

OKLAHOMA PSYCHIATRY

April, May, June 2019

BENJAMIN RUSH AWARDS PRESENTED

This year, the Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association celebrated the 52nd anniversary of the *Benjamin Rush Awards*. The awards were announced Saturday, April 6th at the annual meeting luncheon held at the RAPP Foundation Conference Center, St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City.

Named for the father of American Psychiatry, the awards are presented each year to the outstanding medical student in the field of psychiatry in the graduating class at the Oklahoma City and Tulsa medical schools. Honored were **Olivia Shadid**, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Tulsa and **Sarah Anwar**, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City. Each received a certificate and a \$250 check.

"**Olivia Shadid** performed exceptionally well and with enthusiasm during her third-year clerkship. She knew the criteria, established good therapeutic alliance with patients, and did a good job obtaining information from patients. Olivia is a highly gifted, well-

motivated, hard-working medical student. She has impressed attending faculty with her knowledge base, clinical skills, attitude, and diligence," her nomination read.

"**Sarah Anwar** has gone above and beyond her medical student role to help others. She received the Podalarian Award from her fellow students for her service to her class and she also received the prestigious Gold Humanism award for her compassionate service on many fronts," her nomination read.

"Sarah started a *Familial Advancement in Medicine* organization to help medical students achieve balance between their academic life and personal life, with events focused on fostering wellness and techniques to ensure success. She is well on her way with scholarly activity as she presented Grand Rounds in the Department of Psychiatry and is currently working on a research and manuscript with the departmental chair. The Department of Psychiatry believes she represents the qualities embodied by the Benjamin Rush Award." ❖



Olivia Shadid receives her certificate and check from Dr. Andrew Liew.



Sarah Anwar receives her certificate and check from Dr. Phebe Tucker.

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2019 OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2019 Session of the 57th Oklahoma Legislature officially adjourned **Friday, May 31 at 5:00 pm**. The *House of Medicine* faced many difficult obstacles this year and the session overall went very well. It is important to thank the **Oklahoma State Medical Association, Oklahoma Osteopathic Association** and the **Oklahoma Patients Coalition** for their support this session. The Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association is grateful for their leadership and commitment to all Oklahoma physicians.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

The delivery of health care is a *TEAM EFFORT!* When determining diagnosis and treatment, physicians have the highest level of training and experience to lead that team. MD's and DO's must remain at the helm of that structure. We must remain diligent in our efforts to defeat "scope of practice" measures attempting to remove physicians from leading the quality health care team Oklahoman's deserve.

The following "scope" measures were defeated or stalled during this year's session:

- **Senate Bill 801/Senate Bill 890** - Required that a CRNA administer anesthesia and certain controlled substances in collaboration with, *not under the supervision* of a physician.
- **Senate Bill 839** - A *waiver of supervision* for APRN may be authorized by the Board of Nursing under certain conditions: Current CNP with 7 years experience may request waiver of supervision.
- **House Bill 2194** - Expands the definition of *physician* to include psychologists, therapist or counselor.
- **Senate Bill 497** - Provides pharmacists to be *medical providers on par with physicians*.

Revenue raising measures passed last session combined with general revenue increases due to economic growth paved the way for the legislative leadership and the Governor to negotiate the **largest budget in state history...\$8.3 billion** (*\$200M of which goes to Rainy-Day Fund: Oklahoma's "Savings Account"*). The following highlights those appropriations which directly affect healthcare:

- \$62.8 million for Graduate Medical Education funding;
- \$105 million to increase provider rates for physicians, hospitals and nursing homes (*this represents a 5% provider rate increase across the board to be effective no earlier than October 1, 2019*);
- \$29 million saved to a new preservation fund to maintain Medicaid provider rates when the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages 3-year rolling average results in a rate decline;

- \$10 million to decrease the Developmental Disability Services wait list and increase provider rates;
- \$4.6 million to increase immunizations and provide staffing to county health departments throughout the state; and
- Additional \$4 million to the Physician Manpower Training Commission.

