

PSYCHIATRIST

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Newsletter of the Southern California Psychiatric Society

President's Column

Activity on Many Fronts (As Usual)

Robert Burchuk, M.D.



There is always a lot going on at our Society and April is no exception. Election results have been determined (see table on p. 6) and we have an incoming group of excellent Officers and Councilors. At the Area level, Marc Graff and Ron Thurston won their elections for Area VI Trustee and CPA President-elect, respectively. We should take pride and be appreciative for their continuing dedication.

Our installation ceremony is being held on Saturday April 24 at the *Le Merigot* hotel in Santa Monica from 3-7 PM. This event has proven to be an annual highlight and this year we have allowed some extra time for schmoozing and great appetizers with colleagues.

We are actively encouraging you to bring along a non-member, potential recruit, psychiatrist. Our MIT and ECP Councilors, especially David Ruecker and Anita Red have spearheaded a series of outreach activities for their constituents so that we are looking forward to a great, multi-generational turnout. An added feature will be a special, brief presentation by Ken Wells, M.D. titled *Resilience, Prevention and Community Capacity: New Directions in Psychiatry*. Be sure to RSVP on the chance we exceed our capacity.

CPA, with the full support of your SCPS representatives, has authorized further legal action against the California Department of Public Health to challenge the legitimacy of the regulations that, despite our aggressive counter efforts, were promulgated April 2. The new regulations eliminate specific reference to established scope of practice and essentially invite all disciplines to push for any privilege their licensing board and their local medical staff may allow. The regulations are mandatory in state facilities and voluntary in all other facilities in California. One immediate result is that certain state hospital psychologists have demanded responsibility as attending clinician. The CPA has authorized an allocation that will depend on generous contributions to the CPA Advocacy and Litigation fund.

In Oregon, psychologist prescribing legislation was vetoed by their Governor, Theodore Kulongoski, on April 8, the last available date for a veto. Here is a link to his veto letter:

http://www.socalpsych.org/Kulongoski_SB_1046_Veto1.pdf

The Governor concluded that a special, brief legislative session had not allowed sufficient consideration and public input. The issue is likely to arise again in Oregon's Legislature in 2011.

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As a follow-up to last month's column on favorable Federal Mental Health Parity regulations, a consortium of Managed Behavioral Healthcare Organizations (MBHOs) have filed a lawsuit asserting that these regulations were not properly submitted for public review and comment, seeking a restraining order and an injunction blocking their implementation. I have not been able to locate a copy of the lawsuit but here is the US District Court's opinion denying the injunction:

https://ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_public_doc?2010cv0527-5.

The decision indicates the MBHOs have particular concerns about the "nonquantitative treatment limitations" language. The denial of the requested orders was not based on the merits of any arguments but only because the regulations' effective date is July 1, eliminating any potential irreparable harm, at this time. The Court has initiated an expedited briefing schedule so this matter may unfold quickly.

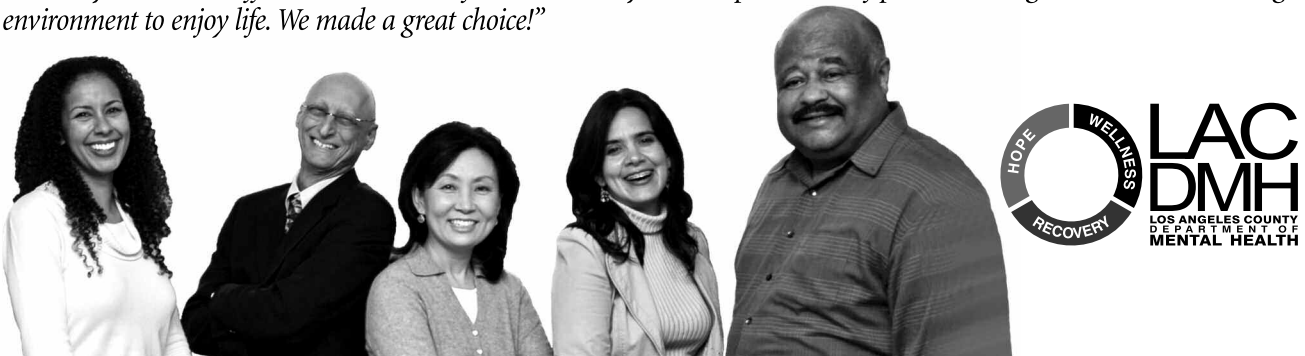
This is my next to last column as President. Next month I will share some thoughts on the year.

Thank you for your continuing interest.

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Letter from the Editor

Yes, Joe, It's a Big #### Deal

Colleen Copelan, M.D.



I'm writing this letter from the California Health Care Leadership Academy, sponsored annually by the California Medical Association.

The Big Deal topic this year is, of course, the health care reform legislation recently signed into law by President Obama. The law expands coverage to some 30 million new lives, mandates purchase, regulates insurance, modifies delivery, attempts to control cost, and promises to pay for the whole thing, one way or another.

It's the biggest health care expansion since Medicare in 1965.

As those of you who followed the process know, it is not a single, coherent policy but rather a patchwork of ideas and trade-offs aimed primarily at reducing the number of uninsured Americans, doggedly pushed through the unanimous opposition of the minority party.

