Katrina — Another View from Houston

Sarah Robinson, Fick, MD

Any stories about responding to Hurricane Katrina have already been told and heard and written and read. Previous accounts have been composed by early responders about experiences with evacuees in settings such as the Reliant Astrodome, Houston, of late; other stories are still waiting in the wings to be told, and this account is another story from Houston.

Most stories have a beginning, middle, and an end. My Katrina story has a beginning, middle, and a “not-really-the-end.” It has a “not-really-the-end” because it hasn’t yet ended, and I am not sure when it will end. In the meantime, reflecting on the beginning and middle has reminded me of some important lessons.

The Beginning

My Katrina story begins in New Orleans on Saturday, August 27, 2005. I had spent two days vacating in the French Quarter with my husband and was scheduled to fly home to Houston early that afternoon. This visit to New Orleans had been a rare opportunity to leave our busy everyday lives and we had enjoyed wandering in the city we had always loved. We had spent Friday evening singing along with the crowd at Pat O’Brien’s and I was looking forward to a lazy and indulgent Saturday morning brunch. Instead, my husband woke me early and told me that we were leaving. I had been looking forward to a lazy and indulgent Saturday morning brunch. Instead, my husband woke me early and told me that we were leaving. I had been looking forward to a lazy and indulgent Saturday morning brunch. Instead, my husband woke me early and told me that we were leaving. I had been looking forward to a lazy and indulgent Saturday morning brunch. Instead, my husband woke me early and told me that we were leaving. 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**It Takes a Psychiatrist... 2006**

Gary L. Etter, MD, President, Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings were held throughout February in Austin, San Antonio, Big Spring, and Harlingen with members of the workgroup in attendance. Testimony was provided by local judges, physicians, mental health providers, hospital administrators, MHMR staff, and most importantly, by patients and their families. All of the hearings were extremely well attended with local media coverage, and illustrated that what is strong in some areas is lacking in others, and needs varied between rural and urban areas. However, what was consistent was that there was a genuine concern and passion to improve crisis services across the state.

Currently four sub-committees have been established and are beginning their work: Crisis Design, Collaboration, Rural, and Finance. I am proud to say that several TSPP members are involved in the workgroup including Drs. Feikkink and Musquiz, Co-chairs of Crisis Design, Dr. Joe Burkett, Chair of Rural, in addition to Drs. Shon Shin, Mark Janes, and myself. The crisis redesign effort will also be on the agenda and will be reviewed by the Public Mental Health Committee of TSPP chaired by Drs. Burkett and Jim Van Norman. I would encourage any members who have input for the TSPP Public Mental Health Services Committee related to this effort, to contact the TSPP Office. The work of the DSHS Committee is to continue through the summer, with recommendations for crisis redesign and financing to be made to the legislature by the fall.

**Foster Care**

The foster care conference, "Delivering Quality Health Care to Texas Foster Children: The New Roles of Physicians and the State After Legislative Reform," was held on March 25th in Austin. The purpose of the conference was to educate those actively involved in the provision of health care to foster children of the changes in health services to foster children as a result of Senate Bill 6 sponsored by Senator Jane Nelson (R – Lewisville), and Representative Suzanna Gratia Hupp (R – Lampassas). This conference was jointly sponsored by the Texas Society of Psychiatrists Physicians and the Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. It was extremely well attended by a wide spectrum of professionals including lawyers, physicians, nurses, and social workers. Members of Texas Psychiatry were very instrumental in providing in-patient care for the bill and I would like to especially recognize Steve Berson, Texas Federation lobbyist, for his work on the bill.

