



**ABPP**  
SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION  
IN PSYCHOLOGY SINCE 1947

# THE Specialist

Volume 27, No. 2

Summer 2008

## *The Legacy of a Legend: In Memory of Bernard S. Brucker*

By Colleen M. Sheehan, M.S.

**M**erriam-Webster Dictionary defines a legend in part as “a person or thing that inspires” and this is probably the most concise way to encapsulate who **Bernard Brucker** was. As such, many an obituary has been and will be written about him listing in painstaking detail his many accomplishments, titles, and good deeds. Given this plethora of information, I have decided to elaborate instead on what he leaves behind – his legacy, the legacy of a legend.

Before writing this article, I had the opportunity to sit down with a very dear friend of Bernie's, Dr. **Barry**

**Nierenberg**, who provided me with some deeper insights into the life and times of Bernie Brucker. One of the things he told me that I found most endearing was the way in which Bernie naturally incorporated everyone he met into his inner circle, be they a colleague, a patient, or even a stranger off of the street. Dr. Nierenberg said that you could tell how well a person knew him by how they addressed him. If he knew you, even just a little, he always asked to be called just “Bernie” and if you really knew him well, then he was affectionately known as just “Brucker.” It was only those who didn't really



**Dr. Brucker**

know him, Nierenberg said, who ever called him “Dr. Brucker.” Such was Bernie – a man of lofty accomplishments and even loftier goals who, in a room filled with the most prestigious of crowds, demanded to be called simply by his name – devoid of titles and pretentiousness.

Bernie had a unique way of approaching the world. He did so in such a way that his accomplishments naturally followed suit. Wherever he went and whatever he did, he always strove to make it better. He brought out the best in every situation, no matter how impossible it seemed and naturally drove others to do the same. It was said that if something needed changing, “Bernie could make it happen.”

*Continued on page 6*

### **ABPP TO HOLD 2008 CONVOCATION IN BOSTON**

**T**he 61st Annual ABPP Convocation and Awards Ceremony will be held in Boston, during the APA Convention on Saturday, August 16, from 1:00 – 2:50 PM in the Staffordshire Room of the Westin Copley Place Boston Hotel (10 Huntington Avenue, Boston). Dr. **Alan E. Kazdin**, the President of APA, will be the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession Award. Past BOT President **Thomas J. Boll** and **W. Michael Nelson, III**, who has made substantial contributions to the Clinical and Child Clinical Boards, will be recipients of the Russell J. Bent Award for Distinguished Service and Contributions to the American Board of Professional Psychology. Dr. **Allan Mirsky**, recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Service and Contributions Award, will deliver the annual awardee address. The program will also include remarks by ABPP President Dr. **Christine Maguth Nezu**, Executive Officer **David Cox**, and other members of ABPP governance. And, of course, newly certified specialists in attendance will be recognized. So, please, join us at this celebratory event!

# THE ABPP Specialist

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

By Robert W. Goldberg, Ph.D., ABPP



Welcome to the electronic age! Most of you will be scrolling through this initial e-issue of *The ABPP Specialist* as we launch our second sixty years of board certification activity with an electronic thrust. In order to make this transition a gradual one, the design, format, and style of this inaugural electronic issue is very similar to that with which you are familiar. We anticipate that the Winter 2009 issue will incorporate an entirely new design, with improved screen and hardcopy readability.

The decision to 'go electronic' came along "slow but fast" (to quote N.Y. Mets' former manager Casey Stengel). It was the result of recurrent intermittent discussions among the BOT and with your Communications Committee over several years, but came to rapid fruition at last December's Annual BOT Meeting. We think that this is the direction that needs to be taken to communicate with not just our own specialists, but with the many organizations and individuals with whom ABPP needs to interact. For those of you who like the scent and feel of the printed page, some hard copies will be available upon request to ABPP Central Office.

Your reactions and comments may be directed to Executive Officer Dr. David Cox, at [drcox@abpp.org](mailto:drcox@abpp.org), as well as to myself at [Emu34@aol.com](mailto:Emu34@aol.com). Thanks for your readership!

# A Message from the President

## Applying the Principles of Reinforcement to Board Certification: An ABPP Advertisement

By Christine Maguth Nezu, Ph.D., ABPP

During this election season, we are continually inundated with advertisements, that at their worst, can be divisive and trigger destructive partisanship. However, at their best, they can actually encourage, motivate, and inspire us to become involved in the political process. This metaphor may be useful for our own profession as well. For example, at our worst, statements of partisanship among clinicians and researchers, Ph.D.'s, Psy D.'s and Ed.D. 's, various credentialing organizations, and even among specialties, can severely interrupt our mutual goals of professionalism, collegial support, and public wellness. At our best, however, we can be motivated and inspired to build bridges between research, theory, and practice, and work together to actualize our shared professional values, such as promotion of competence in how we educate, train, and provide service. This message is offered as a *positive advertisement* geared to ignite greater participation in the specialty board examination process, as well as board and academy activities, conferences, and workshops. More importantly, it is aimed at increasing the recruitment efforts of our academies and boards in order to expand the number of board-certified specialists in psychology.

As a cognitive and behavioral specialist, reinforcement theory contributes heavily to my way of thinking, and is equivalent to motivation. Most successful advertising and marketing campaigns are at least partially based on learning theory principles. Therefore, as I think about our current primary mission of growth in numbers and participation in the specialty academies and boards, our organizational objectives seem to depend on the consequent reinforcement of our board certified specialists with respect for the time, energy, and financial cost they have invested in the ABPP. Consistent with the concept of reinforcement, the rewarding consequences of one's actions can have an impact on

their future choice of action. When time, effort, personal cost, and hard work are rewarded with positive consequences, one's future participation in the organization is likely to continue and even increase. In addition, consistent with social learning theory, when others observe board certified colleagues receive such relevant and meaningful rewards, their motivation to follow in such footsteps is also increased. Finally, reinforcement and motivational factors are most effective when they are clearly and specifically defined and communicated. Therefore, in the interest of "practicing what I preach," it is my view that we need to focus more on identifying, clarifying, and communicating the importance of ABPP, as well as the rewards that can be had with board certification. In doing so, I believe we can achieve an increase in growth (thus, the commercial). As board certified specialists are reinforced for continued participation in their respective academy and board activities, we all reap the benefits of a stronger organization that can consequently move our increasingly-specialized field forward. What are some of these "rewards?" The list of benefits that follow is summarized from statements and publications provided by individuals from the various specialty boards and academies on this topic, information from our website, as well as recent ABPP activities that cumulatively provide an ever-growing list of "reinforcement bullets."