Organized medicine, guided by a list of principles and priorities rather than specific proposals, worked hard for us and our patients. The legislation is better because of our effort. Nevertheless, many physician-specific concerns were neglected, such as reality-based fee schedules and quality reporting schemes, tort reform, antitrust relief, private contracting, and—especially for California—paid access for an estimated 1.4 million new and/or undocumented immigrants.

In the end, the AMA gave the legislation its seal of “qualified support.” The CMA simply listed what it liked and didn't like and what still needs work.

It's a Big Deal but it ain't over yet. New regulations will implement the law and interpret the legislative intent. Some provisions will require action by states. Congress and the courts will continue to tinker for decades to come, just as they have with Medicare.

All this means we must stay engaged if we are to shape our professional lives and to improve the lives of the patients we serve.

cocopelan@aol.com

~
In Memorium
Myron Lind, M.D.
 ~

Myron Lind, MD died Friday, March 19, 2010 in La Quinta, California at age 70 from End Stage Parkinson's Disease.

He was born on July 5, 1939 to George and Sadie Lind in Brooklyn, New York.

Myron graduated from State University of New York, College of Medicine in 1965. In 1966, he completed his internship at University of Florida at Gainesville, and then completed a medical residency at Harbor General Hospital and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. In 1971, Myron found his true calling when he switched from medicine to psychiatry completing his residency at the VA/UCLA Medical Centers. In 1973, he entered private practice in Van Nuys, California and continued that practice for the next 20 years until illness necessitated his retirement.

Myron served his country from 1967 to 1969 in the United States Air Force where he was a Flight Surgeon.

Myron collected Medical Antiques. He enjoyed painting and creating ceramic sculptures and pipes. His hobbies were gardening, tennis, swimming, skiing, bowling and poker. He enjoyed traveling, going to the theatre and cherished time with family and friends.

Myron lived with Parkinson's disease for 30 years, accepting each challenge and reinventing himself to embrace life the best he could in spite of the great difficulties he faced.

Myron is survived by his wife Anita M. Lind; brother, Arnold J. Lind; daughters Courtney Lind Korenkiewicz (Richard) and Lisa Vuskovic (Sergio); son, Mark Evan Jaffe, MD; grand children, Richard Lind Korenkiewicz, Eli Vuskovic and Elizabeth Marie Kastner;

He is also survived by Barbara Bradford Lind, mother of Joshua Daniel Lind (deceased) and Courtney Lind Korenkiewicz and Kara Brook Schmidt, mother of Mark Evan Jaffe, MD and Lisa Jaffe Vuskovic.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Sadie Lind and son, Joshua Daniel Lind.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donations to the Parkinson's Resource Organization 74-478 Highway 111 #102, Palm Desert, CA. 92260-4112.

Services will be held on Sunday, April 11, 2010 at 11:00 at Mount Sinai Memorial Park 5950 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles, Ca 90068.

"The good life harmonizes the elements of love, work and play." Myron Lind 1983

Council Highlights

March 11, 2010

Larry Lawrence, M.D., *Treasurer-elect and Acting Secretary*

I am pleased to see an increased involvement in the Inland Empire. Congratulations to Dr. Shaepper and the Loma Linda Residency on their match. And personal congratulations to Dr. Shaepper whose daughter matched at the Loma Linda Ophthalmology Residency.

We are all looking forward to our Annual Awards Meeting at Le Merigot on Saturday, April 24 from 4-7 P.M. We have had larger turnouts recently and the program this year will hopefully entice more members to attend. Remember all members may attend.

Our MIT's Anita Redd and David Ruecker, have been doing an excellent job with MIT recruiting efforts. They have set up regional dinners and get togethers to encourage SCPS involvement and have generated much enthusiasm and interest.

We once again face a difficult issue with expansion of scope of practice by regulatory changes in state government. Two years ago it was DMH who promulgated such changes. CMA, CPA and SCPS as well as APA successfully blocked this change. However the Department of Public Health has passed such regulations, requiring SCPS and our allies to initiate a legal challenge to this regulatory change.

Looking forward to seeing our colleagues in New Orleans, and having that mix of education, fine food, collegiality, and seeing old friends from throughout our careers. See you at the APA, May 22-26.

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 Robert Carvalho, M.D. - Ventura Councillor
 Laurie Causas, M.D. - West LA Councillor
 Michael Gales, M.D. - West LA Councillor
 Sophie Duriez, M.D. - ECP Deputy Representative
 Elizabeth Munzig, D.O. - MIT Representative
 David Ruecker, M.D. - MIT Representative

SCPS would like to welcome the following new members:

Anthony Burlay, M.D.
 Rebecca Carillo, M.D.
 Katrine Enrile, M.D.
 David Goldbloom, M.D.
 Julie Marie Hall, M.D.
 Megan Kavanaugh, M.D.
 Jeong Kim, M.D.
 Sonia Krishna, M.D.
 Jariel Lorca, M.D.
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 Kathryn Murray, M.D.
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 Ricardo Ramirez, M.D.
 Jason Schiffman, M.D.
 Jouce Vega, M.D.
 Farzin Yaghmaie, M.D.

The Southern California
Psychiatric Society
cordially invites you and your guest
to attend the

Installation and Awards Ceremony

Saturday, April 24, 2010

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Kenneth B. Wells, M.D., M.P.H.

*Resilience, Prevention and Community Capacity:
New Directions in Psychiatry*

Le Merigot Santa Monica Beach Hotel

1740 Ocean Avenue

Santa Monica, CA 90401

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(310) 815-3650 or scps2999@earthlink.net

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