Message from the President

Dear Academy Members,

Since becoming President of the Academy in May of 2016, I’ve made an effort to use these Forum and Newsletter messages to share important developments in our organization. Some of these things were “in the works” the last time I wrote to you. I’m happy to say that a number of initiatives have been accomplished. Here’s what’s happened!

First of all, you will remember that we resolved as an organization to change our name. To change the name of a non-profit organization in the state of New York is a surprisingly complicated task. I’m happy to say the legalities of this have been completed. We are now officially The American Academy of Psychodynamic Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis! This required that we adopt a new logo. For several months an artist was working with us and presenting prototypes. Executive Council discussed this in December and recently met to make a decision. By formal vote, we chose a more modern logo, which still incorporates a simplified version of the seal previously represented on our official documents. The logo will be seen soon on our website, our letterhead, and programs. Keep
Secondly, we have been working on an affiliation with the American College of Psychoanalysts, an honorary group of senior psychoanalysts. Ably led by a negotiating team of Doug Ingram, Richard Friedman, and David Lopez, the Academy negotiated an agreement with the College to join us. It was signed by the Presidents, myself and Mark Unterberg, in December 2017. The name of our larger organization will remain the same—the American Academy of Psychodynamic Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis. All College members have been invited to join the Academy. The College will bring its funds to the Academy. There will be a Committee for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis initially headed by Dr. Unterberg. The Committee will contribute special proposals to the Program Committee for Academy meetings and may engage in other projects. All of us will be invited to participate. I’m excited that the College brings a group of scholarly clinicians devoted to the practice of psychoanalysis and its theories. They will enrich the Academy.

Thirdly, our involvement in psychiatric residency education is growing. The original Teichner program, started eleven years ago when Sherry Katz-Bearnot was President (funded by a grateful patient of Victor Teichner, an Academy member who was voted in as President but was never able to take office because of illness), provided funds to a deserving US psychiatric residency training program to support a Teichner Scholar’s visit of several days to teach trainees and faculty about psychodynamic approaches to psychiatry. The Program chooses a scholar from a roster of Academy member volunteers. This year we had eight applicants for the award and we were able to offer two prizes.

In the course of managing this competition, we became aware that psychiatric training programs in the US are struggling to provide training leading to competency in psychodynamic psychiatry. We know that programs need more than the single scholar’s visit, no matter how inspiring. This year, one of our members, Allan Tasman, agreed to lead a project funded by the Academy to provide ongoing teaching via distance-learning technologies to residency training programs in need. Jeff Katzman, our Chair of the Committee on Education, who has already been testing the idea, will work with him. The Distance Learning Project will start out “small” and use as the first groups programs that received the Teichner in the past or applied for the prize. A number of Academy members already have experience with teaching psychodynamic concepts over the internet and others of us could acquire this expertise. If this idea interests you, I hope you will contact Allan Tasman for further information.

Finally, the Academy has had the opportunity this year to join in advocacy for important issues that affect our patients. The political climate in the US right now is hostile to people who need help, whether they are immigrants, people without insurance, people with mental illnesses, or sexual minorities. This year we formed an Advocacy Task Force to advise the President on the issues the Academy is called upon to support. Working quickly, because often there is little time before a decision is needed, members of the Task Force have advised me on several issues this year; and the Academy became a signatory in support of several initiatives coming from the APA. With the approval of the Executive Council, we also gave our support to the Coalition for Psychotherapy Parity, which prepared an outstanding report on discrimination by insurance
companies against people who need mental health services. The Coalition is headed by Dr. Susan Lazar, and our own Eric Plakun from the Academy is a founding member. You can find our name and the very compelling report on the group’s website--psychotherapyparity.org.

This is my last Presidential message in the Forum and the Newsletter before Gerry Perman takes office. I come to the end of my term with the belief that as Academy members there is much we can do for our discipline, our colleagues, and our patients. I hope you will be inspired to join with us in some of the initiatives we have begun and others yet to come.

Warmly,

Jennifer Downey, MD

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The AAPDPP is collaborating with the Psychiatric Times newspaper to publish well-written, short, clinical articles that are directed to psychiatrists who do not know our way of thinking and practicing. This effort is to promote psychodynamic psychiatry among general psychiatrists and give exposure to the Academy.

The small write-ups should be between 1500 and 2000 words and should not have more than ten references. If you are interested, please contact David Lopez, M.D., at davidlopezmd@yahoo.com.
Dear Fellow Academy Members,

Welcome to the Spring installment of the AADPD e-newsletter.

As we all embrace the return of light and life and our collectively renewed energy and enthusiasm, I invite you to reserve a portion of your warm weather charged mojo and bring it with you to this May’s Annual Academy meeting in New York City. Within this newsletter you’ll be reminded of the exciting meeting programming that Drs. Alfonso and Jimenez have organized for us.

On page one you can also find Dr. Jennifer Downey’s Letter from the President in which she highlights recent Academy developments and accomplishments including our official name change, the securing of our affiliation with the American College of Psychoanalysts, the growth of the Teichner program and further education-based initiatives.

