

This digest of events during the November Assembly meetings held in Washington, DC only summarizes only oral presentations. Many other reports presented in written form can be found in the Assembly Packet. Please use this as a tool to communicate with your Area and District Branch Councils and members. It is intended to be downloaded or read online, but may also be printed (without access to the web links). You may use it as is, or edit and modify the content to suit your particular needs. Any errors or omissions are considered unconscious (being addressed in analysis). Corrections may be sent to [Adam Nelson, M.D.](#)

Speaker's Welcome and Report — Dan Anzia, M.D.



Speaker Dan Anzia welcomed everyone to the fall 2016 meeting of the APA Assembly. Dr. Anzia and the executive leadership personally greeted several new members to the Assembly. As an inspiration, Dr. Anzia recited a poem by Robert Frost to the members and guests present before the work of the Assembly would begin.

There Are Roughly Zones

*We sit indoors and talk of the cold outside.
And every gust that gathers strength and heaves
Is a threat to the house. But the house has long been tried.
We think of the tree. If it never again has leaves,
We'll know, we say, that this was the night it died.
It is very far north, we admit, to have brought the peach.
What comes over a man, is it soul or mind
That to no limits and bounds he can stay confined?
You would say his ambition was to extend the reach
Clear to the Arctic of every living kind.
Why is his nature forever so hard to teach
That though there is no fixed line between wrong and right,
There are roughly zones whose laws must be obeyed.
There is nothing much we can do for the tree tonight.
But we can't help feeling more than a little betrayed
That the northwest wind should rise to such a height
Just when the cold went down so many below.
The tree has no leaves and may never have them again.
We must wait till some months hence in the spring to know.
But if it is destined never again to grow,
It can blame this limitless trait in the hearts of men.*

Rules Committee — Glenn Martin, M.D.

Dr. Martin presented the Consent Calendar for consideration by the Assembly. Once again, the Rules Committee reviewed close to 40 Action Papers and Position Statements referred from the JRC and placed 15 on the Consent Calendar, which, after voted on by the Assembly, left 21 items for deliberation by the Assembly, along with one item of new business.

Report from the APA President — Maria Oquendo, M.D.

Dr. Oquendo described the recent and upcoming efforts by the APA to streamline the development and updating of Treatment Guidelines, to make them more user friendly to clinicians. Also, the DSM is evolving into a "living document" which will be updated in a more easily and timely manner. Her recent attendance at a "listening session" with the FDA revealed



that they are not interested in enforcing medication use exclusively for FDA indicated disorders. Rather, the FDA is relying on professional groups, like the APA, to develop guidelines for off-label use of medications already approved by the FDA. She also spoke of developing a “tree” algorithm to promote the multi-modal treatment of distinct Mental Health disorders.

Report of the CEO/Medical Director of the APA — Saul Levin, MD, MPA



Dr. Levin presented his report, much of which can also be found in the Assembly packet. At the APA Annual Meeting, the White House Task Force on Mental Health Parity heard testimony from several leaders and members of the APA, who voiced concerns and ideas to ensure full implementation of the law. Current initiatives include: health plan network adequacy, funding to audit health plans, public reporting on parity investigations, and producing a consumer guide to disclosure rights. APA is making [MACRA](#) implementation for Medicare providers as user-friendly as possible. This includes reporting exemptions for practices treating less than 100 Medicare beneficiaries, decreasing and making reporting requirements more flexible, and developing a registry – called [PsychPRO](#) – to facilitate MACRA reporting for members. With the rapidly changing political climate, Dr. Levin encourages members who can advise the president-elect and newly elected members of Congress to reach out to their transitional teams. APA is using their [TCPI-SAN](#) Grant to facilitate over 500 psychiatrists to date in Integrated Health Care, and plans to train several hundred more. Also, kudos goes to APA member Peter Yellowlees, M.D, recently elected president of the American Telemedicine Association. APA will be taking occupancy of its recently purchased new office space in 2018, after completion of construction and renovation.

Assembly Nominating Committee — Glenn Martin, M.D.

Dr. Martin announced the candidates nominated for Assembly office.

For Speaker-elect: Bob Batterson, MD from Area 4 and James Polo, MD from Area 7

For Recorder: Steven Daviss, MD from Area 3 and Paul O'Leary, MD from Area 5

Hearing no other nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. Best of luck to all nominees

Report from the APA President-elect — Anita Everett, M.D.



Dr. Everett presented her report as chair of the JRC, including upcoming new business for the Assembly of a position statement on psychiatrist participation in euthanasia, an Autism Spectrum Disorder medication guide for parents, and increasing psychiatrist participation in treatment of persons with mental illness in prisons. She then outlined an agenda of initiatives for her upcoming presidency, including increasing access to psychiatric care, making the APA a “go to” place for psychiatrists everywhere, improving treatment of first-episode psychosis, and addressing physician burnout and improving resilience.

Treasurer's Report — Bruce Schwartz, M.D.

Dr. Schwartz reported on the APAF and the APA. APA is generally on target with forecasted budget. Key points include better than expected revenue from DSM licensing and royalty fees, along with lower than expected overall book sales, lower than expected Annual Meeting attendance, some cost reductions due to personnel vacancies, and excellent investment portfolio performance. All detailed information can be found in the Treasurer's Report available in the Assembly Packet.



