

CIRCULAR LETTER #595

Pre-Meeting Fall

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 2005

The 60th Anniversary meeting was really terrific! Many members told me so, for which I am grateful. Several things came up during the meeting which I think will help us go in the right direction.

First of all, we are going to have a strategic planning retreat before the April meeting including the Board, the Steering Committee, and some additional key members to see if we can develop plans to try to achieve financial stability and also point us in some new directions while retaining some of the precious traditions of GAP. This will just be a beginning and, hopefully, the process will yield some good results and allow productive discussions about problems and areas of controversy.

Second, for a number of years there has been a growing curiosity about what some committees are working on and we have tried to address this by getting committees to prepare a plenary. The idea of having one or two committees develop a poster presentation to be put up on the second floor hallway and remain there throughout the meeting seems like a new and innovative way to allow the members to learn about some of the interesting work that is going on in the organization. Some members of other committees may have some helpful ideas and I think it will really enhance communication within GAP and build greater collegiality.

The growth of the organization is encouraging and, hopefully, we will fill in slots where people have moved to contributing membership or where the committee members feel a need for an additional member who may have some new research or a new clinical approach which will sharpen the work of the committee.

Slowly but surely, more members are using the website and the listserves. I know it's tough for me to enter cyberspace, but it seems to be getting worse. There's a new gadget or expensive toy coming out almost every day and I find myself sitting at a dinner table wondering what my friends are talking about! But I did get an IPOD, so I can take opera with me wherever I go.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

Paul Jay Fink, MD
President

FALL 2005 MEETING
119th MEETING OF
GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2005

10:00 a.m.	GAP Office Opens Masfield A Room
10:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting Masfield B Room
11:00 a.m.	Contributions Committee Masfield B Room
12:00 noon	Publications Board Meeting Hutchinson A Room
2:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Cooper B Room
4:00 p.m.	Fellows Selection Committee Masfield B Room
4:30 p.m.	Work Group Consultation Masfield B Room
4:00 p.m.	Fellows Orientation Meeting Cooper A Room
5:30 p.m.	Reception of the Board of Directors Room 688 – Sixth Floor
6:30 p.m.	Fellows Dinner Meeting Cooper A Room
6:30 p.m.	Corporate Sponsors Dinner
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Irving A and B Rooms Hosted by: Therapeutic Care

Thursday Committee Meetings

Addictions	8:00 p.m.	Room 107
Child	8:00 p.m.	Library Room
College Student	8:00 p.m.	Studio Room
Family	7:30 p.m.	Hutchinson B Room
International Relations	8:00 p.m.	Veranda Room
Psychopathology	2:00 p.m.	Gallery Room
Terrorism	7:30 p.m.	The Woodlands
Therapeutic Care	6:30 p.m.	Zenger A Room

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

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.	Juice Break

5:30 p.m.	Plenary Session: Jeanne Phillips Cooper-Greeley Rooms
6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception Red Oak Terrace
7:15 p.m.	Dinner Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:00 p.m.	Viennese Table Foyer - Cooper-Greeley Rooms

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2005

7:30 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.	Luncheon Cooper-Greeley Rooms
12:00 noon	Board of Directors Wrap Up Meeting Cooper B Room

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ADOLESCENCE	ROOM 102
AGING	MASEFIELD B ROOM
ADDICTIONS	ROOM 107
CHILD PSYCHIATRY	LIBRARY ROOM
COLLEGE STUDENT	STUDIO ROOM
CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY	ROOM 219
DISABILITIES	ROOM 104
FAMILY	HUTCHINSON B ROOM
GENDER ISSUES AND MENTAL HEALTH	HUTCHINSON A ROOM
HUMAN SEXUALITY	ROOM 229
IMG	ZENGER B ROOM
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	VERANDA ROOM
LGBT	ROOM 205
MEDICAL EDUCATION	PARLOR ROOM
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	ROOM 201
PLANNING, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	ROOM 427
PREVENTIVE PSYCHIATRY	ROOM 505
PSYCHIATRY AND THE COMMUNITY	ROOM 103
PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW	ROOM 105
PSYCHIATRY AND RELIGION	ROOM 527
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY	GALLERY ROOM
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY	PORTICO ROOM
RESEARCH	ROOM 203
SOCIAL ISSUES	ROOM 211
TERRORISM	ROOM 217
THERAPEUTIC CARE	ZENGER A ROOM
THERAPY	ROOM 305
WORK AND ORGANIZATIONS	ROOM 106

ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS TO GAP

1. What is the balance between the “Individual Committees” and “GAP-as-a-Whole”?

Most GAP work occurs on a committee level. Thus, the initiatives, directions, and accomplishments of GAP depends on the committee structure. New members become rapidly aware that the committees are central to GAP, and that much GAP organization and infrastructure serves the individual committees. The infrastructure includes the following:

- the elected Officers and Board of Directors;
- the Publications Board, which reviews, edits, and otherwise assists with promulgation of GAP materials;
- the Finance Committee, which monitors income and expenses, and makes recommendations to the membership and the Board regarding financial matters;
- the Contributions Committee, which works closely with the Corporate Sponsor’s Group;
- the secretariat composed largely of Frances Roton
(P.O. Box 570218, Dallas, Texas 75357-0218, phone: 972-613-0985;
FAX: 972-613-5532)

GAP acts as an entire corporate group, a single entity, when communicating to other psychiatrists, institutions, or citizens. Thus, the GAP membership as a whole evaluates and endorses the work of the committees prior to promulgation of the committee’s work. The disadvantage of this process is that the committee may have to educate, confront, and “attitude adjust” their fellow GAP members in the process. The advantage is that the committee reports increase their stature greatly through the critique and support of the general membership. Likewise, members learn from committees besides their own in the process of reviewing the work of other committees.

Briefly put, the process may at times seem like “the committee versus GAP.” A dynamic tension exists between the two. Ultimately, both the committee and the general GAP membership gain from their mutual successes.

Some “GAP-as-a-Whole” activities do occur. These include the brief semi-annual Friday morning breakfast business meeting, the receptions Thursday and Friday evenings, the Friday late afternoon plenary session on a subject of topical interest, and the Friday evening dinner.

The Chair Person of each committee acts as intermediary between the committee and the Board of Directors. The Chairs plus the Board acts as a Steering Committee, which meets twice during the semi-annual meeting (Friday noon and Saturday morning). Information and decisions flow in both directions between the individual committees and the GAP organization. If you want a voice in a GAP action or decision, your Chair is the person to see. Typically, Chairs bring the general consensus of their committee on a particular topic to the attention of the Steering Committee.

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Orientation for New Members to GAP

2. Interaction Among the Committees

The intensity of committee work can build an esprit that excludes outsiders. However, collaboration among committees often occurs. The multi-faceted interests and overlapping skills of GAP members make such cooperation a special privilege for both committees, as well as those who have the opportunity of working (even temporarily) with more than one committee.

Perhaps most often this is on a consultative basis, with a member of one committee providing expertise to the efforts of another committee. At times, committees have requested information, references, opinions, or written products from members of other committees. Members may also critique a committee's work, either before or after the Publications Committee reviews it.

Infrequently, entire committees have worked together on projects. Such efforts can be both laborious and richly rewarding.

3. Interaction Across Generations

Decades ago, the Doctor Ginsburg introduced an idea revolutionary for its time! They provided the means for bringing newly developing psychiatrists into the midst of the GAP's deliberations and discussions. In a sense, this would seem paradoxical, the admixing of focused expertise and those developing a fresh view of the psychiatric universe.

And to an extent, it is a paradox. Recently trained and training psychiatrists may wonder what they are doing in such discussions. Experts new to GAP may question the inclusion, even invited participation of fellows in the process. For both groups we counsel: try it! Fellows should express their thoughts, criticisms, and suggestions. Seasoned psychiatrists should leave pedagogy at the door and dialogue with their new colleagues.

4. Consultation From Outside GAP

GAP has no preconceived notions regarding who should or should not consult with committees. Consultants have included the author of a popular advice column, corporate leaders, ethicists, social and behavioral and biological scientists, and learned colleagues. Limited funds exist to bring such consultants to a committee meeting.

Psychiatrist-consultants are expected to pay their own way. Some psychiatrist-consultants may eventually become members. Consulting can be a way for a committee and a potential member to "try out" one another before making a commitment to work within a tight group, in which mutual expectations are an integral part.

DATES OF FUTURE GAP MEETINGS

2005
NOVEMBER 9-11

2006
APRIL 6-8
NOVEMBER 9-11

2007
MARCH 29-31
NOVEMBER 8-10

2008
APRIL 10-12
NOVEMBER 13-15

2009
APRIL 16-18
NOVEMBER 12-14

2010
APRIL 15-17
NOVEMBER 11-13

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www.groupadpsych.org

www.ourgap.org

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