

E-Update March 8, 2024



Medical leadership for mind, brain and body.

The weekly E-update is the tool by which MPA members can share information or announcements with each other. It is a member benefit and the mechanism by which MPA shares important notices regarding trends in psychiatry, pharmaceutical updates, information about your medical practice, advocacy, your opinions, and job opportunities. Members are encouraged to make the content their own. Please submit items for weekly publication by Thursday at 5pm. Your email addresses are protected by the DB and not for sale or use by any other entity besides the DB. Content should be pertinent to the practice of psychiatry or related medical information. Review the E-update highlighted titles and attachments for content and action steps. We value your input and attention to your specialty! Any item that appears in **royal blue** contains a link for detailed information on the topic. Questions regarding membership status are referred to our APA Membership Coordinator.



This Week at the Mississippi Legislature

The picture left is one side of the Public Health and Welfare Committee room lined with white coats prior to the defeat of the NP and CRNA expansion of scope via HB 1490 that occurred on Tuesday during the tenth week of the 2024 Mississippi legislative session. MPA had 18 psychiatrists in the room. Special thanks to the MSH Residents who asked the MPA Exec Director to speak to them in December regarding the importance of

advocacy for your specialty and then witnessed that firsthand by hearing the debate in committee and watching the bill be defeated by a vote of 16-10. Sincere appreciation to all MPA members who read the Code Red Alert and acted. Your voices were heard! Now, all surviving bills must clear the floor of their originating chambers by March 14th.



MPA's 2024 Legislative Priorities:

- Regulate the Prior Authorization Process for Physicians through the MS Dept of Insurance
- Advocate for Changes to Commitment Laws on Jail Diversion and Increased Community Treatment Options
- Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women 60 days Prior to Processing & Opportunity for Members to Vote on Expanding Access for Working

Mississippians

- Update Future Testing Options for Citizens Around Foreign Substances and Street Drugs
- Make Kratom Schedule III
- Strengthen the Step Therapy/Fail First Protocol Override Statute
- Support a Change to CON regarding Psychiatric Residential Treatment Beds and Substance Use Disorder Beds in the State
- Add a Designated Child Psychiatrist to the Rural Physician Scholarship Program
- Broaden Testing Mechanisms for Street Drugs and Redefine Paraphernalia in MS to not Include Testing Strips for the Latest Abused Substances
- Maintaining a Physician Led Team Approach to Health Care

A full listing of Senate and House Committees can be found here:

[2024 Senate Committee Listing](#)

[2024 House Committee Listing](#)

Southern Psychiatric Association Meeting Dates for 2024

Mark your calendar now for the 2024 meeting with the Tennessee Psychiatric Association:
September 11 – 14, 2024 Westin Hotel in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Thanks to Everyone Who Attended the MPA/LPMA Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA

Thank you for participating in the MPA/LPMA meeting...we had a great time connecting with everyone and considered the weekend a SUCCESS!

The LPMA website has been updated with the following items:

- Speaker Presentations (only presentations allowed to be shared) : https://www.lpma.net/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=547057&module_id=651093

- Poster Competition

Winners: https://www.lpma.net/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=547057&module_id=650218

- CME

Information: https://www.lpma.net/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=547057&module_id=651096

We also have a special Google Drive folder with photos from the weekend from LPMA member, Dr. David Post: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10mIx7i-m3nNSE7qo_Nuh-dB7zq8_7j5C?usp=sharing

Please also don't forget to take the meeting survey. Your feedback is important to the development of future meetings and programming.

>> <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rYb3TQI3006c7YDHZlWQo5NMSel1HJ1Gh7I8qJ-K6rFUQjg1T05EWkNMS1hUVIJXTVIyQzBQTEsyQS4u> <<

Our sponsors and exhibitors also play a huge role in the meeting. Thank you again for taking time to visit with them. More to come about future date and location as MPA is the host in 2025.



Thanks to all the Sponsor and Exhibitors! More coverage of the meeting in next week's e-update

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT: HEALTH LITERACY

Written by
Professional Risk Management Services® (PRMS®)

1. Low health literacy may create barriers to obtaining healthcare by making it more difficult for a person to recognize that he or she should be seen by a physician and how to go about finding one. Once the patient does get to a provider, low health literacy may make it difficult for the patient to adequately explain the problem and to receive and act upon the information given.
2. Although the ability to read has an impact on health literacy there is not a direct correlation between the two. In other words, assessing general reading levels does not ensure patient understanding in a clinical setting. When faced with the stress of their own illness or that of a child, even well-educated people may have difficulty comprehending and retaining medical information.
3. Non-adherence to treatment plans – particularly as it pertains to taking medication – may be another indication of poor health literacy skills. If a patient is otherwise adherent to treatment recommendations, you should explore whether the patient is having problems following a medication regimen as opposed to being willingly non-adherent.