Other issues which are important to the *House of Medicine* and were *Signed by the Governor* include:

Senate Bill 848 (Rader/Echols) – There continues to be misunderstanding regarding the intent of the language housed within last year's "Pill Limit" bill, Senate Bill 1446. The intention was to address initial prescriptions dealing with acute pain. Senate Bill 848 clarifies language and also incorporates Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics Emergency Rules passed last year which confirm the ability of a physician to write a second 7-day script at the same time as the initial script is written. This bill also deleted the October 31, 2020 sunset provision in the PMP law, so it is now permanent. (*PASSED Senate 45-0; PASSED House 88-0*).

House Bill 2368 (Kannady/Thompson) – Provides for the re-creation of the **Commission on Opioid Abuse**, to exist until July 1, 2023. (*PASSED Senate 43-1; PASSED House 91-3*).

House Bill 2351 (Caldwell, C./McCortney) – Provides for Oklahoma's participation in the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact** allowing for an expedited pathway to licensure for qualified physicians who wish to practice in multiple states. (*PASSED House 97-0; PASSED Senate 43-0*).

House Bill 1439 (Gann/Smalley) – Amended to provide a sunset clause extension of the Oklahoma State Medical Licensure Board to July 1, 2024 and also adds two additional "lay persons" (four total) to the Board as appointed by the Governor. The Medical Licensure Board will now be comprised of 11 total members. (*PASSED Senate 43-2; PASSED House 89-0*).

House Bill 1445 (Gann/Smalley) – Extends the sunset clause of the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners to July 1, 2024. (*PASSED House 85-0; PASSED Senate 42-3*).

Senate Bill 1044 (Thompson/Wallace) – Five-percent (5%) Medicaid reimbursement rate increase after approval from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and no earlier than October 1, 2019. (*PASSED Senate 45-1; PASSED House 92-0*).

Senate Bill 509 (Rader/Munson) – Provides for guidelines and requirements on insurers offering "step therapy" protocols for pharmaceuticals, requiring such therapy protocols to be based on clinical practice guidelines. (*PASSED Senate 43-0; PASSED House 94-0*). ❖

NEW TWISTS & TRYSTS IN 2019 PSYCHIATRY

“PILLS, POT, PARASOMNIAS, PRIVILEGE, PREGNANCY & PERIPARTUM ISSUES”

The 2019 Continuing Medical Education Conference of the Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association was held April 6, 2019 at the RAPP Foundation Conference Center, St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City. The program was jointly provided by the American Psychiatric Association and the Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association. The OPPA would like to thank SSM Health for the use of their beautiful state of the art conference center located in the Saints Medical Plaza.

The program began Saturday morning with **Vijayabharathi Ekambaram, M.D.** presenting “*Learn the Art of Sleeping: Concise Form of Sleep for Psychiatrists.*” Dr. Ekambaram is an Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Oklahoma City. Her addressed basic sleep physiology and sleep wake mechanism, which would help practitioners gain knowledge about circadian sleep medicine.



Next on the agenda was **Marsi Thrash**, Regional Field Director, American Psychiatric Association Department of Government Affairs. She presented a “*Legislative Update on Medical Marijuana in the States.*” As the rollout continues for Oklahoma’s Medical Marijuana program, there continue to be many questions about how this will impact physicians. Her presentation discussed the development of best practices and clinical standards for Oklahoma’s nascent medical marijuana program.



The Needs Assessment conducted at the 2018 annual OPPA conference noted confidentiality, privilege and Tarasoff warning remain essential areas of the concern regarding the physician-patient relationship. In response to the request for additional programming, **Britta Ostermeyer, M.D.** presented “*An Ethics Update: From Confidentiality to Supervision of Other Mental Health Professionals*” which discussed definitions, exceptions and demonstrated applications by using interactive clinical vignettes in addition to reviewing the stipulations and pitfalls of supervision by psychiatrists of other mental health professionals. Dr. Ostermeyer holds the Paul and Ruth Jonas Chair in Psychiatry and is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Services at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Oklahoma City.



