



## 2022 Quarterly Update

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### Presidents Update

*Mina Hah, MD*

Hello Members of CCPS,

I hope everyone is faring well during this time of omicron. I unfortunately was one of many who contracted omicron despite being double vaccinated and boosted. I was thankful we are in the position in 2022 where we have vaccinations and boosters available and more information to combat covid. It's been a time of high stress and burnout for our country, and I thank you for the work that you do each and every day to help our patients with increased mental health needs as we physicians keep running on fumes.

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### Advocacy Update

*Randall Hagar, Legislative Advocate  
Psychiatric Physicians Alliance of California (PPAC)*

**Coming to the streets near you.** Mobile crisis response. A very simple concept. You are in crisis because of a mental condition. You pick up the phone. You connect with a person trained to help you. You get the help you need, even if it means that someone is dispatched to your doorstep to help you. Simply put. But, politics always makes things more complicated. Like moving AB 988 forward. AB 988 proposed 9-8-8 as a clinical alternative to a 9-1-1 law enforcement response. Based on a new federal statute, AB 988's tortured path through the legislature in 2021 was unusual even in an environment that specializes in unexpected events. Ultimately, AB 988 died, held in committee. That does not mean that the concept of alternative crisis response isn't valid, nor that the legislature didn't recognize the

need for ACR. And, while this project (AB 988) is dead, it doesn't mean that the work to establish an ACR doesn't go forward. Instead of a policy bill, the work continues within the state budget. A bit of historical perspective first. Psychiatric emergency mobile team response is a paradigm almost as old as the Lanterman Petris Short Act.

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## Cultural Psychiatry Issues

**Francis Lu, MD**  
**Kim Professor in Cultural Psychiatry, Emeritus, UC Davis**

I wanted to update CCPS members on resources on cultural psychiatry issues. Please contact me at francislumd@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions.

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## Kern Chapter Update

**Angad Kahlon, MD**  
**Kern Chapter President**

Hi All,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends.

As COVID-19 infections surge across the continent, it has never been more important to get vaccinated and boosted, to protect yourself, patients and loved ones. As of this writing, Kern County has about 52% of its residents fully vaccinated. At Kern Medical, we are encouraging and offering all of our patients the COVID-19 vaccine.

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