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APA Annual Meeting to Examine Campus Violence

ARLINGTON, Va. (April 8, 2008) – Factors that caused communities to miss warning signs of rampage killings, campus safety, and the impact of campus violence on state mental health systems are among the topics related to recent school shootings that will be discussed in presentations at the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., May 3-8.

Research, educational information and expert analysis on this topic will be featured among the thousands of sessions offered during the meeting. Highlights on campus violence include:

“School Shootings: Threat Recognition and Prevention” symposium chaired by Jerald Block, M.D., on Tuesday, May 6, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. will feature three experts on violence in schools who will discuss this important topic. Presentations will include the factors that cause some communities to miss the warning signs for rampage killings, the link between the shooting at Columbine High School and computer use, and the FBI’s procedure for threat assessment.

“The Social Responsibility of Universities for the Mental Health of Students and Community Safety” symposium chaired by former APA President Steven Sharfstein, M.D., on Monday, May 5, 2-5 p.m., will explore the questions raised since the 2007 tragedy at Virginia Tech, including the responsibility of colleges and universities toward the mental health needs of students and the safety of the university community. Presenters include chairs of the APA Corresponding Committee on Mental Health on College and University Campuses and the APA Council on Psychiatry and Law.

“The Virginia Tech Tragedy’s Influence on Virginia’s Mental Health System” symposium chaired by Yad M Jabbarpour, M.D., on Tuesday, May 6, 2-5 p.m., will address the potential influences of a tragedy on a state’s mental health system and different perspectives on mental health system reform. The panel includes law professor Richard J. Bonnie, chair of Virginia’s Commission on Mental Health Law Reform, and former *Washington Post* reporter Pete Earley, a father with a son living with mental illness and son who is a student at Virginia Tech.

For more information about these presentations and others, please view the Annual Meeting [2008 Scientific Program](#) and [2008 New Research Posters](#).

Journalists may register in advance for the meeting through Friday, April 25, 2008. Onsite registration will begin on Saturday, May 3. Registration is free for credentialed journalists. For more information and to register, visit APA’s Online Press Room at <http://www.psych.org/MainMenu/Newsroom/OnlinePressRoom.aspx>. Please be sure to check this site regularly, as new releases and information will be posted leading up to the meeting.

*****Please note: all Annual Meeting content is embargoed until the date and time of its presentation.**

The APA Annual Meeting Communications Center Press Room:

The APA Annual Meeting Communications Center will be located in Room 206, Level 2 of the Washington Convention Center. The Center serves as a media briefing room and a working press room for credentialed journalists and non-profit public relations staff. The press room is managed and staffed by the APA's Office of Communications & Public Affairs.

Press Room Hours are:

Saturday, May 3, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sunday-Wednesday, May 4-7, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.;
Thursday, May 8, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

About the American Psychiatric Association:

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society whose more than 38,000 physician members specialize in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at www.psych.org and www.HealthyMinds.org.

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