In October 2018, **Julia “Jill” Warnock, M.D.** produced a short documentary film, “*Out of the Shadows: Postpartum,*” which was shown as part of the Tulsa American Film Festival at the Circle Cinema. This short documentary film sheds light on a potentially deadly illness, postpartum depression. Jennifer shares her struggle with the depression that followed the birth of her first two children. The viewer shares Jennifer’s journey through the pregnancy and birth of her third child. Her candid and courageous story reveals the challenges of this common, debilitating illness.



The OPPA was honored to have Dr. Warnock as our guest luncheon speaker discussing “*Mood Disorders in Women: Issues Related to Pregnancy and Post-Partum*” including a special screening of the documentary film. Dr. Warnock is currently providing psychiatric consultation at the Indian Health Care Resources Center in Tulsa after retiring in 2016 from the University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine, Department of Psychiatry in Tulsa, where she taught medical students and residents for over 20 years. She is a Past President of the OPPA and has received several teaching awards including Outstanding Faculty Award at the OUHSC. Her documentary film may be shared with patients at the following link: <https://vimeo.com/258504759/be69227bc8>

Thanks to an *Expedited Grant* from the American Psychiatric Association, **Jason Beaman, D.O.** presented a program on the “*Opioid Epidemic.*” According to the final report of The Oklahoma Commission on Opioid Abuse dated January 23, 2018, Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter, Chairman, noted the opioid crisis has caused the deadliest drug epidemic in U.S. history and has been getting worse. “*If Oklahoma is not ground zero, it is close,*” he wrote in his address introducing the results to the nine-member commission’s report.



This presentation reviewed the history of the opioid crisis in the United States and the use of opioids for chronic pain. The CDC guidelines were discussed and how Oklahoma psychiatrists may treat opioid addictions using current treatment strategies. As such, psychiatrists are on the front line in diagnosing and managing these difficult problems. They encounter many challenges, such as pregnancy; comorbid health and mental health problems; psychosocial problems such as marital; access to health care; and family, educational and occupational difficulties.

Dr. Beaman currently serves as the Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa and is the President-Elect of the Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association. ❖

DR. PATRICE HARRIS PRESIDENT OF AMA

June 11th at the American Medical Association ceremony in Chicago, former American Psychiatric Association Board of Trustees member, Patrice Harris, M.D. was inaugurated as the 174th President of the American Medical Association (AMA).

Dr. Harris was on APA’s Board of Trustees as the Trustee-at-Large from 2001-2004 and appointed in 2000 to the AMA delegation. She served on the AMA Council of Legislation from 2003-2010, serving as chair her last year. She was elected to the AMA Board for her first term in 2011 and reelected in 2015, becoming Chair of the Board. Last year, she was elected President-Elect of the AMA. This is an historic occasion as Dr. Harris is the first female psychiatrist and African American woman to hold the office of the President of the AMA. ❖

RESIDENTS PRESENT SCHOLARLY PROJECTS

Psychiatric residents from the training programs at the University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine, Tulsa; Griffin Memorial Hospital, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City presented their scholarly projects at the OPPA Continuing Education Conference and Annual Meeting held April 6th at the RAPP Foundation Conference Center, St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City.

OPPA was honored to have as program moderator **Ashley Walker, M.D.**, Assistant Professor and Director of the Residency Training Program, University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine, Tulsa.

Katrina Lin, D.O., Oklahoma University School of Community Medicine, Tulsa presented, "Could It Be Neurosyphilis?" This case report reviewed a rare clinical encounter of neurosyphilis that manifested with neuropsychiatric symptoms in the absence of primary or secondary symptoms and the challenge of diagnosis and treatment in a stand-alone state psychiatric hospital.

Presenting "Association Between Medical and Psychiatric Comorbidities and Suicidal Behaviors in 232,915 Patients with Bipolar 1 Disorder," was **Shirin Vartak, D.O.**, Griffin Memorial Hospital, Norman. Her presentation reviewed the findings which demonstrated a higher incidence of medical comorbidities, namely asthma (OR=1.275); rheumatoid arthritis (OR=1.132); multiple sclerosis (OR=1.119) and migraine (OR=1.357) in patients with bipolar disorder and suicidal behaviors. These findings underscore the importance of collaborative healthcare for patients with Bipolar 1 Disorder.

