

# American Psychiatric Association

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DEAR COLLEAGUE:

Over the past year, the American Psychiatric Association has made great strides on behalf of you—our members—and patients. For five consecutive years, the APA has seen modest growth in our membership and a budget surplus. Our efforts and successes are a result of our collaborative work and our collective voice. This annual report reflects the events, initiatives and accomplishments over the course of 2007 that have resulted from “Our Voice in Action for Patients, Members and the Profession.”

We’ve made significant progress with our advocacy agenda from Capitol Hill to state houses:

- Working with our members and coalition partners, APA’s Department of Government Relations led congressional outreach that resulted in proposed mental health parity legislation for the first time in several decades by both the U.S. House and Senate.
- Together with the South Carolina Psychiatric Association we sent a resounding message to the South Carolina U.S. Senator to release his hold on the passage of Senate parity legislation. He heard us and complied.
- In Hawaii, we joined forces with the Hawaii Psychiatric Medical Association to ensure that the state’s governor understood the ramifications of passing legislation that would allow psychologists to prescribe medication. She vetoed the bill.

Our voices resonated with physicians and clinicians as we announced the start of the *DSM-V* development process. Our messages reverberated through our annual public information campaign “Healthy Minds. Healthy Lives.” The 2007 campaign included a message campaign on National Public Radio, the re-release of a national suicide prevention public service announcement, patient video testimonials and an expansion of the *Let’s Talk Facts* brochure series, which has now reached more than 20 titles and includes brochures specific to ethnic and sexual minorities.

During the APA’s annual meeting in San Diego, some of the best minds in psychiatry gathered for thoughtful discussions on a range of topics from adolescent brain development to substance use and addiction psychiatry to military mental health.

Through the APA, our members have many opportunities to make our voices heard through a strong advocacy agenda and education programs. We invite you to add your voice to our efforts through participation on an APA committee, attendance at an APA annual meeting, or involvement in your state. We invite you to continue to let us know how the APA can best serve you, your patients and the psychiatric profession.

Sincerely,



*Carolyn B. Robinowitz MD*

Carolyn B. Robinowitz, M.D.  
President



James H. Scully Jr., M.D.  
Medical Director and CEO