Do you have a GAP story to tell? I do. Like me, I am sure many of you have had compelling personal and professional relationships and experiences at GAP.

Why tell your stories? As we all know, GAP is actively seeking to increase its public profile by using contemporary communication methods to get both GAP publications and other projects, as well as GAP’s name, out to a wider world. Toward that end, and as reported in previous circular letters, we have engaged Catchafire, an organization that has matched GAP up (and will be matching us up) with experts who can help brand our organization for professional and lay audiences.

Toward that end, and with the support of Paul Fink’s Committee on Planning, Marketing and Communications (PM&C), Josh Gibson has taken a leadership role in this project. He is now working on a storytelling project with a consultant, Dana Rideout. What Dana and Josh need now are GAP members’ own stories about the ways GAP has been visionary and/or shaped the practice of psychiatry. They also need stories (and have gotten a few) about what GAP has meant to its members as professionals as a way to help reestablish a higher profile for GAP within psychiatry. Josh has already begun telling one such story:

“In 1946, the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry’s Committee on Therapy issued an influential report speaking out against the ‘promiscuous and indiscriminate use of electro-shock therapy.’ That brief report summarized the evidence for use of electro-shock therapy, cautioned practitioners about complications and hazards, and importantly called for an end to the ‘widespread abuses’ of the therapy at the time, including:

a. Its use in office practice
b. Its indiscriminate administration to patients in any and all diagnostic categories
c. Its immediate use to the exclusion of adequate psychotherapeutic attempts
d. Its use as the sole therapeutic agent, to the neglect of a complete psychiatric program

Today, more than 65 years later, the standard of care for electroconvulsive therapy (performed in a hospital setting, not as a first-line treatment, and only for specific diagnoses in the context of a broader treatment program) reflects the wisdom of that initial report.”

This is just a start. What we need from GAP members now are at least twenty (20) good stories that can help establish ourselves (to those who do not know us) as a credible think tank. Keep in mind, however, that there are many different ways to tell a story about why GAP is important. For example, one possible kind of story would tell why your committee’s current work (and its relevance to current issues in and out of psychiatry) is important. Feel free to contact either Josh (josh.gibson@ucsf.edu) or myself (jackdreschermd@gmail.com) if you have any questions about how to tell a story and how to get your GAP story out to a wider world.

On another front, GAP’s newest Committee on Administration & Leadership was initiated out of the recognition that psychiatrists in administrative leadership roles are facing multiple challenges, along with potential opportunities, due to local, state, and federal actions. The Committee plans to serve as a think-tank offering the professional community opinion pieces and position papers, as well as more substantial scholarly papers and other publications.

The Committee, using Survey Monkey, is conducting a survey of major leadership organizations, that includes GAP members, to determine what are the most pressing needs of administrators in leadership positions. The Committee plans to analyze its’ survey’s results at
the spring meeting and hopefully to develop future projects based on their results. For further information about the survey, contact the Committee Chair, Joe Merlino (joseph.merlino@nychhc.org). Note that the Survey Monkey account will be available to all GAP Committees who wish to use it as a research tool for their projects. To find out more about how to access the account, contact Frances. The Committee is also looking to recruit new members so if you have a recommendation, let Joe know.

Finally, a reminder that Robert Whitaker is the Spring Plenary Speaker. By now all GAP members should have received a mailed copy of Whitaker’s most recent book, Anatomy of an Epidemic, compliments of the Foundation for Excellence in Mental Health. His critique of psychiatry’s “over reliance” on antipsychotic medication will undoubtedly generate lively discussion. To promote further discussion, the plenary will begin promptly at 5 p.m. and may run later than usual. Hopefully the discussion will be a lively one.

I look forward to seeing all of you in White Plains.

Jack Drescher, M.D., President

SPRING ELECTIONS

There will be an election on Friday morning at the breakfast meeting for two positions on the Board of Directors. The nominees are: Larry Gross, Joseph Merlino, Seth Powsner and Calvin Sumner.

BIOS for Board of Directors’ Election

Lawrence S. Gross, M.D.

Lawrence S. Gross, M.D., recently rejoined the full-time faculty at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California following a 15-year association with Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. A graduate of Rice University and the West Virginia University School of Medicine, he completed his general psychiatry residency at West Virginia University, Charleston Division, followed by a fellowship in clinical psychiatry at the University of Southern California, where he also received a Masters of Education (M.S.Ed.) degree. Following his fellowship, he was on the full-time faculty at USC and served as the Director of the LA County/USC Adult Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic prior to joining the faculty at Cedars-Sinai. His career has combined clinical care and administrative leadership along with supervision and teaching of residents and medical students. Dr. Gross is a Distinguished Fellow of the APA, a Fellow of the American College of Psychiatrists, and an ABPN Part II examiner. As a California representative to the APA Assembly, he also serves on the councils of the Southern California Psychiatric Society and the California Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Gross has been a member of GAP and the Committee on Psychopharmacology since 2000. He served on the Publications Board from 2004-2005. He joined the GAP Fellowship Committee in 2003 and served as Chair from 2005-2011. While Fellowship Chair, he was an administrative member of the Board of Directors, and he is currently completing a two-year elected term on the Board.