### **Reinforcement for the Board Certified Specialist**

#### **"Brand Name" Peer Recognition.**

ABPP has been awarding certification in professional psychology specialties for over 60 years. It is unique as a unitary umbrella organization with multiple specialty boards and continual quality assurance review that is recognized by the profession as certifying specialty practitioners in psychology. In its 60-plus-year existence, the number of its affiliated specialty boards



**Dr. Nezu**

and associated academies has grown from 3 to 13, reflecting emerging specialties and expansion of our profession (Bent, Packard & Goldberg, 1999; Finch, Simon, & Nezu, 2006; Packard & Reyes, 2003). Our 13 specialties in professional psychology closely correspond with specialties recognized by the Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Practice (CRSPPP), the committee that reviews and recommends petitions for recognition of specialties to the American Psychological Association (APA) Board of Directors, and the Council for Specialties in Professional Psychology (CoS). This year, the CoS formally recognized ABPP in a disseminated statement describing us as the only national organization of specialty boards to certify specialists in professional psychology. There is a continuing process of quality review and assurance and there are no exceptions or waivers regarding the peer examination of specialty competency in the board certification process.

**Public Recognition of the Brand Name.** Public awareness of board certification in specialty practice is well known with regard to medicine. As the number of board certified psychology specialists increases, with greater jurisdictional recognition of ABPP in

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# Executive Officer Update

Summer 2008

By David R. Cox, Ph.D., ABPP  
Executive Officer

The ABPP Board of Trustees recently voted to relocate Central Office from Savannah to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. There were several factors involved in this important decision, and it was significantly influenced by the ending of our current lease in Savannah on August 31, 2008. A more comprehensive summary of the decision making process, as well as specific descriptions and information about the new offices will be more fully disseminated through several forums in the next few weeks and months, including APA Governance Day (Saturday, August 16), upcoming emails on our list serve, our new future website, and future specialist articles. On behalf of the executive committee and board of trustees we are delighted to keep you up-to-date on our work toward a strong future and excellence in customer service for ABPP. Please be advised that the new mailing address, which can be used effective July 25 (although mail going to Savannah will be received and/or forwarded), is as follows:

**American Board of  
Professional Psychology**  
600 Market Street, Suite 300  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516  
(919) 537-8031 (voice)  
(919) 537-8034 (fax)

*Please note that the new numbers will not go into effect until August 1. Thank you!*

The year 2008 has started off quite well for the ABPP. As of the end of May, our applications were already at 86% of those received in 2007. We are seeing an increase in applications in general, and also are seeing the initial responses to the **Early Entry Program**. This is, of course, encouraging and I believe it reflects the start of continued and increased focus on specialization within the field of psychology. Those of you in training centers, graduate programs and who otherwise are in

some way responsible for our future colleagues are encouraged to continue with your support of the Early Entry Program – we are especially pleased with this initial response!

ABPP will have a significant presence, as is usual, at the upcoming **APA Convention**. Several of our boards will be having meetings, some 75-100 presentations (perhaps more – this is derived only from those who let us know they are presenting) will be given by ABPP specialists at the convention. We will also, of course, be having our convocation honoring new specialists and several long-time colleagues. I hope to see you there!

The **Florida Board of Psychology** has recognized six different organizations as board certifying entities. This includes ABPP and five others. To my knowledge only one application has been denied. This issue has turned out to be quite interesting and, at the same time, disappointing. Despite presumptively working to decrease confusion among the public regarding board certification in psychology, the issue is considered by many to have not done that – and perhaps has the potential to increase it. The problem regarding confusion for the public arises due to several factors. Of the 6 approved boards, two do not provide clear on-line information about whether an individual is credentialed; one such board does not appear to have an on-line listing of credentialed individuals at all and the other is not clear about who that is listed is or is not credentialed. Three of the recognized boards list (among their national listings) individuals who are non-psychologists. One board appears to list many individuals in Florida, yet at least 9 of those individuals are not licensed in Florida as a psychologist. It appears that at least three of the boards may not have, in their past credentialing processes, met the criteria that the Florida BOP established. Apparently, they are now altering their processes. However, due to the board's decision



*Dr. Cox*

not to address “grandfathering” this has resulted in potential for individuals who are not licensed as a psychologist in Florida to be viewed as board certified through an organization that is recognized by the Florida Board of Psychology. It is well recognized that the specifics about which the Florida Board of Psychology has had to deal are complex and do not necessarily lend themselves to simple answers. I am hopeful, however, that the Florida Board of Psychology will consider these issues and their potential impact on the public as well as the profession of psychology.

Recently, ABPP was welcomed and greeted with enthusiasm at a meeting of the psychologists within the **Department of Veterans Affairs**. The meeting, held in Dallas, included brief recognition of those who are board certified through ABPP and encouragement of those in attendance to facilitate efforts of psychologists within the DVA to pursue ABPP certification. ABPP is the only board recognized by the DVA for possible salary increases for psychologists.

The **Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC)** recently invited me to address psychologists, residents and interns at that facility regarding the process of becoming board certified

*Continued on page 11*

# A Message from the ABCP President

by Nadine J. Kaslow, Ph.D., ABPP

There are some updates from the American Board of Clinical Psychology (ABCP) related to the selection of a Midwestern Region Representative to the ABCP Board, the 2007 ABPP Convocation, 2008 Convocation, ABPP Board of Trustees, and Recruitment.

## Nomination for Midwestern Region Representative to the ABCP Board

Effective January 1, 2009, we have an opening for one new member of the ABCP Board. Board terms are for four years and are renewable one time. Board members are expected to attend two board meetings per year. They also serve as the regional coordinators for examinations in their geographical area. Additional tasks of board members may include serving as an officer of the ABP Board, serving as the ABCP Board's representative to the ABPP Board of Trustees, holding sessions to educate other psychologists about the board certification process, performing written tasks, aiding in marketing, and assisting in other projects as determined by the ABCP Board. The vacancy is in the Midwestern area, which covers the following states: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. The current individual in this position is **W. Michael Nelson, III**, PhD, ABPP ([nelson@xavier.edu](mailto:nelson@xavier.edu)). If you are interested and willing to serve as a ABCP Board Member, please send a statement of interest (indicating reasons for wanting to serve, prior experience with ABCLinP - Examination Committee Chair or Member, other relevant professional experience) and Curriculum Vitae to **Janet Schultz**, PhD, ABPP at [schultzj@xavier.edu](mailto:schultzj@xavier.edu) who is serving as Chair of the Nominations Committee for this position by June 30, 2008.

