



For Information Contact:

Beth Casteel, 703-907-8640

press@psych.org

Rhondalee Dean-Royce, 703-907-7820

royce@psych.org

For Immediate Release:

April 15, 2008

Release No. 08-22

State, Federal Policy on Mental Healthcare Top Agenda at APA Annual Meeting

ARLINGTON, Va. (April 16, 2008) – Confidentiality of medical records and healthcare finance reform are among public policy topics to be discussed at the 161st American Psychiatric Association (APA) Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., May 3-8.

The symposiums and workshops, which include experts from across the field of psychiatry and advocacy, will highlight the important role government and psychiatrists play in developing effective healthcare policy.

Highlights on healthcare policy-related topics include:

“On the Brink: Universal Health Insurance and Mental Health Services,” workshop chaired by Anita S. Everett, M.D., on Monday, May 5, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center, Room 154A/B Level One, will feature experts who will discuss multiple state and federal universal health care issues and proposals in addition to the impact universal access to health insurance might have on mental health care delivery.

“Health Care Financing Reform: The Good, the Bad and the Necessary” symposium chaired by Leslie Gise, M.D., on Tuesday, May 6, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center, Room 146C, Level One, will cover an overview of health care financing reform, why psychiatrists should be in the forefront of single-payer support, what the candidates are saying, the impact of our current system on psychologist prescribing, the prospects for major health reform and practice in a privately delivered but government financed system.

“Privacy and Fraud Policies and Electronic Health Records,” symposium chaired by Zebulon Taintor, M.D., on Wednesday, May 7, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center, Room 154 A/B Level One, will feature experts who will each discuss the facts and concerns of confidentiality, privacy and security issues of psychiatric records and electronic records.

“Advocacy: What Medical Students, Residents, and Early Career Psychiatrists Need to Know to Affect Change in the Political Process,” workshop chaired by Jose Vito, M.D., on Wednesday, May 7, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Washington Convention Center, Room 102A/B, Level One will focus on the essential need of psychiatrists, especially members-in-training, as grassroots advocates to set and shape mental health policy agendas at all levels of government. The workshop will help develop an understanding of the resources and skills needed to develop an effective state strategy for educating the public and influencing local legislatures and other decision-makers about issues such as access to care, the crisis in funding in the public mental health care system, and the impact of scope of practice issues on safe and effective patient care

For more information about these symposiums, workshops 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.

###