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*the Specialist Editor: Kristine T. Kingsley, PsyD, ABPP  
Associate Editor, Stacy A. Ogbeide, PsyD, ABPP*
Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Dr. Brenda Spiegler was elected incoming President-elect, effective January 1, 2020, at the Mid-Year Board of Trustees meeting earlier this summer. Dr. Spiegler is currently serving as the BOT representative of the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology and has made a number of significant contributions to ABPP, including helping spearhead the development of the first subspecialty in the history of our organization, Pediatric Neuropsychology. More importantly, Dr. Spiegler, who recently retired as Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto and Director of the Department of Psychology at the Hospital for Sick Children, will be the first Canadian-representative President of ABPP. Under Dr. Spiegler’s leadership we hope to significantly increase both the profile of ABPP in Canada as well as the number of Canadian specialists.

I’m also extremely happy to announce that Dr. Sylvia Marotta-Walters, our current Treasurer, was re-elected to serve a new term in this position. Dr. Marotta-Walters has done an excellent job of managing ABPP finances over the past year and we look forward to her continued financial stewardship.

At the BOT meeting in June, we also heard the initial findings from an environmental audit conducted by The Reis Group (thereisgroup.com), a health and social cause-focused public relations agency we have employed to develop a more effective value proposition and associated messaging pertaining to the benefits, barriers and motivators to board certification. The audit included critical review of ABPP informational materials (website, brochures) as compared to similar materials from two comparable healthcare credentialing organizations. The updated messaging was then tested in a series of in-depth interviews with ABPP leadership and a group of both board certified and non-certified psychologists representing a range of work settings and professional experience. Some of the more interesting findings are as follows: 1) value: there is some debate among specialists about whether board certification signifies a minimum versus distinguished standard of competent specialty practice. The rigor of the certification process and maintenance of competence procedure were noted as contributing to the value of board certification, 2) motivators: although some interviewees reported that they were intrinsically motivated to pursue board certification, tangible benefits such as mobility, financial incentives and career advancement were rated as important motivators by board certified and non-certified individuals alike. 3) barriers: cost, time, the length of the process, lack of public awareness/demand were reported as barriers to starting or finishing the process, 4) a number of respondents felt that early career psychologists were in best position to pursue board certification. Respondents also noted that their mentors, professors, training directors and department chairs were most instrumental in their decision to pursue certification.

The Marketing/Outreach task force is currently conducting a more in-depth review of the audit results along with some additional survey data on these topics. We are also starting to work with The Reis Group to translate these findings into an evidence-based marketing plan with the objective of increasing the number of applicants to ABPP. This work will include creating new materials that clarify language about the professional competence of specialists, highlight the tangible benefits of certification, and emphasize the rigor and life-long learning associated with the certification and MOC process. In addition, targeted messaging will be developed for early career psychologists, training directors and other mentors, hospitals, and the public. Some elements of this plan are already in place. For example, with regard to tangible benefits, did you know that your board certification status provides some form of eased licensure mobility in almost 40 states (https://abpp.org/About/Mobility-and-Licensure.aspx)? In addition, a range of scholarships and discounts to partially defray the cost of the certification
process are available to many applicants through ABPP and the ABPP Foundation (https://www.abpp.org/Foundation2/ABPP-Foundation-Funds.aspx).

As I’ve noted in my prior columns, our organization is only as strong as its membership and I welcome your efforts to promote ABPP and its important mission to serve the public by promoting the provision of quality psychological services.

How can you help? First, raise awareness by noting ABPP status on all of your professional communications, including email signature, written materials, presentations, etc. Second, volunteer to represent your specialty board at local, regional or national meetings. Third, become involved with your specialty board or academy by volunteering for committee work or running for office.

Finally and most importantly, I encourage each of you to reach out to one or more non-specialist colleagues and ask them to consider pursuing board certification through ABPP. If each of us were to succeed by one, it would immediately represent a doubling of membership! And don’t forget to mention that completion of the process earns 40 hours of CE credits, a savings which may defray a significant portion of the certification process.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your president over the past 18 months. I welcome any comments or suggestions on our outreach efforts or any other topics you might be interested in. Please feel free to contact me directly at: jpiacentini@mednet.ucla.edu.

Best,

John Piacentini, PhD, ABPP
President, ABPP Board of Trustees
Editor’s Column
By Kristine T. Kingsley, PsyD, ABPP

Tis moonlight, summer moonlight,
All soft and still and fair;
The solemn hour of midnight
Breathes sweet thoughts everywhere.
–Emily Bronte

I welcome you to the summer edition (volume 43) of the Specialist. The current issue features updates from a number of Specialties and committees, in addition to announcements regarding events and workshops, and accomplishments by our membership.

I would like to thank all our ABPP Specialty Board Presidents, as well as specialists who responded to the e-blast announcements regarding story submissions. Truth been told, we have been applying stringent criteria in selecting and publishing stories, as we definitely like to avoid reprinting pieces. All in all we encourage authors to submit original articles adopting a more relaxed, conversational approach when communicating pertinent information compared to standard research literature.

As in previous issues, I have been fortunate to work with a number of dedicated Board members and colleagues, who comprise ABPP’s Communications Committee: Drs. Ellen Snoxell (Rehabilitation), Stanton Marlan (Psychoanalysis), Kathleen Hart (Clinical Child & Adolescent), Anne Dobmeyer (Clinical Health), and our Associate Editor, Stacy A. Ogbeide. I owe them a huge thank you for their astuteness when dealing with nuances regarding the complex world of content and editing. I am also grateful to my colleagues at ABPP’s Main Office, especially Nancy McDonald & Lanette Melville for their endless logistical support, and Dr. David Cox, Executive Officer, for his unparalleled sagacity and guidance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me: thespecialist@abpp.org with feedback and suggestions for future issues. For the Submission Guidelines, please click https://abpp.org/BlankSite/media/Th e-Specialist/The-Specialist-Volume-41-2018.pdf, page 7.

Lastly, consider logging on to our Facebook page where we are posting material frequently about ABPP and its activities. Our Facebook page is located at https://www.facebook.com/getABPP/?ref=ts.

Cordially,

Kristine T. Kingsley, PsyD, ABPP
Editor, the Specialist
ABPP Communications Chair
Executive Officer Update

By David R. Cox, PhD, ABPP

Technology Update

On everyone’s mind these days is our technology update. I recently held a meeting with the owner of the tech company we are using to reiterate our expectations and concerns. ABPP CO Staff has been working with Code A Site (CAS), an IT company, to work out the bugs in the system that occurred when the new platform went live. It appears that many of these are getting fixed and we want you to know just how seriously staff takes this. That said, none of us in CO are tech people and doing our best means serving as the conduit from specialty and other users to convey to CAS the difficulties that are encountered. We ask that you continue to let us know of your experiences; good and not so good! Diane Butcher has carried a significant burden in being the “point guard” in this process; however, everyone has had an extra workload while we work on this. Please direct any input to Diane, who will share it with me as well.

There are parts of the system that are working very smoothly. The Credential Review process is one in which I am heavily involved, and I much prefer the current system to our old ways of processing credentials. We are hoping that the Practice Sample portion of the system will work as smoothly soon!

Update on HIPAA

I held several discussions with APA Legal and Regulatory Affairs Office & the Trust regarding HIPAA. I have spent a fair amount of time in communication with the Trust (our insurer) as well as the APA Office of Legal & Regulatory Affairs on this issue. The bottom line is that we will initiate placement of a Business Associates Agreement (BAA) on our website to be signed by ABPP and candidates that submit practice samples. I have obtained information and a sample or two and will be working on a BAA this summer. We will also draft an ABPP template for use by candidates to have clients/patients/supervisees or others that may appear in practice samples sign providing permission for use of the material for the purpose of ABPP board certification.