## 2007 ABPP Convocation

Please join me in congratulating

the following individuals who were recently board certified in clinical psychology and acknowledged at the ABPP Convocation in San Francisco: **Paul Arbisi**, PhD, **Rodererick A. Bacho**, PhD, **Jennifer L. Callahan**, PhD, **Wayne L Chappelle**, PsyD, **Jeffrey A. Coady**, PsyD, **Lee H. Coleman**, PhD., **Michael J. Craw**, PhD, **Mark R. Elin**, PhD, **Harris L. Friedman**, PhD, **Michael R. Furlong**, PhD, **Lisa R. Grossman**, PhD, **George Kraus**, PhD, **Robin M. Lewis**, PsyD, **Gary Groth-Marnat**, PhD, **Floyd J Jennings**, JD, PhD, **Ronn Johnson**, PhD, **Daniel J. Martin**, PhD, **Julie K. Miller**, PhD, **Scott R Millis**, PhD, **Owen T. Nichols**, PsyD, **James Overholser**, PhD, **Edward Rappaport**, PhD, **William P. Reich**, PhD, **Richard W. Rodgers**, EdD, **Michael Schwabenbauer**, PhD, **Sharon Song**, PhD, **A. Gordon Teichner**, PhD, **David F. Tolin**, PhD, **John P. Vincent**, PhD, and **A. Mark White**, PhD.

In addition, at the 2007 convocation, which marked ABPP's 60th anniversary (with clinical being one of the first two boards to affiliate with ABPP in 1947), **Ruth Ochroch**, PhD, ABPP, who is board certified in clinical psychology, was the recipient of the Russell J. Bent Award for Distinguished Service and Contributions to the American Board of Professional Psychology. The 2006 recipient of the Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession of Psychology Award was **David Barlow**, PhD, ABPP, who also is board certified in clinical psychology. He gave the keynote address, which was engaging, informative, and thought-provoking.

## 2008 ABPP Convocation and Social Hour

The 61st ABPP Convocation will be held on Saturday August 16, 2008 from 1-2:50pm at the Westin Copley Place Boston Hotel in the Staffordshire Room. The speaker will be **Allan F. Mirsky**, PhD, ABPP, who received the 2007 Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession of

Psychology Award. I look forward to seeing you there and becoming better acquainted. Our former President, **W. Michael Nelson, III**, PhD, ABPP, will be the recipient of the 2008 Russell J. Bent Award for Distinguished Service and Contributions to ABPP. This is a well-deserved honor. Please join me in offering him heartfelt congratulations! The other recipient of this award is also board certified in clinical psychology, **Thomas J. Boll**, PhD, ABPP. Congratulations to Tom as well.

## ABPP Board of Trustees

**M. Victoria Ingram**, PsyD, ABPP is now the ABCP representative to the ABPP Board of Trustees. I am honored that I was recently elected to serve as President-Elect of the ABPP Board of Trustees.

## Recruitment

Please encourage your colleagues and friends to seriously consider board certification in clinical psychology. We have significantly improved our manual, which is online. In addition, we are partnering with the Academy of Clinical Psychology, who is providing mentors for individuals who would like guidance in the process of applying for board certification.

On behalf of the ABCP Board of Directors and Exam Coordinator (**James Besyner**, PhD, ABPP, **Ira Grossman**, PhD, ABPP, **Victoria Ingram**, PsyD, ABPP, **Phil Levendusky**, PhD, ABPP, **Skip Montgomery**, PhD, ABPP, **Michael Nelson**, PhD, ABPP), I want to wish you an enjoyable summer.



## The Legacy of a Legend: In Memory of Bernard S. Brucker *Continued from page 1*

He did so with an impressive combination of analytical intellect, relentless persistence, and unwavering patience. No matter how large a team he commanded, he always met everyone on an individual level, most often using humor as a way to connect. He had superior organizational and strategic skills and never got bogged down in the emotions of a situation. Barry Nierenberg put it best when he described Bernie's inner world as being similar to that of a three-dimensional chessboard in which Bernie could always see four moves ahead.

He was like a storm cloud that left not a puddle, but an ocean in his wake wherever he went. A few cases in point: in the early 1980s, Bernie accepted a position with the University of Miami – Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he started with a team of little more than a handful of licensed psychologists. By the time of his death, he left behind a massive team of multi-level professionals spanning a number of different posts and departments. Even in his hobbies he strove for nothing less than the best of the best. For example, when he decided that he wanted to learn to fly (for surely being restricted to the ground for a man like him was laughable indeed!), he trained at the best flight school and logged plenty of hours securing good, solid training. But of course, this

wasn't enough. Who else could better train him, he thought, than the U.S. Coast Guard? Before long, Bernie became a loved and successful compatriot, serving in missions seeking both drug runners and those people in need of help in the waters off the Gulf and the Atlantic Ocean. He eventually became one of the primary "go-to guys" in the state of Florida whenever training missions were run where Bernie became the hider of the most elaborate of hide-and-seek games. Whether he was boating for fun, carousing with his pets, or flying on missions, he was sure to cover the gamut of all that life had to offer.

Professionally, he revolutionized the world of rehabilitation psychology in numerous ways. Aside from being a past Division 22 president, and accomplishing feats and titles too numerous to list here, he made significant contributions to the field of biofeedback and its uses in individuals with spinal cord injuries. Not one to settle for patients merely adjusting to these catastrophic injuries, he created a method utilizing biofeedback, known internationally as the Brucker Method, to actually create regain of function in these individuals. His method served to maximize available functioning in voluntary muscles thought previously to be beyond repair by picking up on signals too weak to be detected by the

conscious mind and reinforcing these pathways. One patient said that it was Bernie who taught him how to fight when everyone else was telling him to just "sit back and smile". So whether it was colleagues in the field, patients in the clinic, or friends and family, Bernie was always teaching and always inspiring.

More important than the boards on which he served and the various and sundry titles that he accumulated over the years, what Bernie leaves behind – his legacy – is a foundation of knowledge so broad and well-built that it serves as a launching point for professionals world-wide, young and old alike. He serves as a great inspiration especially for students such as myself. It is through his work that I find motivation to strive for heights in my professional career that I might never have otherwise considered, and the theories and practice he developed serve as a tremendous base from which future work and studies can be conducted. He also leaves all of us in general with a sense of what life should be through his zeal for making the world and everyone in it the absolute best that it can be. In life he was a force to be reckoned with, but one that did so with equanimity and with a wry wit and never-ending sense of humor. Even in death he teaches and inspires us to be more than what we are.



