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APA Past-President Ruiz Chosen President Elect of WPA

ARLINGTON, Va. (Sept. 29, 2008) — The General Assembly of the World Psychiatric Association elected former American Psychiatric Association President Pedro Ruiz, M.D., president-elect during the WPA World Congress in Prague Sept. 20-25.

“We are extraordinarily proud of the support Pedro received from our colleagues all over the world, and we look forward to the leadership he will bring to world psychiatry over the next six years,” said APA President Nada Stotland

Ruiz will serve three years as president-elect through September 2011 and then three years as president of the WPA. He was previously Secretary of Meetings for the WPA.

Ruiz, acting chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences of the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, was president of the APA in 2006-2007 and now serves on the APA Board of Trustees as a past president.

“I am planning to work very hard to meet all the expectations of the presidents of WPA member societies who supported and voted for me,” said Ruiz, who was elected with 75 percent of the vote.

The American Psychiatric Association is the nation’s leading medical specialty society whose more than 38,000 physician members specialize in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at www.psych.org and www.HealthyMinds.org.

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