



## Nebraska Psychiatric Spring

NPS recently hosted our winter social at MOMS--we had a great time and welcomed some new and potential members to the NPS team. Our members are energetic and optimistic, and rightfully so--the Nebraska psychiatric landscape is poised for a major leap forward in the coming months.

On the workforce front, unprecedented native Nebraskan graduates from our residency program are choosing careers as psychiatrists in Nebraska. Creighton and UNMC medical schools are expanding both the quality and breadth of psychiatric education for every medical student. Both UNMC and Creighton now have active medical student Psychiatry Interest clubs. Nebraska APRN programs are graduating more and more nurses choosing to specialize in psychiatry. All this at a time when on the national level psychiatry is now one of the top sought after specialties in medicine.

This past month Dr. Howard Liu was named as the new chairman of psychiatry at UNMC, as former chair Dr Steven Wengel will be returning to clinical practice and the newly created position of Assistant Vice Chancellor for campus wellness for

UNO and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr Liu will continue his role as director of the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN), a statewide initiative designed to recruit and retain more behavioral health professionals in Nebraska. NPS congratulates both psychiatrists on their exciting new roles; both have a clear and proven track record of prioritizing psychiatric medical education and participating in the effort to strengthen our profession.

On the economic side of our work the Heritage Health Nebraska Medicaid plan has explicitly mandated that the MCO's administering the plan have structural integration of behavioral health, pharmacy, and medical benefits. Telepsychiatry services are now widely available as previous barriers to access have been removed through recent legislation--furthermore, the law of the land states that all behavioral health codes administered by telepsychiatry will be fully reimbursed on par with face to face encounters.

These are exciting and promising times for the state of psychiatry in Nebraska--all these changes carry the potential of tremendous improvement in access to

psychiatric care of the best quality, and the wellness of our citizens.

Share the news with your colleagues and friends. Encourage your legislative representatives to develop and support initiatives to keep this momentum moving. We look forward to seeing you at the next NPS event: Celebrate Spring!



### **The Nebraska Psychiatry Newsletter**

*is published by the  
Nebraska Psychiatric Society,  
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American Psychiatric Association.*

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Authors' opinions do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Nebraska Psychiatric Society.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### NPS MEETINGS

#### **Annual Member Meeting**

April 27 - 5:30 PM

Della Costa - Midtown Crossing

(See flyer on page 4)

### APA MEETINGS

#### **2018 Annual Meeting**

May 5-9 • New York, NY

#### **2018 IPS: The Mental Health Services Conference**

Oct 4-7 • Chicago, IL

## Legislative Update

The 105th Nebraska Legislature, Second Session convened on January 3 2018, and adjournment is expected in mid-April. February 21 was the halfway point in the current 60-day session. Bills have been prioritized by Senators, committees and the Speaker; legislative committees have completed public hearings on bills; and the Legislature began full-day floor debate of prioritized bills on February 28. Proposed tax cuts, coupled with reform or reconstruction of the state's tax system have been a headline issue in the 2018 legislative session, along with prison reform, and possible cuts to the University and State College system as senators address the significant shortfall in revenue for the 2017-19 fiscal year budget. Nebraska prisons continue to be among the most crowded in the country and have a sizable workforce problem; psychiatry residents

from CU/UNMC have been filling in.

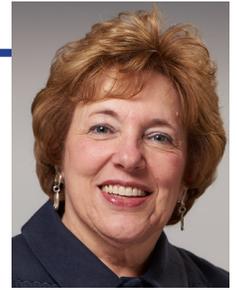
Among the 107 prioritized bills those of interest to psychiatry and our patients include: collaborative school behavioral and mental health programs, funding priority for special-needs military dependents, provision of deposition of a child victim or a child witness, a cap on opiate prescriptions for minors, changing provisions related to appointment of legal counsel for juveniles, procedures for judicial emancipation of a minor, and immunity for certain law enforcement employees when administering naloxone, and changing provisions relating to immunity for persons reporting or experiencing alcohol overdoses.

No bill was introduced this session regarding psychologist prescribing, but we are confident the proponents of this change in scope are seeking a senator to introduce

an "RxP" bill in January when the next two-year legislative cycle begins. A second grant from our APA is providing funding for NPS to continue retaining Korby Gilbertson of Radcliffe and Associates in Lincoln as our lobbyist through 2019.

Thank you to the NPS members who contacted their senators regarding any of the 600-some bills that were introduced in January. Your advocacy makes a difference!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Beth Ann Brooks, M.D., M.S.A.**  
**Ethics and Legislative Chair**



**Beth Ann Brooks, M.D.**

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## 2018 NPS Executive Committee Official Ballot

The Nebraska Psychiatric Society Executive Board would like to have your vote for:

(Vote for one candidate for each position.)

