FROM THE PRESIDENT

Robert Weinstock

Drs. Billick and Raff have organized an outstanding program for our March meeting in Houston. I hope you are planning to attend. There is an opera and a good dinner to benefit ASAP on the Thursday evening of the meeting and I hope attendees will consider that too. The meeting will be at The Marriott Hotel at the Houston Galleria right next to good restaurants and shopping and not far from excellent museums. Menninger's is now located in Houston and the Space Center in Houston can be visited as part of an excursion so I hope you will come and consider bringing your families.

ASAP recently has been involved in briefs regarding some important legal cases of significance to adolescents. ASAP led the way in sponsoring a brief in a case currently under consideration by the United States Supreme Court regarding the death penalty for adolescents who are 16 or 17 years old. The American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law followed us on this issue. Drs. Wellek and Ratner initiated the process and worked on the issue much as they did in the late 80s when ASAP was pretty much alone and wrote a brief helpful in the Supreme Court ruling against the death penalty for adolescents under 16 but at that time the Court found it permissible for adolescents over 16.

We hope they will change their minds on that now much as they recently did with mentally retarded individuals who are no longer subject to the death penalty. In the mental retardation case, the swing votes based their decision on changing views in the states and the country. Your President was instrumental in getting the brief’s language changed in the adolescent death penalty brief to make it acceptable to the APA and AAPL and more accurately reflect the state of scientific knowledge. The most important change was to indicate that immaturity as reflected in brain scans of adolescents in parts of the brain that deal with relevant capacities was supportive of other data indicating adolescent immaturity but did not itself prove adolescents were incapable of mature thinking. It was helpful that I am also a member of the APA’s Committee on Judicial Action. In fact, I became the

THE DEATH PENALTY

Mark Wellek

And Now We Wait... The Continuing Assault Against The Adolescent Death Penalty

I t has finally happened! The Amicus Brief opposing the adolescent death penalty, authorized and originally sponsored by ASAP, was submitted to the United States Supreme Court in August. After Brief writing got started, the AMA, APA, the Academy and AAPPL (American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law) all signed on. The case was argued October 13 - Roper v. Simmons. The Brief described the lack of adolescent brain development related to impulsive behavior. I had the opportunity that day along with Jay Giedd of the National Institute of Mental Health to appear on PBS television, The News Hour With Jim Lehrer, in a segment on adolescent brain development and the death penalty for teen offenders. Giedd, who is studying “normal” kids with FMRI’s (functional magnetic resonance imaging) on a serial basis (1-2 times per
To The Editor

To the Editor,
I am a non-active member of ASAP, but nonetheless continue to enjoy the benefits in reading your newsletters and value the information from ASAP that speaks to clinical discoveries affecting the adolescent psychiatric population. I applaud your commitment to adolescent health. My reason for writing to you at this time is this: I want to apprise you and other members of the society of some developments in a politicized psychopharmacological debate. This issue is conflict of interest. The debate is likely, however, to intensify prior to any possible resolution. I will address issues pertaining to neuropsychiatric drugs:

After much public pressure, some major pharmaceutical firms, such as Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline and Janssen have admitted that they ‘selectively’ released or sequestered information about their clinical drug trials. This ‘selective’ release has distorted some of their recommendations, minimized cautionary concerns and altered the approval and marketing practices of those drugs.

The Texas Medication Algorithm Project (TMAP) represents a template for prescribing psychotropic medications that began in 1995 as a vigorous initiative of primarily, but not exclusively, faculty members from the U. of Texas-Southwestern Medical School in Dallas and wholly or in part, adopted by a number of states(TX, OH, PA, FL). It was, and continues to be, supported by Eli Lilly, Inc and Johnson and Johnson and other major pharmaceutical firms and has financial endorsement of the Texas State legislature and the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and the Bush administration. It has been recommended as an essential piece of the Bush’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health.

Potential conflicts of interest are obvious. On July 1st, 2004, I filed a complaint in Federal court, in the Middle District of Pennsylvania, alleging that six drug companies (Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson and Johnson, Eli Lilly, Novartis and AstroZeneca) have worked alongside some Federal and state officials to facilitate and promote certain costly psy-

chotropic medications at the expense of public funding and to the detriment of children, adolescents and adults. For my part, I am neither against the pharmaceutical industry nor the use of medications, neuropsychiatric or otherwise. I am, as I hope is true of ASAP, steadfast in the judicious and cautious use of medications and the research and promotion of non-medication alternatives to treat mental health and substance abuse disorders.

I would appreciate any interest or support that you might have in this debate. I believe it to be an important one.

Respectfully,
Stefan P. Kruszewski, M.D., Harrisburg, Pa

[The above was written before the FDA hearings of September, the black box warnings, and the announcements by Merck and GSK that they will post all the results of their research.]