Joseph Merlino, M.D.

Joseph P. Merlino, MD, MPA became a member of GAP in 1997 at the invitation of Bert Schaffner and the Committee on Human Sexuality which produced the monograph Antihomosexual Bias in Psychiatry. From 2002-2007, he worked with the Committee on Psychiatry and the Community. At the invitation of Fred Stoddard, Dr. Merlino transferred to the Committee on Disasters & Terrorism which published two books in this area, one of which, Hidden Impact: What You Need to Know for the Next Disaster, was co-edited by Dr. Merlino. Last year, Dr. Merlino became the founding Chair of the newest GAP Committee, the Committee on Administration & Leadership. He has served as a member of the GAP Publications Board from 2005 to the present.

Dr. Merlino is a Distinguished Fellow of the APA, a member of the American College of Psychiatrists and a past president of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis & Dynamic Psychiatry. He is Professor of Psychiatry at the SUNY Downstate
Medical College and is Deputy Executive Director of Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York where he is also Director of Psychiatry.

Seth Powsner, M.D.
It’s hard to honor three score and five years of psychiatric thinking, while simultaneously trying to grab the attention of trainees busy updating Facebook pages via internet connected rabbits. (See http://www.karotz.com and read their app store’s Facebook offering.) One of our tougher challenges is to keep abreast of evolving communication channels favored by new trainees and colleagues.

It is an honor to be nominated to GAP’s Board of Directors. I hope four years at MIT and forty years experience with networked computers will prove helpful as GAP competes for the considered attention of modern psychiatry. Ironically, it may be my personal analysis that provided a key insight into our problem-- “people are attracted to flickering images.” (Steve Jobs seems to have profited more greatly from the same insight: iPhones, iPads offer more and more bright, changing, moving, images. Karotz is cheaper, but has a colorful light and moving ears.)

My formal psychiatric background began with residency training at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, followed by private practice in downtown Chicago (inpatient as well as outpatient care). My transition into academic psychiatry began at Illinois State Psychiatric Institute, where I tried to establish a computing section, and the University of Chicago, where I served as engineering consultant to their Cardiology Section. In 1986, I joined the Department of Psychiatry at Yale, where I have been on faculty ever since.

Currently, I am a Professor of Psychiatry and Emergency Medicine, in charge of the Crisis Intervention Unit at Yale-New Haven Hospital (12 bed locked facility within its main emergency department). Before that, I was in charge of C-L Psychiatry at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and am a Fellow of the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine. I am also president-elect of the American Association for Emergency Psychiatry.

Most of my scholarly work uses computing to make information more useful for teaching and clinical care. PubMed will pull up most of my writings. But, it won’t flag two early attempts to bring modern media to training:


Neither will PubMed flag two short pieces that are personal favorites:


Calvin Sumner, M.D.
Calvin R. Sumner, M.D. is a Board Certified Adult and Child Psychiatrist who is currently Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of BioBehavioral Diagnostics Company in Plymouth Meeting, PA. Formerly he was a Senior Clinical Research Physician and Medical Advisor for Eli Lilly Research Laboratories leading U.S. medical teams for neuroscience medications. He continues to hold an academic position as clinical associate professor of behavioral medicine and psychiatry at West Virginia University School of Medicine, where he has served on the faculty from 1986 to 2001 with a four years as the director of the psychiatry residency programs and chief of the psychiatry section prior to joining Lilly. Dr. Sumner is a graduate of Columbia University where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in Biology and Master’s degree in special education. He received his M.D. degree with distinction from George Washington University School of Medicine, trained in adult psychiatry at GWU Medical Center and completed his fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry at Children’s Hospital National Medical Center. Dr. Sumner is a member of the American College of Psychiatrists, active in leadership positions at the state and national levels and has been an examiner for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.
On a personal note, I want to thank the members of the Nominating Committee for putting my name forward in consideration for the Board of Directors position. I joined GAP in 1986 following my term as a Ginsberg fellow in the class of 1983-84, followed by two years as a post-fellow guest. I served as chairman of the Public Education in the past, I am currently a member of the Psychopharmacology Committee and also a current member of the GAP Finance Committee and the Contributions Committee. I’ve thought a lot about this nomination. It seems that life never slows down so it’s tempting to say I’m too busy to accept this nomination and if elected too busy to serve. I decided that GAP is too important for me to be “too busy” and I accept the nomination. GAP means a lot to me and the fellowship has given generously to my personal and professional life for three decades. I would welcome another opportunity to give back to our organization.