Inter-organizational Summit on Specialty, Specialization and Board Certification

On behalf of ABPP, I recently served with representatives of the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (COS) and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) to plan and co-facilitate the 4th Summit on Specialty, Specialization, and Board Certification. The Summit was held June 15-16 and the included participation by most of the major organizations in psychology. We have confirmations from the following groups, listed alphabetically following Sponsor/Co-facilitating groups:

- Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (COS) (Sponsoring Organization)
- American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) (Co-facilitating Organization)
- Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) (Co-facilitating Organization)
- American Board of Professional Psychology Foundation (ABPP-F)
- American Psychological Association Board of Directors (APA BOD)
- American Psychological Association Board of Professional Affairs (BPA)
- American Psychological Association Center for Psychology and Health (CPH)
- American Psychological Association Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CECP)
- American Psychological Association Early Career and Graduate Student Affairs Office
- American Psychological Association Education Directorate/Board of Educational Affairs (BEA)
- American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS)
- American Psychological Association Office of Program Consultation & Accreditation (CoA)
- American Psychological Association, Professional Practice Directorate
I am very encouraged by the group’s work as well as the exceedingly high level of interest that continues among those organizations that participated. The Summit has put in place a plan for increased integration of specialty, specialization and board certification into the professional development pathway. The group is looking at this on the continuum from education and training, accreditation, licensure and board certification as a specialist. Following the Summit, we have also engaged the participation of David Swankin, CEO of the Washington, D.C. based Citizen Advocacy Center. The Summit activities are poised to move the profession in a historic fashion, and I am very excited to see this happening!

**Liaison Activities**

Earlier this year, I made an invited presentation at the District of Columbia Superior Courts, speaking to their interns and residents. Although most of the individuals are interested in Forensic Psychology specifically, they appreciated the opportunity to learn about ABPP in general as well as to have some time for their individual questions.

I also attended the APA Practice Leadership Conference (PLC), which includes psychologist leaders and executive directors from state, provincial and territorial psychology associations (SPTAs). This is always a good opportunity to engage with the SPTA leaders as well as many leaders from other psychology organizations.

I participated in and presented at the APA Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP), where they worked on revisions to the APA taxonomy, subspecialty definitions, and moving proficiencies to subspecialties (which needs to be approved by the APA Council of Representatives (COR)). I had been invited to attend CRSPPP in both my role as liaison as well as in an advisory capacity as they dealt with the issue of subspecialty. The CRSPPP definition of subspecialty that has been proposed is essentially the same as the definition presently used by ABPP. This, of course, is good in that so many of us are working to get our profession “on the same page” regarding such matters.

I participated in the Council of Chairs of Training Councils (CCTC), which is planning a 2020 “joint meeting” of CCTC and CUDCP (Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology). We have expressed our interest in possible sponsorship and participation in that event.

I represented ABPP at the APA Consolidated Meetings which includes many APA boards and committees. Specifically, I attended to the business of BPA, the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) and any other boards
committees that have agenda items that intersect with the interests of ABPP. While at the Consolidated Meetings, I continued my work with the Board of Educational Affairs Life-long Learning Work Group, focusing on continuing professional development with others from the APA Office of Continuing Education. The work, in part, regarded how continuing professional development might expand beyond the traditional areas of psychology toward application in additional fields, e.g. medicine and brain functioning. This group had previously worked to put out a special edition of Professional Psychology: Research & Practice about lifelong learning and continuing education issues. I encourage you to read the entire special issue. An article that focuses on ABPP as one aspect of that issue:


While mentioning publications, I will bring to your attention the recently published work that was led by Veronica Edgar on ECP issues and ABPP in which data are presented that indicate ECP passing rate is similar to that of those who have been in the field longer.


I attended the final meetings of the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP) meeting. Most of the activities of CAPP will be subsumed by BPA going forward. While in attendance at the Consolidated Meetings, I made a point to meet with the new CEO of ASPPB, Dr. Marian Burnetti-Atwell, and Dr. Jared Skillings, Chief of Practice at APA. Each of the three of us desire to work collaboratively across organizations as well as we can and want to further work toward close integration and communication between our organizations.

Finally, I attended the Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) meeting, working with representatives from jurisdictional licensing boards in psychology. Following that meeting, I held a call with ASPPB in which we affirmed our continued commitment to work together in the continuing collaboration regarding credentialing of our ABPP Early Entry applicants.

Central Office Staff
One more time, I need to – and want to – applaud our dedicated Central Office Team: Nancy McDonald, Lanette Melville, Diane Butcher and Kathy Holland. These ladies serve our organization tirelessly, under conditions that have been at times quite stressful with the recent technology changes. They are an amazing team! Thank you all!

David R. Cox, PhD, ABPP
Executive Officer, ABPP Board of Trustees
Early Career & Diversity Awards Spotlight

By Leonardo J. Caraballo, PsyD, ABPP

I am honored to announce the 2019 Early Career & Diversity Award winners. To highlight their amazing work and dedication to the profession of psychology they have contributed a brief summary to spotlight their efforts. Please join me in congratulating this year’s winners.

Early Career Psychology Service Award: Omar Gudiño, PhD, ABPP

Dr. Gudiño is an Associate Professor in the Clinical Child Psychology Program at the University of Kansas and a Board-Certified Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychologist. His research examines ethnic disparities in children’s mental health service use and risk/resilience in minority youths exposed to violence. His service efforts focus on increasing access to evidence-based and culturally competent services for children and families.

Art Nezu Dissertation Diversity Award: Jamey Leanne Rislin, PhD

Dr. Rislin graduated from New Mexico State University with a PhD in counseling psychology and a minor in integrated behavioral health. Additionally, she also holds a Masters of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the South Texas Veterans Healthcare Administration. Her research focuses on social determinants of health and their impact, best practices in minority mental health, multicultural considerations in professional practice and the impact of racism and other systems of oppression on people's health and well-being.

Early Career Psychology Diversity Award: Julie Alberty, PhD, ABPP

Dr. Alberty is the acting Program Manager of Neuropsychology at Phoenix VA Health Care System. As a Palestinian, Dominican, American woman, Dr. Alberty reports she spent her formative years struggling with her identity. This struggle consisted of a need to define herself culturally and was one of the driving factors in her decision to pursue a career in psychology and in neuropsychology. As a neuropsychologist, she created a Spanish/English monolingual/bilingual clinic to help fill an unmet need. She also became a certified medical interpreter (CMI) for Spanish speakers and first authored a chapter on working with CMIs in neurorehabilitation. Her cultural background facilitates her understanding of cultural nuances, which she then incorporates into her interpretation, and the feedback she provides to the patient. As an invited speaker, she has presented on cultural considerations in neuropsychology both locally and nationally. Furthermore, she is a consultant for clinical research trials in which she advises and trains examiners who provide services in English and Spanish.

She integrates her passion for culture and diversity with her passion for teaching and mentoring. She serves as
The American Board of Clinical Health Psychology (ABCHP) and the American Academy of Clinical Health Psychology (AACHP) have had an active and productive year. In July of 2018, ABCHP successfully completed the ABPP Periodic Comprehensive Review (PCR) site visit process under the leadership of our 2017-18 Board President, Jay Earles, PsyD, ABPP. We are now “good” for another seven years before the next review cycle. As part of preparing for the PCR, the Board conducted a significant revision of the competencies required for board certification in clinical health psychology, leading to revised manuals for our candidates and examiners.

At the start of 2019, we had some changes in our Board leadership. Jeffrey Goodie, PhD, ABPP assumed the position of Board President while Kim Dixon, PhD, ABPP, joined as President-Elect. We also welcomed back Paul Hershberger, PhD, ABPP, to the Board as our incoming Director of Maintenance of Certification (MOC). Paul had previously served on the Board for a number of years, including most recently as Treasurer. ABCHP bid farewell to Richard Seime, PhD, ABPP, who rotated off the Board after six years of service as President-elect, President, and Past President; and James Meyer, PhD, ABPP, who completed his term as our first Director of MOC. Both Rick and Jim have also retired from service as oral examiners. Their contributions will be greatly missed!

Over the past year ABCHP has continued to serve as the sponsoring Specialty Board for the Integrated Primary Care Special Interest Group (SIG) which is working on an ABPP subspecialty application. Led by Mark Vogel, PhD, ABPP, this SIG is comprised of interested board certified Specialists from several different ABPP Specialty Boards.

We continue to make steady progress in increasing our pool of practice sample reviewers and oral examiners. In the past year, 15 additional ABCHP Specialists have volunteered to become trained as practice sample reviewers. Our oral examiner pool has increased with the additions of Drs. Amy Wachholtz, Lloyd Berg, Stacy Ogbeide, John Kreymer, and Kim Dixon, who have completed the oral examiner training. Current ABCHP Specialists

Congratulations to all three 2019 Early Career & Diversity Award recipients!

