I’ve been searching for a word to describe the last two years at ABPPSP. I’ve decided to call them “formative”. In developmental terms, you might view this time as marking our progression from infant to toddler. After we gained our provisional ABPP affiliation, we were neonates; everything we needed was imminent. We quickly examined our first group of specialists, gained formal affiliation and set out into the world.

Toddlers learn to deal with “real world” constraints that they were not aware of as infants. After the initial ABPP specialist examinations were completed we continued to examine candidates. As we did we came across some subtle (and some not so subtle) process issues that were not immediately apparent to us during our first years. Most of these issues had to do with the mechanics of processing candidates’ applications, documentation of CE experiences, content and construction of practice samples, etc. Hence, in the past couple of years, you may have noticed that we have modified our examination manual several times as we have attempted to iron out a number of these practical issues.

More recently, based on the feedback we have received from candidates whom we have examined in the past two years, our board is continuing to actively address additional examination issues. I believe it is fair to say that additional modifications will be forthcoming with particular emphasis on improving the efficiency and objectivity of the entire examination process, including both written practice sample review and the oral examination. In short, the more we examine, the more we learn about the process; just like toddlers venturing out into the world.

To date we have conducted approximately 90 examinations and have board certified 69 specialists in Police and Public Safety Psychology. We have a number of additional active candidates in our pipeline and our specialty continues to grow. However, most of our current specialists and specialist candidates come from a common experience base that includes membership in our three professional organizations (IACP, APA Division 18 PPS section, SPCP). We also know that there is a far larger group of professionals who practice aspects of Police and Public Safety Psychology who may not primarily identify as such and/or are not affiliated with our professional groups. Examples of these groups include correctional psychologists, military psychologists, and other government service psychologists as well as clinical/counseling psychologists in independent practice.

Towards this end, we have initiated an effort to review our 57 activities and competencies with an eye towards identification of activities directly relevant to these (broader) groups and proposing clarifications to these items in order to facilitate engagement of professionals practicing in these areas. Specifically, under the leadership of Dr. Herb Gupton we will be reaching out to a number of military, correctional, and other operational psychologists to function as subject matter experts in this regard.

In the past two years I also served as our representative to the ABPP Board of Trustees. Probably the most important accomplishment during that period was the design
and implementation of the Maintenance of Competence program (MOC). This program is quite similar to the programs in the medical specialties in which board certified specialists periodically document their professional development activities in order to assure maintenance of competence across time. Participation in the program is mandatory for specialists certified subsequent to 1/1/15 and voluntary for those certified prior to 1/1/15. However, ABPPSP enthusiastically supports this program. All current board members have agreed to voluntarily participate in the program when we become eligible for participation (our earliest period of eligibility will be 2019) and, in fact, in 2013 the board passed a resolution requiring that all members of our Board of Directors be participants. Going forward, Ray Turner will be serving as our MOC coordinator and will help us get started on this important program. Details about the MOC program can be found at http://www.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3892.

At the beginning of this year, Dave Corey replaced me on the ABPP Board of Trustees and as I understand it, the Board of Trustees is now actively engaged in a number of new initiatives. I am sure that Dave will continue to provide the excellent leadership and representation he has in the past and will have more to say about ABPP BOT in the future.

Finally, I am pleased to note that our Academy (AAPPSP) has also “developed” along with our board. The academy has presented CE programs at the ABPP CE conference every year since 2011. The majority of these programs were targeted to our primary cohort (members of the three PPSP professional organizations) and were primarily either assessment or intervention oriented. Under the leadership of Academy President Casey Stewart, this year the Academy will be conducting programs with somewhat broader scope, including operational and forensic applications and will also be conducting a training needs survey to facilitate design of new CE programs that meet the expressed needs of PPSP psychologists.

In conclusion let me say I am excited about the future. As we continue to develop as a specialty (i.e., let go of the furniture and start walking) we will continue to make improvements in our process as well as support ABPP and the greater good. I feel privileged to have served as President in these past two years and look forward to serving the board and the specialty in the future.

Michael J Cuttler, PhD ABPP
Chapel Hill, NC

Immediate Past President’s Column by Dr. David Corey

As you may know, ABPP is governed by its Board of Trustees (BOT), consisting of an elected representative from each of the 14 specialty boards, plus an elected public member. In the first four years since ABPPSP became an ABPP specialty board, Dr. Michael Cuttler represented our specialty on the BOT. Over the next four years, it’s my privilege to be your representative.