Announcements:
The Committee on Medical Education is presenting a Workshop at the 2012 APA Annual Meeting, “2011 Supervision Regulations: Are Trainees Hamstrung or Helped?” It is a discussion of the new ACGME regulations in the context of principles laid down by Osler and Flexner. The discussion will include presentations by two residency directors and a resident, all of whom are involved in GAP. Our paper, “Recruiting Researchers in Psychiatry: The Influence of Residency vs. Early Motivation” has been accepted by Academic Psychiatry.

The Research Committee has a special guest for the Spring Meeting:
Walter J. Freeman, M.D.
March 29-31, 2012
Ittleson Consultant to the GAP Research Committee

Walter J. Freeman, M.D., will be Ittleson Consultant to the Research Committee at the Spring 2012 meeting. Dr. Freeman is Professor of the Graduate School, Department of Molecular & Cell Biology, Division of Neurobiology, University of California at Berkeley. He has been active in research and teaching at UC-Berkley since 1959. His research was supported from 1958 through 1981 by the Foundations’ Fund for Research in Psychiatry (FFRP). The National institute of Mental Health (NIMH) supported Dr. Freeman’s work for over four decades, with an NIMH Merit Award in 1990.

When I invited Walter to join the Research Committee for the Spring Meeting, I sent him the first GAP Report. His response was, “The roster of the 1948 founding members reads like the guest list for a cocktail party in my home when I grew up. Notably absent are the names of Harry Stack Sullivan, Joe Wortis, and my father, surprisingly because they were all prominent in the Society for Biological Psychiatry. In any case I can’t refuse.” Roy Grinker was chair of Research at the time, and George Engle was a committee member.

Dr. Freeman graduated from the Yale School of Medicine (1954), and completed a one year internal medicine internship at Johns Hopkins, following which he went into neuroscience research. His career spans more than a half-century in one of the most exciting eras in medicine and psychiatry.

He recalls, “In 1955 on the Osler Service at Johns Hopkins, I presented a case of Gerstmann’s Syndrome at Grand Rounds with Critchley attending. What a privilege! Recently I had occasion to cite that syndrome in a review for mathematicians, which might interest you. There I also cite Paul Yakovlev, who taught me neuroteratology in the context of neuropsychiatry. A banquet indeed! He later became curator of the collection in the Harvard Medical School.”

Regarding the Foundations’ Fund, “You may have noticed that I was supported by the FFRP for a year at UCLA, just before I got a tenure track appointment at Berkeley. The Chair at the time was Fritz Redlich at Yale, who remembered me for my rebellious behavior as a medical student rotating through psychiatry. . . I applied when it was quite new, 1957, for support starting in 1958, and was interviewed by Neil Miller and Roger Sperry. They left vivid impressions on my mind.” In addition to hundreds of purely research articles, one of many articles relevant to psychiatry: “Neurodynamic models of brain in psychiatry,” Neuropsychopharmacology 28 Supplement 1:S54-63 (2003). Another more recent article: Pincus, D., W. Freeman, and A. Modell. “A Neurobiological model of perception: considerations for transference,” Psychoanalytic Psychology 24(4): 623-640 (2007).

Among his more than 20 major awards and honors are; (1) Bennett Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry (1964);

My colleague, Patrick T. Malone, commented to me that his article, “The Physiology of Perception,” provided the scientific basis for experiential psychotherapy, and perhaps for all psychotherapy. Later, I became even more convinced that Dr. Freeman’s work was important to psychiatry when I read in *Societies of Brains*: “The problem is not information overload. There is always too much information. It is the misdirected search for meaning. In this they neglect the most important function of brains, which is to interact with each other to form families and societies, and . . . meaning arises in social relations.”

Dr. Freeman will be consulting to the GAP Research Committee with respect to two current projects, the *Medical Alliance*, and the *Placebo Effect*, as well as future directions of the committee. On Friday morning at Research, he will present, “Neurodynamics of expectancy that underlie the placebo effect,” with additional discussion Friday afternoon. On Saturday morning, Dr. Freeman will consult to a combined meeting of the Research and Neuroscience Committees on general topics. Dr. and Mrs. Freeman will be attending meals, social events, the juice bar, and the Plenary.