"Osteopathic Manual Medicine: An Innovative Treatment for Generalized Anxiety," was the topic of the presentation by **David Peyok, D.O.**, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa. His presentation was the review of a study conducted of patients in an outpatient psychiatric clinic who were diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder and consented to Osteopathic evaluation and treatment. The patients ranged from 22 to 67 years and predominately female. Patients would see their psychiatrist for medication and therapy and then would see the osteopathic manual medicine physician for evaluation and treatment of somatic dysfunction.

Parostu Rohanni, M.D., University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City presented "Idle Hands are the Devil's Workshop: A Case of Neuroleptic Induced Catatonia." Her presentation reviewed treatment of a patient's brief psychotic disorder with a typical antipsychotic which led to the development of neuroleptic induced catatonia. Although neuroleptic induced catatonia is a rare reaction, it is important that clinicians be able to identify it given that neuroleptic induced catatonia can progress to neuroleptic malignant syndrome if left untreated. Improving awareness and prescribing psychotropic medication judiciously are keys to prevention.

Brief History of Residents Day

The original **Psychiatric Residents' Day** was created by Harald Krueger, M.D. during his term as chief resident at the University of Oklahoma in 1981. At that time, there was a University Interns and Residents Day. However, Dr. Krueger believed the work by psychiatric residents in these clinical areas deserved a format in which it could be presented and critiqued. In 1990, since the Residents' Day had evolved into a state-wide event, it became a part of the **Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association's** continuing medical education conference. ❖

Celebrating the 29th anniversary of the presentation of Resident Papers at the OPPA conference are this year's program participants. Pictured from left to right are **David Peyok, DO, PGY-2**; **Shirin Vartak, DO, PGY-1**; Moderator **Ashley Walker, MD, OU-Tulsa** Director of Residency Training; **Parostu Rohanni, MD, PGY-2** and **Katrina Lin, DO, PGY-1**.

For their presentations, each resident was presented with a \$125 honorarium for their work and willingness to present.





Here are highlights from the approved minutes of the OPPA Executive Council meeting held via Skype on February 2, 2019 in Oklahoma City at the office of Dr. Art Rousseau and in Tulsa at the OSU Center for Health Sciences.

Treasurer's Report (*Dr. Shannon Thomas*) – Dr. Thomas presented the final 2018 Operations Budget report. Membership dues income is at 106% of budget. The annual meeting did not make as much money as budgeted due to low attendance in Tulsa. The OPPA did receive an APA Expedited grant for programs on *Opioids* for COPS, TPA and the 2019 OPPA CME conference. The Resident Assistance Fund received donations this year through the Raffle at the annual meeting. The office laser printer died, so it was replaced by another HP Laserjet.

The 2019 Operations Budget was discussed. It was recommended to only send printed copies of the annual meeting brochure to those members who do not have email addresses.

Resident Assistance Grant Ticket Raffle – A raffle at the annual meeting to raise funds for the Resident Assistance Grants was approved for a second year.

E-Prescribing Update (*Dr. Art Rousseau*) – Effective January 1, 2020 all physicians must e-prescribe Schedule II through V controlled substances (House Bill 2931). This requires the acquisition of a computer program. The OBNDD will be issuing prescription pads for times when a back-up is needed, such as the computer is down or no electrical power, but these pads cannot be used on a regular basis. Programs available include MD Toolbox and Practice Fusion, among others. The cost is variable depending upon the program.

2019-2020 Officer and Councilor Nominees (*Dr. Heather Geis*) – Nominees for officers and councilors for the upcoming election were presented. After discussion, Dr. Britta Ostermeyer accepted the opportunity to run for Treasurer. This year, voting will be done by email instead of by postal mail.