**Transition and the Future**

This represents my last column as TSPP President. The year has been an interesting one, sometimes very difficult, but in many ways very rewarding. I recall the very difficult negotiations with the APA, traveling to Chicago for "assisted negotiations," sleeping overnight in the Atlanta airport, several long conference calls between TSPP and APA negotiators, phone calls and ultimately a meeting with Dr. Sharfstein, APA President, and finally a decision to "agree to disagree" and to move on. I would like to thank Drs. David Axelrod, Priscilla Ray, and Clay Sawyer, our Assembly Representatives and TSPP negotiators with the APA. They put in countless hours trying to resolve this conflict and their work and advice were deeply appreciated. In addition, I would like to thank the other members of the Executive Committee, Drs. Santos, Secrest, and Holcomb for their efforts and advice. Finally, I am deeply indebted to my staff, John Bush and Debbie Sandberg. They are completely dedicated to organized psychiatry and to our patients, and I quite honestly have never seen two people more committed to their work. I thank both of you for your help this year. I have always maintained that the real strength of a professional organization comes from the staff, and we are very fortunate to have the finest.

**Pedro Delgado to Receive Simon Bolivar Award**

TSPP member Pedro Delgado, MD, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, is the 2006 recipient of the APA Simon Bolivar Award. Dr. Delgado will receive the award and give a lecture during the APA Annual Meeting in Toronto on Monday, May 22, 11 AM, Room 105 North of the Toronto Convention Center.

The title of his lecture is "Gene-Environment Interactions and Risk of Major Depression: Implications for Community-Based Prevention Strategies." The Simon Bolivar Award honors a prominent Hispanic statesman or spokesperson and is designed to sensitize APA membership to the problems and goals of Hispanics.

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

**TSPP NEW MEMBERS**

The following membership applications have been approved by the TSPP Executive Committee and have been transmitted to the APA.

**General Member**

Barnes, Carli, MD

Wol, Ari, MD

**Member in Training**

Al Haddad, Sabah, MD

Anderson, Arnette, MD

Anderson, David, MD

Arza, Anneline, MD

Balic, Iwona, MD

Bonnert, Seara, MD

Casanova, Edward, MD

Davis, Matthew, MD

Mak, Wai, MD

**ACADEMY NEW MEMBERS**

Deas, Todd, MD

**In Memoriam...**

Juegen J. Kleen, MD – Houston

Madhukar Trivedi, MD was the featured speaker during TSPP’s CME Program conducted in conjunction with TSPP’s Spring Meeting in April. Dr. Trivedi’s presentation was entitled “Measurement Based Care for Depression: the STAR*D Experience.”

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The TSPP Executive Council met in Austin on April 3, 2006 and took the following actions:

- The Executive Council authorized the Academic Psychiatry Committee to study the feasibility of establishing a program to assist residents with the mock oral exams.
- Upon the recommendation of the Academic Psychiatry Committee, the Council approved the production of a power point presentation outlining the accomplishments of TSPP and the value of membership. The presentation will be made available in resistance programs.
- The Executive Council approved a recommendation of the Budget Committee to begin assessing voluntary dues to dues exempti life members and to inactive members. The voluntary assessment of life members will be $100 and the voluntary assessment of inactive members will be $50.
- Upon the recommendation of the Budget Committee, the Council approved changing the date for assessing late fees for unpaid current dues from July 1 to April 1 beginning with the 2007 dues billing cycle.
- The Council approved changes in membership status and dues adjustments for twelve members as recommended by the Budget Committee.
- The Executive Council approved the Budget Committee’s recommendation for an operating budget for fiscal year 2006-2007.
- Upon the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the Executive Council endorsed revisions to the Bylaws which will be published and considered for adoption at the TSPP Annual Meeting in November, 2006.
- In Executive Session, the Executive Council took action on one ethics case and were briefed on other pending cases.
- The Council approved the applications for nomination to Distinguished Fellow to APA for two members, as recommended by the Fellowship Committee.
- Upon recommendation of the MIT Section, the Executive Council approved their request for a budget neutral social program for MIT members and their families at the November meeting.
- The Executive Council approved a recommendation of the Socioeconomics Committee that a list and description of relevant procedure codes for psychiatric practice be published.
- The Council approved a recommendation of the Strategic Planning and Coordinating Committee to instruct TSPP’s APA Assembly Representatives to have the APA Area V Council request that APA study its dues rates with the possibility of lowering its dues to retain members.
- The Executive Council approved a recommendation of the Strategic Planning and Coordinating Committee to instruct TSPP’s APA Assembly Representatives to oppose a proposed amendment to the APA Bylaws that would allow the APA Board to set additional requirements for a District Branch that are not requirements for all District Branches.
- Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning and Coordinating Committee, the Council approved as an objective to be applied where applicable the use of the “psychiatric disorder” or “psychiatric illness” in lieu of “mental health” or “mental illness” to stress the specific medical basis of psychiatric care and treatment.
- The Executive Council approved a recommendation of the Strategic Planning and Coordinating Committee to request that the CME Committee explore ways of sharing and coordinating medical schools and other organizations that offer CME information about CME offerings.
- The Executive Council approved the following CME Mission Statement as recommended by the CME Committee:

