



President's Message

In advocating for psychology, a quote I have often passed on to membership is that “if you are not at the table then you will be on the menu.” This quote has been around since about 2000 as a Washington D.C. political saying. From a professional perspective, being on the menu in psychology is analogous to having something adverse occur to our profession on a state or national level resulting from a legal or regulatory action. The more I become involved in professional advocacy/lobbying efforts, the more I have realized that being at the table is necessary but not sufficient to avoid being placed on the menu. You must also have strength when you are at the table.

There are four main ways to obtain this strength. One way is having a strong argument – but that is not enough. The strong argument has to deal with an issue that is publicly and politically beneficial for a politician or political appointee to support and ideally should have some type of emotional appeal. The second way is to have friends in powerful places – those who are closest to making the important decisions. An example of this that has nothing to do with psychology draws on my love of cinema. When Paramount chief Bob Evans was making the film “The Italian Job” he needed to film in Turin, Italy, and have the city shut down. He happened to know the most powerful man in the city who had the police and other government officials give Paramount everything they need to make the picture. Evans has remarked how that connection enabled him to do in one day what the President of the United States could not have done in one year. The third way to obtain strength, at least with politicians, is by making a financial contribution to their politi-

One of the most important things you can do is to make a donation (however small) to PLANY

cal campaigns. This is how you maintain existing political friendships and make new ones. Lastly, another way to gain strength at the table is to move yourself into a position where you play a major role in the important legal and regulatory decisions that are made.

In an ideal world, strength of argument alone would be enough to allow psychologists to obtain successful professional advocacy results. However, the real world simply does not work that way. We have already seen in New York where state regulators banned the use of psychology technicians and where legislators limited return to play decisions in concussion management to physicians only (thus no longer allowing psychologists with expertise in this area to perform this function). State regulators then followed this up by only naming school nurses as health care professionals who could perform cognitive testing in concussed athletes. Psychologists in New York were caught off guard in the former circumstance but were at the table for the latter. The problem is that we did not have enough strength at the table. Other professions did.

So, what can you do about it? One of the most important things you can do is to make a donation (however small) to PLANY, which is New York's political action committee (PAC) for psychologists. The PAC is expressly designed to allow special interest groups access to legislators so we can have a *meaningful* say in proposed legislation. Politicians love donations from PACs because they do not need to spend any money soliciting the donation. The larger the PAC, the more

WAYS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN CNYPA...

- JOIN ONE OF THE COMMITTEES (OR START A NEW ONE!)
- PROMOTE PSYCHOLOGY WITH LOCAL LEGISLATORS
- WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE SCOPE
- ATTEND A CNYPA BOARD MEETING

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CNYPA Scope

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influential it is. The PAC becomes larger and more influential with more donations.

This is where **YOU** come in. For example, if you want the limited liability company laws (LLC) in our state amended so that psychologists could be authorized to form LLC partnerships and corporations with physicians on a co-ownership basis, you should donate to PLANY to help get this done. This change is very important because it aligns what we know about best practices and would enable for the first time the creation of corporate partnerships between psychologists and physicians, putting psychology on an equal footing with medicine in our state. With health care reform here, this is something we cannot miss out on.

I want to challenge everyone in our membership to make a donation to PLANY this year, however small. Doing so would be a great way to help advocate for your profession and will show how committed our region is to gaining strength at the political negotiating table. In 2011, there were 8 CNYPA members who made a donation to PLANY. That needs to change. This year was my first contribution because I am convinced that we need to do something more than sending letters to politicians and having friendly meetings with them.

Upcoming CNYPA Board Meetings:

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 2nd Floor "Grand
Rounds" area of the
Upstate Psychiatry &
Behavioral Sciences
Building, 713
Harrison St.
Syracuse.*

Advertisement



Expanding, Diversifying, Thinking About a Change? Geropsychology *is* the future!

SENIOR CONNECTIONS WANTS YOU!