Clinical Health Psychology: Updates from the Board and Academy

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Congratulations to all three 2019 Early Career & Diversity Award recipients!
who are interested in volunteering to assist with practice sample reviews can reach out to Nicole Najar, PsyD, ABPP, (Practice Sample Coordinator; abchp2013@gmail.com).

Over the past year, the Academy has been working on increasing its marketing efforts to encourage clinical health psychologists on their road to board certification. This past fall, the Academy hosted a webinar lead by Mark Vogel, PhD, ABPP, Christina Shook, PhD, ABPP, and Lisa Kearney, PhD, ABPP, on the process of board certification in clinical health psychology from initial credentialing review to practice sample submission and oral examination. The webinar filled all 100 available slots and was recorded and uploaded onto the Academy's YouTube site for those wishing to watch it at a later time. An additional webinar on practice sample preparation was held in July and its recording will be available on the YouTube site shortly. Under the leadership of Julie Radico, PsyD, ABPP, brief podcast materials are in preparation to provide practical tips for candidates. This includes interviews with board certified clinical health psychologists on topics such as “How did you go about picking your practice sample topics?” and “What tips do you have for preparing for the oral exam?” Dr. Radico was also critical to the updating of the Academy’s website over this past year with Dr. Berg’s exceptional input. Our website now highlights newly board certified clinical health psychologists and we encourage you to visit the page to learn about each new Academy Fellow! Academy Fellows continue to be very busy with mentoring candidates during the practice sample and oral examination phases. Since 2015, 85 individuals have obtained mentoring through the Academy. Individuals who are interested in serving as mentors are encouraged to contact Dr. Kearney (Lisa.Kearney3@va.gov) for more details.

The significant efforts of the AACHP in recruiting and mentoring candidates, and in ABCHP in ensuring the integrity of the examination process, has resulted in an expanding number of ABPP board certified Clinical Health Psychologists. At the time of this writing, there are 249 ABCHP Specialists, including 31 who were newly certified in 2018 and the first half of 2019!

Respectfully Submitted by:
Anne C. Dobmeyer, PhD, ABPP; ABPP Board of Trustees
Lisa K. Kearney, PhD, ABPP; AACHP President

PHOTO CAPTION:
L to R: Molly Clark, PhD, ABPP (oral examiner), Kim Dixon, PhD, ABPP (ABCHP President-Elect), and Luis Richter, PhD, ABPP (ABCHP oral exam coordinator), at the July 2019 ABCHP oral exams in Minneapolis.
I would like to begin by offering heartfelt gratitude to the ABCN Board of Directors, credential reviewers, practice sample reviewers, oral examiners, and the many others who have volunteered their extensive time and service on behalf of the board this past year. Your inspiring devotion to ABCN is absolutely critical to the success of our field and I thank you!

**ABCN Credentials Review and Examination Update**

It has been a remarkably productive year for ABCN across each stage of the review and examination processes. As a sign of growing interest in board certification in the neuropsychology community, ABCN witnessed a significant increase in the number of credential review applications that were submitted in 2018 (i.e., 175 applications received, a 40% increase relative to 2017). Applications have remained high so far in 2019. Following a major written examination revision in 2017-2018, ABCN successfully administered updated written examinations in 2018 and 2019. ABCN also witnessed a significant increase in practice sample submissions last year. An additional (third) oral examination was offered in 2019 to satisfy this demand, and three oral examination dates are also planned for 2020 to accommodate the pipeline. Many of our more seasoned colleagues have also demonstrated their continued commitment to board certification by voluntarily ‘opting in’ to the ABCN Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process.

**Board Certification among Early Career Psychologists (ECPs)**

Interest in ABCN certification is especially strong among early career psychologists (ECPs). Review of training backgrounds among those who completed the ABCN certification process in 2017-2018, for example, shows that a majority (76%) met ABPP’s definition of ECP, by having completed their doctoral degrees after 12/31/07. ECPs also took significantly less time to complete the ABCN certification process ($M = 4.3$, $SD = 2.0$ years) relative to non-ECPs ($M = 5.7$, $SD = 2.4$ years). These data trends are congruent with the results of a recent study that examined oral examination success rates among ECP and non-ECP applicants across the ABPP specialty boards from 2013 to 2017 (Bordes Edgar, Holder, Cox, and Suris, 2019). The authors found that successful completion of the ABCN oral examination was significantly higher among ECPs (86%) relative to non-ECPs (69%). These results dispelled the “myth that ABPP certification is only for psychologists with extensive experience”. Overall, ECPs should be encouraged by these collective trends and findings; ABCN board certification is not necessarily contingent upon an extended period of practice for success.

**Pediatric Neuropsychology Subspecialty**

The ABCN Pediatric Neuropsychology Subspecialty has also been active this year. More than 100 ABCN specialists have now attained subspecialty certification and the number of specialists participating in the process each year has remained steady to date. Pediatric Subspecialty certification involves three steps: (1) a pediatric credential review, (2) a 30-item pediatric written examination, and (3) submission of one pediatric work sample. There is no oral examination. ABCN specialists who have an interest in completing the pediatric subspecialty process are encouraged to review the informational resources available at the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (theaacn.org), ABCN (theabcn.org), and ABPP (abpp.org) websites. Those who have additional questions are encouraged to contact Ida Sue Baron, Ph.D., Chair of the Pediatric Clinical Neuropsychology Subspecialty Committee (ida@isbaron.com).
Diversity

ABCN remains committed to promoting board certification among persons of diverse backgrounds and under-represented groups. In this vein, we have supported a number of diversity initiatives this year. The ABCN diversity committee has now obtained the results of a recent survey of clinical neuropsychologists practicing in Puerto Rico regarding issues of training, supervision, and barriers to board certification. The survey results were recently translated in consultation with representatives of the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society, and ABCN is in the process of reviewing results to inform how to support outreach to our Puerto Rican colleagues. The ABCN diversity committee is also collaborating with the Canadian credentialing subcommittee to explore practice patterns, training histories and board certification among our Canadian colleagues to guide future outreach efforts.

ABCN is grateful to Dr. Veronica Borders Edgar, who has agreed to serve as ABCN’s representative to the ABPP Diversity Committee and its recent initiative to implement: (a) a uniform and standard approach to diversity across specialties, and (b) 2017 APA multicultural guidelines as the framework for standardization.

The American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN) and ABCN were pleased to nominate Julie Alberty, PhD, ABPP for the Early Career Psychology Diversity Award, which ABPP awarded to her in spring 2019. Dr. Alberty is the first board certified clinical neuropsychologist to receive this award. ABCN very much appreciates her praiseworthy commitment to diversity and multiculturalism in clinical neuropsychology.

Congratulations, Dr. Alberty!

References


Acknowledgement

Thanks to Drs. Brenda Spiegler, Ida Sue Baron, Veronica Borders Edgar, and Laura Renteria for their contributions to this article.
Top Five Reasons Why I Love Giving ABPP Exams

By Catherine Deering, PhD, ABPP

Since I became involved with ABPP and the ABCP Board, there have been many interesting roles and tasks that I have enjoyed, but none more than giving exams. Here are the top five reasons why I love giving ABPP exams:

5. **No two exams are the same.**

Just as no two people are the same, no two exams are the same. It is amazing to see the variations in roles, settings, and approaches of psychologists across the country. I have heard about the extraordinary experiences of military psychologists deployed all over the world in combat zones, on huge bases, and on ships. I have examined psychologists in communities who work with coal miners with panic disorders and claustrophobia, children in foster care, candidates being evaluated for admission to seminary, and even a psychologist who uses her pet tarantula to treat patients with phobias. Private practitioners, psychologists in health care settings, and VA psychologists each have their own unique niches and certainly have a different path of training and experience that enriches their perspectives. Hearing about the way they work and their passion for their roles is truly inspiring.