Pursue of Program — To facilitate psychiatric physicians’ access to quality continuing medical education through TSPP’s accredited CME programs.

Target Audience — Activities implemented through the CME program will serve all Texas psychiatric physicians in addressing the CME needs and priorities of practicing psychiatric physicians. Although TSPP’s CME programs will primarily serve psychiatric physicians, some activities may be extended to include other medical specialties and mental health advocates when justified by appropriate needs assessment and topic.

Content — TSPP seeks to improve Texas psychiatric physicians’ expertise in practicing the art and science of Psychiatry through educational activities in the following areas:

- Prevention, detection, and treatment of disease and health concerns.
- Quality improvement, liability risk reduction, and enhancement of the practice environment.
- Physician leadership topics including legislative and regulatory issues and communications skills.

Types of Activities and Services — The CME program will utilize formats for learning that will include interactivity of the teacher and learner to the degree possible. Activities and services offered are as follows:

- Annual meeting with multiple educational sessions.
- Statewide educational sessions.
- Joint sponsorship of CME activities that are appropriate and consistent with the mission of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians and contribute to the expected results of the CME program.

Expected Results of the CME Program — It is expected that Texas psychiatric physicians will be able to access quality CME to meet their CME requirements for practice updates, license renewal and various certifications. It is also expected that TSPP’s CME program, through valid physician education, will result in improvements in the health of all Texans.

Katrina — Another View from Houston

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ple of days, the entire group had been relo-
cated to a facility in East Texas. The charpen-
er of our agency’s Board of Trustees, Ms. 
Lyme Cleveland, spent many hours caring for and advocating for individuals with developmentmental disabilities who were in the evac-
ue population, and staff from our mental retardation division were involved for days on end with attending to the needs of this 
group of individuals.

Another type of special challenge involved elderly individuals with cognitive disabili-
ties or dementia. There were many of these evacuees who had been separated from family or caregivers and were unable to provide even rudimentary medical histories. Some of these folks found their temporary homes in our mental health services where they would be able to rest on cots in a makeshift tent. In many ways, writing pres-
scriptions was only the beginning of serving these individuals. The real clinical work lay in being present to the realities of abandon-
ment and of hopelessness in the face of 
Katrina.

There were administrative challenges as well. Volunteers for our mental health serv-
ces came from all disciplines and from all 
parts of the community, from many different agencies and from many different styles of practice. Scheduling the mental health teams for rotations became an enormous challenge itself as volunteers depleted their energy resources and had to return to their own jobs and families. College students manned makeshift phones and computers trying to contact and schedule volunteers from lists that were widely discrepant at times. There were some shifts when we prayed for surprises of new volunteers to help out, as the initial volunteers were less available. Multiple meetings were held throughout the George R. Brown complex daily. Drs. Harper and Muqazsi and I tried to attend as many as we could. One day I found myself in one meeting, thinking I was in a different one, not realizing I needed to be in yet a third one. Communicating meet-
ing times and places was a difficult task across a wide array of attendees and ongoing pressing clinical demands.

