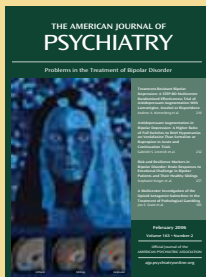


# Leading the American Journal of Psychiatry

Two-thousand six marked my first year as editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Psychiatry* (*AJP*). Also joining the journal as deputy editors were Daniel Pine, M.D.—signifying a commitment to child psychiatry—and Susan K. Schultz, M.D.—showing a commitment to geriatric psychiatry and clinical practice.



In 2006, *AJP* took steps to become more accessible to its readers. New initiatives included editorials by leading scientists who interpreted research for practitioners, as well as evidence-based case reviews of topics relevant to practicing psychiatrists. Other new features included patient vignettes for research articles; “Issues for *DSM-IV*” editorials; an enhanced Web site that promotes articles of note; and “*AJP* Audio”—a downloadable audio file containing highlights of each issue. The journal also began offering continuing medical education (CME) credit for taking short courses on material presented in selected articles from each issue.

In 2006, *AJP* also published groundbreaking studies on a range of key topics:

- **Challenging the FDA’s Warning on Antidepressants.** A 10-year population-based study in the January issue challenged the Food & Drug Administration’s (FDA) warning that suicidal behavior might emerge after treatment with antidepressant medications. The research found that risk of suicide is decreased, rather than increased, in patients taking antidepressant medications. The study’s authors concluded that the positive effects exceed those of earlier generation drugs.

- **Reporting on Unusual Mania Due to HIV in Uganda.** The August issue published a study conducted at two Ugandan hospitals investigating unusual cases of mania resulting from patients’ HIV infection. In this population, the study said, presenting symptoms were clinically and immunologically distinct from more typical cases of mania. The Ugandan psychiatrists’ recognition of many unusual cases of mania, which they then related to the active AIDS illness in their patients, reminded us that the brain is a sensitive indicator of disease.

- **Identifying Injury Severity as a Risk Factor for PTSD and Depression among U.S. Soldiers.** The October issue published the first study on soldiers seriously wounded or injured during combat in Iraq or Afghanistan and reported that injury severity may predict risk for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression. With recent improvements in battlefield medical care, more soldiers with severe injuries are surviving with severe physical disabilities, as well as with combat-associated PTSD and depression. Identifying the most important risk factors for later PTSD and depression could lead to early interventions for preventing or moderating these conditions.

- **Linking Antidepressant Prescriptions to Lower Suicide Rates in Adolescents.** The November issue published findings of a county-by-county study of the entire U.S., revealing that counties with the highest rate of prescribing of antidepressants had the lowest suicide rates in children. Studies such as this one yield important information in assessing whether or not the recently reported significant reductions in prescribing of antidepressant medications for teens with depression is in the best interests of patients.

Other major articles published during 2006 included the majority of first reports from CATIE (Clinical Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness), STAR\*D (Sequenced Treatment Alternatives to Relieve Depression), and STEP-BD (Systematic Treatment Enhancement Program for Bipolar Disorder), the three major clinical trials investigating adult psychopharmacology sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health.

The journal also published two editorials on conflict of interest in 2006, and we are confident that *AJP*'s standards for disclosures of competing interests are among the most stringent.

Also in 2006, a new Chinese edition of *AJP* debuted, joining an enhanced Spanish edition. Today the *American Journal of Psychiatry* continues to have the highest number of citations of any psychiatry journal in the world.

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**By Robert Freedman, M.D.**



Robert Freedman, M.D., editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

## *A Major Task: DSM-V Commences*



The DSM-V Task Force.

In April 2006, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) announced my appointment as chair of the task force that will oversee the upcoming fifth edition of the APA's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V)*. Appointed as vice chair was my good friend and colleague, Darrel A. Regier, M.D., M.P.H., who also serves as director of the APA's Division of Research. The joint appointments provide Darrel and I the unique opportunity to closely link the nation's professional-psychiatric and academic-research communities as we move forward to develop the *DSM-V*.

The *DSM-V* Task Force will establish approximately 15 work groups, consisting of about 10 to 15 members, each of whom will bring research and/or clinical expertise on a given disorder or group of disorders.