# ABPP

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION  
IN PSYCHOLOGY SINCE 1947

# TO ALL BOARD CERTIFIED SPECIALISTS

You are invited to the  
**61st ABPP Convocation and Social Hour**  
Saturday, August 16, 2008 • 1:00 p.m. — 2:50 p.m.  
Westin Copley Place Boston Hotel • Staffordshire Room  
10 Huntington Avenue • Boston, MA



*Dr. Mirsky*

## ***Reception and Program***

Visit with colleagues and friends

Join us in honoring our new  
Board Certified Specialists

Enjoy our Speaker

**Allan F. Mirsky, Ph.D., ABPP**

Recipient of the 2007

*Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession of Psychology*

## **Congratulate our award winners for 2008:**

*The Russell J. Bent Award for  
Distinguished Service and Contributions to the  
American Board of Professional Psychology*

**Thomas J. Boll, Ph.D., ABPP**

**W. Michael Nelson, III, Ph.D., ABPP**



*Dr. Boll*

*Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession of Psychology*

APA President

**Alan E. Kazdin, Ph.D., ABPP**

ALSO

Come to the ABPP booth at the APA Convention

The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

Exhibit Hall A and B1 — Booth 638

9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Thursday - Saturday August 14th - 16th

9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. Sunday, August 17th, 2008

**Pick up your ribbons and lapel pins at the booth!**



# Specialty Boards

## American Board of Couple and Family Psychology

The Couple and Family specialty board met during the month of April to offer training to new board members in order to prepare and qualify new members as examiners for the oral examination of candidates. The board also discussed changes, amendments and revisions in policies and procedures in anticipation of the reaccreditation process beginning this summer. The meeting was held at UCLA, and those of us who came from colder climes found Brentwood in spring sublime. Our hostess was **Irene Goldenberg**, whose graciousness made every aspect of the trip a treat, from the two kinds of baked salmon at her patio dinner to the wonderful UCLA facilities.

The couple and family specialty is in the midst of reaccreditation and we have made a number of amendments to our protocol which you might find interesting:

We discovered that our bylaws and the policies and procedures manual are different documents!

We created a whole new, more comprehensive document on mentoring students through the practice sample.

We found that we actually had a more stringent policy on potential candidate credentials than ABPP and amended our policy to bring it into line with ABPP's general requirements.

We revised the requirements for our senior track, giving greater latitude in clinical areas for what might be considered senior achievement, while maintaining the overall integrity of the category.

We streamlined our examiners forms, but validated our already strong examination process.

We are in the process of updating the policies and procedures manual, which has been an arduous, but useful task. Board member **Karen Prager** and current President **Frank Ezzo** have borne the brunt of this work with great appreciation from the other board members.

**John Thoburn**

## American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology

The American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology held a Strategic Planning meeting on April 2nd, to work on our Mission and Vision statements and to map out strategic activity objectives, related tasks, and the time frames for accomplishing these. As a result of this productive meeting, we now have consensus on all of these important anchors. Our Mission Statement is as follows: To protect the public and enhance the quality of healthcare by certifying rehabilitation psychologists who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to maximize quality of life. Our Vision Statement flows from this and is: All psychologists practicing in rehabilitation settings will be Boarded in the specialty. With regard to areas we are targeting for Strategic activity, we are updating and improving our website, aiming to do so in a manner consistent with that of ABPP. We are also hard at work on marketing, education, and building our infrastructure through recruitment and retention of future leaders.

The current ABRP Board of Directors includes **Daniel Rohe**, President, **Stephen Wegener**, Vice-President; **Janet Niemeier**, Secretary and Practice Sample Coordinator/Oral Examinations Chair; **Michelle Rusin**, Treasurer; and **Mary Hibbard**, our ABPP Board of Trustees representative. This is a year in which we have much to grieve and much to celebrate. We have lost two senior, foundational members within the same year. Dr. **Mitchell Rosenthal** passed away in 5/07 and Dr. **Bernard Brucker** died suddenly in 2/08. We mourn the persons, Mitch and Bernie, and their outstanding contributions to Rehabilitation Psychology but are honoring their memories in ways that will carry on their

passions, influence, and legacy. The Mitchell Rosenthal Grant was initiated last summer and advertised to all rehabilitation psychologists who are considering pursuing certification or are already in the Pipeline. Any candidate who successfully completes all phases of the certification process by December 31st will receive a refund of \$400.00 of their fees. Dr. Rosenthal was devoted to increasing the number and diversity of candidates who complete their ABRP. Five new ABRPs have been pleased to accept this award so far. In addition, we are seeing a significant increase in the number of candidates registering for all phases of the certification process that may well be linked to this scholarship.

Dr. Rohe and others have also revitalized the Foundation for Rehabilitation Psychology. The Foundation was incorporated in 2005 with Dr. Rosenthal as the first president and Dr. Brucker a Board member. As testimony to the stature and contributions of both men, the revitalized Foundation Board has collected donations and pledges for half the first year goal amount. The Foundation established the Mitchell Rosenthal Student Scholastic Fund and the Bernard Brucker Professional Education Fund to honor these two great men. If you or your organization is interested in making a contribution in honor of either Dr. Rosenthal or Dr. Brucker, please contact Dr. Rohe at rohe.daniel@mayo.edu. Several members of the ABRP Board selflessly assumed the tasks and activities left unfinished and uncertain by these sudden losses. Dr. **Barry Nierenberg**, for example, not only provided leadership for the Rehabilitation Psychol-

*Continued on page 10*



## Applying the Principles of Reinforcement to Board Certification: An ABPP Advertisement *Continued from page 3*

the U.S. and Canada, public awareness will also increase. It is important that the lay public have a means by which to identify and be assured of competent practice. I was recently interviewed by a national self-help magazine and was asked, "How can the public identify a competent cognitive-behavioral therapist?" The interviewer expressed the concern that there were so many certifications and therapists who refer to themselves as cognitive-behavioral specialists. I provided her with more information about ABPP certification and explained how it is one very important way for the public to recognize competent practice.

### **Continuing Education Credits.**

The ABPP is approved by the APA to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Candidates who obtain board certification can receive 10 CE credits. The ABPP maintains responsibility for its program and content. Where relevant, there are additional CE credits that can be earned for passing the written examinations as well.

### **Increased Practice Mobility.**

There are over 30 jurisdictions that currently recognize ABPP as a credential that will help psychologists establish licensure in a new state. The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) has an important liaison partnership with us that is aimed at increased mobility for qualified practitioners. As such, ABPP board certification, along with the Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) available through ASPPB, allows psychologists to become licensed more easily in the jurisdictions in which they choose to practice (Datillio, 2002). Whereas a license to practice as a psychologist is typically general in nature and assessed through tests of knowledge, such as the Examination for Professional Psychology Practice (EPPP), psychology practice at the specialty level requires knowledge that is specific to the specialty area and demonstration of competency in the specialty. ABPP board certification is one nationally recognized method for examination of competence in a psychology specialty area.

### **Specific Opportunities for Employability and Compensation.**

Areas of potentially greater employability and increased compensation have been reported for several specialties. For example, in a 2006 article in the *Clinical Neuropsychologist*, co-authors Sweet, Nelson, and Moberg identified the salary advantages of a "board-certified practice." Similar situations are increasing for other specialties as well. Concerning employability, in a recent search relevant to clinical neuropsychology, over 30% of employment ads specified that board certification was expected or desired. Moreover, there is increasing recognition of the importance of the ABPP credential regarding all specialty areas by employers such as hospitals and health service systems (e.g., Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic), and organizations, such as the U.S. Public Health Service, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Department of Veteran Affairs. Recently, thanks to Drs. **James Besyner** and **Robert Goldberg**, ABPP was able to have a significant presence at the National VA Psychologists Conference in Dallas at the end of May. At this conference, Drs. Besyner and Goldberg were able to formally acknowledge and reinforce conference attendees who were board certified by ABPP. Throughout the conference, they provided information and answered questions at an ABPP exhibit table. We are confident that participation in conferences such as this will help disseminate the advantages and rewards of ABPP certification, which include peer recognition, and availability of actual pay increases throughout the VA system.

