



November 10, 2020 – Committees Report

Alcoholism and the Addictions – John Renner, MD / RFM – Jawad Husain, MD / Mason Qualls, MD

The MPS Committee on Alcoholism and the Addictions has planned for several speakers throughout the 2020-2021 academic year to address several timely topics within addiction psychiatry. In the context of the increased attention to social determinants of health during the quarantine, we are planning a joint meeting with the MPS Multicultural and Diversity Committee to invite Dr. Miriam Komaromy to discuss the treatment of substance use disorders during Covid-19. We are hosting upcoming talks previously delayed due to quarantine by Dr. Grace Change on Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy and Dr. Brandon Marshall on Supervised Injection Facilities. Additionally, we look forward to hearing from experiences and findings from research conducted by Dr. Marc Rochelle on residential treatment and medication for opioid use as well as from Dr. Jodi Gilman on a randomized controlled trial studying medical cannabis.

With committee chair Dr. John Renner, we are welcoming back resident co-chair Dr. Jawad Husain, PGY-IV at Boston Medical Center, and now co-chair Dr. Mason Qualls, PGY-II at Harvard South Shore.

Awards Committee – Fe Erlita Festin, MD

The Awards Committee released the names of the 2020 Outstanding Psychiatrist awardees and was published at the May 2020 MPS Bulletin. The awarding ceremony was deferred due to postponement of the Annual MPS meeting to November 2020. Dr. Grace Mushrush who served as Chair of the Awards Committee from 2009 -2020 retired this year. MPS and our committee would like to extend our sincerest appreciation and gratitude for all her years of service to MPS and this committee. Dr. Fe Erlita Festin was appointed as the new Chair of the Awards Committee effective October 2020. We have also sent an announcement thru email and our news bulletin inviting members to submit nominations for next year's Outstanding Psychiatrist awardees. There has been increased interest in expanding our award categories. The committee will be meeting to consider these suggestions.

CME – David Osser, MD / Ana Ticlea, MD

Since Covid started, we have converted to virtual conferences. The committee re-approved (with some modifications) the annual psychotherapy and psychopharmacology conferences and they are both being held in November in the upcoming weeks. There was approval for a series of talks in different sites about nicotine dependence treatment related to a large study that is underway as well as a Balint Group session – Hearing the Patient, Healing the Physician. Unfortunately, the Risk Management conference scheduled for April 2020 had to be cancelled. However, we expect there will be a program in 2021, and the group is enjoying refreshed leadership. The CME Committee lost two members but gained three. Please remember if there are CME requests, the committee requests submissions be submitted 4 month prior to the time a program is requested to ensure it falls with the committee schedule and to confirm the date is available. All CME requests can be sent to Debbie Brennan at dbrennan@mms.org.

Distinguished Fellowship – Cynthia Kettyle, MD

MPS has submitted nine completed Distinguished Fellowship applications. In late December we will be notified of the members' election to Distinguished Fellowship status.

The DF Committee will convene for its most important annual meeting in March 2021. At this time the Committee will review MPS members who are eligible to be nominated for DF status (current Fellows, other names brought by Committee members, applications submitted by interested members and

others). After discussion, the Committee will make its decision about whom we will invite to apply, and how best to move each application forward. The Committee meets again in June 2021 to review the completed applications. At that time the Committee selects the candidates that we will support and forward to the APA for its consideration.

Disaster Preparedness Committee – Giuseppe Raviola, MD / Katherine Koh, MD

The MPS Disaster Readiness Committee has led three MPS town halls this year since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. These have focused on disaster psychiatry in the context of previous pandemics, social determinants of health in the COVID-19 pandemic and using lessons from COVID-19 to shape the future of psychiatry. We plan to continue to hold town halls as well as other educational events throughout the year as we face this unprecedented disaster as a community. We will continue to meet quarterly as a group, and our hope is to attract new members. Our aim is to understand how disasters as broadly defined impact mental health and to think about how we can best support our patients, colleagues, and community members alike during disasters.

