

Institute on Psychiatric Services
Boston, MA October 2010

I recently had the opportunity to attend the 62nd annual Institute on Psychiatric Services, held this October in Boston. As a recent recipient of the APA Public Psychiatry Fellowship, I am required to attend both a components meeting in September in Washington D.C. and the Institute on Psychiatric Services Meeting. In our first year as APA Public Psychiatry fellows we observe our more senior fellows' workshops and other activities going on at the convention, while in our second year we are ourselves presenters. As a first year fellow I had the opportunity to attend this years Institute and attend several great workshops and events.

One highlight of my time at IPS was the workshop on Health Care Reform in the Obama Administration. The speaker was Richard G. Frank a deputy assistant secretary for planning and evaluation (ASPE) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Frank was able to relay in a concise and comprehensive manner the implications that the new health care policies will play on patients with mental illness. Although there was much discussion, Dr. Franks felt that overall the changes would mean more coverage for patients with mental illness.

Additionally, several work-shops and discussions included themes of integrative healthcare, and several colleagues I have had the chance to know through the APA fellowship presented on such matters. They provided interesting perspectives on integrated care on a local and even national level, one fellow from Canadian was able to give an interesting perspective on mental health care in Canada.

Furthermore, the American Academy of Community Psychiatrists were in strong showing and in addition to several speakers within the academy presenting as lecturers they also hosted a reception at Gateway Arts Gallery & Studio. Gateway is a not for profit studio run by Vinfin a cooperation that offers services to over 7,000 individuals with mental health and social issues. We were able to see amazing artwork from individuals with mental illness and speak with one artist who has seen amazing success from her relationships with Gateway. She told us her story and what the arts and mental health providers have meant to her throughout the years, she was truly appreciative of the work that we do.

I encourage all residents to attend next year's Institute on Psychiatric Services which will be held in San Francisco and to take advantages of the Fellowships and awards that the American Psychiatric Association has to offer. I know it has been an amazing experience for me.

-Sara Coffey, D.O.