The BOT meets twice each year: once during the annual Summer Workshops, which was held in San Diego last May and will be in Chicago next year from May 11-14, and again in December at its headquarters location in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In addition to deliberating and voting on all aspects of ABPP operations and governance (e.g., budget, policies, staffing, affiliation of new specialties), the BOT also assigns representatives to serve on one or more committees or task forces. I am assigned to the:

- Standards Committee, which is responsible for recommending standards for new specialty affiliation and specialty board examination procedures, generic review of applicants with doctoral degrees from non-APA accredited programs, and examination appeals.
- Convocation Committee, which is responsible for organizing the annual convocation program, held in conjunction with the APA annual convention, where new specialists are recognized. Awards are given, the recipient of the Annual Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Profession delivers a keynote address, and a lavish breakfast buffet is enjoyed by all (if you’ve not attended an ABPP convocation, consider doing so at least once—all ABPP specialists
are invited to attend free of charge).

- Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Committee, which is responsible for recommending policies and procedures to carry-out ABPP’s MOC program requiring all board certified specialists after January 1, 2015 to demonstrate once every ten years how they have maintained specialty competence (for specialists who were certified before this time, MOC is optional, although all members of the ABPPSP Board of Directors voted to participate in the MOC process).

In addition to my work on the BOT, I also serve on our specialty council, the Council of Organizations in Police Psychology (COPP), along with Drs. Herb Gupton (chair), JoAnne Brewster, Michael Stoloff, Lorraine Greene, and Jocelyn Roland. COPP is to all practicing police and public safety psychologists what ABPPSP is to board certified specialists—in other words, whereas ABPPSP represents only the minority of police and public safety psychologists who pursue board certification, COPP represents all psychologists who practice in the specialty area, whether board certified or not. Once of the responsibilities of a specialty council is to represent the specialty on the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (commonly known as CoS; see www.cospp.org). I represent COPP on CoS. ABPP also has a seat on the CoS, as does every ABPP affiliated specialty and one specialty that is recognized by APA (Sleep Psychology) but which has not been accepted for affiliation by ABPP. CoS works closely with APA directorates, boards and councils, as well as the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, to ensure that the interests of all specialties are considered when formulating policy, procedures and legislation. They also provide high schools and undergraduate psychology programs with educational materials that highlight the work of professional specialties in psychology. JoAnne Brewster put together the high school PowerPoint slides for police and public safety psychology, and I contributed a chapter on our specialty in Robert Sternberg’s upcoming third edition of Career Paths in Psychology (published by APA).

If you have any questions about the BOT or CoS, or about the various committees or activities I referenced, please call or email me. My responsibility to is to represent you, and to do that well, I need to know what matters to you.

David Corey, Ph.D., ABPP

After several years of working at a fast pace, we’ve slowed a bit. Though Practice Sample submissions continue to be received, it is time to bring in new specialists. As the National Chair of Examinations, I have the task of managing the application process start to finish, from initial application for candidacy, to submission and evaluation of Practice Samples through the Oral Examinations, and reporting results. I try to generate interest in applying for and advancing through the steps to become a specialist with our board. This involves phone calls, emails, and answering of questions, as well as providing encouragement and helping candidates to shine by demonstrating their competence. I assist by encouraging Practice Sample focus, helping applicants and candidates to identify functional competencies that are practice areas, encouraging following formatting guidelines, and trying to entice new applications. I am grateful for the assistance of Dr. Gary Fischler who is hard at work behind the scenes planning Oral Examinations. I am also grateful for the work of Dr. Roland who mentors interested psychologists. Importantly, we are fortunate for the involvement of so many helpful specialists that serve our board throughout our processes. Thank you and know that you are valued and appreciated.

Now, I ask for your help. Please help us by increasing the numbers of qualified applicants. Please seek out a colleague or two and encourage them to apply. Send them my way or point them toward our ABPPSP website. Let us add to our membership. We will all be better for it. Together we can increase our number of specialists.

Jeni McCutcheon, Psy.D., M.S.C.P., ABPP
In May 2015 we held oral examinations in San Diego, and I’m pleased to report that we were able to add two new board certified specialists as a result. Congratulations to Michael Craw, PhD, ABPP and Rachel Rosenblatt, PhD, ABPP as our newest specialists in police and public safety psychology! We owe a big thank you to our oral examiners, who generously volunteered their time.

Our next round of oral examinations will be held in conjunction with the IACP conference in Chicago in October, and we look forward to continuing to grow our ranks of board certified specialists.