4. **I always learn something.**

The myriad roles, patient populations, and treatment approaches psychologists encounter is a constant source of new learning for all of us. In every examination, psychologists discuss their evidence base for practice and the ways that they maintain competence and update their training to keep their approaches current. As an examiner I learn many new things from these discussions. I especially enjoy the oral examinations where candidates flesh out their rationale for choosing particular approaches and the lessons they have learned from complex interactions with patients and colleagues from many different cultures.

3. **Exam committees embrace people at different stages of their careers.**

We have a wide range of ages and experience levels in the ABPP community. In response to our current effort to attract early career psychologists, it is exciting to see new professionals seeking board certification and joining our ranks with their energy and fresh perspectives. We also have many experienced clinicians, some pursuing the Senior Option, who bring years of wisdom and a broad range of theoretical frameworks to their clinical work. Our Examination Committees typically are comprised of both new and senior clinicians, and this creates a wonderful synergy of perspectives that enrich our discussions and enhance our ability to evaluate how competencies and practice patterns evolve over time. It is a pleasure to participate in a small group process that validates the excellence in each candidate's work and welcomes new colleagues into the ABPP community.

2. **Growing my network of colleagues.**

I have met such wonderful people in the process of doing ABPP exams! These individuals have become part of my professional network and have allowed me to feel connected to the pulse of psychology around the country and the impact we as a profession have on the lives we touch. I have developed deep respect for my fellow examiners who volunteer their time and take such a diligent approach to their work. I truly look forward to meeting with them for Oral Examinations and participating in a lively exchange of ideas.
Paying it forward.

One of the main reasons why I have chosen an academic career is because I have been blessed with wonderful teachers throughout my life. I continue to draw inspiration from them and strive to emulate their work. In similar fashion, I was lucky to have a wonderful Examination Committee for my Oral Exam when I applied to become Board Certified in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Hamid Mirsalimi chaired my Examination Committee, and he could not have been more warm, collegial, and thoughtful in his questions. He and the other committee members challenged me to think about why I do what I do, and they made the examination experience truly valuable and even enjoyable. Whenever I give an exam now, I like to think that I’m paying it forward by trying to replicate the kind of experience Hamid provided for me.

In closing, the ABCP extends a big thank you to all of the psychologists who have volunteered to serve on our Examination Committees. We continually recruit and train new Board Certified Clinical Psychologists to become examiners.

If you are interested in becoming an examiner, please contact your Regional Director in the Northeast (Dr. Lindsay Phillips), Mideast (Dr. Mark Paris), Southeast (Dr. Corey Arranz), Midwest (Dr. Karen Farrell), Intermountain Region (Dr. Gloria Emmett) or West (Dr. David Mather); or contact me and I will refer you to the Regional Director who coordinates exams in your area. Most of our exams are given in cities that serve as hubs where we have a critical mass of trained examiners (Deering, 2018). I encourage you to participate in this valuable experience that allows us to grow our numbers of board certified specialists and promote excellence in our profession.

As we speed through 2019, and trying to focus on a number of issues. We are very excited by our progress to date; I want to briefly share our activities here.

**New board certified counseling psychologists**

We were all set for a fall 2018 oral examination in Greensboro, NC, but the weather had other plans. Our examination team was warned of the impending landfall of Hurricane Michael, and they had to make the heartbreaking decision whether to risk proceeding with the exam (knowing that landfall could lead to being stranded for an unknown period of time), or postponing the exam to a different date and location (despite candidates and examiners having cleared their schedules for the weekend in question). Ultimately, the examination chairs wisely decided to cancel the exam and avoid the chaos created by the storm – in other words “better safe than sorry”. The trip was simply not worth the risk. I believe all of the airlines involved either issued a credit or provided a refund for flights booked. Lesson learned: don't be afraid to disappoint and wait for a better day. While I could say maybe, just maybe, try to not schedule an exam in a hurricane area during hurricane season, I have to take into account that I live in Indiana – tornado season is much more unpredictable than hurricane season!

We scheduled our next attempt for February 2019 in Washington DC. While that seemed like a safe bet, we still experienced unavoidable travel issues. One candidate was unable to make it after having a flight cancellation in Chicago, despite being at the airport for several hours. Examiners also had travel delays, making for a few tense moments. When the dust settled and the exam ended, we certified seven new specialists. We held another oral examination administration in early June in Indianapolis, where we certified another 6 specialists. I am pleased to report that not only have we certified 13 candidates this year, we have also assured that nearly all members of the current ABCoP Board are trained as examiners.

Since almost all of board members have participated in an examination this year, and or have served as practice sample reviewers, the timing is perfect for a closer examination of the procedures used for everything from credentialing to practice sample to oral examination. Our Board is now engaging in discussions to deepen our familiarity with the process.

**Dissolution of the Academy Board**

For years, board certified counseling psychologists had the benefit of membership in the American Academy of Counseling Psychology (Academy). The Academy served to promote the profession of counseling psychology, champion the importance of board certification, and find mentors for candidates for certification, among other aspects of supporting the profession. For example, in conjunction with the Society of Counseling Psychology (the American Psychological Association's Division 17), the Academy joined in a scholarship to reimburse the ABPP application and practice review fees for Division 17 members. At least 15 people have taken part in this reimbursement opportunity since its inception.

Unfortunately, in recent years the Academy Board has had difficulty maintaining a full and active board. As a result, while the remaining Board members were devoted to the Academy, they simply did not have the person power to
continue in their current format. After several long discussions to weigh the consequences, the Academy Board voted to recommend that the Membership dissolve the BOARD and transfer their operations to the ABCoP Board. The Membership voted to confirm this recommendation. We appreciate the work of the Academy Board over the years, especially the tremendous efforts of those who served the Board since 2015.

**ABCoP By-Laws Update**

For over a year, the ABCoP Board has been working on an update of the by-laws. We needed to clarify and strengthen some outdated language and to codify some of our desired changes in Board membership and terms of office. Once we absorbed the Academy's changes (see above), we withdrew the by-laws changes submitted to the ABPP Board of Trustees so we can add at least one role to our Board membership. We hope to finalize the by-laws later this summer.

**Awareness of Diversity**

One last area of growth for us, one which I am almost embarrassed to report, is that we are updating and fine-tuning our diversity presence. True story – diversity is a foundational part of my world view, and influences everything I do clinically and as an academic. When I prepared my professional statement for my certification application, I was stunned to realize I hadn't overtly referenced a cultural focus to my world view. It is a part of my work, to be sure, but it is so engrained that I simply never mentioned it. [For the record, I remedied that oversight in my application, and subsequently in how I speak about my work elsewhere – lesson learned!]

I mention that because we are undergoing a similar self-examination with our Board. Our Diversity Chair, Elsie Smith, noted that we have work to do with ABCoP's web presence around diversity, from how we define our profession to how we showcase our work, our leadership and our specialists. We cannot assume that others know our commitment to diversity if it is not reflected in our materials, it is essential that we consistently showcase diversity across our materials – candidates and specialists will be watching for us to walk the talk. We are just getting started with this; more to follow.

Best wishes to you as we move into the dog days of summer!
The American Board of Couple and Family Psychology: Emotionally Focused Therapy (ETF) has “revolutionized couples psychotherapy.” An “exceptional” workshop

For psychologists who work with couples: JOIN IN.

“Dr. Johnson's very succinct style was refreshing and indicative of her mastery of the topic.”

This is just one of the many superb comments offered about the first of a four part series that the co-founder of ETF, Dr. Sue Johnson just conducted. The webinar series was jointly planned by the American Board of Couple and Family Psychology, the American Academy of Couple and Family Psychology, and the Society for Couple and Family Psychology (Division 43 of APA).

It is not too late to join this webinar!

Dr. Johnson is teaching advanced skills about couple psychotherapy based upon attachment science. Attachment science offers a potent model for therapeutic change, especially when dealing with anxiety and depression. EFT targets the defining feature of survival-oriented human connection, namely strong emotion, and systematically shapes core bonding interactions with others. More than 20 positive outcome studies can be found at the EFT website.

Registration and CE Credit

This four part webinar series is available for $160. The fee for the webinar series will be waived for any psychologist who hosts three or more therapists for the series of four webinars. Evidence shows that continuing education generalizes better when groups of psychologists view and discuss the webinar experiences together. Follow-up webinars on this material will be provided at three, six and twelve months later. After registration at this website address, you will receive a confirmation email to the archive of the first of the four parts to the webinar. This first webinar occurred on June 25th. The last three webinars occur on 9/25, 1/15 and 4/29.