Finally, personal challenges abounded. Work at the George R. Brown mental health services began early in the morning and lasted into the night. Streams of patients would appear at odd hours and without any discernible pattern. As the evacuees contin-
ued to confront their losses, new symptoms of distress emerged. It was exhausting work, physically and emotionally. Still, it was hard to leave the shelter at the end of each shift. Although I had the sense that someone might need me and that I could be of service if I stayed just a little longer. Those of us who were volunteering went home to families who had missed us over the holiday week-
end and to children who had homework to help with. It was hard to catch up. Our "reg-
ular jobs" fell behind as well. Our own 
patients were heard to say that the evacuees were getting better services than residents of Harris County had ever received. It was hard to acknowledge and reconcile these compet-
ing demands and disconcerting to recognize, yet again, that we have only very limited resources to begin with. Texas ranks near the

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We can all use a good laugh - most of the time.

Except when you're facing a possible malpractice suit.

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Prescribing Medications: the True Brass Tacks

R. Sanford Kiser, President, Texas Academy of Psychiatry

The PDR contains limited drug information. Although very well-known, the PDR is not a comprehensive or authoritative source.

The FDA has also recognized that the FD&C Act does not, however, limit the manner in which a physician may use an approved drug. Once a product has been approved for marketing, a physician may choose to prescribe it for uses or in treatment regimens or patient populations that are not included in approved labeling. The FDA also observes that accepted medical practice includes drug use that is not reflected in approved drug labeling. Another goal of this overview is to highlight the importance of the U.S. Pharmacopeia. Additionally, the U.S. Pharmacopeia was established as a national standard for drug information by the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, whereas the PDR is a commercial, for-profit publication. The U.S. Pharmacopeia is an in-depth compendium of drug uses, covering both on-label and off-label uses, whereas the PDR contains information limited to the initial FDA approval data regarding safety and efficacy for treatment of one condition. The U.S. Pharmacopeia updates promptly include new data about off-label drug uses and drug side effects, whereas the PDR updates are encumbered by the slowness of the FDA bureaucracy. The U.S. Pharmacopeia is an independent, science-based, self-sustaining, nonprofit, public health organization, whose standards are recognized and used in many countries outside the United States, whereas the PDR is a derivative of FDA rulings that can be distorted by nonscientific political processes.

Nevertheless, after comparing and contrasting the PDR and the U.S. Pharmacopeia, I must confess that I consider neither to be a "gold standard" for drug prescribing. Instead physicians utilize multiple sources for decisions about prescribing. A virtual cornucopia of information comes from medical research, peer-reviewed books and journals, newsletters, lectures, conferences, advertising, the internet, and conversations with colleagues. Various professional organizations review this information and establish guidelines for "best practice" prescribing. As a result there are multiple valuable and informative sources for drug prescribing information. Examples include AMS Drug Evaluations, the Complete Drug Reference, American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information, etc., etc.