### **Additional Tangible Rewards.**

Our ABPP website lists many additional tangible rewards available to the board certified specialist, including a publication forum in *The Specialist*, reduction in liability insurance, and an invitation to participate in the ABPP Convocation ceremonies at the annual APA conference. Receiving my ABPP diploma at the APA Convocation was one of the memorable moments of my career. There was an intrinsic pride in the knowledge that I was recognized

as competent by my peers. For those of us who were involved in a relatively new specialty at the time, there was an additional excitement that cognitive and behavioral psychology was recognized by the ABPP umbrella organization as a member board.

This year, as means of acknowledging the efforts, commitment and achievements of our specialists, ABPP will be implementing an opportunity for each specialty to recognize and present an award to individuals who have made significant contributions to their specialty area. In addition to awards that are presented each year for distinguished contributions to psychology, as well as to the ABPP organization itself, each specialty will have the opportunity to honor individuals, programs, or institutions that have had a particular impact on their individual specialty.

The convocation ceremony will indeed be very special this year. Our featured speaker will be Dr. **Allan F. Mirsky**, world renowned neuroscientist and recipient of the 2007 *Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession of Psychology Award*. The 2008 *Russell J. Bent Award for Distinguished Service and Contributions to the American Board of Professional Psychology* will be awarded to two recipients, Dr. **Thomas J. Boll** and Dr. **W. Michael Nelson III**. In addition, Dr. **Alan E. Kazdin**, current APA President, will receive the 2008 *Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession of Psychology Award* and be the featured speaker at the convocation ceremony next year.

**An Opportunity to be Part of a Professional Legacy.** The outstanding professionals that comprise the current leadership and zeitgeist in each specialty have a unique opportunity to move the profession forward. With greater numbers and greater synergy in our board and academy activities, there is real potential for positive impact on the profession. This type of reinforcement extends beyond the "pins and ribbons" we don at professional meetings or the social exchange at our

*Continued on page 10*

## Applying the Principles of Reinforcement to Board Certification: An ABPP Advertisement *Continued from page 9*

popular APA exhibit booth. We have the opportunity and responsibility to build bridges between old partisan- ships, because promotion, evaluation, and recognition of competency are goals that we all agree are paramount.

### **The End of the Commercial: How You Can Act Now**

In terms of reinforcement, the rewards are clear and uncompromising - board certification is a gold standard for competent specialty practice that has distinct benefits for the psychology specialist. However, from the point of view of social learning theory, we can do a better job at communicating these benefits and serving as role models to others. In order to make our **positive advertisement** more effective, we must make the rewarding contingencies clear. Just imagine how our list of reinforcing contingencies can grow and what it would mean to the organization if we doubled the number of board certified specialists in the coming year. Our fees would likely remain stable, our specialty academies and boards might have the funds to develop exciting multi-specialty continuing education conferences, we could hire more staff when needed, and we could increase advocacy efforts in many professional venues. One way to "act now" is to consider the bullet list provided here and add any additional reinforcement bullets of your own that may be unique to you, your colleagues, the culture of your specialty, or your geographical area. For example, one addition I have added to my own list of bullet points is that I have never come across a board certified specialist who said they were sorry that they took the exam. Indeed, most indicate that it was one moment in which they perceived themselves as most competent. Then, use the list and your own additions as your **elevator speech** at a conference or meeting this year. As described by one of the consultants at the ABPP Board of Trustees retreat last December, an **elevator speech** is one in which one's goal is to make a convincing case to a colleague during the time it takes to step into the elevator and ride it to-

gether to the top floor. Here's a review of the list in short form:

- Brand Name Peer Recognition
- Brand Name Public Recognition
- Continuing Education Credit
- Increased Practice Mobility
- Specific Opportunities for Employability and Compensation
- Tangible Rewards (e.g., opportunity to publish in *The Specialist*, reduction in liability insurance, participation and recognition at convocation ceremonies)
- Interaction with Outstanding and Distinguished Psychologists
- Opportunity for Professional Legacy

Using principles of reinforcement, we can increase both the number of new board certified specialists and the participation of the enormous talent extant in our current specialists. Using the current vernacular of the political advertisements so prevalent these days, as board certified psychologists, it is my hope that you "approve this message." Regards to all for a great summer and I look forward to personally greeting as many of you as possible at the APA Convocation.

Bent, R. J., Packard, R. E., & Goldberg, R.W. (1999). *The American Board of Professional Psychology. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 30, 65-73.

Datillio, F.M. (2002). Board Certification in psychology: Is it really necessary? *Professional psychology: research and Practice*, 33, 54-57

Finch, A. J., Simon, N. P., & Nezu, C. M. (2006). The future of clinical psychology: Board certification. *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*, 13, 254-257.

Packard, T. & Reyes, C. J. (2003). Specialty certification in professional psychology. In M. J. Prinstein & M. D. Patterson (Eds.), *The portable mentor: Expert guide to a successful career in psychology* (pp. 191-208). New York: Plenum.

Sweet, J. J., Nelson, N. W., & Moberg, P. J. (2006). The TCN/AACN 2005 "Salary Survey": Professional practices, beliefs, and incomes of U.S. Neurophysiologists, *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 20, 325-364.

## Specialty Boards *Continued from page 8*

ogy Conference 2008 and 2009 Program Committee, but accepted the nomination to serve as President of the Academy of Rehabilitation Psychology. Finally, we are in the process of searching our membership for new Board members. All have thanked Drs. Nierenberg and Rohe for their strengthening and leadership roles for our BOD, Board members, and Academy. We have added two Board members. Dr. **Ellen Snoxell**, is new to the Board and brings a wealth of experience and dedication. Dr. **Bruce Caplan**, a founding Board member, has agreed to rejoin the Board and supply some of the wisdom that we

have lost in the loss of Dr. Rosenthal and Dr. Brucker.

Near future plans include preparation for our Periodic Comprehensive Review (PCR) with work on the above Strategic areas. Our next Oral Examination will be held July 12th in Chicago with five candidates scheduled. We anticipate, based on numbers of candidates in the Pipeline, that we will hold an additional Oral Examination in November of this year.

**Janet Niemeier**

through ABPP. By the time you read this, that address will have been completed. I am told to expect roughly 20 psychologists to be in attendance; all are being encouraged to proceed with ABPP.

I was recently among several people interviewed regarding the issues of **specialization and proficiencies within psychology**. I am among several that have been working on a Taxonomy Work Group addressing such issues. Watch for an article in an upcoming issue of the Monitor on Psychology.