### Secretary-Treasurer Nominee

- Jason Ourada, M.D.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Assembly Representative

- Faiz Qadri, M.D.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return by fax to 402-393-7391 or email to Carol Wang at [cwang@omahamedical.com](mailto:cwang@omahamedical.com) no later than April 20, 2018**

**Or cast your vote online at [www.nebraskapsych.org](http://www.nebraskapsych.org)**

Questions, call 402-393-1415

## Become a Fellow or Distinguished Fellow

Take the next step in your psychiatric career and become a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

- Fellow status is an honor that reflects your dedication to the work of the APA and signifies your allegiance to the psychiatric profession.
- You are recognized by your colleagues in the Association as a member of a very select group.
- All newly appointed Fellows are publicly recognized at the Convocation of Distinguished Fellows, which is held every year during APA's Annual Meeting.
- You receive a lapel pin in recognition of your status.
- Annual dues rates for General Members and Fellows are the same.

### What are the guidelines and criteria for eligibility?

- Must be a current APA General Member or Life Member in good standing.
- Certification by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the American Osteopathic Association.
- 30-day review period for the district branch to offer comments about the Fellowship candidate.
- Approval by the APA Membership Committee in October.
- Approval by the APA Board of Trustees in December.

### How do I apply?

All fellowship applications must be submitted by September 1. Applicants may apply by:

- Downloading and completing the application, or
- Submitting an online application

Applications are found online at [www.psychiatry.org/join-apa/become-a-fellow](http://www.psychiatry.org/join-apa/become-a-fellow)

### Are you an International Member?

Learn more about International Fellowships online at: [www.psychiatry.org/join-apa/international/international-fellows](http://www.psychiatry.org/join-apa/international/international-fellows)

### Why become a Distinguished Fellow?

Distinguished Fellowship is awarded

to outstanding psychiatrists who have made significant contributions to the psychiatric profession in at least five of the following areas: administration, teaching, scientific and scholarly publications, volunteering in mental health and medical activities of social significance, community involvement, as well as for clinical excellence. Distinguished Fellow is the highest membership honor the APA bestows upon members.

### What are the requirements to be nominated for Distinguished Fellow?

- Not less than eight consecutive years as a General Member or Fellow of the APA.
- Certification by the American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology, the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada, the American Osteopathic Association or equivalent certifying board.
- Nomination is initiated by your local District Branch/State Association.
- Three letters supporting your nomination must be received from current Distinguished Fellows or Distinguished Life Fellows. The General Member or Fellow should be an outstanding psychiatrist who has made significant contributions in at least five of the areas listed below:

1. Certification by the American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology, the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada, the American Osteopathic Association or equivalent certifying board.
2. Involvement in the work of the district branch, chapter, and state association activities.
3. Involvement in other components and activities of APA.
4. Involvement in other medical and professional organizations.
5. Participation in non-compensated mental health and medical activities of social significance.
6. Participation in non-medical, non-income-producing community activities.
7. Clinical contributions.
8. Administrative contributions.
9. Teaching contributions.
10. Scientific and scholarly publications.

To be nominated for Distinguished Fellow status, contact your local district branch or state association for information regarding the Distinguished Fellow process.

**Distinguished Fellowship nominations must be submitted by the district branch to APA by July 1.**



### Great Success!

The NPS Winter Social was held February 2 at the MOMS office. Seventeen members, guests, and prospective new members joined in the celebration of our profession and camaraderie.

*Pictured above (top right) are Shannon Kinnan and Siva Koppolu, (bottom right) Melissa O'Dell, and (bottom left) two of the Lincoln contingent, Kelli Bremer and Larry Widman. (Photographs courtesy Spencer Gallner)*

# NEBRASKA PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2018**

**Friday, April 27**

**Della Costa - Midtown Crossing  
220 S 31st St.**

**5:30 pm – Networking**

**6:00 pm – Dinner**

**7:00 pm – Presentation**

**Please RSVP by April 20:**

Call 402-393-1415 or  
email [hsmith@omahamedical.com](mailto:hsmith@omahamedical.com)

**We look forward to seeing you there!!**

Please consider inviting a colleague to come as well.

*The Metro Omaha Medical Society designates this live activity for a maximum of one & one quarter (1.25) AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.*

## Leadership from the Inside Out

*Featuring:*



**Pamela Alfrey Hernandez,**  
**MAPP, CPCC, ACC**  
*Founder*  
*The Right Reflection*

**Advanced Reservations  
Required**