All attendees will earn 4.5 CE credits upon successful completion of watching all four webinars and submitting evaluations.
The American Academy of Forensic Psychology (AAFP) is pleased to announce its first annual convention, to be held at the Doubletree Magnificent Mile in Chicago, Illinois September 23-25, 2020. For decades, AAFP has enhanced the development and practice of forensic psychology by offering high-quality continuing education workshops across the country and, more recently, online. AAFP has traditionally offered a series of day-long workshops covering a wide range of topics, including issues in civil and criminal forensic practice, ethics, neuropsychological assessment in forensic contexts, developing a private practice, and preparing for specialty board certification.

AAFP’s first annual convention will offer shorter seminars on focused topics in forensic psychology, mock testimony demonstrations and plenary speaker luncheons. Social hours and group dinners will provide an opportunity for existing and future specialists to meet, network and engage in advanced discussions of the field. We hope that the annual meeting will provide an opportunity for greater interactivity among the membership of AAFP, as well as an opportunity to connect with those interested in board certification in forensic psychology. It is hoped that psychologists and trainees of all specialties will attend, as the diversity of viewpoints can only serve to enhance the overall educational experience. Please join us! For future updates, please visit our website.
The American Board of Geropsychology (ABGERO) remains productive in its efforts to inform and meet the logistical needs of potential applicants and candidates. Under the leadership of Andrew Heck, PsyD, and the logistical coordination of Sara Qualls, PhD, regional oral examinations were recently held in at the University of Colorado in beautiful Colorado Springs. Providing this regional exam option in addition to the exams offered at the annual conventions of the American Psychological Association and Gerontological Society of America, gives candidates multiple options to meet their travel and timing needs.

The ABGERO Outreach Committee, under the leadership of Heather Smith, PhD, recently established a listserv for board certified specialists to facilitate communication among specialists and between the board and its specialists. Such communication is intended to help determine and meet the needs of both the specialists and those pursuing board certification. Ongoing updates to our website (https://abgero.org) continue to provide current information about the board and the credentialing and examination processes to potential applicants, candidates, board certified specialists, and the general public.

The ABGERO Inclusion Committee, chaired by Michelle Mlinac, PsyD, continues its efforts to promote diversity, broadly defined, among applicants and leadership. ABGERO maintains an ongoing commitment to continue to infuse diversity throughout the ABGERO credentialing process.

Drs. Erin Emery-Tiburcio and Greg Hinrichsen recently presented a two-day workshop on Working with Older Adults: Foundational Competencies in Clinical Gerontology. The workshop, which was sponsored by the Illinois Psychological Association and was very well received, generated interest in board certification among attendees. ABGERO looks forward to continuing to refine outreach efforts and the credentialing process throughout 2019.

Last but not least, board member Peter A. Lichtenberg, PhD is the recipient of the Society for Clinical Geropsychology’s 2019 M. Powell Lawton Award for Distinguished Contributions to Clinical Geropsychology.
In August 2018, APA Council ratified the Commission for the Representation of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP) decision to accept Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy as a specialty. It was a culmination of more than two decades of work by numerous psychologists and a series of campaigns to submit proposals to CRSPPP. At long last, we are now on par with the other ABPP Specialty domains that also are accredited by CRSPPP.

The ramifications for the future are significant. It demonstrated our adherence to the APA accreditation and training guidelines as well as taxonomy that considers psychologist education and training across the developmental sequence. This development offers considerable feedback as to how and where group psychologists are trained. Being considered a specialty will further support increased depth and breadth of training at the graduate coursework, internship and post-doctoral levels of training. In this regard, it is clear that ABPP in Group Psychology is in fact the formal marker of specialist level practice in group psychology.

One of the challenges identified is the lack of sufficient coursework for the specialty level of training in graduate coursework. Nevertheless, there are a number of doctoral internship sites that provide necessary group training for graduate students. The interns who complete those internships have been accessing group oriented postdocs with some eventually obtaining ABPP certificate in Group Psychology. Over the next few years, we will be working diligently to broaden and strengthen training in group psychology and group psychotherapy. One such attempt is spearheaded by the American Board of Group Psychology (ABGP). In 2018, it created a $1,000 award for Training Directors and Group Coordinators to defray the cost of the board certification and examination process in group psychology. The board strongly believes that both training directors and group coordinators are in a unique role of promoting group specialty for graduate students and early career psychologists. We would like to thank everyone who put so much work over the years to make Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy be recognized as a specialty. Your hard work will not be forgotten and the mantle will be carried forward.
The American Board of School Psychology
2019 Updates
By Clifford V. Hatt, EdD, ABPP (School), NCSP
President, American Board of School Psychology

For 2019, the American Board of School Psychology has new officers and roles:

- Dr. Clifford Hatt, President;
- Dr. Israel Sarasti, Vice President/Secretary;
- Dr. Syretta James, Treasurer;
- Dr. Shawn Powell, Director of Examinations;
- Dr. Mark Swerdlik, Director of Mentoring.

Dr. Sarasti also serves as credentials reviewer and Dr. Powell as practice samples reviewer. We are pleased to have Dr. Shelley Pelletier continue as our Board of Trustees representative. As one of the smaller specialty boards, we moved from a seven-member board to a five-member board and combined roles and responsibilities for the members. I feel very fortunate to work with such dedicated professionals.

During this first part of the year, we revised our examination manual completely. Some of the changes in our new manual include aligning our specialty definition and competencies with the Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP) and revising the functional and foundational competencies to match those definitions. We also revised our practice samples and examination rubrics providing more specific and objective criteria for greater consistency among examiners. We streamlined the three-stage process for specialty board certification by providing graphic representations of the process. We also moved to electronic submission of all practice sample material through Dropbox or Google Drive with secure passwords and links. Because of the changes in the manual, the rubrics, and submission process, we are initiating an online training program for all current and potential mentors and examiners. It is important that both mentors and examiners are providing consistent information to our applicants and candidates. We welcome other board-certified members to become mentors and examiners. We are encouraging those who express an interest in board certification and those new applicants to reach out to our board members. We will provide an opportunity to have a question/answer session with one of us. We have increased our use of teleconferencing and videoconferencing through the Go-To-Meeting format to reach out to new applicants and candidates, to conduct board and committee meetings, and to provide mentor and examiner training. This also helps to increase board visibility.

A major initiative that began last year and is planned for completion this year is the merger of the American Board of School Psychology and the American Academy of School Psychology. Because most specialty board certified members are also members of the academy, it makes sense to merge so that the functions conducted by both entities are combined rather than duplicated. What were previously academy functions will now be conducted by members (or designates) of the merged specialty/academy board. As a merged board and academy, we will be able to provide a consistent push to gain new board-certified school psychologists, recruit members to serve on the ABSP and provide scholarships for early career psychologists. This merger will be final on January 1, 2020. Once merged, the academy will co-exist within the specialty board and will no longer be an independent entity. Academy board members will be encouraged to seek open positions on the ABSP. All elections and selection of members to the board will be done by the ABSP.
To recruit new specialty board-certified members, we are encouraging all current board-certified members to commit to providing presentations on board certification at state and national professional conferences. We will be providing sample presentations online that members will be free to modify for their audience. The presentations will address the benefits of board certification and discuss the simple three-step process outlined in our new manual. We are encouraging collaboration with APA Division 16 (School Psychology), the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) to continue to emphasize to licensure boards that school psychology (along with clinical and counseling psychology) is one of the three professional psychology areas for the independent practice of psychology at the doctoral level.

One of our difficulties in recruiting new members is the relatively small pool of potential applicants. Many doctoral level school psychologists work in schools which are licensure exempt settings and do not require board of psychology or department of health professions licenses. So not only do we need to encourage ABPP specialty certification in school psychology, our profession must encourage school psychologists to obtain licenses for the independent practice of psychology. This may take the combined efforts of ABSP and Division 16 to promote the benefits of independent licensure within licensure exempt settings. This will be no easy task. We need to have support from our trainers in both university programs and internships to foster an appreciation for independent licensure as well as encouraging those trainers themselves to seek specialty board certification since they are professional role models for their students and interns. One of those benefits for obtaining independent licensure and subsequent board certification in school settings is to have a professional equivalency with those psychologists in independent practice who often provide outside evaluations and services to students. Another is the ability to establish APA internships within school settings and provide licensure and internship supervision within those settings. This benefits school systems as a way of growing their own and provides well trained psychologists for their staffs. It also provides evidence of a high level of commitment to professional psychology. Several of our newly boarded members are trainers who benefited from grants provided by the ABPP Foundation to complete the board certification process. We are very thankful to the ABPP Foundation for their generous support to our specialty board for assisting these deserving individuals.