Gary Fischler, Ph.D., ABPP

The process of applying for Board Certification can seem like a daunting task. I personally remember looking at the Manual and initially feeling overwhelmed with the multiple steps and myriad information needed for the application through the oral exam. Having worked with candidates and prospective candidates for over four years now, there are lessons learned and avenues available to assist those interested in the process to try and make the adventure more enjoyable and the end goal easier to achieve.

One of the ways the ABPPSP endeavors to help applicants and candidates is through the newly revised Mentoring Program. I am currently the Candidate Mentorship Coordinator, and my job in this role is to help navigate the process from the start through the submission of the Practice Sample (PS). Think of this position as assistance at the front end of the progression: preparation for the submission of candidacy and then the PS. Once the PS has been submitted however, the mentoring process must end.

The discussions on the subject have been varied, and can focus on consideration of application to conversations about possible Work Samples (WS). I have met with individuals who are trying to figure out if they meet the requirements for the ABPPSP Board, how to frame their work, or if another ABPP Board would better suit their niche practice or skill set. Information about how to approach the Personal Self Study Statement has been offered, as well as helping identify which ethical dilemmas or complex relationships (both required components of the PS) might best showcase an applicant’s skill in identifying and resolving complicated situations. The Mentor is not a proofreader, nor will directives about submissions be offered. However, a road map for the path to success can be developed in concert with the applicant to provide helpful guidance posts and support along the journey.

If you or someone you know is thinking about applying, and feels overwhelmed or even just needs a few encouraging words, feel free to call, email or provide my contact information. The ABPPSP is looking to encourage and promote the application to the specialty of Police and Public Safety Psychology, and this may be a way to ease into the process. I look forward to hearing from those prospective psychologists waiting in the wings, and becoming a PPSP Specialist a reality!

Jocelyn E. Roland, PhD, ABPP
I obtained my specialty certification in Police and Public Safety Psychology in 2011. The benefits of my certification have proven to be numerous. In fact, this last week, I was recently interviewed by one of our local television stations regarding the success of the CIT program with the Denver Police Department. The interviewer asked what my qualifications were to be consulting and training law enforcement. I was able to utilize my specialty certification to explain my competency and credentials. This reporter was unaware of board certification in police and public safety psychology and indicated that she would seek our guidance with future police matters. Given the current tension between law enforcement and the communities they serve, it is my hope that those psychologists in the police and public safety field are able to play a role in bettering these relationships and advocating for law enforcement when given the opportunity. Board certification has definitely strengthened my credentials, not only with the agencies I serve, but also with the public who are impacted by law enforcement matters.

I am licensed in Wyoming and have found that many of the rural agencies there were/are unaware of psychologists with competence in the area of police and public safety psychology. In fact, one of the agencies that we work with had an outside, competitor psychologist, inform them that the area of police and public safety psychology was "made up" and "non-existent". As a resource to our agencies, we sent out several articles regarding specialty board certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology, as well as an article on the topic from the International Association Chiefs of Police, Police Psychological Services Section. Having certification acknowledging your competence to practice can play a significant role in the contracts you can obtain, as well as in the maintenance of those contracts.

Another benefit of certification has been the collegiality of working with others in the specialty in order to enhance and continue to refine my knowledge in the area. The group has been welcoming and open to those who are newer within the field. Moreover, they have been open to phone calls and emails requesting advice and direction. In a competitive and sometimes exclusive area of specialty, it has been refreshing to find a group open to mentoring and guidance.

Jaime Brower, Psy.D., ABPP

**Summer 2015 Academy News by Dr. Casey Stewart**

The Academy continues to grow as a function of continued growth in our specialty board. Newly developed bylaws provide the beginnings of an infrastructure from which essential positions have emerged. We are impressed with our members’ volunteerism in response to calls for Academy service. Education and training guidelines have been developed and a menu of trainings has been put together, drawing from our pool of specialist the foremost authorities in various Police & Public Safety Psychology proficiencies. We have teamed with the American Academy of Forensic Psychology to provide five daylong high-quality evidence-based practice-focused trainings on topics such as expert testimony in police and public safety adjudications, scientific approaches to homicide profiling and consultation, campus threat assessment and management, officer-involved shootings, and psychologists’ role in crisis/hostage negotiations. This joint training series will be held in February in New Orleans. These kinds of trainings are critical for maintaining competence given the rapidly diminishing half-life of knowledge in our specialty. We also encourage our specialists to learn more about the Maintenance of Certification requirements. One study related to this issue found that licensed psychologists obtain the level of continued education required for specialty MOC. In that same study specialists exceeded the requirements. Such evidence should reduce uncertainty and corollary concern about a program consistent with the ethic of our profession to practice competently. Finally, the Academy webpage is under development and our listserv has been a strong communication mechanism. The most recent announcement was that all Academy dues have been waived for 2016 because of a surplus that will be used in the form of awards to promote specialization and recruit new members.

