



Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry

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CIRCULAR LETTER #619

OCTOBER 2011

PRE-MEETING FALL

Message From the President

As I reported in the last Circular Letter, the Committee on Planning, Marketing and Communications (CPMC), chaired by Paul Fink, has been working on increasing GAP's profile to reach a wider audience. Also as previously mentioned, there are important reasons for moving in this direction. Media interest in GAP publications means increased visibility for the organization. Increased visibility within psychiatry means increased resident interest in the GAP Fellowship. Increased notice outside the profession may assist GAP in getting foundation grants, commercial funding, or other financial support for individual Committee work, the GAP Fellowship and other future projects.



The Committee on Planning, Marketing and Communications interviewed several publicists who might assist with this project. However the cost of engaging those services are prohibitive at the present time. Instead, GAP reached out to [Catchafire](#), a visionary new organization whose mission is connecting business professionals interested in volunteering their skills to provide *pro bono* assistance to nonprofit and social enterprises.

This past August, I attended a Catchafire planning event in downtown Manhattan with Committee members Aaron Krasner and Josh Gibson (with kudos to Josh for flying in from San Francisco for a day!). The meeting's purpose was to help refine our collaboration with Catchafire. Following consultation with the rest of the Planning Committee, we contracted with Catchafire to assist with five projects to enhance GAP's public profile as the world's premier psychiatric think tank: branding, public relations, communications planning, web development, and social media expansion. The goal is to create an expanding media presence and an entree into the social media domain while preserving GAP's core identity as a group of independent thinkers and advocates for humanistic psychiatric practice.

This is already going on in GAP's LGBT Committee, which has been actively engaged in bringing modern psychiatric knowledge and expertise to a wider audience through media training and by writing opinion pieces for lay publications. Speaking from personal experience, the media has shown ever increasing interest in my scholarly work and its translation into advocacy. This summer I appeared on *ABC World News Tonight* to offer a professional psychiatric opinion about the questionable counseling practices of a mental health clinic run by a Republican presidential candidate's husband. *Time Magazine* called my comments about "conversion therapy" [a quote of the day](#). Even conservative *FoxNews.com* recently asked to publish my opinion pieces on the issues of [increased visibility of transgender celebrities](#) and [the recent demise of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy](#).

In my continuing efforts to explain why psychiatry needs to have a more public voice on a wide range of issues, I will talk about "When Politics Distorts Science: A Psychiatrist Reports from the Trenches of the Culture Wars" at the GAP fall plenary. I will explain how special interest groups often try to distort scientific findings to achieve single-minded political or economic objectives. These activities, which also include

the publicizing of pseudo-research created solely to support political agendas, raise the troubling question of whether science as we know it can survive politicization. I will also review the techniques used to distort science in the media and offer some practical suggestions about the role psychiatrists can play in correcting distortions in their personal and professional communities. I look forward to your feedback and responses.

An old joke begins with, "How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb? The answer: "Just one; but it takes a very long time and the light bulb has to want to change." How many psychiatrists will it take to change GAP into a 21st century, media-oriented think tank? It will take all of our expertise and we will also have to want to change. But hopefully it will not take too long!

Before closing, I would like to repeat the Publications Committee's request for new members. If you are interested, which primarily involves peer review of manuscripts submitted by your fellow GAP members, please let David Adler know. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming GAP meeting this fall in White Plains.



Jack Drescher, M.D., President

NOVEMBER 2011 MEETING
130TH MEETING OF
GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

10:00 a.m.	GAP Office Opens	Masefield A Room
10:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting	Masefield 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	Masefield B Room
5:30 p.m.	Reception of the Board of Directors	Room 688
6:30 p.m.	Fellows Dinner	Cooper A Room
7:00 p.m.	Child Psychiatry	Library Room
9:00 p.m.	Career Development for Women	Masefield B Room
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Hosted by: Psychopathology	Irving A and B Rooms

Thursday Committee Meetings:

Administration & Management	7:00 p.m.	Restaurant (6 people) Dr. Merlino
Child Psychiatry	7:30 p.m.	Library Room
College Student	7:00 p.m.	Restaurant (6 people) Dr. Miner
Family	8:00 p.m.	Restaurant (6 people) Dr. Berman
Psychopathology	3:30 p.m.	Gallery Room
Research	7:00 p.m.	Restaurant (6 people) Dr. Kramer
Work and Organizations	7:30 p.m.	Restaurant (6 people) Dr. Gibson

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011

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: “When Politics Distorts Science: A Psychiatrist Reports from the Trenches of the Culture Wars” Jack Drescher, M.D.	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception	Red Oak Terrace
7:30 p.m.	Dinner	Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:00 p.m.	Hospitality Hosted by: Psychopharmacology	Foyer - Cooper-Greeley Rooms

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011

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 405
AGING	MASEFIELD B ROOM
ADDICTIONS	ROOM 223
ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT	ZENGER ROOM
CHILD PSYCHIATRY	LIBRARY ROOM
COLLEGE STUDENT	VERANDA ROOM
CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY	PORTICO ROOM
DISABILITIES/Committee on Professionalism	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 SEXUALITY	ROOM 207
IMG/Global Psychiatry	KYKUIT SUITE/ROOM 103
LGBT	ROOM 688
MEDICAL EDUCATION	PARLOR ROOM
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	HUDSON ROOM
PLANNING, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	ROOM 305
PREVENTIVE PSYCHIATRY	ROOM 215
PSYCHIATRY AND THE COMMUNITY	JOHN CARRERE/ROOM 101
PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW	SLEEPY HOLLOW/ROOM 105
PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROSCIENCE	ROOM 225
PSYCHIATRY AND RELIGION	ROOM 209
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY	GALLERY ROOM
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY	ROOM 634
PSYCHOTHERAPY	ROOM 201
RESEARCH	ROOM 219
TERRORISM and POLITICAL VIOLENCE	ROOM 205
WORK AND ORGANIZATIONS	VAN CORTLANDT/ROOM 106



DATES OF FUTURE GAP MEETINGS

2011
November 10-12, 2011

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

2016
April 14-16
November 10-12

2017
April 6-8
November 9-11

2018
April 12-14
November 8-10

2019
April 11-13
November 7-9



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