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What's New at the APA

- **Dr. Theresa Miskimen Rivera, M.D.** was chosen as the next President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association after the most recent APA election cycle. Dr. Miskimen is currently chair and medical director of the Department of Psychiatry at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington, New Jersey, and previously served as Speaker of the APA Assembly. You can [read more about Dr. Miskimen Rivera and see the rest of the election results here.](#)
- **One in five** pet owners has an emotional support animal, according to the results of a Healthy Minds Monthly poll released jointly by APA and the American Veterinary Medical Association. 84% of those polled say pets have a positive impact on their mental health. A majority of those surveyed (62%) also indicated that their pets help them reduce stress and anxiety. You can read the full poll results [and read more about pets and mental health here.](#) We also encourage you to use our #Paws4MentalHealth [social toolkit](#) to help promote the effort.
- As elections, wars, and other controversial events and issues swirl in the news feeds and on social media, members of APA's Council on Communications wrote a blog titled [How to Discuss Controversial Issues with Your Mental Health in Mind](#) on having tricky conversations.

March Course of the Month – Everything You Wanted To Know About Digital Health Technology but Were Afraid to Ask

Digital health technologies (DHT) have the potential to radically alter the landscape of medical treatment. The use of DHT has increased access to treatment and has the potential to improve outcomes and help decrease stigma. Unfortunately, the demand for DHT has outpaced the research needed to prove these interventions safe and effective. This course will introduce a broad definition of DHT and provide examples of digital health interventions, including current research and evidence. Potential benefits, as well as ethical, regulatory, reimbursement, and social concerns, will be introduced, and more. [Click here to access the Course of the Month and sign up for updates about this free member benefit.](#)

Register Today for the APA Annual Meeting in New York City

Join your colleagues at APA's 2024 Annual Meeting from **Saturday, May 4, through Wednesday, May 8**, and hear from the field's leading experts. Plenary sessions will feature

Anderson Cooper, Bryan Stevenson, J.D., M.P.P., and a Broadway extravaganza. Choose your meeting experience—in person or virtual!

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

APA Foundation Launches New Initiative for Mental Health of Black Men

The suicide rates among young African American/Black males have risen faster over the past two decades than among any other racial group. The APA Foundation's My Brother's Keeper Project will specifically reach out to this demographic to provide psychologically safe spaces for healing and normalize seeking mental health care when it is needed.

[READ MORE](#)

Calling All Medical Students and Education Directors

The APA Foundation invites applications for its Helping Hands Grants Program. The program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to medical schools for mental health/substance use disorder projects, particularly in underserved minority communities. The projects are developed and managed by medical students with community agencies or in conjunction with medical school outreach activities. The deadline is **Friday, May 31**. Psychiatry education directors are asked to share this information with their medical students.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Reserve Your Spot at the APA Foundation Benefit

The APA Foundation will hold its annual benefit on **Monday evening, May 6**, at the Cipriani 25 Broadway, an Italian neo-renaissance masterpiece. Enjoy a night of dinner, dancing, and fun as we celebrate the APA Foundation's progress toward creating a mentally healthy nation for all.

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

Contact Your Representative to Prevent Cuts to Physician Reimbursement

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a 3.4% reduction in Medicare's physician payments for 2024. This cut is devastating to physician practices and the patients they care for, and could necessitate reduced staffing and office closures, disproportionately harming rural and underserved communities. **Please urge Congress to prevent these devastating cuts from going into effect by cosponsoring the Preserving Seniors' Access to Physicians Act of 2023 (H.R.6683)**. This bipartisan bill would completely eliminate the 3.4% physician pay cut expected to take effect on January 1. Learn more and [compose a message to your representative in Congress here](#).

Be a Part of APA's Speakers Bureau

APA is seeking members who are active and engaged in Component activities to be a part of APA's Speaker's Bureau. The Speaker's Bureau is aimed at diversifying and broadening APA's bench of public-facing experts. In addition to traditional media requests, APA has a number of other opportunities available for members who are willing to share their expertise. This includes writing blogs on important mental health topics, providing government testimony, and participation in social media events, like Twitter/X chats, Instagram live, and more.

Members of the APA Speaker's Bureau, as an internal influencer group, will also be asked to amplify APA's voice by promoting public education initiatives via social media and engaging during APA social media events.



Simply scan this QR code to access the speaker's bureau form and add your voice.

Note: Any personal information shared is kept **strictly confidential** and only able to be accessed by APA Communications staff. We ask for this information so that we can get a decent picture of who our experts are and make the best match for a given opportunity. Participation in this project does not guarantee that a member will be contacted for a media interview or other public-facing opportunity.