The issue of possible identification of **subspecialties** continues to be on the radar at ABPP with the pediatric neuropsychology area being one such area. ABCN continues to proceed with work on how it might view any sub-specialty including the area of

pediatric neuropsychology. As this is new ground for ABPP as a whole, we are proceeding with thoughtful consideration of the pros and cons, and attempting to anticipate implications of possible actions.

While discussing ABCN, I should note that ABCN is also proceeding with initial discussions of **maintenance of certification** (MOC) issues. This, too, is an issue that has been initially considered at the ABPP Board of Trustees level. While there is not an expectation that any implementation will be conducted in the very near future, it is something that our profession, and therefore ABPP, needs to be considering given current trends in health care.

**ABPP Central Office** and the officers of ABPP continue to address is-

ues of our future through strategic planning. We are in the midst of a **web site rebuild** that you should be seeing shortly. We are hoping to not only have a "facelift" but also start implementing a number of technological advances through this. For example, ease of use is a primary target, a continued increase in our ability to use electronic transmission of materials to and from the boards and academies, increased ability to access important psychology-related material and other aspects are on the horizon.

The items above all, in one way or another, impact our future and are related to those areas that ABPP sees as important to the future of specialization within psychology. As we roll this out, or even before, please let us know how we can continue to benefit you!

## ABPP SPECIALISTS GARNER MAJOR AWARDS

**A** number of ABPP-certified specialists have recently received some of psychology's most prestigious awards.

Dr. **Lisa R. Grossman** and Dr. **Donald McAleer** were named recipients of the Karl F. Heiser APA Presidential Award for Advocacy for 2008. It has been announced by Heiser Award Coordinator Dr. **Jeffrey E. Barnett** that the Heiser Award Ceremony will be held on Friday, August

15, 2008 from 11:00AM - 11:45AM in the Independence Ballroom East of the Sheraton Boston Hotel.

Dr. **Richard Rogers** received the 2008 APA Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Applied Research for his empirical work in forensic psychological assessment. His awardee address, "The Wrongs of Miranda Rights: Advances in Forensic Research and Psychological Expertise," will be de-

livered on Friday, August 15, from 12:00 Noon to 12:50 PM in Meeting Room 257B, Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

Dr. **Michael Roberts** received an APA Presidential Citation from **Alan E. Kazdin** at this year's APA State Leadership Conference.



# ABPP

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION  
IN PSYCHOLOGY SINCE 1947



# Academy News

## American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology

The AACN Board of Directors would like to welcome **Kira Armstrong, Paul Kaufmann, and Aaron Nelson** as new Board members who began serving their five year terms at the conclusion of the Board's winter meeting in February. **Manfred Greiffenstein, Richard Kaplan, and David Williamson**, rotated off the Board at the end of the winter meeting. The Academy is grateful for their committed service.

The AACN 6th Annual Conference and Workshops was held at the Seaport Hotel in Boston on June 19-21, and (based on conference pre-registration) was easily our most well attended meeting. **Kerry Hamsher** was awarded the Distinguished Neuropsychologist of the Year Award for 2008 for his numerous contributions to and stewardship of the ABCN exam process. Prior to this year's meeting AACN sponsored a consensus conference on the neuropsychological assessment of effort, response bias, and malingering. The conference was organized by **Robert Heilbronner** and **Jerry Sweet** and preliminary information was presented in a workshop during the meeting. The continued quality of the workshops and new features geared toward students and postdoctoral residents were added to the program this year. **Mark Mahone, Deb Fein, and Kira Armstrong**, put together a number of activities and mini-workshops for grad students and postdocs attending the annual conference. They will continue to expand their efforts in support of students/trainees in other ways in the future.

**Mary-Ellen Meadows** and **John Crouch** organized the awarding of continuing education (CE) credits for meeting attendees and they worked with our webmaster to make this a largely automated process. The scientific poster session was organized by **Pamela McMurray** and **Gina Rehkemper** and consisted of over twice the number of poster submissions from the previous years. As always,

all poster abstracts were published in AACN's official journal *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*. **Sandra Koffler** continues to grace us with her unparalleled skills as our Conference Coordinator and Annual Meeting Committee Chair, and **Susan McPherson** debuted as our new Program Chair with an outstanding CE program. **Aaron Nelson** was the Local Site Committee Chair for the Boston meeting and was ably assisted by **Kira Armstrong, Karen Postal, Meghan Searl, and Cheryl Weinstein**.

The AACN Workshop series, published by Oxford University Press was launched successfully last year with three volumes which are selling briskly and have been positively reviewed. This year, **Kira Armstrong, Dean W. Beebe, Robin C. Hilsabeck, & Michael W. Kirkwood** published *Board Certification in Clinical Neuropsychology: A Guide to Becoming ABPP/ABCN Certified Without Sacrificing Your Sanity*, coincident with the AACN Annual meeting. *Adult Learning Disabilities and ADHD: Research-Informed Assessment* by **Robb Mapou** and *The Business of Neuropsychology* by **Mark Barisa** are expected later in the year. The collaboration with Oxford University Press has been very positive and OUP has continued to be a strong supporter of the AACN Annual Meeting and Workshops.

The Practice Advisory Group, chaired by **Robert Heilbronner**, is busy working on projects to facilitate neuropsychological practice, including a paper devoted to critical issues related to test practice effects and informational brochures for consumers describing the components of adult and pediatric neuropsychological assessments.

Members of the BOD have been working to develop both an Outcomes Studies Grant Program and an Outcome Studies Research Consortium. The purpose of these programs is to support outcome studies that support the utility of neuropsychology. The BOD considers outcome studies critical to the survival of neuropsychology in clinical practice as more 3rd party payors and politicians are looking toward evidence-based practice. Initial-

ly, rather than assessing a fee to the entire membership, our plan is to solicit voluntary donations. This can be done through a link on the AACN website [www.theaacn.org](http://www.theaacn.org) and is tax deductible. The Outcomes Studies Research Consortium has begun to coordinate a group of researchers who have agreed to design and implement outcomes research to document the cost benefits of neuropsychological evaluations in the diagnosis, treatment and/or guidance of management for patients with dementia, ADHD, TBI and stroke.

**Greg J. Lamberty**

## Academy of Counseling Psychology

On behalf of the Academy, thanks to **Steve Eichel** for the numerous hours he contributed to the Academy as its President. Those who know Steve appreciate the exemplary commitment he has demonstrated in working toward the Academy's mission and strengthening its contribution to Counseling Psychology.

*Impacting the Culture of Counseling Psychology*. What continues to be on many of our minds is preserving the viability of board certification in the Specialty of Counseling Psychology. This depends on Counseling Psychologists stepping forward to seek board certification, and that in turn depends on the development of a culture that values board certification as the next step post licensure toward psychologists' professional credentials. Unlike our colleagues in medicine and neuropsychology and forensic psychology who understand board certification to be a natural part of their credentialing process, board certification has yet to become part of Counseling Psychology's culture.