Over the next several years, these groups will review scientific advances and examine the extent to which new research-based information warrants modifying the current organization of disorders, descriptions of disorders or the diagnostic criteria. The previous edition of the manual, *DSM-IV*, was published in 1994, with a text revision, known as *DSM-IV-TR*, issued in 2000. It is scheduled to be replaced by *DSM-V* in 2012.

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**By David J. Kupfer, M.D.**



David Kupfer, M.D., chair of the *DSM-V* Task Force and chair of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh.

# Research & Education

**In 2006**, the APA's Divisions of Education and Research, together with the American Psychiatric Institute for Research and Education (APIRE), expanded upon the scientific basis of psychiatry through international meetings, educational opportunities and more.

The Division of Education has primary responsibility for the annual meeting and the Institute on Psychiatric Services, among other key activities. The Division of Research supports the APA's ability to respond to calls from Congress, the press, APA members and others on issues stemming from the rapidly changing scientific environment of medical practice. Each call attaches new urgency to the APA's ability to anticipate and address fast-breaking demands on issues related to evidence-based practice; patient privacy in the era of Web-based electronic health records; and the priority psychiatry attaches to the safety and efficacy of an expanding therapeutic armamentarium.

**Hosting the World's Largest Psychiatric Gathering.** The APA's 159th Annual Meeting, themed "From Science to Public Policy: Advocacy for Patients and the Profession," was held in Toronto, Canada, May 20-25. The total registration was 18,374, nearly half of whom were international attendees. Topics included a special track on alcoholism sponsored by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA); mental illnesses around the world; advancing women's mental health; and much more.

**Promoting Community Psychiatry.** The APA's 58th Institute on Psychiatric Services, "Trauma and Violence in Our Communities," was held in New York, N.Y., Oct. 5-8. The meeting scored the highest attendance in the history of the IPS, with a total registration of 2,263, nearly half of whom were APA members. In conjunction with the IPS, the October issue of *Psychiatric Services* was the largest edition ever published. The issue was distributed to all attendees and featured four reports on supported employment, a key component of best-practice treatment of persons with severe mental illnesses.

The outgoing APA president, Steven S. Sharfstein, M.D., passed the gavel to incoming APA President Pedro Ruiz, M.D.



Canadian Psychiatric Association President Donald Milliken, M.D., welcomed attendees during the Opening Session of the APA annual meeting in Toronto.



Incoming APA President Pedro Ruiz, M.D., outlined his objectives for the coming year during the Opening Session of the APA annual meeting.





Annelle Primm, M.D., M.P.H., director of the APA's Office of Minority & National Affairs, was joined by Kaney Fedovskiy, M.D., recipient of APA/Pfizer Minority Psychiatric Research Fellowship, and Darrel A. Regier, M.D., M.P.H., director of the APA's Division of Research.



The American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc., bookstore continued to draw a large crowd at the annual meeting.

**Promoting the Scientific Facts on Mental Illnesses.** The APA applauded the efforts of U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick (R-N.C.) to raise public awareness about the facts and science related to mental illnesses and treatments. She initiated an Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing on mental health disorders, entitled "Mental Illness and Brain Disease: Dispelling Myths and Promoting Recovery Through Awareness and Treatment."

**Guiding Psychiatric Practice Related to HIV/AIDS.** The APA convened a work group, which issued a guideline watch in April on psychiatric treatment of patients

with HIV/AIDS. It summarized the scientific literature published since the last full practice guideline was issued. Additionally, the APA convened a separate work group to issue a full update to the HIV/AIDS practice guideline.

**Supporting DSM's PTSD Criteria.** The APA, in support of the DSM's current criteria for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), testified before an Institute of Medicine expert committee charged to examine proposals by the Department of Veterans Affairs to modify diagnostic criteria for PTSD.



Attendees registered for the 2006 IPS meeting in New York, which drew its largest crowd ever: more than 2,200 attendees.



Steven S. Sharfstein, M.D., outgoing APA president, threw out the first pitch at a Toronto Blue Jays baseball game during the APA annual meeting in May. A portion of the ticket sales benefited the American Psychiatric Foundation.



## AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

### Advancing Psychiatric Practice through Research and Education

The American Psychiatric Institute for Research and Education (APIRE) contributes to the scientific base of psychiatric practice and policy by conducting and supporting projects that bridge the gap between research and practice. Among APIRE's activities in 2006:

- APIRE staff designed and conducted a national survey of psychiatrists to assess problems with continuity of care for dual-eligible patients in the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program. Preliminary findings indicate that more than half of the dual-eligible patients studied had at least one problem with medication access or continuity during the calendar year. Nearly 70 percent of patients with medication access problems experienced a significant adverse clinical event, such as an emergency department visit, hospitalization, homelessness, or detained/incarcerated in a jail or prison.

