

clinician more effectively address his patients' needs regarding acknowledging and stopping the addiction. A second presentation will focus on how to enhance relapse prevention in adolescents with addictive disorders. Given the dismal success rate reported in the past, this talk will be an important session to attend.

The Institute will also include important presentations on how to address concerns of Black adolescents, being culturally sensitive and hence more effective. Family therapy, often overlooked as an adjunctive treatment, will be discussed and clinical effectiveness presented. Special considerations in the therapeutic approaches to adolescents in residential settings will provide clinicians with a better understanding of this very important option in the differential therapeutics for troubled youth. Finally, we will have an outstanding presentation on therapy with adolescent sexual offenders. There are many aspects of these more severely troubled teenagers that are found in less severe form in the usual clinical population. This should be a terrific update on the modern use of psychotherapies in the treatment of adolescents.

APA President-Elect Candidates

Each year, Dr. Richard Ratner manages to encourage the two candidates for the office of APA's President-Elect to offer ASAP members information to assist their voting in the coming election. In alphabetical order:

Pedro Ruiz

My relationship with the American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry (ASAP) goes back to 1974. In that year, I presented at the Annual Meeting of the ASAP in Detroit, Michigan on my work on the cultural factors on adolescent sexuality conducted during my years in the faculty at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. More recently, I have published on my work on diagnosing and treating depression among pregnant adolescents. In March or 2005, I will again present at the Annual Meeting of ASAP to be held in Houston, Texas, on

the biopsychosocial aspects on the management of depression among pregnant adolescents.

All along in my professional and academic career, I have been very sensitive and fully aware of the challenges and stressors faced by adolescents as they go through a very important transitional period of the life cycle. I am also well aware of the gaps in the funding of mental health services for children and adolescents, especially adolescents in this country; and, in particular, in the public sector.

The vulnerabilities and risk factors of adolescents are very high and, thus, deserve our full priority and attention. For instance, the current situation in the juvenile justice and criminal justice system with respect to the psychiatric services that adolescents currently receive is very precarious and very much under funded.

During my professional and academic career, I have been a strong supporter and advocate for the enhancement and better funding of efforts directed to research, education and clinical care of adolescents, especially in the public sector. I have also mentored many psychiatric residents who eventually have become adolescent psychiatrists. My record in this regard is well known and well established in the three academic departments where I have worked, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas at Houston. Also, in the positions of leadership that I have occupied over the years such as: The American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology where I was a Director for eight years and also President; the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) where I worked for six years in the Residency Review Committee (RRC) for Psychiatry; the American College of Psychiatrists (ACP) where I served for three years in the Laughlin Fellowship, three years in the PRITE Editorial Board, three years in the PRITE Fellowship, and also as President in 2000-2001; the American Association for Social Psychiatry where I served as President (2000-2002); and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) where I have served in more than 50 components and also as Secretary (2001-2003) and currently as Vice President (2003-2005).

If elected President of the APA, I will continue to give high priority to the needs

of adolescent patients, adolescent psychiatrists, and other adolescent mental health professionals. In my position statement I have made very clear my priorities and plans in this regard. Besides, my professional and academic record with respect to strong leadership, vision, commitment to the profession and the patients we serve, ethical values and honesty, and transparency is well known and established. I welcome your support and guidance."

Sidney Weissman

As a past President of ASAP it is a privilege to ask for your support in my race for election to the Office of President-elect of the APA. This year more than others in recent years highlights that the critical issue between the candidates will relate to their leadership ability. You have all had opportunities to observe my leadership in my dual roles at ASAP and as President of the American Board of Adolescent Psychiatry. I am delighted that the new ASAP By-Laws which were originated during my term as ASAP President will now go to our membership for final action.

The APA faces a major internal crisis. The Texas District Branch has initiated organizational changes which many believe will threaten the core dual membership structure of the APA. Currently all District Branch members must also be members of the APA. I shall not at this writing burden you with all of the details but urge you to follow this issue in Psych News. The issue was serious enough that at the recent APA Assembly it was the dominant issue. Indeed a special session was held to address it. Indeed, the last action of the Assembly dealt with it. For reasons I can only speculate upon my colleague and opponent referred to this issue as only a membership question. Perhaps this is because he is from Texas. If proposals for similar change were to come to the Illinois Psychiatric Society where I have served as President I would have used all of my influence to stop them. Addressing this crisis will be a major item for the next APA president-elect.

With APA unity assured we must then focus in the next year on three major issues:

1. We must reexamine the APA's involvement with the pharmaceutical

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