Early Career Psychiatrist – Anderson Chen, MD

Early Career Psychiatry (ECP) Group is focused on providing helpful content to psychiatrists in residency/fellowship training, potential medical students joining the field, as well as those within 5 years of completing their residency/fellowship training. We plan to do so by providing exposure to psychiatry in fields outside of academia, making mentorship available, as well as setting up a platform for members to share their own experience in regard to issues that may arise during or after training. Some activities ECP have provided within the past year include information session about legal issues in practicing psychiatry, virtual social events, Statewide virtual residency fair, and guest speakers to discuss their own career paths. The ultimate goal is to provide a positive experience in ECP, set our members for success, and for them to stay engaged with MPS throughout their careers.

Geriatric Psychiatry Committee – Eran Metzger, MD / RFM - Anderson Chen, MD

The geriatrics committee has hosted virtual round table discussions with committee members to discuss COVID-related changes, and for general support.

Healthcare Systems & Finance Committee – Gary Chinman, MD / Michael Bennett, MD

HCSF Committee just finished giving two evening workshops on e-prescribing which were attended by scores of members each time. The Committee plans next to understand and present to the membership the new coding and documentation requirements mandated by CMS. Ongoing work includes regular meetings with the three major regional health insurance companies to discuss changes, e.g., the Tufts-HPHC merger, and occasional problems, e.g., claw backs.

Multicultural/Diversity Committee - Astrid DesRosiers, MD / RFM - Destiny Pegram, MD / Brandon Newsome, MD

This year MCDC had a productive year, including participating in 3 town halls. This year we plan to interface with several committees including the Psychotherapy committee, ECP, and Psychiatry and Law Committee, and the Alcohol and Substance Use Committee in order to promote discussions of topics related to health equity, diversity, and anti-racism. Several of our members also participate with the Anti-Racist Task Force to further promote this concept within the structure of MPS.

Psychiatry and Law Committee- Jhilam Biswas, MD / Matthew Lahaie, MD

This group has a new chair, Dr. Jhilam Biswas, and we are conducting a search for a new Resident Fellow Training Co-chair. The Psychiatry and Law committee had a meeting and discussion on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, to introduce interested residents and fellows to forensic fellowship programs across the state. We introduced the program directors, Dr. Matt Lahaie and Dr. Jhilam Biswas of the newly integrated Mass General Brigham Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship who answered trainee questions. This meeting also highlighted Dr. Paul Noroian and Co-presenter Dr. Margarita Abi Zeid Daou who presented on the Department of Mental Health's pathway to managing forensic patients and a discussion of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 123. They also answered questions as the program director and assistant program

director of the UMASS Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship. In regard to upcoming news, we are also endorsing participation among our group in the Violence Risk Assessment talk hosted by the MPS Multicultural/Diversity Committee scheduled for December 2nd. We are hoping to have more sessions this year dedicated to mental health courts and are in the process of lining up speakers.

Psychotherapy Committee – Margaret Tuttle, MD / Stephen McDermott, MD / RFM - Radu Iliescu, MD

The MPS Psychotherapy Committee continues to be quite active. On Saturday, Nov. 14, we will present our next Psychotherapy CME Conference (virtually, via Zoom): *Psychosocial Treatment of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*. The morning will be two talks and a joint case presentation devoted to the assessment and treatment of ADHD with psychodynamic and cognitive therapy. In the afternoon, three talks and a speakers' question-and-answer panel are devoted to autism spectrum disorders. In addition to presenting multiple psychosocial treatment approaches, we will also feature the parents of a young man with a neurodevelopmental disorder.