How can we make that happen? That is a question that was posed to a Workgroup on Counseling Psychology and Board Certification at the 2008 International Counseling Psychology Conference in Chicago, March 6-9, 2008. Participating in the workgroup were the current (**Ted Stachowiak**) and past (**Steve Eichel**)

*Continued on page 13*



Presidents of the American Academy of Counseling Psychology, the current (**Charme Davidson**) President of the American Board of Counseling Psychology, current Board member **Barbara Palombi**, and past Board member **Tom Skovholt**. This workgroup began to identify strategies for changing the culture of Counseling Psychology such that becoming Board Certified by ABPP in the Specialty of Counseling Psychology will be viewed as the norm, the standard to which all Counseling Psychologists aspire and all Counseling Psychology graduate students understand and embrace as the "next step" post licensure in the credentialing process.

**Initiatives for the Academy.** Coming into the office as President, I had to two major initiatives for the Academy: 1) Implement steps to increase the number of Board Certified Counseling Psychologists; and 2) restructure the oral examination so that it is more welcoming. We've made significant progress in both initiatives.

Increasing the number of Board Certified Counseling Psychologists requires implementing short term strategies that will have long term results. ABPP has taken a major step in this direction by implementing the "early entry" option that allows graduate students, interns, and post-doctoral residents to enter the board certification path at a greatly reduced fee (\$25). We are hopeful that Counseling Psychology departments will see this as a valuable addition to the training of their students, and that doctoral students will see participation in the early entry program as a way to increase the desirability of their credentials as they apply for internship and then subsequently enter the job market. Our challenge is to find mechanisms to help sustain the interests that doctoral students demonstrate through the early entry option. To that end AACoP and ABCoP followed ABPP's introduction of the early entry option by conducting the Workgroup on Counseling Psychology and Board Certification. This Workgroup generated good initial dialogue with specific action items that will in turn lead to more sustained efforts.

We've also made significant progress in restructuring the oral examina-

tion. Recently (October 2007) a task force of AACoP (**Ted Stachowiak**) and ABCoP (**Charme Davidson**, **Dave Welch**, and **Arnie Spokane**) met in Minneapolis for two days and drafted a revision of the oral examination portion of the specialty certification process that will allow it to be completed in a half day as opposed to a full day. This new oral examination retains the assessment center model and the current content areas while streamlining the procedure by which these areas are assessed without compromising the integrity of the examination. The revised examination was implemented on May 10, 2008 at Counseling and Psychological Services, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, hosted by **Jeff Pollard** and his staff. While any new examination procedure has unanticipated twists, the exam went surprisingly well. With candidate and examiner feedback ABCoP will continue to tweak procedures that will make the process even smoother.

**A Third Initiative.** A third initiative for the Academy has emerged with the revisions of the examiner's manual, the work sample reviewer's manual, and the candidate's manual. This third initiative is the development of an AACoP mentor's manual. This initiative is a timely compliment to ABPP's goal to publish a book on board certification. This book will provide important guidance for obtaining board certification in any of ABPP's specialties. Fellows **Charme Davidson** and **Joe Talley** are writing the practice sample and mentors chapters respectively.

**Mentors Manual Task Force.** Shortly I will begin work on a manual for AACoP mentors that will incorporate the recent changes in the oral examination. Our hope is that this manual will provide guidelines and suggestions that will help mentors to keep current with the most recent changes and result in greater consistency among mentors. This manual will be part of our website, thus readily updatable and available through your web browser. To that end I am creating a Mentors Manual Task Force. I anticipate that the development of this manual will move quickly. I would like two Academy Fellows to join this Task Force. I am particularly interested in Fellows who have served as mentors

and whose mentees have successfully completed the examination. If you are interested in participating in this Task Force, I would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible (Ted@scs.tamu.edu).

**Academy Representation on the BOT.** There is growing concern over the representation (or lack thereof) of the Academies on the Board of Trustees in light of the 1993 reorganization of ABPP into Specialty Boards and the formation of the Academies. During a recent CPPSA telephone conference there was discussion about how to address this issue. Ideally there would full representation of the Academies on the BOT. I welcome and strongly encourage your input about this very important issue.

**Increased Coordination Between AACoP and ABCoP.** At the ABCoP meeting on May 9, 2008 at George Mason University, several suggestions were discussed that may further advance mutual goals between AACoP and ABCoP.

Coordinate AACoP and ABCoP Presidential initiatives. With coordinated initiatives AACoP and ABCoP can bring together the resources and purposes that are unique to each entity to accomplish common goals.

Have a student representative serve on ABCoP and/or AACoP.

AACoP could consider funding the student representative's application for board certification

Allow ABCoP candidates access to AACoP website continuing education, and specifically ethics in preparation for the oral exam.

AACoP could provide scholarships for board certification if recipients would agree to be nominated to serve on ABCoP or AACoP and agree to serve if elected within 5 years of board certification.

Put a PowerPoint/Podcast of the new exam on the AACoP website

**What Each of Us Can Do Now.** While the initiatives and changes mentioned here are exciting and important, there is nothing more important than each of us, as a Board Certified Counseling Psychologist and a Fellow of this Academy, taking the time to talk one-on-one with another Counseling Psychologist about the value

# New Specialists

December 2007 – June 2008

## **Clinical**

Charles F. Brady, Ph.D.  
Gregory S. Brigham, Ph.D.  
Allan C. Carter, Ph.D.  
Mark D. Cunningham, Ph.D.  
Justin A. D'Arienzo, Psy.D.  
Geoffrey D. Goodman, Ph.D.  
Robert W. Hill, Ph.D.  
Carroll W. Hughes, Ph.D.  
Jason M. Kornrich, Ph.D.  
Douglas W. Lane, Ph.D.  
Edward L. Manning, Ph.D.  
Arthur M. Nezu, Ph.D.  
Christine Maguth Nezu, Ph.D.  
Neal S. Rubin, Ph.D.  
Richard W. Sears, Psy.D.  
Dana P. Waters, Psy.D.  
Robert D. Younger, Ph.D.

## **Clinical Child and Adolescent**

Yolanda K. Jackson, Ph.D.  
Jarrod M. Leffler, Ph.D.  
Elaine Moor, Psy.D.  
Barbara Tylenda, Ph.D.

## **Clinical Health**

Jeffrey L. Goodie, Ph.D.

## **Clinical Neuropsychology**

John G. Baker, Ph.D.  
Michael R. Basso, Ph.D.  
Vickie R. Brewer, Ph.D.  
Catherine E. Broomand, Ph.D.  
Theresa Kiolbasa Campbell, Ph.D.  
Daniel Erik Everhart, Ph.D.  
William S. Garmoe, Ph.D.  
Robert M. Gray, Ph.D.  
Jason E. Kanz, Ph.D.  
Jason A. King, Ph.D.  
Jeannine V. Morrone-Strupinsky, Ph.D.  
Paul D. Newman, Ph.D.  
Maureen K. O'Connor, Psy.D.  
Christina A. Palmese, Ph.D.  
Jay Schneiders, Ph.D.  
Joan M. Swearer, Ph.D.  
Judith W. Taylor, Ph.D.  
Christine L. Trask, Ph.D.

