



# Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry

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**CIRCULAR LETTER #613**  
**PRE-MEETING SPRING**  
**MARCH 2010**

## From the President

As this record breaking winter of 2009-2010 draws to a close, it is time to set sights on our 2010 GAP Spring meeting. Soon, the aching back from shoveling record snow fall across the country, the incredible achievement of the US and Canada Winter Olympic athletes (most medals – US, most gold medals – Canada) will be relegated to mere memory and fodder for future cocktail hour discussions. The economy is slowly recovering as is our GAP financial portfolio. Hope springs eternal, in more ways than one.



After over 25 years of hearing how our dues are unfair to West Coast and small market members due to high travel costs, I thought it was appropriate to experience this first hand as president to better appreciate the situation. Before our spring meeting, I am moving from Philadelphia to join the faculty at USC in Los Angeles. It's as far west as I could find, short of Hawaii. The snow is excess of 5 feet in suburban Philadelphia had nothing to do with my decision. It was motivated more by a desire to have a more empathic perspective of the travel issue.

All kidding aside, the impending move has reminded me, yet again, why GAP is so important. Our committee work is meaningful and stimulating. The various scholarly products we produce are a source of pride for us all. But what really makes GAP special is the personal relationships and collegiality we share. In the end, life really is about our family and friends, and few professional organizations offer the nurturing environment of GAP.

Many thanks to all the Committees and members who have continued to be productive between meetings. You have been keeping David and the Publications Board busy, a good thing. We have received a generous donation from our long-time friend, Dear Abby. Jeanne is hoping to make the meeting if her schedule permits. It would be nice to acknowledge her generosity in person. I, and others on the Board, have communicated our gratitude to her by phone.

I look forward to seeing you all in April. I'll let you know what it's like to not drive to White Plains.

Safe Travels!

Dave Baron



### DATES OF FUTURE GAP MEETINGS

2010  
April 15-17  
November 11-13

2011  
April 7-9  
November 10-12

2012  
March 29-31  
November 15-17

2013  
April 4-6  
November 14-16

2014  
April 10-12  
November 13-15

2015  
April 16-18  
November 12-14

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## **Announcements:**

**The Nominating Committee chaired by Lois Flaherty, presents the following candidates for the Board of Directors for 2010 – 2012. The election will be held at the Membership Breakfast Meeting on Saturday, April 17:**

### **Ellen Berman**

Dr. Ellen Berman is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. She serves as Founder and Director of Training at the Center for Couples and Adult Families in the Department of Psychiatry at Penn. She is in charge of residency training in family care (psychoeducation and family therapy) in the Department. Dr. Berman is also in private practice.

Dr. Berman is a graduate of the University of Florida School of Medicine and completed her psychiatric training at the University of Pennsylvania. Previous positions include Director of Training at Marriage Council of Philadelphia, and Founder and Consultant to the Women's Center at Belmont Hospital. She has published multiple papers and chapters on clinical and training issues, and is a co-author of *Marital and Family Therapy*, 4th edition. She has served on the Board of Directors of Family Process, AAMFT, and AFTA. She is currently president of the Association of Family Psychiatrists. Dr. Berman has been a member of GAP since 1984 and served as Chair of the Committee on the Family from 2002 to the present.

### **Larry Gross**

Lawrence S. Gross, M.D., is on the faculty at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he has served in a variety of roles, including past Director of psychiatric inpatient, outpatient, partial hospitalization, and residency training programs. A graduate of Rice University and the West Virginia University School of Medicine, he completed his general psychiatry residency at West Virginia University, Charleston Division, followed by a fellowship in clinical psychiatry at the University of Southern California, where he also received a Masters of Education (M.S.Ed.) degree. Following his fellowship, he was on the full-time faculty at USC and served as the Director of the LA County/USC Adult Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic prior to joining the faculty at Cedars-Sinai, where he continues his clinical teaching and patient care. He has clinical faculty appointments at both USC and UCLA. Dr. Gross is a Distinguished Fellow of the APA, a Fellow of the American College of Psychiatrists, and an ABPN Part II examiner. An APA Assembly Representative, he also serves on the councils of the Southern California Psychiatric Society and the California Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Gross has been a member of GAP and the Committee on Psychopharmacology since 2000. He served on the Publications Board from 2004-2005. He has been a member of the GAP Fellowship Committee since 2003 and its Chair since 2005, serving as an administrative member of the Board of Directors.