Committee member Margo Goldman, MD, has been named to the 12-member Steering Committee of the APA Psychotherapy Caucus. She joins Margaret Tuttle, MD, who has been a Steering Committee member since 2015. Dr Goldman has spearheaded a national initiative, through the APA Psychotherapy Caucus, to promote the formation of Psychotherapy Committees at District Branches throughout the APA. See Psych News at <https://psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.pn.2020.8b16>. Massachusetts is one of only two District Branches nationally to have a Psychotherapy Committee, so the MPS is a national leader in its commitment to psychiatrists practicing psychotherapy. Sharing our experience can help encourage nascent psychotherapy committees to come to fruition.

We continue to maintain and update the list of Psychotherapy Training resources, available on the MPS website.

On June 4, there was a leadership change in our committee. Robert Goisman, MD, Founding Co-Chair of the committee, stepped down as co-chair since 2014. Succeeding him is Stephen "Chip" McDermott, MD, who has been an active member of our committee for a number of years and will be one of the speakers at our November conference. We thank Dr. Goisman for his service and look forward to Dr. McDermott's leadership alongside Dr. Tuttle, who has been a Co-Chair since 2016.

Public Sector Committee – Parnika Saxena, MD / RFM - Brittany Gouse

The Public Sector Committee went through some changes this summer. Siu Ping Chin Feman stepped down after chairing the Committee for the past 5 years and Parnika Saxena is the new Chair along with resident co-chair, Brittany Gouse. The last few months have been very busy in the wake of the impact of COVID on providers and clients of Public Sector and there have been fruitful discussions on finding ways to avoid interruption of mental health services. Members have been actively involved in discussing and acting on some of the most pressing issues in the zeitgeist including police brutality as well as the impact of race in receiving services. We are also representing the interests of the MPS in the Masshealth 1115 Waiver discussions. The Legislative committee which is working on legislation with MPS Lobbyist Lisa Simonetti to advocate for collaborative care and services for patients of color, has many members of the Public Sector Committee.

Retirement Committee – Burns Woodward, MD / Eugene Fierman, MD

The Retirement Committee had to cancel its April meeting because of the coronavirus pandemic. We held a meeting via Zoom on June 16 for general discussion of covid-19 related issues; concerns raised included the possibility of having to resume in-person patient visits, the state mandate for e-prescribing, and coverage arrangements in case of illness. At a second Zoom meeting on September 16, Dr. Margo Goldman presented her thoughts about retirement in this era of telepsychiatry, and a number of others shared their experiences. Dr. Eugene Fierman provided an update on the mentoring program collaboration with the Early Career Psychiatrist group, and Dr. Burns Woodward reported on the initial meeting of the Anti-Racism Work Group. Around twenty-five psychiatrists attended each of these

meetings. Our next Zoom gathering will be on January 13, when Dr. Joseph McCabe will share his thoughts on retiring from practice in organizational settings, and Dr. James Harburger will lead off the discussion. Psychiatrists interested in retirement are invited.

Sexual Disorders Committee – Paul Noroian, MD / Fabian Saleh, MD

The Sexual Disorders Committee met on November 9. We had cancelled our meeting earlier this year due to Covid. We had a discussion of the Massachusetts sex offender registry laws, and of treating individuals with sexual disorders. We plan to meet again on January 25, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom, at which time we will discuss appeals of SORB classification and continue to discuss the clinical management of paraphilic disorders.

Women in Psychiatry Committee – Alexis Brooks, MD / RFM - Natalie Feldman, MD

Dr. Therese Hattemer is stepping down as Chair of the Committee after serving faithfully for many years. We thank Therese for her service. Dr. Alexis D. Brooks, who has been on the Committee for years, is the new Chair. We are excited that Dr. Natalie Feldman, APA Leadership Fellow and a PGY-3 at the Brigham is joining the committee as Co-Chair.

We have been meeting monthly during the pandemic. There has been more urgent need for collegiality, peer supervision, and information exchange because of the many changes there have been in how we practice psychiatry during the pandemic as well as the heightened clinical needs of our patients.

In general, the group provides as a forum for peer supervision and for the exchange of information about and resources for the practice of psychiatry. We welcome any new members to join our group.