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New Members

ASAP welcomes the following new members.
Mohan Nair, MD, Los Alamitos, CA
Joanne Als, MD, West Covina, CA
Chenwen Chris Heh, MD, Fullerton, CA
Joseph Kenan, MD, Beverly Hills, CA
M. Steven Sager, MD, Los Angeles, CA
Chandra Weerasinghe, MD, Haverford, PA
Jeffrey Mar, MD, Salt Lake City, UT
Richard D. Schenkman, MD, Bakersfield, CA
Gary Tharp, MD, Little Rock, AR
Ankur Saraya, New York, NY
John F. Kemph, MD, Scottsdale, AZ
Stephen Mandelbaum, MD, Houghton, MI
Lynne Weisberg, PhD, M.D, Florence Park, New Jersey

American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry
Abridged Minutes of Fall Business Meeting
Dallas, Texas,
Present: Robert Weinstock, MD Stephen B. Billick, MD Fabien Saleh, MD Richard Rosner, MD Adam Raff, MD Mark Wellek, MD Richard Ratner, MD Perry Bach, MD

Chief concerns were the declining membership.
Dr Rosner and Dr Flaherty will meet with Analytic Press to renegotiate the contract.
Volume 29, which is set to be published in 2005.
Re the membership directory, not published since 2002. Consensus was not to print it but explore possible web site use with a members only section for access. Members without internet access will be able to request a printout.

Dr Wellek and Ratner have worked tirelessly on the death penalty issue. AMA, AAPL and APA have signed onto our brief. Subsequently, Dr Wellek has spoken with several reporters on this issue. Dr Ratner was on a PBS show in Washington DC and Dr Wellek appeared on the Lehrer Newshour. The Supreme Court will be considering this at their next session. Four states have already moved to make 18 the minimum age.

Report from the President Elect: Dr Billick reported on the program for 2005. [see above] Friday night will feature the cocktail party and a reception. Dr Pedro Ruiz will be the Saturday luncheon speaker. The 2005 Schonfeld Award will be given to Richard Rosner, MD The 2005 Staples Award will be given to Perry Bach, MD

New Business: Dr Wellek reported from the APA Council on Children, Adolescents and Their Families. The APA has agreed to have a standing, permanent member from ASAP.

APA Assembly: Dr Ratner, liaison to APA Assembly, reported that all of the district branches are represented at Assembly. The Assembly meets in November and Dr Ratner is a member of the Affiliation of Allied Organization Liaison, representing ASAP. ASAP has one vote in the Assembly with this representation. Dr Ratner has been appointed chair of a Reference Committee. Dr Billick moved that ASAP support the judicious limited use of anti-depressants with adolescents by psychiatrists with close monitoring of the patient by the psychiatrist.
IN OUR MAIL

The Jed Foundation
Begun in 2000, by Phillip and Donna Satow who lost their youngest son, Jed, age 20, a university student, to suicide. A non-profit organization which is committed to reducing the youth suicide rate and improving the mental health support provided to students by universities nationwide. With the help of the foundation students will have access to their campus mental health resources through the Internet as well as links to other useful sites. www.ulifeline.org

Treatment Guide for Youth in Juvenile Justice System
The National Mental Health Association (NMHA) offers a free guide entitled, Mental Health Treatment for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System: A Compendium of Promising Practices.

This guide was developed to help community leaders, advocates, and family members address the complex mental health problems of children and adolescents in the U.S. juvenile justice system. Current evidence-based practices and treatments for youth involved in the juvenile justice system are included. For more info on the treatment guide, access NMHA’s web site at: http://www.nmha.org/children/justjuv/

CLASSIFIED AND DROP-IN ADVERTISING AVAILABLE

Ads must be received at the ASAP office by the following deadlines: Spring issue — April 12; Summer issue — July 30; Fall issue — September 30. Copy should be typed and double-spaced.

For Classified ads, a check to cover the cost at $1.00 per word (minimum $25.00 per ad) must accompany the order. For an additional $12.50 an advertiser who does not desire to be publicly identified may use an ASAP “Box Number” and will be sent copies of resumes or other information sent to the box.

For drop-in ads, rates are as follows: Underwriting a complete issue, $1500. This entitles the advertiser to exclusive advertising rights in that issue, with two full pages of advertising. Full Page ad: $350; one-half page ad: $250; one-quarter page ad: $150.

The acceptance of an advertising by this Newsletter does not in any way constitute endorsement or approval by ASAP Newsletter or ASAP of any advertised service or product.

Regarding Classifieds, the publisher reserves the right to accept or reject advertisement for ASAP Newsletter. All advertisers in this section must employ without regard for race, sex, age, nationality, or religion in accordance with the law. Readers are urged to report any violations immediately to the executive editor.

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Sugar, con't from Page 10

president of the New Orleans area psychiatric society. Dr. sugar served as president of the American Society for adolescents Psychiatry and then served as editor-in-chief of the channels for adolescent psychiatry. He is a founding member of the International Society for adolescents Psychiatry, later serving as editor-in-chief of its monographs.

The establishment of a professorship in infants, child up and adolescence Psychiatry in his name will specifically provide for a child psychiatrist who is grounded in psychodynamic Psychiatry and who has made significant academic and scholarly contributions in that area.

Those wishing to support this professorship may contact him at maxsugar@bellsouth.net