

# CNYPA SCOPE

Volume 32, Issue 1

February 2012

## President's Message

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I would like begin my first address to the membership by thanking **Dr. Tanya Gesek** for the wonderful job she did as CNYPA president last year. Dr. Gesek routinely shared her great passion about advocating for psychology in various ways, be it important postings to the CNYPA listserve, speaking up at meetings, flying to New York City for NYSPA Council meetings and legislative meetings, and attending local meetings with legislators about psychology. Her voice and advocacy efforts were complemented by the great work of **Dr. Christine Allen**, who was and continues to be CNYPA's regional representative to NYSPA Council. For her work, she was the deserved recipient of the 2011 CNYPA Psychologist of the Year Award. Many people do not realize the type of time and effort that goes into these added roles, for which there is no monetary compensation. These roles often involve long conference calls or meetings that can go late into the night and sometimes requires travelling to Albany or New York City. They do it because they are passionate about their profession.

As the new President of NYSPA (Dr. Richard Juman) indicated in a posting I recently shared on the CNYPA listserve, psychology as a profession cannot sit by idly on the sidelines during massive proposed changes to our healthcare system and expect that we will emerge unscathed. As I sometimes like to say, if our profession is not at the table (for discussion) then we are going to be on the menu (to be eaten). If psychology as a profession cannot advocate for itself effectively, then important rules, regulations, and policies pertaining to psychology will be made for us by non-psychologists (e.g., judges, legislators, physician organizations with much more organizational clout in Albany). While we may not always get what we want in the end, at least we can try and say we gave it our best effort. More often than not though, we can have an impact.

When I began my post-doctoral fellowship in 2003 at SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine, I first heard about the new Scope of Practice bill for psychology in New York and how this was causing an unforeseen severe restriction in technician use. I monitored the situation over the years and remember one prominent New York neuropsychologist saying that we were not as vigilant as we should have been in realizing how the language in that bill would affect our profession. I bring this up not to rehash the technician issue but because it was a moment that made me realize that I needed to take some type of role advocating for my profession once I became an independent practitioner. As such, I became involved in the New York State Association of Neuropsychology (NYSAN) and served as the president for the last 3.5 years. I also began going to CNYPA meetings and did not know anyone except our Treasurer, **Dr. Brian Rieger**, who also does a great deal of local/state advocacy work for psychology. I remember being welcomed by everyone, particularly **Dr. Rene Willet**, and have been fortunate to have developed warm and collegial professional relationships with many new people.

***"...if our profession is not at the table (for discussion) then we are going to be on the menu (to be eaten)."***

In closing, in my year as President, one thing I would like to do is try and motivate people to become more involved in CNYPA and more involved in local/state advocacy issues for psychology. All you have to do is show up at one of our welcoming CNYPA meetings (which are open to the membership)

or contact me at [caroned@upstate.edu](mailto:caroned@upstate.edu) and tell us/me how you are interested in helping. We need help with local grassroots advocacy initiatives, developing continuing education committee programs, and communicating with insurance companies to advocate for more fair reimbursement for psychological services. For those who do not believe that a small group of voluntary helpers cannot make a difference, I have attached an addendum showing the accomplishments of a small group of volunteers at NYSAN over the past 3.5 years. I look forward to seeing more CNYPA volunteers and new members over the next year so we can pursue similar initiatives for psychology in general.

Dominic A. Carone, Ph.D., ABPP-CN  
President, CNYPA

## **2012 CNYPA Election Results:**

**President Elect: Charles Bradshaw**

**Recording Secretary: Lisa DeLamater**

**Board Members:**

- **Bob Kuehnel**
- **Joe Himmelsbach**
- **Roger Greenberg**

**Congratulations to our new officers and board members and thanks to everyone who took time to vote!**

## NYSYA Meeting Highlights January 28th, 2012

The first NYSYA Council meeting of the year started out with a bang, which was a nice comeback from what I perceive to be a low-point with the infighting around the neuropsychology tech issue and the failure to agree on issues related to the use of intelligence testing subtests for neuropsychological assessment. First, NYSYA is on a cost-containment budget; we are meeting on Saturday and condensing meetings into one day for most people (Council and Legislative). We have found some cheaper meeting space and fewer people need to stay overnight. So NYSYA is on track to stay within its budget.