Child Psychiatry – In a written report, Dr. Brent Bell stated he is working with a formalized work group involving OKHCA and DHS reviewing medication use of foster children. They are reviewing how various states manage medications in foster care, beginning with the Texas guidelines. The goal is to find a reasonable way to monitor medication use in foster care children as well as practical prescribing guidelines. The *Voices for Children* CASA Conference is May 3-4, 2019 at the Embassy Suites, Norman. The *DMHSAS State Children's Conference* is May 14-16, 2019 at the Embassy Suites, Norman. Dr. Rousseau discussed the following bills:

- **House Bill 2455** modifies "protected class" to include LGBT Oklahomans. Adding this language to current statute will ban discrimination in employment, housing, access to services, facilities, public accommodations, etc. based on "sex or gender" which shall include assumptions and stereotypes associated with sex-based considerations.
- **House Bill 2456** is the Youth Mental Health Protection Act which bans the provision of conversion therapy to any person under 18

years of age by state healthcare and mental health providers.

- **House Bill 2194** by Rep. Randy Randleman calls for psychologists being allowed to call themselves physicians. This bill amends the classes of persons who may use the word "physician" to include psychologists (Ph.D.) and therapists or counselors (Ed.D./Psy.D.).
- **House Bill 1279** modifies Section 43A which during a court hearing to determine if a minor is in need of treatment, the minor shall have the right to demand a non-jury trial.
- **House Bill 1326** Dyslexia; mandating annual training program for dyslexia; requiring dyslexia screening assessment for outgoing first-grade students not reading at grade level.

Continuing Education – The CME Conference will be held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the RAPP Foundation Conference Center, St. Anthony Hospital. On Friday April 5, 2019, the APA and OPPA are hosting a Collaborative Care Workshop at the RAPP Foundation Conference Center from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. This program is free and separate registration through the APA is required as space is limited.

Delegate (*Dr. Hal Ginzburg*) – Dr. Ginzburg discussed the 96-page draft report "Vision for the Future" Continuing Board Certification from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Comments on the draft were due by January 15th. The full draft report can be found online at abms.org.

Legislative (*Dr. Art Rousseau*) – This session there are no physician members in either the House or the Senate. As Chair of the OSMA Legislative Committee, he noted there were over 2,000 bills filed this session with 230 dealing with medicine.

- **House Bill 1027** by Rep. McEntire requires that a CRNA administers anesthesia and certain controlled substances in collaboration with, *not under the supervision of, a physician*.
- **House Bill 1928** by Rep. Rowe is an advance practice registered nurse licensure bill modifying the licensure requirements.
- **House Bill 2349** by Rep. Chad Caldwell is a *Waiver of Supervision* for an APRN which may be authorized by the *Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision*.
- **Senate Bill 839** by Sen. Smalley is a *Waiver of Supervision* for an APRN which may be authorized by the *Oklahoma Board of Nursing*.
- **Senate Bill 917** by Sen. McCortney is a *Waiver of Supervision* for an APRN which may be authorized by the *Oklahoma Board of Nursing*.

Membership (*Dr. Jay Lensgraf*) – Since the August meeting, the OPPA has gained nine new members; two reinstatements from 2019 membership drop; two losses and two advancements from General Member to Fellow. Congratulations to **Shyonne Gray, MD** and **Brandon Kilgore, MD** for advancement to Fellowship.

Resident Programs – Council welcomed **Dr. Hunter Caskey** as a resident representative from Griffin Memorial Hospital. He reported they would have their match soon. Dr. Ginzburg suggested putting together a Task Force to discuss Resident Fellow membership in the OPPA. Dr. Ostermeyer volunteered to be a member and assist with this project.

Meeting adjourned. ❖

RESIDENTS PRESENT POSTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Now in its eighth year, the **Resident Assistance Fund** awarded grants to assist residents from Oklahoma's training programs to assist in their travels to the American Psychiatric Association's 172nd Annual Meeting and Scientific Conference held May 18-23 in San Francisco. These residents were among those selected by the APA to present posters during the annual meeting.

Receiving grants this year were **Shirin Vartak, D.O.** and **Hema Mekala, M.D.** from Griffin Memorial Hospital, Norman and **Nancy Handler, M.D., Amit Mistry, M.D.** and **Parostu Rohanni, M.D.** from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Oklahoma City.