- Senior Connections provides a **team** approach for delivering complete and effective mental health services for nursing home residents and assists nursing homes in providing quality care. Our services create a happier, healthier and more positive living environment for the residents and enhance facility staff morale.
- We have openings and opportunities for **New York State Licensed Psychologists** to provide evaluations, psychotherapy staff therapist supervision within a multidisciplinary team model in nursing homes in the Owego, Groton, Ithaca, Corning and Elmira areas. The usual work schedule consists of 8-hour days for 2 to 5 days a week at very competitive pay. Training and administrative support is provided by Senior Connections.

This is rewarding and beneficial work and can be a refreshing change of pace. In addition, there is no overhead or hassles with collection activity or insurance companies. Feel free to inquire about this excellent opportunity to **fill your day-time clinical calendar**.

If you are interested in this field and would like to talk about this exciting practice opportunity, contact Stephen A. Daniel, Ph.D. at (845) 781-6061. Fax inquiries to (607) 729-0757; email Stephen.allen.daniel@gmail.com.



Dr. Alice Honig appointed to Syracuse Women's Commission

CNYPA member, **Dr. Alice Honig**, has been invited by Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Minor as an appointee to the Syracuse Women's Commission.

According to Syracuse.ny.us, the purpose and goal of the commission is "to realize the rights of women of all ages to equal opportunity and participation in the affairs of the community; to ensure women of all ages freedom from discrimination based on gender and to assure them of the benefits of equal opportunity and the full utilization of their talents to promote their educational, health, economic and social well-being."

Congratulations Alice!

Save the Date!

CNYPA/NYSPA Workshop

- Join your colleagues for a day of learning and camaraderie.
- Dr. Wilfred Pigeon, sleep disorders expert, will present a workshop on
- **CBT Treatment for Sleep Disorders.**

When:

Friday, October 26, 2012. 9:00-4:00

Where:

Genesee Grande Hotel , 1060 East Genesee St, Syracuse (1 block East of Syracuse Stage)

Dominic Carone, Ph.D. Publishes Book

Congratulations to CNYPA President, Dr. Dominic Carone for his upcoming book (publication date 8/20/12) entitled, *Mild Traumatic Brain Injury, Symptom Validity Assessment, and Malingering*.

From the Publisher:

"This authoritative volume is the first book specifically devoted to symptom validity assessment with individuals with a known or suspected history of mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI).

It brings together leading experts in mTBI, symptom validity assessment, and malingering to provide a thorough and practical guide to the challenging task of assessing the validity of patient presentations after an mTBI. The book describes techniques that can drastically alter case conceptualization, treatment, and equitable allocation of resources."

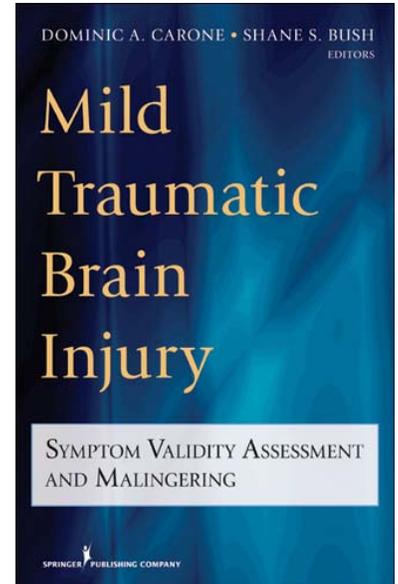
Praise for this book:

"This book provides an excellent, singular shelf reference on the influence of motivational factors and the importance of symptom validity testing in the neuropsychological assessment of mild traumatic brain injury [It] marks an essential resource for those who see patients with mild traumatic brain injury."

Michael McCrea, PhD, ABPP-CN
Medical College of Wisconsin

"This outstanding volume is a unique contribution to the neuropsychologist's library, bringing together two of our most important and timely topics in one text: MTBI and validity assessment for effort, response bias and malingered symptomology. This will be an important resource for some time to come and deserves a prominent place in every neuropsychologist's library."

Joel E. Morgan, PhD, ABPP-CN
New Jersey Medical School



The next CNYPA Scope will be published in October. That's plenty of time for you to contribute to the newsletter! Please e-mail CNYPA Secretary, Michelle Cavallerano at cavalle@upstate.edu with any ideas or questions.