Dr. Richard Juman is our new President and he presented an impassioned plea for NYSYA members to get involved to help get psychology a seat at the table with the changes that are rapidly occurring in healthcare and in our profession. Dr. Juman expressed the need for NYSYA to have representation on boards and other organizations. He informed us that we are the only large state without a Director of Professional Affairs (DPA). He expressed the view that NYSYA needs a psychologist who will represent us on important issues on a regular basis, beyond the year to year role of the President.

Drs. Maury Lacher and John Northman came to present a case for NYSYA hiring a DPA, which they argued will add the perspective and expertise that only a psychologist can bring to our advocacy. A DPA will provide a consistent face for NYSYA; he/she can answer questions a only psychologist can address. Moreover, it professionalizes the organization. A motion was passed to approve a part-time person (independent contractor) to be DPA for 1 year to be paid for by taking money from other areas of the budget. In addition, Dr. Howard Rombom and Dr. Roy Aranda donated a thousand dollars each to this new position, if it was passed today. Dr. Rombom subsequently raised his pledge to \$2000. A committee was formed to monitor the process of hiring and the use of this person in this role to make sure that NYSYA is getting the best bang for its buck. A job description will be posted and the Executive Committee will hire the individual.

Dr. Juman also emphasized the need to work on collaborating more with other organizations. For example, Dr. Jerry Grodin is an ad-hoc volunteer liaison to the MHA of NYS. Dr. Richard Juman will be meeting with Mike Hogan, Commissioner of OMH to discuss possible collaboration; he is looking for psychologists to work with him on this. In addition, Dr. Juman wants to know and work with psychologists who have special relationships with other particular associations.

Dr. Juman discussed the importance of strengthening our relationship with APA and he appointed a committee to work on creating a method of for NYSYA to endorse APA Candidates for President; he plans to invite candidates to the next Council meeting.

Dr. Juman brought up the issue of the shortage of internship sites and appointed an ad hoc committee to see how NYSYA can work with APIC and APA in terms of recommendations. Dr. Juman thinks there is a problem with for profit educational institutions that may pump out more psychology grads than there are jobs for and that it is not actually primarily an "internship crisis". The Ad Hoc committee will come back in April to tell us NYSYA what we should do. It is shocking that 25% of psychology students don't get internships.

The Insurance Chair is now Dr. Howard Rombom. He wants information from members about egregious behavior and denials by insurance companies. In addition, Dr. Rombom reminded Council Members that the Insurance Department of NYS is very responsive to patient complaints and encouraged members to have their patients make a complaint if needed. Howard has been involved in lawsuits with insurance companies before and believes that we can do this more, when egregious denials and limitations occur. He wants to take a strong business approach to this and get employers more involved in advocating for the mental health benefits of their employees. The Insurance Committee wants a representative from every region and division. We are fortunate to have **Dr. David Stang** as our CNYPA Representative.

Dr. Juman expressed regret and distress re the outcome of the tech issue last meeting, but indicated that the tech issue was not the whole purpose of the division. Drs. Nancy Cope and June Shapiro were invited to the meeting today and are motivated to take steps to move the division back into life. Sixteen members resigned from NYSPA and 54 asked for their neuropsych division dues back. The Neuropsychology Division of NYSPA dissolved itself because of its distress over the Council's unwillingness to move forward with the administrative fix if Neuropsychology Technicians are allowed to administer IQ subtests as part of their protocols. \*See addendum by **Dr. Dominic Carone**

Dr. Juman wishes to revitalize the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award--we need to brand psychology by talking about our work in organizations. Efforts to revitalize this committee currently chaired by Suzanne Roff-Wexler are underway. If you would like to be a member of this or any committee, please contact me or Tracy Russell at [trussell@nyspa.org](mailto:trussell@nyspa.org).