Casey O. Stewart, PsyD, ABPP
After earning my Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 1989, I immediately went to work at the LAPD, where I was fortunate to be mentored by Dr. Martin Reiser. I focused on learning everything I could about being an in-house police psychologist. Later, I met Dr. Chris Hatcher, whose unique and cutting edge expertise in threat assessment and operational consultation, took me to an even deeper level of police psychology experience, and especially the nuances of external police psychology consultation. Dr. Reiser had his ABPP in clinical psychology, had always encouraged professional development, and attempted to create a career ladder for police psychologists within the LAPD, a ladder which actually would have recognized the ABPP as a gold standard. Although this occurred in the early 1990’s, I never forgot that, but at the time there was no ABPP specifically for police psychology.

The tenacity and hard work of other police psychology pioneers saw to it that the specialty area of police psychology received its proper recognition. Dave Corey, Phil Trompetter, Suzanne Saxe-Clifford, and others made it happen. I am grateful to have known these professionals, and that they kept many of us informed of the exciting development that was happening within police psychology. When it finally came to fruition, I immediately sought to earn it.

In hindsight, I have received way more than I bargained for. The process appeared daunting, but it compelled me to improve, learn, and challenge what I thought I knew. Was I operating the best I could? Were there assumptions I held about best practices that needed to be reconsidered? Had I found a comfortable plateau from which I needed to move? And along the way as I prepared my work sample, then for the orals, there was the collegial coaching and suggestions from these established professionals and others-that helped me take stock and improve my practice and thinking within our great and varied profession.

My police psychology practice includes operational consultation, forensic work and testimony, treatment, research and publication, lecturing, and media appearances and consultation. I believe that the credibility of our niche has been enhanced by the creation of this ABPP, and I know first-hand, that our “end users,” including police departments, the legal system, the media, and general public, respect and hold in high esteem what this board certification represents. I am grateful to have it, and when I’ve been able to participate in the PSRP review process and oral examinations, I have similarly been impressed. I have learned about the varied and fantastic work of professional police psychologists from all over our great nation. Because of this ABPP, our profession has been consolidated, strengthened, and quickly reached a level of greater maturity and recognition.

Kris Mohandie, Ph.D., ABPP

ABPP’s Impact on My Professional Life by Dr. Kris Mohandie

PPSP Upcoming Training Events by Dr. Casey Stewart

Upcoming Education Events:

The Society for Police & Criminal Psychology 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, September 30 - October 3, 2015.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police, Police & Public Safety Section program will be held in Chicago, Illinois, October 24 – October 26, 2015.


The American Academy of Forensic Psychology workshops in Cincinnati, Ohio: Police Officer Selection (September 10, 2015) and Fitness for Duty Evaluations (November 11, 2015).
Additionally, AAFP and AAPPSP are partnering to bring workshops to New Orleans, Louisiana, February 24 – February 28, 2016. The following workshops have been planned:

Zelig – A Scientific Approach to Homicide Profiling and Consultation
Allen – The Role of a Psychologist in Crisis/Hostage Negotiations
Mohandie – School Shootings
Corey – Expert Testimony in Police and Public Safety Adjudications
Trompetter – Officer-Involved Shootings: Psychological Impact, Issues and Interventions

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- Board certification in Psychology indicates specialty expertise which distinguishes you from other psychologists who work with patients with health issues.
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- Uniformed psychologists with board certification who work at the Department of Defense or Public Health Service receive a monthly specialty pay bonus.
- Health care providers in other disciplines consider board certification as a minimum standard to document training and expertise for patient care.
- Board certification facilitates license mobility in most states.
- Many hospitals ask about board certification when applying for privileges.
- Some hospitals or medical centers require a board certification for approval of privileges, and others are moving towards this policy.
- Some academic and academic medical settings require board certification for promotion and tenure.
- Health insurance companies routinely ask about board certification when applying to be part of their networks.
- Consumers of health/mental health services will increasingly ask about board certification, and can identify board certified psychologists on line.
- Access ABPP online resources for networking and referrals.
- Join other leaders in Psychology to define excellence in our field.

Are you a licensed psychologist who provides health related services? Start your board certification in Psychology application process today by going to www.abpp.org for information and application materials. Or contact the ABPP office at 919-537-8031.