We continue to have a lot of work ahead of us. Most of it will be challenging and hopefully rewarding for us and the ABPP. All of our ABPP School Specialty members are encouraged to contact us and offer their support for these initiatives in the coming months.
A Brief Review of the Activities of the American Board of Professional Psychology’s Ethics Committee (2007 through 2017)

By Marc A. Martinez, PhD, ABPP

Introduction

In an effort to supplement the available systems in place to investigate and respond to ethical complaints at the state and national level, the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) decided in 1985 that the formation of an Ethics Committee (EC) was necessary to assist with the enforcement and monitoring of ethical practice among board-certified psychologists. The American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) Ethics Committee (EC) ceased adjudicating cases around 2009. Since that time, the EC has monitored actions taken by the American Psychological Association Ethics Committee and state licensing boards. In fulfilling its duties, the EC serves all ABPP board certified specialists, the ABPP Board of Trustees, all ABPP Specialty Boards and Academies, and the Council of Presidents of Psychology Specialty Academies.

The primary aim of the present article is to examine the function of the ABPP EC prior to 2017, specifically with regard to the type of ethical concerns reviewed and the actions taken in response. This information may then be used by specialists to identify and proactively manage common ethical issues.

National and ABPP EC Data on Ethics Complaints and Violations

Information collected by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) has shown that the top 10 reasons for licensing board disciplinary action against psychologists include (1) unprofessional conduct, (2) sexual misconduct, (3) negligence, (4) nonsexual dual relationships, (5) conviction of a crime, (6) failure to maintain adequate or accurate records, (7) failure to comply with continuing education or competency requirements, (8) incompetence, (9) improper or inadequate supervision or delegation, and (10) substandard or inadequate care (Pope, 2016). This data was based on 5,582 reports of disciplinary actions submitted to the ASPPB Disciplinary Data System from 1974-2014. Overall, the results suggest that the general ethical standards of competence, human relations, and record keeping account for the majority of these issues.

Records pertaining to cases of ethical misconduct monitored by the EC prior to 2017 were retained by the ABPP Central Office dating back to 2007. Those obtained and examined for the purpose of the present article included a total of 27 different specialist cases. Of these cases, there was sufficient information regarding general ethical issues in 19 (Table 1). The records relating to the remaining cases were determined to lack adequate detail to analyze the ethical issues. As with the ASPPB, the most common areas of ethical concern related to competence, record keeping, and assessment practice.
The Specialist 2019

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethical Standards</th>
<th>Number of Cases at Issue</th>
<th>Percentage Involving General Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resolving Ethical Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competence</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record Keeping</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Of the 19 cases with sufficient information to categorize the ethical standards at issue, seven of these cases involved more than one ethical standard. As such, percentages were derived from the total number of general ethical complaint issues present, totaling 28. Because of rounding the percentages do not total 100%.

The ethical standards subsections identified among the 19 cases with sufficient detail are listed in Table 2. As noted, the most frequent specific ethical standards at issue were 2.06 (Personal Problems and Conflict), 6.01 (Documentation of Professional and Scientific Work and Maintenance of Records), and 9.01 (Bases for Assessments). These were most commonly associated with criminal behavior, unprofessional conduct, lack of compliance with ethics investigations, and inadequate documentation.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethical Standards Subsections</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Percentage Involving Specific Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.06 (Cooperating with ethics committees)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.01 (Boundaries of Competence)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.03 (Maintaining Competence)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.04 (Bases for Scientific and Professional Judgments)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.06 (Personal Problems and Conflicts)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.02 (Sexual Harassment)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.04 (Avoiding Harm)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.05 (Multiple Relationships)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.01 (Documentation of Professional and Scientific Work and Maintenance of Records)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.01 (Bases for Assessments)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.10 (Explaining Assessment Results)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.05 (Sexual Intimacies with Current Therapy Clients/Patients)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Of the 19 cases with sufficient information to categorize the ethical standards subsections at issue, seven of these cases involved more than one standard. As such percentages were derived from the total number of specific ethical complaint issues present, totaling 34. Because of rounding the percentages do not total 100%.

Of the 27 different specialist cases available from 2007 to 2017, there was sufficient data regarding sanctions imposed by the state of licensure and/or EC in 26 cases (Table 3). As noted, the most frequent actions by the EC included monitoring of state-initiated sanctions followed by the EC's revocation of a specialist's certification and publication of this information in the Specialist. The cases that involved no action by the EC were primarily those in which a state sanction of probation was completed successfully.
Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanction</th>
<th>Number of Cases Present</th>
<th>Percentage of Cases Involving Sanction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revocation of certification and publication of revocation and name in <em>The Specialist</em></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring of state-initiated sanctions (e.g., probation, supervision, evaluation, treatment, training, restrictions on license)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC requiring continuing education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No action by EC</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Of the 26 cases with sufficient information to categorize sanctions, four of the cases involved more than one form of sanction. As such percentages were derived from the total number of sanctions present, totaling 30.

Summary

While the EC data is limited to a small number of cases, there are similarities between ethical issues brought before the EC from 2007 through 2016 and those identified in large-scale research; most notably, issues relate to concerns about competency and record keeping. Data obtained specifically from the EC records suggests that specialists may benefit from (a) a heightened focus on maintaining professional conduct regardless of the setting, (b) cooperating with ethical investigations at all phases, and (c) ensuring adequate documentation of therapeutic and evaluation practices. In addition to regular continuing education dedicated to ethics such as trainings, whether in-person or virtual, and consultation with colleagues there are several literature resources that may be of assistance in maintaining ethical practice (e.g., APA, 2007; AERA/APA/NCME, 2014; APA, 2010; Barnet & Johnson, 2010; Bush, Connell, & Denney, 2006; Smith, 2003). Among these resources, specialists may benefit in particular from ethical models that allow for the systematic consideration of presenting issues and arrival at an ethical resolution. In addition, specialists may benefit from the consultation services of the EC. For those interested in this service, please visit [https://www.abpp.org/Specialists/Ethics-Committee/Ethics-Consultation-Process.aspx](https://www.abpp.org/Specialists/Ethics-Committee/Ethics-Consultation-Process.aspx) and follow the noted procedure to submit a consultation request.

References:


Benefits of Multiple Psychology Specialties Collaborating within Primary Care

By Robert Fallows, PsyD, ABPP

Samaritan Health Services (SHS), an organization of five community hospitals and over 80 outpatient clinics serving a largely rural population in the mid-Willamette valley of Oregon, has embraced the primary care psychology model similar to many other health care systems across the country. However, what started as primary care/health psychology has since evolved into multiple disciplines integrating and/or co-locating into primary care based on recognition that this allows for greater access to services while hopefully reducing stigma for some services.

Neuropsychology began to integrate into SHS primary care in 2015, with consultation from health psychology colleagues. This pilot project began in an internal medicine/pediatrics clinic where warm-handoffs were utilized as well as other triaged services, including: curbside consultation, brief screening, and more comprehensive evaluation. Through initial analysis of outcomes, we were able to demonstrate that integration of neuropsychology led to increased patient follow through in completing evaluation by just being in the clinic (3.2 times greater likelihood) and even better follow through if a warm-handoff was conducted (5.7 times greater likelihood) (Fallows, 2019). Further, and possibly due to the increased pace of the primary care clinic and subsequent adaptation of practice models, productivity also increased by an average of 3.2 work relative value units per day.