The Council approved the Legislative Committee's recommendation to pursue legislative action on the issue of allowing psychologists to partner with physicians and social workers to form corporations, which is currently prohibited by NYS law. This has limited our ability to participate in health care reform, because we have to be employees of most of these organizations instead of partners. More on the Legislative Agenda and action steps will be reported by **Dr. Tanya Gesek**, the CNYPA Representative to NYSPA Legislative Committee.

Finally, Dr. Mark Grey made a motion that passed which grants 1st year free of NYSPA membership to **new** regional members who become NYSPA members also; this aligns NYSPA and Regional Associations goals of getting new members. Dr. Juman will pass this information on to Regional Presidents. NYSPA will help the Regions identify these non-members to contact with this information.

Overall, there was a tremendous amount of business that got done and energy, optimism, and ideas that are being put forth. It is a GREAT time to join NYSPA if you are not already a member. Please go to [www.nyspa.org](http://www.nyspa.org) for more information about how to join or contact me or **Dr. Tanya Gesek** with questions.

**Christine Allen, Ph.D.**

**\*Addendum by Dr. Dominic Carone:**

**Dr. Carone** is aware of at least 35 to 37 Neuropsychology Division members who sent a formal letter of resignation to NYSPA (verified via email attachments). Only about 16 of those people had already paid 2012 dues. Thus, the NYSPA report only reflects people they had to actually give money back to. The remainder of the failures to renew is just attributed to membership "attrition" and not reflected in the tally of 16. Many other members left the neuropsychology division but remained with NYSPA because they were involved in other committees.

## CNYPA Meeting Schedule for 2012

**February 10**

**March 23**

**April 20 (happy hour after)**

**May 18**

**June 15**

**July and Aug: No mtg**

**September 28**

**October 26 – happy hour after**

**November 16**

**December: TBD (for holiday/annual party)**



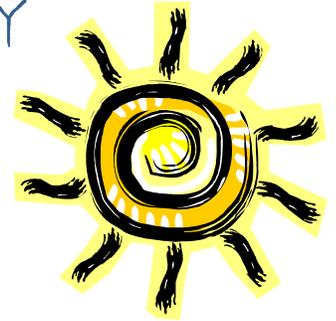
**All meetings start at 1:15 and are held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor "Grand Rounds" area of the Upstate Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Building, 713 Harrison St. Syracuse.**

**CNYPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2012**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Business Phone</b>	<b>e-mail</b>
<b>President</b>	Dominic Carone	315-464-1908	dcaronejr@aol.com
<b>Past President</b>	Tanya Gesek	315-430-8040	gesekphd@gmail.com
<b>President-Elect</b>	Charles Bradshaw	315-422-4400 ext 53875	bradshac@upstate.edu
<b>Treasurer Expires Dec. 2012</b>	Brian Rieger	315-464-2335	riegerb@upstate.edu
<b>Recording Secretary Expires Dec 2012</b>	Lisa DeLamater	315-426-1702	ldelamater@yahoo.com
<b>Board Member Expires Dec. 2013 (2-year term)</b>	Bob Kuehnel	610-291-0105	rhkuehnel@gmail.com
<b>Board Member Expires Dec. 2013 (2-year term)</b>	Roger Greenberg	315-464-3120	greenber@upstate.edu
<b>Board Member Expires Dec. 2012 (2-year term)</b>	Joe Himmelsbach	315-445-0059	rhimmell@twcny.rr.com
<b>Board Member Expires Dec. 2012 (2-year term)</b>	Ron Saletsky	315-464-3175	saletskr@upstate.edu
<b>Board Member Expires Dec. 2012 (2-year term)</b>	Thomas Krisher	315-446-6027	tjkrisher@gmail.com
<b>Board Member Expires Dec. 2012 (2-year term)</b>	Ron Fish	315-422-0300	ronaldfish@gmail.com
<b>Academic Affairs (non-voting)</b>			
<b>Ethics Chair</b>	Joe Himmelsbach	315-345-6540	rhimmell@twcny.rr.com
<b>Membership Chair</b>			
<b>Program Committee Chair</b>			
<b>Public Information Chair</b>			
<b>NYSPA Legislative Representative</b>	Tanya Gesek	315-480-8040	gesekphd@gmail.com
<b>NYSPA Clinical Division Representative</b>	J. Rene Wilett	315-472-9042	rwilett@aol.com
<b>NYSPA Council Representative Expires Dec 2014 (3 year term)</b>	Chris Allen	315-476-2675	drcmallen@verizon.net
<b>Federal Advocacy Representative</b>	Dominic Carone	315-464-1908	dcaronejr@aol.com
<b>Secretary*</b>	Michelle Cavallerano	315-464-7601	cavallem@upstate.edu
<b>Website Designer*</b>	Larry Webb	315-655-3362	

## PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY COMMUNITY CORNER

Some of our CNYPA members have been very busy recently – take a look!



### **CNYPA Member Doug Scaturo, Ph.D. has published the following:**

Scaturo, D. J. (2011). Supervising integrative psychotherapy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Pressing needs, impressing possibilities. *Journal of Contemporary Psychotherapy*, doi: 10.1007/s10879-011-9204-2.

Published online in November, 2011, and due to appear in print within the next few months. Electronic reprints can be requested by contacting Dr. Scaturo at [douglas.scaturo@va.gov](mailto:douglas.scaturo@va.gov).

Congratulations, Dr. Scaturo!

### **CNYPA is now part of the social media universe!**



CNYPA's Twitter Page is now here: <https://twitter.com/#!/CNYPsychAssoc>

To be a part of it, just go to the site, sign in with your account (or create one for free if you do not have one), and click Follow.



CNYPA is now on facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Central New York Psychological Association" to check us out [you will need to have a (free) Facebook account]!

## NYSAN Impact

The following is a list of examples of the difference and impact that psychologists can make when they are working together for a common goal. These examples are all from the New York State Association of Neuropsychology (NYSAN) over the past 3.5 years, but one can easily see how many of these bullet points can be extrapolated to psychology in general if you become involved and help advocate on our behalf. Please see my Presidential Address on how to get more involved through CNYPA.

### In the past 3.5 years, NYSAN:

- a) Stopped a planned reduction by a NY insurance carrier and resulted in an overall increase of 12% reimbursement for 96118 services.
- b) Worked with Medicaid to allow neuropsychologists to provide neuropsychological assessment services for Medicaid patients on an outpatient basis.
- c) Advocated for psychologist's to be allowed to make return to play decisions in New York.
- d) Produced substantial increase in fees provided for neuropsychological services performed for VESID.
- e) Produced greater transparency and accountability in changes to reimbursement policies for CMS and helped to avert significant reductions in billable units per evaluation.
- f) Worked with a large insurance carrier in upstate New York to have them renegotiate/increase their fees for the first time since 1992.
- g) Resulted in elimination of arbitrary limits in units of testing per day that was previously imposed by GHI, as well as increase in billable hours per evaluation.
- h) Developed alliances for advocacy with other state and regional neuropsychology groups in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington State.
- i) Took an active role addressing the policy of one insurance carrier's post hoc denials of neuropsychological evaluations which, at this point has mostly stopped.
- j) Begun development of a "Resource List" for Neuropsychologists in New York.
- k) Stopped UHC from relegating all neuropsychological evaluation to mental health portion of the plan benefit.
- l) Eliminated the need for prior authorizations from some of the major insurance carriers.
- m) Working to allow for reimbursement of graduate students and externs by insurance companies that are planning to disallow this practice.
- n) Developed and published position papers on appropriate qualifications for practitioners to provide peer reviews and independent medical evaluations.
- o) Developed and published a position paper describing the appropriate use of computerized assessments in neuropsychology and medical practices.
- p) Obtained NYS Senate support/sponsorship for Assignment of Benefits Legislation.
- q) Developed alliances with additional New York State Organizations (i.e., NYSMS, NYNG) to provide additional political advocacy and resources for educational activities.
- r) Addressed issue with BC Excellus's overly restrictive policy language which had resulted in denial of most requests for evaluations.
- s) Convinced Union 32 BJ to process neuropsychological evaluations under the medical portion of the benefit plan.
- t) Developed a Pediatric Affairs Committee to address issues specific to pediatric neuropsychologists in New York State.
- u) Continued to work to raise public awareness about the unique role of neuropsychology in patient care and clinical research.

