

## LETTER FROM THE 2006-2007 PRESIDENT AND THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR/CEO

### *Dear Colleague:*

Three words capture the spirit of the American Psychiatric Association's work on behalf of you—our members—and patients in 2006: productive, effective and collaborative. This annual report documents the APA's achievements over the course of 2006, but you will notice that these accomplishments do not belong to the APA alone. The APA's achievements are a “collective public good,” through collaboration with our members, patients, and the medical and mental health communities.

Our shared efforts can be characterized as “Bridging Cultures.” In 2006, the work of the APA and our members spanned across America, as well as other countries and continents:

- With conflicts continuing in Iraq and Afghanistan, psychiatrists were there. We served, healed and added to our body of knowledge about post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and war.
- With the floodwaters of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma having receded but the mental health toll still high, the APA and our members were there. We rebuilt, helped patients and learned about the human cost of natural disasters.
- When unusual cases of mania—apparently resulting from HIV infection—emerged in Uganda, Africa, we were there. The *American Journal of Psychiatry* published a compelling study from psychiatrists at Mulago and Butabika hospitals.
- And in countless other ways, the APA and our members have worked to bring quality mental health care to patients in underserved and minority communities and regions in turmoil here and abroad.

The APA continues to build strong ties with stakeholders in the fields of medicine and mental health. We have enhanced our work with patient groups, such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mental Health America and others. We have increased our interactions with a variety of federal agencies: the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and more. We have formed stronger working relationships with the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association. And we have worked with the World Psychiatric Association and other key international allies, as well.

The working relationships we have cemented with other groups do not exist in a vacuum. These relationships exist because we all share the goal of “addressing patient needs”—a theme that will be fully explored at our 2007 APA Annual Meeting in San Diego.

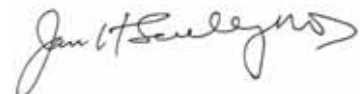
In closing, we recall fondly two APA members whose untimely deaths in 2006 marked a real loss for our patients and our profession: Marian “Mimi” Butterfield, M.D., who for many years chaired the APA's Scientific Program Committee; and Wayne Fenton, M.D., an NIMH administrator and renowned schizophrenia expert. We miss them both.

The APA belongs to you, our members, so it follows that the association's successes are your successes. Please let us know how the APA can best serve you, patients and the psychiatric profession.

Sincerely,



Pedro Ruiz, M.D.  
President



James H. Scully Jr., M.D.  
Medical Director and CEO