### **Robert Larsen**

I have been a GAP member for approximately two decades. My particular areas of professional practice involve occupational and forensic psychiatry with an emphasis on civil litigation and administrative matters related to the work place. While trained in molecular biology I have a master's degree in public health emphasizing health planning. As a Robert Johnson Clinical Scholar I studied health policy at Stanford and UCSF. I am a clinical professor at UCSF involved in the forensic psychiatric fellowship program. I have run a successful medical group for 25 years. I am past president of our state's Occupational Medicine Association. For 13 years I served on the Industrial Medical Council in California with a multi-million dollar budget and regulatory responsibility for treatment and evaluation in a multi-billion dollar benefits system. I have served on the finance committee for the American College of Psychiatrists. My business acumen combined with experience in lobbying and advocacy would be brought to my role with the GAP Board of Directors. I ask for your support and pledge my commitment to making our organization not only viable but strong in the 21st Century.

### **Fred Stoddard**

Dr. Frederick Stoddard is Associate Clinical Professor at Harvard Medical School, Psychiatrist at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Chief of Psychiatry at the affiliated Shriners Burns Hospital for Children, and senior attending at the MGH Burn Center. Originally from Milwaukee, he graduated from Bowdoin College and Case Western Reserve University Medical School, interned in pediatrics at Yale, trained in psychiatry and child psychiatry at Harvard-affiliated hospitals, and worked in the Job Corps, and in intramural research on bipolar illness at NIMH. He is inspired by the work of Erich Lindemann and Stanley Cobb in burn and disaster psychiatry, and has led trainings and responses to disasters. He leads a team investigating psychopathology and resilience associated with burns and other trauma, pain management, and interventions for PTSD, depression, and body image disorders. He teaches students and residents, mentors junior investigators, and has over 80 publications. In 2003 he co-founded, with Knight Aldrich, GAP's energetic Committee on Disasters and Terrorism. In 2009, this Committee published a book for primary care clinicians, edited by Drs Stoddard, Craig Katz and Joseph Merlino: "Hidden Impact: What You Need to Know for the Next Disaster: A Practical Mental Health Guide for Clinicians." Currently, the Committee, in collaboration with Disaster Psychiatry Outreach (D.P.O.) of New York, is writing a Clinical Manual of Disaster Psychiatry for psychiatrists, to be edited by Drs Stoddard, Anand Pandya, and Craig Katz, for publication by APPI in 2011. It will be the basis for an APA course. He lectures widely, is a past president of the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society, and serves as Area I Trustee of the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Stoddard has been a member of GAP since 1998 attracted by its leadership on social issues, first on the Committee on Disabilities, and has chaired the Committee on Disasters and Terrorism from 2003-present.

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**Commentary on Fall 2009 Plenary Session:**

As a physician and psychiatrist with an undergraduate degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology, I listened with interest to the topic of epigenetics presented at the plenary session of GAP in November. There certainly have been some remarkable advances in our understanding of the human genome since I finished my studies in the mid 1970s. I did not find the concept of genes being turned on and off in part based upon one's gender or as a result of aging to be all that surprising. In understanding complex concepts we often think in a dualistic manner. Hot/cold, conservative/liberal, mental/physical. So too with the concept of genetic expression. Many physicians have been taught to think of genotype being expressed through external environmental conditions through a phenotype. The reality is that the environment is not necessarily external to the organism or to the cell. Thus, epigenetics is merely an extrapolation of the field of genetics as understood by basic science researchers.

In the question and answer portion of the plenary session following the formal presentation, a question was put forth by a member of the audience as to how one's personal genetic information might be used by the criminal justice system. The response that we received was that predicting human behavior based upon one's genome is some time down the road. The respondent indicated that "if" a correlation could be found for antisocial behavior and a person's gene structure, ethical and legal issues would arise as to how such information would be accessed. Frankly, that day is upon us. The issue is not so much if the field of molecular genetics will advance to the point where it has predictive value but rather when for certain predispositions, deficiencies and disorders.

