reckitt-Benckiser (corporate membership support), Grunenthal USA Inc. (corporate membership support), Jazz Pharmaceuticals (corporate membership support), Wyeth Research (Young Psychopharmacologist Award support), Friends Research Institute, Inc. (Dissertation Award support), and MED Associates (Brady-Schuster Award support).

From the President's Desk, continued from Page 9

I was a member of the division at that time (something the executive committee may have overlooked), but I am sure that I have been a member ever since. The more involved I became in the division, the smaller the APA convention seemed to me. I found that by closely following the Division 28 program at the convention, APA seemed more intimate. I had more opportunity to interact with colleagues and people I knew were more likely to pay attention to my research. In short, I started to receive the same sort of reinforcers for my involvement in Division 28 that I had received at other conferences I attended regularly.

So in essence, the functional analysis of my involvement in APA and Division 28 boils down to familiar elements: antecedents such as instruction and prompting and consequences such as social reinforcement. Put this way it seems simple, doesn't it? But what functioned as effective antecedents and reinforcers for my behavior may not function similarly for others, so I am anxious to learn from our students and early career members. How do you think we can best encourage your non-member colleagues to join the division and how can we best be of service to you? I invite all members to make suggestions for ways that the division can attract students and early career psychologists to join the division and how we can provide sufficient contingent reinforcement to maintain their involvement.

Petitions for Proficiencies

While Division 28 is one of the smaller APA divisions in terms of membership, we are very active in APA and have had influence in major issues facing the field. One example of this is the lead we took in establishing a proficiency in psychopharmacology. For the benefit of members who do not "speak" APA governance fluently, I will provide a brief background.

The Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP) is APA's organizational agent to implement the recognition of specialties and proficiencies in Professional Psychology. A *specialty* is an area or particular emphases in professional practice, such as clinical, counseling, school, and industrial/organizational psychology. A *proficiency* is a circumscribed activity in the general practice of professional psychology or in one or more of its specialties. It is defined by a core of psychological knowledge and skills and includes specific methods for how psychologists who practice in this proficiency typically acquire its knowledge and skills. In 1997, when the issue of giving psychologists prescribing privileges began to gain momentum, Division 28 submitted a petition to CRSPPP and established a proficiency in Psychopharmacology. As Suzette mentioned in her last column, we have recently submitted a petition to renew this proficiency.

While this was a joint effort with Divisions 31 (State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs), 42 (Psychologists in Independent Practice), 50 (Addictions), and 55 (Prescribing Psychologists) and several people contributed to the preparation of the document, in truth Suzette herself took primary responsibility for the petition and richly deserves our thanks. The task appeared as intensive a work effort as a grant application, only not as much fun and with no hope of funding.

The petition specifies that psychologists desiring to act as independent providers of psychopharmacological services have proficiency in eight core domains. These domains are: 1) Basic Science (anatomy, physiology); 2) Neurosciences (neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurochemistry); 3) Physical Assessment and Laboratory Exams; 4) Clinical Medicine Pathophysiology; 5)

Continued on Page 11.

From the President's Desk, continued from Page 10.

Clinical and Research Pharmacology and Psychopharmacology (basic pharmacology, pharmacogenetics, psychopharmacology, developmental pharmacology, issues of diversity in pharmacological practice); 6) Clinical Pharmacotherapeutics (combined therapies, computer-based aids to practice, pharmacoepidemiology); 7) Research; and 8) Professional, Ethical and Legal Issues. These proficiencies are to be attained through postdoctoral training with clinical experience that is intensive and closely supervised.

Aspects of the proficiency have been hotly contested from the time of its inception over 10 years ago because this level of training is challenging to accomplish, especially for psychologists who are already well-established in their practices. As new effective medications for treating mental health disorders continue to be developed, many practitioners see prescriptive privileges as critical to the future of their livelihoods. This concern may not be completely unjustified. Like many other members of Division 28, I have been ambivalent about psychologists having prescriptive privileges. Those of us who have worked in hospital settings may be especially aware of the risks involved in prescribing medications and the horrifying consequences of prescribing mistakes. At the same time, many of us recognize that combining pharmacological and behavioral interventions often results in the most efficacious treatment. As such, prescription privileges could very well become an issue for survival of psychology as a practice. Also, as Suzette pointed out in her last column, whether or not you are in favor of psychologists having prescribing privileges, *"this train has already left the station."*

In leading the development of a proficiency in psychopharmacology, our division members have

been able to use their considerable knowledge and experience to recommend thorough training in psychopharmacology. Indeed, when the division's intention to develop the proficiency was announced in the presidential column of the Spring 1997 division newsletter, Marlyne Kilbey stated: *"A petition to recognize basic psychopharmacology as a proficiency is Division 28's way of assuring that our division, which is the only unit of APA with expertise and a history of working psychopharmacology issues, is the body to whom the organization turns when it is defining the core body of knowledge in psychopharmacology."* Marlyne also predicted that some group would petition to have psychopharmacology training for independent prescription privileges recognized as a specialty. It is my understanding that Division 55 (Prescribing Psychologists) is now intending to undertake such a petition and is asking for Division 28's input in doing so. This provides us with another opportunity to offer our knowledge and experience in ways that may help protect practicing psychologists and their patients as the field heads down this track. As scientists, many of us are focused on the survival activities of maintaining funding for our basic or clinical laboratories and answering our research questions. However, this petition and forthcoming specialty are good examples of how our division has the opportunity to inform and influence the discipline as a whole.

In addition to the psychopharmacology proficiency, our division participated in Division 50's submission for renewal for the Proficiency in the Psychological Treatment of Alcohol and Other Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders. Both petitions have been posted by APA to allow a period of public comment. The psychopharmacology petition was posted January 21 to March 21, 2008, and the petition on the treatment of substance disorders is posted March 1

Continued on Page 12.