Increased productivity and patient follow through was just one aspect of the benefit of neuropsychologists and health psychologist’s collaboration in the primary care setting. Beyond consultation about adaptation of practice models, neuropsychologists were able to provide education on cognitive screening. This is crucial given that 1) cognitive screening has been part of the Medicare annual wellness exam since 2011, but 2) some of our providers may not have been formally trained in administration/interpretation and/or utilize certified medical assistants who have varying degrees of training in administration. In consideration of the impact this creates on validity of these tools alongside other inherent limitations of cognitive screening (Roebuck-Spencer, 2017), our hope is that future research will demonstrate a lower false positive rate for cognitive screening when conducted by well-trained health psychologists. Perhaps one of the benefits with using health psychologists is their enhanced knowledge of patient variables impact on screening tools, leading them to more routinely take into consideration how scores are impacted by lower education/SES, psychological distress, and other numerous patient diversity factors. In the interim, we have seen how these cognitive screenings currently result in better informed referrals to neuropsychology for more comprehensive evaluation, giving neuropsychologists greater reach throughout the region.

Perhaps one of the other significant outcomes of this collaboration, and another future goal for research, is collaboration on concussion management and ADHD assessment. With collaborative input from primary care medical directors, health psychologists, and neuropsychologists, care pathways have been created. It is our hope that these pathways will lead to quicker symptom reduction in non-litigating patients with chronic concussion symptoms through CBT intervention. Further, we aim to create a system where there is more efficient and accurate diagnosis of ADHD in populations where there is potential for higher medication misuse (e.g., college students).
Ultimately, the progression of neuropsychology’s involvement in primary care, from education papers (Michels, Tiu, & Graver, 2010) to practical models (Lanca, 2018) and outcome studies (Fallows, 2019), shows promise as fertile grounds for future research and practice implementation. Today, SHS’s demonstrated success with this model has positioned our clinic to expand services to a family medicine clinic and two pediatric clinics. Hopefully, evolution of these services will result in improved patient treatment measured by more efficient patient access to psychological services and decreased crisis/ED utilization, amongst other outcome variables.

References:


ABPP at the 2019 Southwest Latinx Psychology Conference: A roadmap for ABPP involvement in conferences

By Michael Tansy, PhD, ABPP
Leonardo Caraballo, PsyD, ABPP
Jessie Garcia, PhD, ABPP

The American Board of Professional Psychology purposefully works to build sustainable relationships among people and institutions with diverse membership (ABPP Diversity Statement, 2014, https://www.abpp.org/About/Diversity/Position-Statement.aspx). Toward that end, ABPP’s leadership embraced a strong commitment to reach out to diverse groups of psychologists within professional psychology.

Recently, ABPP accepted the opportunity to co-sponsor the inaugural meeting of the Southwest Latinx Psychology Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, which took place on April 26 and 27, 2019. In preparation for the conference, Dr. Michael Tansy, Past President of ABPP, sought the approval of the ABPP Executive Committee to waive the application fee for any conference attendee who allowed us to send their name and contact information to their prospective specialty board president. It was our intent to introduce each conference attendee to a prospective specialty board president.

As part of our co-sponsorship, ABPP hosted a table, which was staffed by Drs. Tansy, Caraballo, and Garcia, as well as Julie Alberty, PhD. ABPP, had a ¼ page advertisement in the conference program, and included ABPP brochures in each attendee’s conference bag. Ms. Lanette Melville of ABPP Central Office offered exceptional assistance in organizing this aspect of our experience.

Prior to the onset of the conference, Ms. Nancy McDonald, ABPP’s Associate Executive Officer, provided us with a list of specialty board presidents’ email addresses; this way we sent all of them an email alerting them to anticipate emails / queries from conference attendees. Additionally, the conference organizers, two of whom are ABPP specialists (Drs. Leo Caraballo & Chris Nicholls), provided us with a list of email addresses for all registrants that was subsequently used to contact participants before the conference, offering to waive the $125 ABPP application fee if they were to allow us to make a registrant subspecialty board (SB) introduction. Thus, the stage was set for a great outreach experience.

At the conference, ABPP had a significant presence:

∞ On April 26th, Dr. Julie Alberty offered a one-hour presentation titled “Cultural considerations in clinical neuropsychological evaluations”. The session was an introductory look into cultural humility, the importance of culture, how culture can impact an individual’s world view, and how individuals of different cultures may participate/interact with neuropsychology testing.

∞ On April 27, Drs. Tansy, Caraballo, and Garcia presented a 90-minute lunch time plenary session titled, “Demonstrating competence across borders: The role of board certification in psychology”. The talk provided information about establishing competency benchmarks across settings and geographical locations for the international practice of professional psychology, reviewed ABPP’s foundational and functional competencies, and described ABPP’s board certification process.
On the same day, Monte Bobele, PhD, ABPP and his colleagues, Daisy Ceja, MS and Saul Cruz, MA, presented the lecture “Adapting and Modifying the Eurocentric Psychotherapy Practices that are Frequently Imported into Mexico”, a look at recent work conducted by Mexican and U.S. therapists interested in adapting and modifying Eurocentric psychotherapy practices in Mexico.

Lastly, Chris Nicholls, PhD, ABPP presented “APA Multicultural Guidelines: An ecological approach to context, identity and intersectionality: Summary and review”. The presentation showcased the profession's recognition of the important role that diversity and multiculturalism play, both within the United States and globally.

During the conference, individuals who staffed the ABPP table on the first day- provided information to many registrants, utilizing a “no pressure” approach, and by simply sharing information regarding ABPP board certification. On the second day, staff re-approached registrants who had previously expressed an interest in the ABPP board certification process, and asked them if they would like to meet their prospective specialty board president to answer any questions they might have had. To our delight, many attendees showed a positive response and agreed to include their email addresses, asking to take this initial introductory step. It is our impression that this initial “no pressure first”, followed by a small 'nudge” approach the following day, was effective without appearing excessive.

Upon completion of the conference, we sent personalized emails introducing 14 of the 95 (nearly 15%) registrants to a variety of specialty board presidents. Here's how the numbers broke down by specialty:

4 Clinical Psychology
1 Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology
3 Clinical Health Psychology
1 Clinical Neuropsychology
1 Counseling Psychology
1 Couple and Family Psychology
2 Forensic Psychology
1 Organizational and Business Consulting Psychology.

Within two days of sending these introductory emails, every specialty board president and registrant confirmed they were introduced, and many indicated they were beginning the process of obtaining their application. For additional follow up, we sent the remaining registrants a thank you note for attending our presentation on ABPP board certification, reminding them once more of the offer to waive the ABPP application fee.

Overall our shared experience at the 2019 Southwest Latinx Psychology Conference, offers a template or blueprint for improving ABPP's outreach, particularly to diverse practitioners. This endeavor went beyond providing monetary co-sponsorship in return for advertisement and a table at a convention. If followed, it very likely affords ABPP the opportunity for metrics associated with its Marketing and Outreach objectives. Through planning, we clearly delineated the elements of a successful outreach model to use for conferences going forward. Those elements include:

1) Clear pre-conference planning, delineating who would be responsible for the elements of our participation, what would be needed, and a timetable for task completion;
2) A clear messaging to attendees before and after the conference;
3) Clear incentives to attendees for providing us their contact information;
4) A clear system to connect attendees with their respective Specialty Board leaders;
5) Clear tracking to designate who introduces attendees with their Specialty Board leaders;
6) A clear communication with Central Office, ensuring them of information regarding attendees who follow through by applying for board certification;
7) Lastly, an opportunity for Central Office to track which attendees become board certified.

It is our sincere hope that the experience chronicled in this article may serve future specialists to use as a roadmap for organizing ABPP’s presence and follow through at state, local and national presentations.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Michael Tansy, PhD, ABPP
Past President of ABPP

L to R: Michael Tansy, PhD, ABPP, Leonard Caraballos, PhD, and Jessie Garcia, PhD, ABPP
Presenting at the Southwest Latinx Psychology Conference
Hyatt Regency Phoenix: April 26th-27th, 2019, Phoenix, Arizona
The ABPP-VA Initiative: Promote VA Psychologist’s Pursuit of Certification

By Samuel R. James, EdD, ABPP - Ken Adams, PhD, ABPP - Alina Suris, PhD, ABPP
Erin Patel, PsyD, ABPP - Leo Caraballo, PsyD, ABPP

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs tracking database, in 2017 there were approximately 3,000 psychologists practicing within the VA. There were 260 or 8.67% of VA psychologists who hold ABPP certification. These psychologists cover 18 Veteran Integrated Service Networks across 141 facilities in the nation (including Puerto Rico and Guam) and were represented in 43 of 50 states. Thus, the VA provides an important opportunity for ABPP to engage psychologists in a discussion about pursuing certification.