American Psychiatric Association Foundation — Saul Levin, MD, MPA Chairperson/Chief Executive Officer and Medical Director, and Dan Gilleson, Executive Director

APF, APIRE, and APPI have all now been combined into APAF. [Daniel Gilleson](#) is the APAF's new Executive Director, who promises to bring great enthusiasm and passion to his job. The APAF wants to increase relevance to members and increase efforts at education and fundraising. The APAF has been partnering with other organizations around the country to increase visibility of programs important to these efforts, including [Typical or Troubled](#) - called out by Hillary Clinton during her campaign, and partnering with "[Sandy Hook Promise](#)", [Partnership for Workplace Mental Health](#), which produces a Mental Health Works newsletter, and [Stepping Up Summit](#) – partnering with SAMHSA and state and county agencies to improve awareness of mental health needs of prison and jail inmates. Member contributions have increased in 2016 relative to 2015. The APAF will be hosting a reception in San Diego at the Wine and Cultural Event Center at the 2017 APA Annual Meeting. Please [contribute](#) generously to the APA Foundation for all the good work they do.

Report from APAPAC — Paul O'Leary, M.D.



Dr. O'Leary described the work the [APAPAC](#) has done over the past year. The PAC has contributed \$410K to various federal candidates and committees, with about 54% going to GOP and 46% to DNC projects. In addition, the APA-CAN (Congressional Advocacy Network) remains strong and active. With the results of this year's presidential and congressional elections, psychiatrists can play an influential role in the upcoming lame duck session of Congress.

Reports and Next Steps from the Assembly Work Groups/Committees

This year's Assembly agenda placed greater priority on meeting time for Workgroups.

Psychiatric Diagnosis and DSM – Efforts to harmonize DSM and ICD-10CM continue, as does efforts to evolve the DSM into a "living document. The long awaited DSM portal website to accept suggestions and recommendations for future changes should be available in a matter of weeks.

Access to Care – This task force has evolved into a standing committee of the Assembly. Initiatives include fostering better communication between APA and its constituent DBs/SAs to support state and local efforts at expanding access to care. Also, this committee continues to provide a repository for colleagues and patients to share their anecdotes of problems with access.

Assembly/Foundation Initiatives – The APAF report underscores the importance of maintaining strong liaison with the Assembly.

MOC – Identified concerns include cost to diplomates of MOC, testing reform, and the importance of keeping an open dialogue with the ABPN.

Metrics – Current and proposed metrics projects include studying the Assembly's role as a conduit/incubator for APA leaders, and Assembly reps as a resource for increasing membership engagement.

Liaison to the Steering Committee on Practice Guidelines – It will be important to bring published guidelines up to date and making them more user friendly, as well as making the updating process more nimble.

Assembly Committee on Procedures — A. David Axelrad, M.D.

The Committee on Procedures brought several proposed changes to the Procedures Code of the Assembly. Approved changes included:

- Allowing Deputy Representatives to vote in matters before the Assembly
- Incorporating the Assembly Committee on Access to Care into the Procedures Code
- Incorporating liaison language for the Committees on Access to Care and Public and Community Psychiatry
- Incorporating the Committee on MOC into the Procedures Code

The proposed change to the Procedures Code to allow election of Assembly officers by a simple majority of individual voters, rather than vote by strength, based on Action Paper 12T (2015), postponed in the last Assembly until this meeting, narrowly failed to achieve the required 2/3 majority of Assembly approval on a vote by strength.

Action Papers/Items

Among the more notable Actions taken during this session, the Assembly voted to:

- Approve (on consent) proposed APA Position Statements on Out-of-Network Restriction of Psychiatrists, Location of Civil Commitment Hearings, Mental Health and Climate Change – all based on previous Assembly Action Papers;
- Approve the improved communication between outpatient and inpatient (hospitalist) physicians;
- Explore (with AMA) models for single payer and universal healthcare access delivery;
- Ensure privacy of protected health information in access of PDMP databases by law enforcement;
- Urge APA develop Position Statements on Screening and Treatment of MH Disorders during Pregnancy and Post-Partum and increase Parity of MH Care for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities;
- Urge APA to improve liaison between APA fellowship applicants and recipients and their local DBs;
- Urge APA to support smart-gun technology as part of an effort to reduce gun violence as a public health concern;
- Urge APA to advocate for improved quality and access to medical and psychiatric care in correctional and institutional settings;
- Urge the APA to collaborate with other state and national groups to combat the consequences of childhood poverty and to end this public health problem;
- Have the BOT form a Task Force on combatting Discrimination and its MH consequences;
- Reaffirm the requirement of medical training for anyone who prescribes psychotropic medications;
- Develop a fund with APAF help to pay costs of consumer speakers who present at APA meetings;
- Reaffirm several current APA Position Statements, which can be found in the Assembly Packet;
- Approve the proposed Position Statement opposing Psychiatrist prescribing or administering any euthanizing intervention to a non-terminally ill person.
- Refer a Position Statement on Confidentiality of Medical Records of Physicians who have previously been in treatment back to JRC for revision to address practices of state Medical Boards publically posting such information on their websites.

A full summary of all Actions of the Assembly may be found [here](#). Final Action Papers can be found by going to <http://ait.psychiatry.org/>.