From the President's Desk, continued from Page 11

to April 30, 2008 at (<http://apaoutside.apa.org/EducCSSS/Public>). During public posting periods individuals can view petitions, review the public comments of others, and submit their own comments.

The 2008 Convention Program in Boston

Thanks to Wendy Lynch's endless enthusiasm and energy and to the excellent abstracts submitted by our members, Division 28 has a program for 2008 that is bound to appeal to a wide variety of members as it includes pre-clinical to treatment research and everything in-between. Being convention program chair is probably the most challenging and intense job that the division has to offer, and it has been a pleasure to watch Wendy do it so well. Two highlights of the program will be the symposia honoring Jack Mendelson and Lew Seiden, two inspiring pioneers of our field we lost last year. Convention registration begins Tuesday, April 15th, so mark the date and register early. Better yet, actively encourage one or two of your students or young professional colleagues to register and join you in attending the conference!

I am excited about the year ahead of us. While the job of putting together an interesting program for the convention in Boston this August is already behind us, other challenges lie ahead. I am aware of the many responsibilities that come with the privilege of serving as your division president. I'll do my best to serve, represent, and be responsive to the needs of our members in the year ahead. I invite you to share your ideas, comments, and concerns by emailing me at kkirby@tresearch.org. Please put either "APA" or "Div 28" in the subject heading so that I don't lose your message in my sea of email.

Postdoctoral Fellowship University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

A postdoctoral fellowship position is available immediately at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine to study the behavioral and neurochemical effects of drugs of abuse. The emphasis is on sex differences in the effects of psychostimulants in adult and adolescent rats as part of a new Specialized Center of Research on Addiction and Health in Women, Children and Adolescents. Studies include drug self-administration, locomotor activity, conditioned place preference, receptor binding, neurotransmitter uptake and release, and second messenger function of dopamine, cannabinoid, and nicotinic receptors. Applicants must have completed doctoral training in Psychology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology or a

related discipline and should have a strong interest in integrating behavioral and neurochemical studies.

To apply, please contact:

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The Behavioral Pharmacology Group at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio invites applications from highly motivated individuals for POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS. This group includes Drs. Charles France, Rick Lamb, Wouter Koek, John Roache, Don Dougherty, Lance McMahon, Brett Ginsburg and Lisa Gerak; these highly collaborative investigators within the Departments of Pharmacology and Psychiatry are well funded by NIH to study behavioral and pharmacological mechanisms underlying the therapeutic and/or abuse potential of GABAergics, opioids, alcohol, stimulants, nicotine and cannabinoids, to study behavioral and pharmacological treatments for smoking, alcoholism and cocaine addiction, and to study the behavioral and biologic basis of vulnerability to addiction. Participating pre-clinical faculty have broad expertise in drug self-administration, drug discrimination, place conditioning, and many other behavioral assays, conducted within a spacious, state-of-the-art animal facility housing a variety of laboratory animal species. Participating clinical faculty have broad expertise in human laboratory and treatment research which is being conducted in newly renovated space especially designed for these purposes. San Antonio is a vibrant, multicultural city that borders the Texas Hill Country and offers museums of art and culture, diverse cuisine, and professional sports including basketball, baseball and hockey. South Texas boasts many state and national parks which can be enjoyed year round under sunny skies and pleasantly warm temperatures. San Antonio is an ideal place to live for those transitioning from graduate training to a career in science. Individuals who have completed or will complete their Ph.D. training in pharmacology, psychology, biology, neuroscience or a related field are encouraged to apply. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a brief statement of research interests and career goals, and letters of reference to Lisa Gerak, Department of Pharmacology, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 7703 Floyd Curl Dr, mail code 7764, San Antonio TX 78229 or by email to gerak@uthscsa.edu.

POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS IN DRUG ABUSE RESEARCH: The University of Vermont announces the availability of three post-doctoral research fellowships in an internationally recognized center of excellence for the study of drug abuse. Fellows have opportunities for training in a wide range of human laboratory and treatment-outcome research. Current openings are with: STEPHEN HIGGINS (stephen.higgins@uvm.edu, 802-656-9614) in delineating behavioral and pharmacological processes central to understanding and effectively

treating cocaine dependence as well as cigarette smoking among pregnant women; STACEY SIGMON (stacey.sigmon@uvm.edu, 802-656-9987) in developing (a) an effective pharmacological treatment, using buprenorphine and naltrexone, for prescription opioid abuse and (b) developing a behavioral smoking cessation intervention for opioid-maintained patients. Applicants must have completed doctoral training in behavior analysis psychology, or a related discipline and be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience (PGY 1 to PGY 7) and supported by an NIDA/NIH Institutional Training Award. For more details on the positions please contact the investigators directly at the e-mail addresses/phone #s shown above. To apply please forward a curriculum vitae, statement of research interests, and three letters of reference in c/o Ms. Diana Cain, University of Vermont, Dept. of Psychiatry, 1 So. Prospect Street, UHC Campus-OH3-Mail Stop 482, Burlington, VT 05401. The University of Vermont is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer.

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Start Date: Flexible.

Faculty: George Bigelow, Roland Griffiths, Maxine Stitzer, Eric Strain, Ken Silverman, Robert Brooner, Miriam Mintzer, Una McCann, et al

Contact George Bigelow; BPRU, Behavioral Biology Research Center;. 5510 Nathan Shock Drive; Johns Hopkins Bayview Campus; Baltimore, Maryland 21224-6823. (410) 550-0035; bigelow@jhmi.edu. See www.bpru.org

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