The Resident Assistance Fund was originally created in 2012 by the OPFA Executive Council. This year, each residency program was allowed \$400 to be awarded to residents whose posters were selected by the APA.

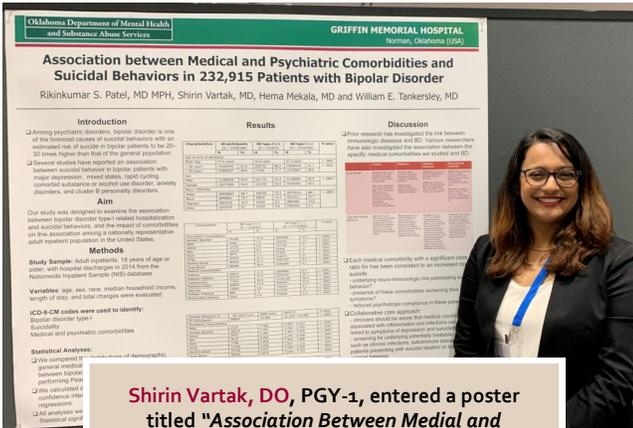
By accepting the grant, each resident must agree to attend the APA conference and present a poster; present the same poster at the annual meeting of the OPFA or quarterly COPS or TPA meeting; attend one OPFA Executive Council meeting during

the coming year and be a member in good standing of the APA/OPFA for one year.

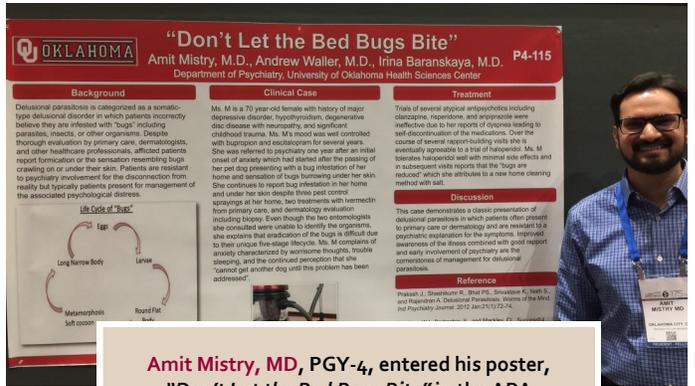
The Resident Assistance Fund is in need of **tax deductible donations** to help the program grow. To donate, please send a check payable to the OPFA and mail it to PO Box 1328, Norman, OK, 73070. Please be sure to include *Resident Assistance Fund* on the memo line of the check. ❖



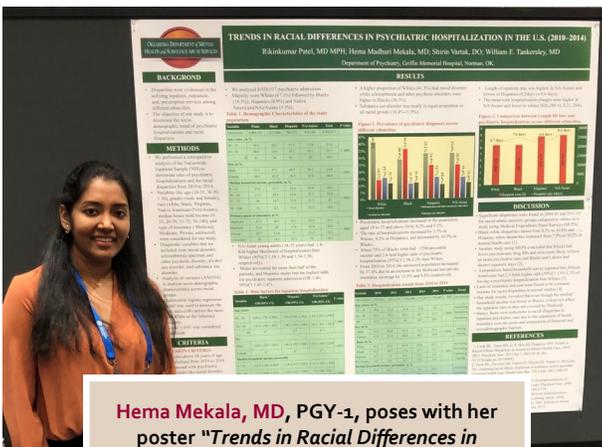
Nancy Handler, MD, PGY-2, poses with her poster **"Lupus Psychosis: Expanding the Differential in a Psychotic Patient with a History of Psychosis and a Medical History of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus."**



