



2022 Quarterly Update



Presidents Update

Mina Hah, MD

Dear CCPS Members,

Happy Spring! We are excited to announce the planning of our first in-person meeting for CCPS in 2022. We are looking forward to connecting in-person again after making it through quarantining and social distancing. We are also excited about the upcoming in-person annual meeting for the APA in New Orleans and looking forward to connecting with our local members there too.

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Advocacy Update

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

Shout out. A great big shout out to eight UC Davis residents in training, showing up big by participating in the PPAC Annual Advocacy Day on May 3 (which was a resounding success)! You know who you are! Thank you!

Advocacy Day Keynote speaker and mental health champion extraordinaire Senator Susan Eggman (D - Stockton) provided a critical analysis of shortcomings in mental health care delivery. She also described solutions in her 8-bill package now successfully moving forward, including potential plans for a mental health ballot initiative.

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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

Kern Chapter was able to hold a Spring Meeting on April 6th at Sol Y Luna Restaurant in Bakersfield. It was a very special meeting, as the Kern Chapter was celebrating 25 years since the chapter's first meeting!

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Are We At Our Wit's End?

Eric M. Plakun, MD
Medial Director/CEO Austen Riggs Center, Stockbridge, MA

We live in interesting times when it comes to access to treatment for mental and substance use disorders. Both the president and surgeon general recognize that there is a national crisis in mental health, shameful health disparities in access to care persist, and a recent Department of Labor review of over 150 insurance companies' parity compliance revealed inadequate implementation of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act 14 years after it became law (<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/EBSA/laws-and-regulations/laws-mental-health-parity/report-to-congress-2022-realizing-parity-reducing-stigma-and-raising-awareness.pdf>). Despite the clear need for improved access to care in treatment of mental and substance use disorders, a 3-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently overturned the landmark verdict in *Wit v. United Behavioral Health (UBH)* on an apparent misunderstanding of the arguments in the case. As psychiatrists, we have an interest in voicing our concern about this outcome, which can only exacerbate the above problems.

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