Holly Westervelt, Ph.D.  
Dennis J. Zgaljardic, Ph.D.

## **Cognitive & Behavioral**

Rebecca R. Kotlowski, Psy.D.

## **Counseling**

Jean-Eudes Giguere, Psy.D.  
Elsie J. Smith, Ph.D.

## **Forensic**

Debra H. Baeder, Ph.D.  
Shawn E. Channell, Ph.D.  
Robert L. Kaufman, Ph.D.  
Ann LeBlanc, Ph.D.  
Dawn M. Peuschold, Ph.D.  
Bruce W. Renken, Ph.D.  
Anita Schlank, Psy.D.  
Bob Stinson, Psy.D.  
Susan M. Tremonti, Ph.D.

## **Psychoanalysis**

Marilyn N. Metztl, Ph.D.

# Deceased Specialists

December 2007 – June 2008

Bernard Brucker  
Henry Balters  
Toy Caldwell-Colbert  
Irwin Gadol

John Jackson  
David Rothenberg  
Milton Wexler

## **Academy News** *Continued from page 13*

of becoming Board Certified. There is often discussion about the value of board certification with regard to its tangible rewards, such as increased income, increased career opportunities, increased mobility, credibility, etc. These tangible consequences are important, and it is essential for us to strive whenever possible to increase the opportunities for Board Certified Counseling Psychologists to experience such benefits, and we will continue to do that.

However, let's not forget to share with our colleagues the many other reasons we became Board Certified – pride in our work and our identity as a Counseling Psychologist, an opportunity to continue to grow and evaluate

ourselves in a challenging and uniquely collegial process -- a voluntary action of accountability to ourselves, our clients, and to our profession. Board Certification is the profession's highest recognition of competence in the practice of Counseling Psychology bestowed by one's peers. It is also a unique examination in that we as examinees have major input into the parameters of the examination content. Don't forget to tell them all of that and about the personal and professional growth that you experienced in the process of becoming Board Certified.

**Use Your ABPP Signature Line.** Include ABPP in your signature line whenever appropriate. It is a simple but impactful way to raise awareness

that Board Certified Counseling Psychologists are amongst us. It may invite a question from a colleague and that conversation may lead to yet another Board Certified specialist. As a reminder, please use "Board Certified" in your signature line instead of "Diplomate."

Your Academy board members welcome your ideas about how to make us a better Academy, and how to continue to advocate for board certification in Counseling Psychology. Don't hesitate to call me or email me with your ideas.

Best wishes to all Board Certified Specialists for a relaxing summer.

**Ted Stachowiak**

# ABPP Urges AMA to Drop Proposal

June 14, 2008

Via E-Mail to: Roger.Brown@ama-assn.org

David Lichtman, MD, Chair  
AMA Reference Committee C, Medical Education  
c/o Roger Brown, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of the House of Delegates Affairs  
American Medical Association  
515 N. State Street  
Chicago, IL 60610

Re: American Medical Association House of Delegates  
Resolution 303 (A-08)  
Restricted Use of the Titles "Doctor," "Resident," and  
"Residency"

Dear Dr. Lichtman:

The American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) strongly urges the American Medical Association House of Delegates to oppose proposed Resolution 303, which seeks to restrict the title of "doctor," "resident," and "residency" in medical settings to apply only to physicians, dentists, and podiatrists. ABPP is the leading psychology board certification organization in the United States.

The term "doctor" recognizes the extensive education and training of psychologists (who have an earned doctoral

degree). Psychologists practice in many areas of health care, and have historically used the title "doctor" in hospitals, medical centers, academic health centers, medical schools, clinics, and private offices. Many psychologists hold positions in medical settings as supervisors and managers of patient care at the highest level. Psychologists serve on the medical staffs of hundreds of hospitals, many of which require board certification of psychologists just as is required of physicians. Psychologists are supervisors of treatment teams, hold senior management positions and are routinely referred to as "doctor" in the United States, Europe and throughout the world.

Recognized as independent practitioners by state and federal programs, including by Medicare and the Department of Veterans Affairs, psychologists are licensed to practice independently and without physician oversight in all 50 states.

Proposed Resolution 303 would confuse patients and the public, who are accustomed to referring to psychologists as doctors. ABPP strongly urges the American Medical Association House of Delegates to oppose Resolution 303.

Sincerely,

**Christine Maguth Nezu, Ph.D., ABPP**      **David R. Cox, Ph.D., ABPP**  
President      Executive Officer

**Editor's Note:** The AMA House of Delegates subsequently did not adopt the proposed resolution.

## Letter to the Editor

May 17, 2008

Dear Editor:

It is wonderful to celebrate the first sixty years of ABPP. Besides all the meaningful decisions made by the BOT for the occasion, I would like to see at least half of the practicing clinical psychologists in the country become certified as ABPP Diplomates.

But the problem is that psychology as a profession does not value the ABPP Diploma. Don't get upset; face the reality. One of the important "parts" of our profession are the State Psychology Boards (SPB) and many of them do not honor the ABPP Diplomate and what it means. They treat Diplomates coming from other states just as if they had no ABPP Diploma at all or, put in other words, the ABPP is completely ignored as if it were a private distinction that means nothing to official psychology. We are like the firing squad stranding in a circle while waiting for the order to fire. For many of these boards the ABPP Diploma is like the traffic lights in the City of Rome, just street decorations. Is it ignorance, lack of wisdom, self-righteousness? I would hate to believe that this happens as a petty competition between state boards and the ABPP Board.

Whatever the explanation might be, until psychology is unified and self-respectful, to the point where all the SPBs recognize and honor the ABPP Diploma, the reasons given to obtain the ABPP Diploma will never be enough to go through the efforts leading to ABPP certification. It is absurd and sad for us as a profession to expect other professions and organizations, especially medicine and insurance companies, to recognize, respect and honor psychology when we do not do it ourselves.

On the other hand, until most psychology practitioners are certified by ABPP, like almost the majority of MDs are certified by their medical boards, we have the chance of a snowball in hell to be considered professionally equal to physicians in our society at large and by insurance companies in particular.

Psychology, WAKE UP! We have the mechanism to be recognized but we don't use it. Our self-destructiveness at the SPB level can end and should end. Happy 60th. anniversary, ABPP!

Cordially, in pain,

**Daniel Araoz, Ed.D., ABPP** (Counseling and Family)  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist in Illinois (1972)  
and Pennsylvania (1976)



# ABPP

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION  
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