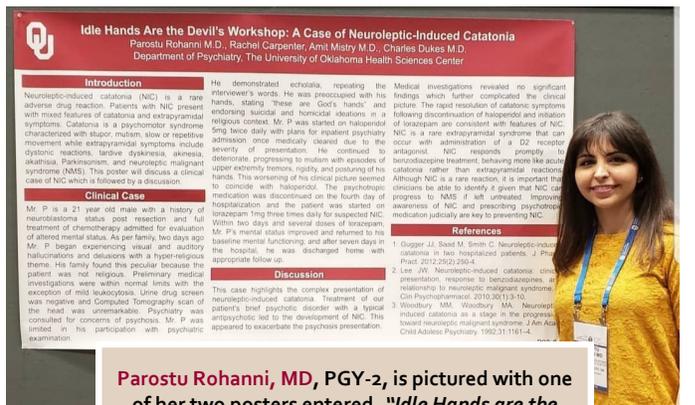
Shirin Vartak, DO, PGY-1, entered a poster titled **"Association Between Medical and Psychiatric Comorbidities and Suicidal Behaviors in 232,915 Patients with Bipolar Disorder."**



Amit Mistry, MD, PGY-4, entered his poster, **"Don't Let the Bed Bugs Bite"** in the APA competition.



Hema Mekala, MD, PGY-1, poses with her poster **"Trends in Racial Differences in Psychiatric Hospitalization in the US (2010-2014)."**



Parostu Rohanni, MD, PGY-2, is pictured with one of her two posters entered, **"Idle Hands are the Devil's Workshop: A Case of Neuroleptic-Induced Catatonia."**

OPPA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

MARCH 2019 - JUNE 2019

Welcome New Members

Peter Craig Kowalski, MD, General Member, Oklahoma City
Stephen Cates, DO, Resident Fellow, Broken Arrow
Hema Mekala, MD, Resident Fellow, Norman

Reinstatements: Welcome Back!

Brady Vincent, DO, Resident Fellow, Broken Arrow
Jordan Cates, MD, General Member, Oklahoma City
Dustin O'Leath Hayes, DO, General Member, Broken Arrow
Hazem Sokkar, MD, General Member, Tulsa (2011 drop)

Membership Expiration: Non-payment of 2019 Dues

Tayyaba Ali, MD, General Member, Edmond
Kyle Armstrong, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa
Dayana Arteaga, DO, Resident Fellow, Jenks
Melanie Barrett, MD, General Member, Edmond
Tejpal Bedi, MD, Resident Fellow, Norman
Ranelle Bracy-Lewis, DO, Resident Fellow, Broken Arrow
Jennifer Brady, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa
Katrina Crader, MD, General Member, Bixby
Drew Dawson, MD, Resident Fellow, Jenks
Kanwaldeep Dhillon, MD, General Member,
Rebecca Feliciano, MD, General Member, Norman
Yan Feng, MD, General Member, Edmond
Jeannie Helmbright, MD, General Member, Norman
Peggy Jewell, M.D., Fellow, Edmond
Tarek Kanaa, MD, Resident Fellow, Oklahoma City
Fadilia Kim, MD, General Member, Norman
Neelofar Lalani, MD, General Member, Oklahoma City
Christine Langer, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa
Akshay Lokhande, MD, General Member, Edmond
Zoobia Mirza, DO, General Member, Lawton
Aaron Pierce, DO, General Member, Tulsa
Maria Plata, MD, Resident Fellow, Oklahoma City
Ambreen Rahman, MD, General Member, Oklahoma City
Baili Reichenberger, DO, Resident Fellow, Edmond
Tiffany Scheuplein, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa
Matthew Sharp, DO, Resident Fellow, Tulsa
Jesse Smith, MD, Resident Fellow, Oklahoma City
Laura Smith, MD, General Member, Oklahoma City
Deanna Storts, MD, General Member, Tulsa
Jacob Strohl, MD, Resident Fellow, Oklahoma City
Kimberlee Wilson, DO, General Member, Tulsa
Audra Yadack, MD, General Member, Oklahoma City
Limei Yang, MD, General Member, Norman

Congratulations New Fellows!

Shyvonne Gray, MD, Advancement to Fellow, Oklahoma City
Brandon Kilgore, MD, Advancement to Fellow, Edmond

Advancement: Belated Congratulations!

Satwant Tandon, MD, to Life Member, Tulsa ❖

NEW OPQA OFFICERS AND COUNCILORS

The 2019-2020 officers and councilors for the Oklahoma Psychiatric Physicians Association assumed their leadership roles during the luncheon held April 6th at the RAPP Foundation Conference Center.

