

# LETTER FROM THE 2008-2009 PRESIDENT AND THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR/CEO

Dear Colleague:

The year 2008 will be remembered as one of historic change for our members, patients and the field of psychiatry. For more than a decade, the APA has fought tirelessly to end insurance discrimination. The passage of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 brings the promise of non-discriminatory mental health coverage to millions.


Through this annual report, we reflect on our successes in 2008 and look ahead to future endeavors. Involvement of our dedicated membership and the work our members do on behalf of patients, psychiatry and the APA made these accomplishments possible:

- The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, which overhauls key features in Medicare coverage of treatment for mental health, was passed. This bill will allow patients easier access to psychiatrists and treatments that can relieve suffering, and will help patients live more fulfilling and productive lives.
- The APA's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* Task Force and Work Group members began reviewing scientific advances and research-based information to develop the fifth edition of the manual. The goal is to develop a *DSM* that is useful in clinical practice as well as in research.
- The APA and local district branches and state associations blocked psychologists' efforts to secure prescribing privileges in California, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.
- The APA's Institute on Psychiatric Services meeting in Chicago saw its first public forum, which included discussions by leading psychiatrists on mental health policy, depression in minority populations, and facts about schizophrenia, alcohol and drug abuse and personality disorders.
- The APA continued its proactive approach to maintaining certification through the demonstration of life-long learning with *eFOCUS*, an innovative electronic clinical survey.
- The APA demonstrated leadership in the medical community in requiring transparency and addressing relationships with industry. In early 2008, the APA established a work group to develop guidelines for interactions between the APA, individual psychiatrists and medical industries.

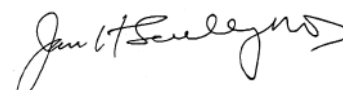
Patient care has been and always will be the focus of the psychiatric profession, and the practice of psychiatry continues to save lives and alleviate suffering for millions of people. Thank you for shaping the future for our patients and profession.

Sincerely,



  
Nada L. Stotland, M.D., M.P.H.  
President



  
James H. Scully Jr., M.D.  
Medical Director and CEO