In 2002, 36 employees of Burlington Northern collectively received a \$2.2 million settlement from their employer. One of the employees/litigants was directed by the company to a physician who took samples of blood. Only later did that maintenance worker, who had been diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome, find out that the employer intended to perform genetic testing to determine whether he had a pre-existing, biological predisposition for what would otherwise have been considered an industrial condition. As a result of cases of this sort, the Genetic-Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) was passed by congress and recently signed into law. Without these types of protections, employers and insurers could make decisions regarding hiring, promotion, insurance coverage and compensability on disability claims using genetic information. I for one do not think it is a stretch for the field of psychiatry to be seeing in the relatively near future the use of genetic markers in the treatment planning process. I also predict that in forensic psychiatry, involving both civil and criminal venues, psychological testing will evolve from paper and pencil tests to more commonly involve sophisticated brain imaging and genetic testing. We are not there yet but the advances in the field of molecular genetics as they involve the neurosciences are moving forward at a brisk pace.

With these considerations I found the session on epigenetics to be timely. We are entering a brave new world.

Bob Laresn, M.D.,  
Director Center for Occupational Psychiatry  
Clinical Professor, UCSF Medical School  
Member, Committee on Work and Organizations, GAP

APRIL 2010 MEETING 127TH MEETING OF  
GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010

10:00 a.m.	GAP Office Opens	Masfield A Room
10:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	Masfield B Room
12:30 p.m.	Publications Board	Hutchinson A Room
2:00 p.m.	Board of Directors	Cooper B Room
4:00 p.m.	Fellows Meeting	Cooper A Room
4:30 p.m.	Fellows Selection Committee	Masfield B Room
5:30 p.m.	Reception of the Board of Directors	Room 688
6:30 p.m.	Fellows Dinner	Cooper A Room
9:00 p.m.	Career Development for Women	Masfield B Room
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Hosted by: Committee on Medical Education	Irving A and B Rooms

Thursday Committee Meetings:

College Student	7 p.m.	80 West Red Oak (8 people)
Disaster & Terrorism	8 p.m.	80 West Red Oak (7 people)
Family	8 p.m.	80 West Red Oak (7 people)
Psychopathology	3:30 p.m.	Gallery Room

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FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
8:30 a.m.	General Membership Meeting	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:30 a.m.	Committee Meetings	
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break	
12:00 noon	Luncheon	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
	Steering Committee Meeting	Irving A Room
1:00 p.m.	Fellows Meeting	Irving B Room
2:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings	
3:00 p.m.	Coffee Break	
5:00 p.m.	Plenary Session: "Violence Risk Assessment: The State of the Science," John Monahan, M.D.	
6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception	Red Oak Terrace
7:30 p.m.	Dinner	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:00 p.m.	Hospitality Hosted by: Mental Health Services	Foyer - Cooper-Greeley Rooms

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2010

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
	Steering Committee Meeting	Irving B Room
	Fellows Breakfast Meeting	Irving A Room
9:00 a.m.	Committee Meetings	
11:30 a.m.	Lunch	Cooper Room

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

ADOLESCENCE	ROOM 634
AGING	MASEFIELD B ROOM
ADDICTIONS	VANDERBILT SUITE/ROOM 107
CHILD PSYCHIATRY	LIBRARY ROOM
COLLEGE STUDENT	VERANDA ROOM
CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY	PORTICO ROOM
DISABILITIES	ROOM 221
DISASTERS AND TERRORISM	ROOM 217
FAMILY	HUTCHINSON B ROOM
GENDER ISSUES AND MENTAL HEALTH	HUTCHINSON A ROOM
HISTORY AND PSYCHIATRY	JOHN JAY SUITE/ROOM 102
HUMAN AGGRESSION	ROOM 223
HUMAN SEXUALITY	ROOM 207
IMG	KYKUIT SUITE/ROOM 103
LGBT	ROOM 201
MEDICAL EDUCATION	PARLOR ROOM
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	ZENGER ROOM
PLANNING, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	ROOM 305
PREVENTIVE PSYCHIATRY	ROOM 215
PSYCHIATRY AND THE COMMUNITY	HUDSON ROOM
PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW	SLEEPY HOLLOW/ROOM 105
PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROSCIENCE	ROOM 219
PSYCHIATRY AND RELIGION	ROOM 209
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY	GALLERY ROOM
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY	ROOM 688
PSYCHOTHERAPY	LYNDHURST SUITE/ROOM 104
RESEARCH	ROOM 203
SOCIAL ISSUES	ROOM 211
TERRORISM and POLITICAL VIOLENCE	ROOM 205
WORK AND ORGANIZATIONS	VAN CORTLANDT/ROOM 106