Douglas A. Kramer  
Chair, Research Committee
SPRING 2012 MEETING
131st MEETING OF
GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012

10:00 a.m.  GAP Office Opens  Masefield A Room
10:00 a.m.  Finance Committee Meeting  Masefield B Room
12:30 p.m.  Publications Board  Hutchinson A Room
2:00 p.m.  Board of Directors  Cooper B Room
4:00 p.m.  Fellows Meeting with Selection Committee  Cooper A Room
4:30 p.m.  Fellowship Selection Committee  Masefield B Room
5:30 p.m.  Reception of the Board of Directors with 2012 Fellows  Room 688
6:30 p.m.  Fellows Dinner  Cooper A Room
9:00 p.m.  -  Hospitality Room  Irving A and B Rooms
11:00 p.m.  Hosted by: Psychotherapy

Thursday Committee Meetings:
Administration & Management  7 p.m. Restaurant (6 people) Dr. Merlino
Child Psychiatry  7:30 p.m. Library Room
College Student  7 p.m. Restaurant (6 people) Dr. Miner
Family  8 p.m. Restaurant (6 people) Dr. Berman
Psychopathology  3:30 p.m. Gallery Room
Research  8 p.m. (12) Dr. Kramer (round table)
Work and Organizations  8 p.m. (8 people) Dr. Larsen

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012

7:30 a.m.  Breakfast  Cooper-Greeley Rooms
8:30 a.m.  General Membership Meeting  Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:30 a.m.  Committee Meetings
10:30 a.m.  Coffee Break
12:00 noon  Luncheon  Cooper-Greeley Rooms
             Steering Committee Meeting  Irving A Room
1:00 p.m.  Fellows Meeting  Irving B Room
2:00 p.m.  Committee Meetings
3:00 p.m.  Coffee Break
5:00 p.m.  Plenary Session: Robert Whitaker
             Anatomy of an Epidemic  Cooper-Greeley Rooms
6:30 p.m.  Cocktail Reception  Red Oak Terrace
7:30 p.m.  Dinner  Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:00 p.m.  Hospitality  Foyer - Cooper-Greeley Rooms

Hosted by: Research

Committee meetings with Robert Whitaker:
Psychopharmacology  10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Medical Education  11 a.m. – 12 noon
Work and Organizations  2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Joint meeting with Adolescence, Child Psychiatry, and Family  3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Private Dining Room)

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012

8:00 a.m.  Breakfast  Cooper-Greeley Rooms

Steering Committee Meeting  Irving B Room
Fellows Breakfast Meeting  Irving A Room

9:00 a.m.  Committee Meetings

11:30 a.m.  Lunch  Cooper Room

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ADOLESCENCE  ROOM 405
AGING  MASEFIELD B ROOM
ADDITIONS  ROOM 203
ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP  ZENGER ROOM
CHILD PSYCHIATRY  LIBRARY ROOM
COLLEGE STUDENT  VERANDA ROOM
CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY  PORTICO ROOM
DISASTERS AND TERRORISM  KYKUIT SUITE/ROOM 103
FAMILY  HUTCHINSON B ROOM
GENDER ISSUES AND MENTAL HEALTH  HUTCHINSON A ROOM
GLOBAL PSYCHIATRY  VANDERBILT/ROOM 107
HISTORY AND PSYCHIATRY  JOHN JAY SUITE/ROOM 102
HUMAN SEXUALITY  ROOM 207
LGBT  ROOM 688
MEDICAL EDUCATION  PARLOR ROOM
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  HUDSON ROOM
NEUROPSYCHIATRY  ROOM 211
PLANNING, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS  ROOM 305
PREVENTIVE PSYCHIATRY  ROOM 215
PROFESSIONALISM  ROOM 221
PSYCHIATRY AND THE COMMUNITY  LYNDHURST/ROOM 104
PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW  SLEEPY HOLLOW/ROOM 105
PSYCHIATRY AND RELIGION  ROOM 209
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY  GALLERY ROOM
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY  ROOM 634
PSYCHOTHERAPY  ROOM 201
RESEARCH  ROOM 213
TERRORISM and POLITICAL VIOLENCE  ROOM 205
WORK AND ORGANIZATIONS  VAN CORTLANDT/ROOM 106
DATES OF FUTURE GAP MEETINGS

2012
March 29-31
November 15-17

2013
April 4-6
November 14-16

2014
April 10-12
November 13-15

2015
April 16-18
November 12-14

2016
April 14-16
November 10-12

2017
April 6-8
November 9-11

2018
April 12-14
November 8-10

2019
April 11-13
November 7-9

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