At this May’s meeting, Dr. Downey will be passing the baton to President-Elect, Dr. Gerald Perman. Please also find below Dr. Perman’s letter in which he introduces his plans for his upcoming presidential tenure.

I’m sure I speak for most of us in thanking Dr. Downey for her ever-steady leadership, clear vision and tireless service to the Academy. We all too congratulation Dr. Perman on his new role and look forward to the Academy continuing to grow and flourish with his influence.

As always, I ask that our readership pass along any member news and updates since we all enjoy reading about what our friends and colleagues are up to.

All the best,

Alicia McGill, MD
e-Newsletter Editor
Message from the President-Elect

Dear Members of the Academy:

Thank you for your confidence in asking me to serve as your President-Elect.

The Academy is in excellent shape with many well-functioning components.

Over the past several years, Dr. Jennifer Downey, and Past President, Dr. David Lopez, have guided the Academy along a path of stability, as well as providing creative and flexible responses to the ever-changing needs of our members.

For example, we have changed our name to reflect the reality of the relative positions of psychodynamic psychiatry and psychoanalysis in psychiatric residency training today and in the public’s mind.

At the same time, we have completed a merger with the American College of Psychoanalysts that will add to the richness and depth of the psychoanalytic tradition out of which our Academy was born.

Our annual meetings are well-received by attendees, are of consistently high quality, and reflect the great diversity of interests in our field today. They are organized by our program chairs, and are overseen by our chair of programs, with care, creativity, unbounded energy and tremendous enthusiasm.

Our publications are informative and engaging, and the Teichner Scholar, Scott Schwartz Award and other educational initiatives continue to thrive.

When I take over as President this May, some of my interests will be: 1. to find ways to increase the membership of the Academy by more assertively reaching out to trainees and psychiatrists at all stages of their careers; 2. to find out from our leaders and members how they would like to see the Academy evolve for themselves in the immediate and long-term future; 3. to keep the Academy on a firm financial footing; 4. to support our current educational initiatives mentioned above as well as those in the areas of global psychiatry, integrative-care and distance teaching; 5. to maintain our deepening and evolving relationship with the American Psychiatric Association; and 6. to reinforce the importance of the psychiatrist-patient relationship in the diverse clinical settings in which we work.

Cordial best regards,

Gerald P. Perman, MD
President-Elect
American Academy of Psychodynamic Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis
May 3 - May 5, 2018
Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel
811 7th Avenue 53rd Street
New York, New York 10019

**Pain and Distress: Psychodynamic Aspects and Collaborative Models of Care**

Program Co-Chairs:
Xavier F. Jiménez MD, MA and César A. Alfonso, MD

Chair of the Scientific Program Committee:
Joanna E. Chambers, MD

CME Committee Chair:
Silvia W. Olarte, MD

Read or download the Preliminary Program and/or Registration Form, or register online, by clicking on the link below:
62nd Annual Meeting of the AAPDPP

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON IN NEW YORK!
Victor J. Teichner Award

Congratulations 2018 Teichner Awardees!

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Erin Crocker, M.D.
Director of Psychotherapy Training
Donald W. Black, M.D.
Residency Training Director

GHS University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville
Heike Minnich, PsyD, HSPP, Dipl.-Psych.
Director of Psychiatry Residency Psychotherapy Training
Eunice Peterson, MD, Psychiatry Residency Program Director

Victor J. Teichner Award

The Victor J. Teichner Award promotes teaching of psychodynamic principles to psychiatrists-in-training.

Victor J. Teichner, M.D., a former President of the AAPDPP, was a respected psychiatrist/psychoanalyst who died at the age of 56. The award was created in his name as the result of a donation from a grateful patient. She wishes to ensure that Dr. Teichner’s creative psychodynamic approach will be part of the learning of the next generation of psychiatric clinicians. She honors his extraordinary dedication to his patients by funding the Visiting Scholars Award in his name.

The Award is made annually to one psychiatric residency program on the basis of an application to the Award Committee, composed of representatives of the AAPDPP and the AADPRT.

The Program Awardee will receive a 1 to 3 day visit from a Visiting Scholar chosen from a list maintained by the AAPDP. Choice of Visiting Scholar and structure of the visit are made by the Program. The visit must take place during the academic year beginning July 1 after the announcement of the Awardee.

Click here for the Teichner Award Application Form
American Academy of Psychodynamic Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis
Mentorship Program

The goal of the Academy’s Mentorship Program is to link early career psychiatrists, psychoanalytic candidates, psychiatry residents, and medical students with mentors in American Academy of Psychodynamic Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis (AAPDPP). The program is designed to offer support and guidance for mentees from a range of career stages.

Mentees: Psychiatrists, psychoanalytic candidates, residents and medical students who are AAPDPP members are invited to participate in a one-year mentorship program sponsored by the AAPDPP. The program is designed to offer support and guidance for mentees from a range of career stages.

Mentors: Participants will be matched with mentors who are members of the AAPDPP and are able to provide support in preferred areas of growth. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please email Jeffrey W. Katzman, M.D. (jekatzman@salud.unm.edu).