Officers include **Harold Ginzburg, MD**, President and APA Delegate; **Jason Beaman, DO**, President-Elect; **Lauren Schwartz, MD**, Vice President; **Shannon Thomas, DO**, Secretary; **Britta Ostermeyer, MD**, Treasurer and **Shree Vinekar, MD**, APA Delegate. Councilors-at-Large include Drs. **Robyn Cowperthwaite, Vijaya Ekambaram, Hashib Faruque, Tessa Manning, Courtney Nixon, Jed Perdue, Art Rousseau** and **Haiwang Tang**. ❖

RAFFLE RAISES FUNDS

For the second year, a raffle was held to raise money for the Resident Assistance Grant program. With a donation of \$20 per ticket, one lucky winner could have the chance to receive reimbursement of their conference registration fee plus a \$25 gift certificate to Panera Bread. This year's winner was **Dr. Ana Maria Gutierrez!**

Conference participants were generous as the OPQA raised \$880. However, to fully fund the Resident Grant program, the OPQA needs to raise \$1,600 each year. ❖

NETWORK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AT QUARTERLY TPA AND COPS MEETINGS

Think it might be nice to network with your colleagues more often than once a year at the OPQA annual CME conference? Well, you can! The OPQA has two chapters which meet on a quarterly basis for dinner, networking and educational programming often with CME.

The Tulsa chapter is the **Tulsa Psychiatric Association** and offers dinner and networking for all Tulsa metro area psychiatrists. This group does not always offer CME credits, however the variety of educational programming at each meeting affords the psychiatrist the opportunity to learn what is happening in the Tulsa metro area. For more information or to get on the email program list go to:

tulsapsychiatricassociation@gmail.com

The Oklahoma City chapter is the **Central Oklahoma Psychiatric Society**. COPS offers a quarterly dinner CME program on a wide variety of innovative psychiatric topics. The two AMA PRA Category 1 credits™ offered at each meeting is made possible through the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine Continuing Professional Development. For more information or to get on the email program list go to:

centralokpsych@gmail.com

Please send a message to either chapter with your name and email address. The next meetings are in September! ❖

PARITY LAW UPDATE

Excerpts from a letter to members from Saul Levin, MD, APA CEO and Medical Director:

Leaders of the Senate Committee on Health, Labor and Pensions (HELP Committee) released a legislative proposal—the *Lower Health Care Costs Act*—consisting of a series of initiatives intended to address the high cost of health care, such as prescription drugs and surprise medical bills. The bill also includes APA’s legislative initiative, the **Mental Health Parity Compliance Act of 2019**, to promote transparency and compliance on the part of federally-regulated group health plans with the **Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act** (Federal parity law).

APA’s Mental Health Parity Compliance Act requires insurance companies to show their work. Insurers must conduct and produce the analyses to ensure that they are, in fact, complying with the Federal parity law and providing required access to mental health and substance use coverage. The federal bill provides a complement to the APA model legislation passed in several states that applies to state regulated plans. APA members lobbied Capitol Hill in March to build support for our Federal parity proposal, which is being sponsored in the Senate by Senators Murphy (D-CT) and Cassidy (R-LA) and in the House by Representatives Porter (D-CA), Bilirakis (R-FL), Norcross (D-NJ), and Mullin (R-OK).

The inclusion of our proposal in the *Lower Health Care Costs Act* that Senator Alexander and Murray released is a major step that shows our bipartisan initiative to be garnering interest on Capitol Hill. This is one step in the legislative process and much more remains to be done. The HELP Committee is expected to consider the legislation next week after which broader political considerations will determine when and how it moves in the Senate and whether similar legislation moves in the House. However, I want you to know that we have achieved this important legislative milestone and will be depending on the continued advocacy by our APA membership and partners in the mental health community. ❖

Oklahoma Psychiatry

PO Box 1328
Norman, OK 73070

405.360.5066
oklapsychiatry@gmail.com

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Harold Ginzburg, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., Editor

Renée Davenport Mixon, Executive Director

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