The VA is a vital partner for several reasons. As the largest employer of psychologists, the VA has been at the forefront in the development of professional psychology. It is committed to psychology training and maintains strict hiring and credentialing requirements. Employed psychologists are deemed to reflect the VA’s commitment to provide veterans with the most competent providers. Since the VA, like ABPP, promotes rigorous, competent practices in the delivery of professional psychology, we asked them to become partners to further our mutual goals as leaders in the field.

A task force comprised of ABPP and VA psychologists was created to determine the best way forward. We received enthusiastic endorsement from ABPP and the VA’s senior leadership and were given permission and resources to move forward. Initially, the task force created a strategic plan to determine the primary opportunities and obstacles to address to ensure successful progress.

The cornerstone of the task force’s method of engaging VA psychologists seeking specialty board certification is the VA Pulse, which integrates discussion forums, shared virtual workspaces, and multimedia in a uniquely developed platform accessible to all VA staff members. This site allows VA staff members to create a personal “page” where they can join other work groups, discussion forums, etc. to foster collaborations and information sharing about board certification.

To encourage psychologists in the VA system to gain specialty credentialing, we have targeted the following five specific areas:

1. Clear Message: There are many misconceptions and myths related to ABPP. These range from beliefs that ABPP is for those later in their careers; psychologists must be an expert before applying; or they must have a perfect case to present. Consequently, we are sponsoring webinars that will address how to become board certified as well as provide webinars for individual Specialty Boards so that they can discuss how interested psychologists can pursue certification in their area of clinical practice.

2. Organize the ABPP Psychologists in the VA: ABPP has an untapped resource within the VA of psychologists who are board certified. We are connecting with certified psychologists and asking them to engage in promoting ABPP certification. Most people join an organization because someone they respect asks them to join. Training and clinical directors as well as friends and colleagues are valuable resources since they have gone through the process and can recommend it to others.
3. Early Career Psychologists (ECPs): ECPs represent a cohort that has demonstrated interest in board certification. We are collaborating with ABPP’s ECP Committee to find ways to engage VA ECPs and discuss the value of certification. Given that finances are an obstacle, we are also exploring ways to provide scholarships to ease some of the financial burden.

4. Training and Clinical Directors: Training and clinical directors help their interns and postdoctoral fellows think through how they want to approach their career after their training is over. They have opportunities to discuss the value of being board certified over the course of their career. We are working with directors at all levels of the VA encouraging them to discuss the importance of certification not only for the individual psychologists but for the field of psychology as well. In the end, we are building on those VA postdoctoral training programs who actively promote board preparation activities, which enhances ABPP’s appeal to potential applicants.

5. Standardizing the Process for Applying to ABPP across the VA: The VA does not have a clearly articulated policy for applying to ABPP. Thus, different medical centers have different policies that at times conflict with one another. We are exploring with the VA guidelines that are nationally applicable. Specifically, we are addressing ways to de-identify reports and raw data; de-identify patient notes; use of consent forms; use of video and audio recordings; and use of verbatim transcripts of recordings. Each is critical for the successful exam preparation.

Finally, the ABPP VA Initiative has reached out to all psychology stakeholders in the VA and we are actively creating partners and networks in both the VA and ABPP. To achieve our objectives, we will need many psychologists that believe that serving the public by promoting the provision of quality psychological services through the examination and certification of professional psychologists engaged in specialty practice is important for psychologists and our patients. If you would like to join us or receive additional information please contact Samuel James, sjames@srjames.com or Alina Suris amsuris@hotmail.com

American Board of Professional Psychology

The ABPP Ethics Committee is now providing consultation services to ABPP constituents, including board certified specialists, the Board of Trustees, Specialty Boards and Academies, and the Council of Presidents of Psychology Specialty Academies. These consultation services will focus on responding to inquiries related to ethical standards, principles, and guidelines governing the practice of psychology. However, the guidance is of a general nature and does not constitute legal advice. To obtain a consultation from the ABPP Ethics Committee, a Consultation Request Form needs to be completed and e-mailed to ABPP. This form is available on the ABPP website in the new Ethics section. A more detailed description of the Ethics consultation process is also provided on the website at https://abpp.org/Specialists/Ethics-Committee/Ethics-Consultation-Process.aspx.
William Parham, PhD, ABPP, leads a new National Basketball Players Association initiative that puts players’ mental health and wellness on center stage. Dr. Parham was recently appointed as the inaugural Director of the Mental Health and Wellness Program for the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA).

Dr. Parham reports that a long range goal is to keep the conversation about the importance of mental health and wellness moving forward as it is a reality for all people, and particularly for elite athletes who are not afforded the same freedoms to be vulnerable and share their story. Consequently, many keep their personal stories hidden, choosing, in some cases, to use it as fuel for managing their challenges. Some, however, remain trapped by their challenges and acquiesce to believing that this is their plight in life. Dr. Parham adds that these perceptions and perspectives must change.

For more information regarding this initiative, please check out the following links:


https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2783189-the-nbpas-first-mental-health-director-has-an-ambitious-plan-for-the-future


https://www.slamonline.com/nba/mental-health-nba/
Newly Certified Specialists  

**Behavioral & Cognitive Psychology**  
Emily Bilek, PhD  
Louis A. Pagano, Jr., PhD  
Jon Rogove, PhD

**Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology**  
Huong Diep, PsyD  
Marni L. Jacob, PhD  
Samantha P. Miller, PhD  
Ryan R. Landoll, PhD  
Nicholas J. Westers, PsyD

**Clinical Neuropsychology (Continued)**  
Julie B. Newman, PhD  
Ty E. Owens, PhD  
Jennifer Peraza, PsyD  
James N. Porter, PhD  
Danielle ME Ransom, PsyD  
Jennifer Rosenberg, PhD  
Vanessa R. Scarborough, PhD  
Jane E. Schreiber, PhD  
Jillian Schuh, PhD  
Tracy E. Shannon, PsyD  
Kelly M. Stanek, PhD  
Jennifer M. Stinson, PhD  
Alex M. Taylor, PsyD  
William D. Watson, PhD  
Andrew L. Wong, PhD  
Kathryn A. Wyman-Chick, PsyD  
Adrianna J. Zec, PsyD  
Vanessa S. Zizak, PhD

**Clinical Psychology**  
Shanyn L. Aysta, PsyD  
Ashley Bittle, PsyD  
Garry (Trey) L. Cole, III, PsyD  
Jo M. Ellison, PhD  
Emily Grullon, PhD  
Titus M. Hamlett, PhD  
Stevan Hobfoll, PhD  
Kristin Humphrey, PhD  
Neha Khorana, PhD  
Jennifer Lemmer, PhD  
Meagan J. Marcum, PsyD  
Stephanie N. Pagano, PsyD  
Brian D. Petrovich, PsyD  
John Schipper, PhD  
Richard S. Shapiro, PhD  
William A. Smithson, PsyD  
Rachel N. Waford, PhD  
Brittney Wright, PhD

**Counseling Psychology**  
David M. Erekson, PhD  
Jeffrey J. Klibert, PhD  
Brett Merrill, PhD  
Delisha M. Pittman, PhD  
Frederick A. Stich, PhD  
Emily Voelkel, PhD

**Couple & Family Psychology**  
Perry A. QuaVaundra, PhD  
Rachael Silverman, PsyD

**Forensic Psychology**  
Melinda S. DiCiro, PsyD  
Wendy M. Elliott, PhD  
Meredith M. Veltri, PhD  
Frederick Winsmann, PhD

**Geropsychology**  
Herb Ames, PhD  
Weston V. Donaldson, PhD  
Stacey A. Wood, PhD

**Group Psychology**  
Michelle Collins, PhD

**Organizational & Business Consulting Psychology**  
Stacey A. Krauss, PsyD

**Psychoanalysis**  
Phyllis Cohen, PhD  
William H. Gottdiener, PhD  
Amira Simha-Alpern, PhD