Potential Mentorship Topics: The following are examples of topics mentorship pairs might address:

- Writing/publishing psychodynamic work
- Presenting psychodynamic work at workshops
- Careers in psychoanalytic research
- Selection of a psychiatry residency program with a strong psychodynamic focus
- Becoming a psychoanalyst
- Careers in private practice or education
- Selection of a psychoanalytic institute
- Conceptualization of dynamic formulations
- Balancing family and psychoanalytic training
- Integrating psychodynamic thinking with psychopharmacology
- Getting psychodynamic experiences in medical school
- Thinking about psychodynamics in general medical settings

Meetings: Once the mentorship relationship has been established through the AAPDPP Education Committee Chair, it will be up to the mentor and mentee how often to meet. Depending on the needs and capabilities of the mentorship pairs, contact may be in person, by phone, or through computer-based applications. It is recommended by the AAPDPP Education Committee that an in person meeting happen at least once per year with phone calls/email/computer-based applications (e.g. Skype) occurring on a regular basis.

Application Process: The application process for a mentor can happen throughout the academic year. To apply, email the following information to Dr. Katzman (jekatzman@salud.unm.edu): your address, your email address, phone number, year of graduation or anticipated graduation from medical school or residency, name of medical school or residency program, and a brief personal statement outlining your interests and possible areas of mentorship.
Richard D. Chessick, MD PhD

Announces the release of his new book Apologia Pro Vita Mea: An Intellectual Odyssey

This book is a narrative in dialogue form in which the author, now an octogenarian who is a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, and a Ph.D. in philosophy, describes his intellectual evolution from a published laboratory researcher to engagement in the full time clinical teaching and practice of psychoanalysis, psychodynamic psychotherapy, and philosophy. He reviews the development of his ideas through his many publications and offers commentary on the nature of the origin, environment, and content of his thinking at the time each of these were written, also referring to his voluminous diaries.

This serves as a running report on the changing fashions in the field of psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and philosophy over the past sixty-five years along with the author’s opinions about the nature and source of these changes. The book is divided into five parts, arranged chronologically from 1953 to the present time. The first part begins with his research training and experience and his research accomplishments. The second part portrays the evolution, over four decades of the turbulent last half of the twentieth century, of his practice of psychodynamic psychotherapy and also shares his long-term experience in the treatment of borderline patients. The third part reports his contributions to psychoanalysis, and describes his experience of what happened to that discipline, as well as his assessment of where the field stands at this time. The fourth part presents his clinical contributions to the subjects of adolescence, psychosomatic medicine, and the phenomena of falling in love and creativity. The final part offers his contributions to philosophy. It also outlines his continuing effort to understand and deal with especially the philosophical problems at the basis of psychiatry and psychoanalysis, as well as the appearance of these issues in the clinical practice of psychoanalysis and psychodynamic psychiatry.

Peter Alan Olsson, MD

After attending Wheaton College, Olsson trained at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and an internship in mixed medicine at the University of Vermont, Dr. Olsson took a psychiatry residency at Baylor (1968-1971). He served as a psychiatrist at Oakland Naval Hospital from 1971-73 running the substance abuse unit and working with the POWs returning from Vietnam prisons. Olsson later graduated from the Houston-Galveston Psychoanalytic Institute in Houston and practiced psychiatry and psychotherapy while teaching psychotherapy in Houston for 25 years... and subsequently in New Hampshire since 1995. Olsson was an assistant professor of psychiatry at Dartmouth Med School and a professor of clinical psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.
In 1980, Olsson received the Judith Baskin Offer Prize for his paper, "Adolescent involvement in Cults and the Supernatural". Dr. Olsson is a Fellow of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and a distinguished life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He retired from active clinical work to write full time in September 2011.

Published Books:


A PSYCHOTHERAPIST’S SANCTUARIES FROM SOUL-SADNESS. SBPRA, Houston (2016)

ADVENTURES IN PSYCHODRAMA. Create Space of Amazon (2017) In Press


COUNTERFEIT GODS. Create Space of Amazon (2017)


THE BIG BANG TRILOGY: A Political Theological Fantasy. Create Space of Amazon (2017)


And a poem collection, POEMS BEHIND A PSYCHIATRIST’S COUCH: Red Lead Press, Pittsburgh.

For additional publications see Olsson website. www.drpeterolsson.com

Member News Continued on the Next Page ⇒
Leah Davidson, MD

Dr. Davidson is being recognized by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) as a 50-year member of that organization. The congratulatory letter from Dr. Saul Levin, CEO and Medical Director of the APA, states that Dr. Davidson “joins an elite group of psychiatrists with the honorary distinction who continue to make significant contributions to the field of psychiatry.”

Dr. Davidson will attend the 2018 Convocation of Distinguished Fellows during the APA Annual Meeting in New York, where she will be honored and publicly acknowledged. She will also attend the President’s reception which is being held for the new 50-year members and their guests.

We invite you to submit your personal news and professional accomplishments in the Academy e-News. To submit an item of interest, simply mail the information you would like to share with your colleagues to the AAPDP Executive Office at One Regency Drive, Bloomfield, CT 06002 or email to info@AAPDP.org.

HAPPY SPRINGTIME!