These data already have been used to help advocate for strengthened Medicare Part D policies to help protect psychiatric patients. Given the real-time availability and policy-relevance of this APIRE study, findings are being fast-tracked for publication in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

- "The Future of Psychiatric Diagnosis: Refining the Research Agenda" consists of a series of 12 research-planning conferences, being organized and administered by APIRE in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the National Institutes of Health, which is funding the study. The fourth year of this five-year initiative saw successful completion

of international conferences on four broad diagnostic topics: psychosis as it manifests in multiple disorders; the spectrum of obsessive-compulsive behaviors; consideration of the pros and cons of incorporating a dimensional component into psychiatric classification systems; and contemporary concepts of somatic presentations of mental disorders. A summary of each of the conferences can be viewed at [www.dsm5.org](http://www.dsm5.org).

- In collaboration with the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the American College of Physicians (ACP), APIRE completed a research demonstration project designed to assess the clinical utility of the Physician's Health Questionnaire-9 item (PHQ-9), a simple quantitative instrument, in measuring the severity of depression and monitoring patients' progress during treatment. According to participating psychiatrists' reports, PHQ-9 scores influenced clinical decisions for 93 percent of patient contacts—for example, to use a different medication or to change a dosage, or to initiate or increase psychotherapy. Constant PHQ-9 monitoring also pointed to the need for additional suicide risk assessment with at-risk patients. Reports of the project will be submitted to the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.



## AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC PUBLISHING, INC. The First and Last Word in Psychiatry

In March 2006, American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc. (APPI), the APA's publishing unit, celebrated its 25th anniversary. APPI is the world's premier publisher of books, journals and multimedia on psychiatry, and is the publisher of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, the oldest continuously published medical specialty journal in the U.S. With more than 700 active titles in its backlist, APPI currently publishes between 35 and 50 new titles each year. APPI publishes six journals, one newspaper, three Web sites and numerous eBooks, as well as online self-assessments.

APPI's mission is to publish printed and online products that enhance education, research and treatment to advance the science and practice of psychiatry and enable the best possible treatments for people with mental illnesses. In producing its products, the APPI staff is committed to accuracy, authenticity and quality.

APPI had another very successful year in 2006, setting new sales and readership benchmarks. APPI books and journals continued to expand their reach and are now available in 30 languages. With over \$28 million in total revenues in 2006—nearly 10 percent over budget—publishing activities accounted for the largest percentage of revenue in the APA. APPI's signature-content Web portal, [www.PsychiatryOnline.com](http://www.PsychiatryOnline.com), attracted over a thousand new subscribers in 2006 and achieved over \$500,000 in revenues.

Other APPI highlights in 2006 include:

- The Psychiatry Legacy Collection, dating back to 1844, became available online. Fully searchable, high-resolution scans were created from the original printed pages to ensure easy online reading and printing. Access to the Psychiatry Legacy Collection, partnered with a subscription to the current volume, allows members' contemporary research and clinical practice to be placed in the context of the history of psychiatry.
- New study guides in subject areas from geriatric to forensic psychiatry, and a new attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder book were published. Each publication offered fresh and innovative perspectives to psychiatric physicians and mental health professionals.

- *The Practice Guidelines Compendium 2006* was published, containing updated evidence-based guidelines for the treatment of psychiatric disorders. APPI also released new publications about psychoanalysis and bipolar disorder.

### In total APPI released 38 new books during 2006, including:

*The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Schizophrenia*  
*Introductory Textbook of Psychiatry, Fourth Edition*  
*The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Suicide Assessment and Management*  
*Bipolar Depression, A Comprehensive Guide*  
*Understanding and Treating Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder*  
*The Psychiatric Interview in Clinical Practice, Second Edition*

*The American Psychiatric Publishing Board Prep and Review Guide for Psychiatry*  
*Dreams of Love and Fateful Encounters: The Power of Romantic Passion*  
*Essentials of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*  
*Essentials of Psychosomatic Medicine*  
*Essentials of Clinical Psychopharmacology, Second Edition*