Dominic A. Carone, Ph.D., ABPP-CN  
CNYPA President

## Legislative News from NYSPA

One major piece of news is that NYSPA has hired a new lobbyist! After a decision to break ties with NYSUT, NYSPA is now working with the firm, Meara, Avella, and Dickerson. All three have good experience and they are getting to know us as an organization. They are very connected and active. This represents a turning point for the organization and we are already seeing a vast improvement in how information is given to us and in their responsiveness to our requests. April 17<sup>th</sup> is a Mind/Body Fair targeted to our state legislators in Albany. I will be traveling with 3 students from SU. I would love to have more people from the region join me if they can!! If you have any thoughts about what is happening legislatively, please feel free to email me! And if you have things you would like to see the legislative committee take on, let me know as well!! gesekphd@gmail.com

Here are the legislative items we continue to keep our eye on:

- a) **Governor's Budget:** Eric Garfinkel, PhD has reviewed the Medicaid piece and everything looks preliminarily safe and we will not lose crossover.
- b) **MRT Update** (proposal #164): The Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) was put together by the governor to make recommendations for cost saving in healthcare. One proposal did appear to impact us but looks to be a non-issue for now. *Work force flexibility* is allowing less trained individuals do things they have never done before, like admitting. Nurse practitioners are becoming more powerful relative to psychology. We are asking that a NYSPA member be a part of the MRT sub-committee looking at workforce flexibility.
- c) **PLLC:** The current law does not prohibit psychologists to form business partnerships but the law does prohibit physicians from forming business partnerships with psychologists. The only profession we can form partnerships with is nurses. This is important as we see health care reform roll out within the structure of the ACO. The chiropractors have a bill that is with a senate committee. Donna Rasin-Waters, PhD is chairing this subcommittee and has had a phone conference with APA. Meetings are happening between Tracy Russell (NYSPA ED) and the ED of the Medical Society.
- d) **Concussion Management and Awareness Bill:** This important bill was passed last spring but it currently only allows physicians to clear for return to play. Subsequent information is that some of these decisions are being made by doctors that have no training in concussion management. There is a meeting scheduled for February 6 with Senator Hannon to discuss the possibility of a chapter amendment. Thank you **Dominic Carone, PhD** and **Brian Rieger PhD** for bringing this to the attention of the NYSPA legislative committee.
- e)
- f) **Statute of Limitations on Complaints Against Mental Health Professionals: S1720:** The law says you only have to hold on to charts for a certain amount of time but the law does not limit complaints against us so we essentially have to hold on to charts forever. There is a statute of limitation for lawsuits but not for professional conduct.
- g) **Protection of Court-Ordered Custody Evaluation:** This dates back to November 2004 and has some national support as it comes up in state after state. The language formulated fits with what has been recommended by Division 42 (White Paper). We are essentially looking to keep complaints against evaluating psychologists from popping up in the middle of custody proceedings

in an attempt to stall the process. This would be a good bill for kids stuck in the middle of these contentious battles.

- h) Autism Issues: Autism Assessment Centers:** Insurance companies now have to reimburse for ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis). The bill says that the referral needs to come from a licensed psychologist but there is nothing about treatment being supervised by licensed psychologists. ABA specialists are pushing hard for licensure and their scope is very similar to our scope. Kathleen Doyle, PhD at SED brought this issue to our attention, and we have alerted our lobbyists about the issue. ABAs are getting licensed in many other states. It will be important to make sure that the language in the regulations does not allow for the possibility of specialists to be able to work outside of autism centers (i.e. the private setting).
- i) NEDA request:** The National Eating Disorders Association is asking us to endorse their bill requesting that eating disordered behavior be included in school health screenings. We are having experts look at the bill to help us understand the implications for psychology.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tanya Gesek, PhD