Recommendations

As we all know, physicians have an ongoing responsibility for educating themselves and the public about the proper way to prescribe and utilize medications. The U.S. Pharmacopeia continues to be an invaluable resource in this regard. The USP website (http://www.usp.org/) is a fountain of information. The USP has compiled DI (Drug Information) Reference Guides in a three volume series. Volume I contains drug information for the healthcare professional. Volume II provides patient-friendly educational material. Volume III describes details of FDA approved drugs and relevant statutes. Information for obtaining the USP DI Drug Information Guide in printed or CD-ROM formats can be obtained at http://www.microormex.com/products/uspk/. The U.S. Pharmacopeia has created a brief, excellent list of principles for proper medication prescribing, entitled "A USP Council of Expert Statements of Scientific Policy." It can be accessed through the internet at http://www.usp.org/patientSafety/resources/drugGuide/Principles.html. It is a succinct, powerful tool, useful for many purposes, including advocating for patients with third-party agents.
The TSCAP summer conference is shaping up to be another great conference in the sun. Dr. Marty Dell, whom many of you will remember as a former member of TSCAP and currently displaced from New Orleans but still practicing in Louisiana, will speak about dealing with the traumatic effects of Hurricane Katrina on the children and families in that state. He will address diagnostic issues (PTSD versus other disorders) and the treatment of children exposed to such traumas. Many of you who have had contact with Katrina victims in your home town will be interested in his understanding of the impact of such an unprecedented traumatic event. Dr. Graham Emslie has graciously agreed to speak on Relapse Prevention in Pediatric Depression, sharing information about the role of medications and CBT on relapse prevention. Dr. Steve Pliszka, another favorite speaker, will speak on new agents in the treatment of ADHD. In addition to a resident case presentation about a youth with an eating disorder presented by Dr. Paul Coarain, Dr. Tyler Wooten from UT Southwestern will describe current treatment approaches for youth with eating disorders. Finally, Dr. Thomas McGovern from Texas Tech Medical School will discuss ethical issues involved in child treatment. Make your plans now to spend the last weekend in July in Corpus enjoying the beach, listening to some great presentations and catching up with your colleagues from around the state. TSCAP’s spring conference, “ Delivering Quality Health Care to Texas Foster Children: The New Roles of Physicians and the State After Legislative Reform,” jointly sponsored with TSPP was a big success. It focused on the new roles of physicians and the other providers following the reforms enacted at the last Legislative session. Steve Bresnen, Federation lobbyist, moderated two panels. The morning panel was composed of Casey Cockerell, Commissioner of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; Michelle Kimbrough, a caseworker with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; Dr. Nina Jo Muse, psychiatric advisor to the State Hospital Section of the Texas Department of State Health Services; and Kay Ghahremani, policy advisor for Medicaid and CHIP at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. This panel discussed the profile of the foster care population; new procedures for informed consent; the role of the case worker in the provision of medical care for foster children; medication protocols and medication review; and the concepts of “medical home” and “medical passport.” A luncheon program was presented by Nora Cox, Assistant Director for Budget, Planning and Policy, Office of the Governor, who discussed the Governor’s expectations regarding quality health care for foster children in Texas. The afternoon panel was composed of Richard LaVallie, a senior attorney with Advocacy, Inc., the Honorable John B. Hattaway, Associate District Judge of Travis County; and Dr. George Santos, Executive Medical Director of West Oaks Hospital in Houston. Included among the topics for this panel were: the role of informed consent in the medical care for foster kids; physician advocacy within the judicial system; managing risks; making medical information accessible to the courts; what the courts are doing; what the physicians and other providers; judicial views of the responsibilities of persons responsible for providing medical consent; what physicians and other health care providers need from CPS and the courts when providing care for foster children; the effect of CPS capacity limitations on hospitalized foster kids; and the physician’s need for comprehensive information about foster kids to assess functional improvement.

To download a registration form –

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

ACCREDITATION
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) through the Joint Sponsorship of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians and the Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians is accredited by the Texas Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians designates this educational activity for a maximum of nine (9) AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Participants should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The presentation “The Worth of a Child: An Ethical Reflection” has been designated by the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians for two (2) hours of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

SPECIALTY PROGRAM TARGET AUDIENCE / PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The primary target audience of this program consists of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, Psychiatricians and other specialists of medicine. This continuing medical education activity will be presented in a classroom style format, with didactic lectures supplemented with audiovisual presentations, case presentations and question and answer discussions. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will be able to:
- Identify the impact on and most effective interventions for children and their families following a major trauma such as a natural disaster.
- Identify and discuss the consequences of trauma for children, families, the health care system.
- Identify and discuss interventions that work and those that don’t.
- Describe the role of pharmacological agents in ADHD.
- Identify the use of new agents for the treatment of ADHD.
- Describe the current approach to eating disorders in children and youth through a case presentation and discussion.
- Describe the psychiatric and medical evaluation of a suspected eating disorder in children and youth, both females and males.
- Discuss the current treatment approach for children and youth with an eating disorder.
- Describe the role of antidepressants in relapse prevention and learn psychopharmacological techniques for preventing relapse.
- Understand the role of antidepressants in relapse prevention.
- Learn psychopharmacological techniques for preventing relapse in pediatric depression.
- Discuss societal, institutional, individual dimensions of the care of children.
- Fulfill the ethics requirement by identifying and developing an ethical framework in caring for children with mental illness.
For 50 years, the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians has been serving Texas Psychiatry and the citizens of Texas. Throughout the years, members have identified four key values of TSPP membership:

- Advocacy for patients and psychiatry
- Professional Education
- Fellowship with colleagues
- Service to community and profession

In 1956...

- the cost of a first-class stamp was $.03
- Elvis Presley had his first hit records, “Heartbreak Hotel” and “Hound Dog,” and made his first movie. “Love Me Tender, the Wizard of Oz had its first airing on TV.
- Emmy Awards were presented to Ed Sullivan Show (Best Variety Series), Your Hit Parade (Best Music Series), I Love Lucy (Best Comedy Series), 60-Minute Question (Best Audience Participation Series), and Perry Como, and there was no Super Bowl yet, but the New York Giants beat the Chicago Bears in the National Football League Championship of the National Football League.
- The New York Yankees beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series.
- The Summer Olympics were held in Melbourne and Tokyo. Bobby Morrow won three gold medals in track and field.
- Dwight Eisenhower was President of the United States, Allen Shivers was Governor of Texas and Lyndon Johnson and Price Daniel were Texas Senators to the US Congress.

Eleven-time Texas psychiatrists formed a new organization on April 22 and on May 1, the new organization, the Texas District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association, was recognized by the APA as the Texas District Branch.

The newly formed organization in 1956, later known as the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians, conducted its first Annual Meeting on April 28, 1957 at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas.

The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians, conducted its first Annual Meeting on April 28, 1957 at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas.

TSPP is returning to Dallas on November 3-5, 2006 to celebrate its 50th Anniversary at the Westin Galleria Hotel. All Texas psychiatrists, their families and friends are invited and encouraged to attend this historic event and celebrate 50 years of service and accomplishment. The TSPP Annual Convention and 50th Anniversary Gala promises to be fun, entertaining, inspiring, educational... fulfilling its four key values of membership identified above. It’s time now to attend and participate in this historic event.

Welcome Reception
You will enjoy visiting your colleagues and friends from all areas of Texas at the TSPP Welcome Reception, the first social event on Friday evening, November 3 beginning at 6:30 pm. There will also be an opportunity to visit with exhibitors to learn more about products and services and to thank exhibitors for their support of TSPP. A silent auction is planned for the evening to benefit the Texas Foundation for Psychiatric Education and will provide an opportunity for members and guests to be given to members through drawings that will occur throughout the evening. Also, a poster session chronicling the history of TSPP and Texas Psychiatry will be available for viewing.

History of Texas Psychiatry
Over the years, Dan Creeson, MD of Houston has video taped interviews with the pioneers and leaders of Texas Psychiatry. Dr. Creeson will present highlights from these video interviews which will reflect on the development and growth of psychiatry in Texas. You will not want to miss his historical presentation during the Membership Luncheon on November 4, 12:00 noon.

Golf Anyone?
Our hosts from Dallas have offered to arrange a golf outing for members on Thursday, November 2. Unwind and enjoy 18 holes of golf followed by fellowship at the 19th hole.

Special Programs for MIT Members
The Member-in-Training Section is planning a special program for members entitled, "Stress Management: Burnout Prevention," which will be conducted on Friday, November 3.

Following the Welcome Reception on Friday evening, the Member-in-Training Section is planning an "Alfresco Hours Social" for members and their families.

Westin Galleria Hotel
Located within the impressive Galleria (13340 Dallas Parkway), the Westin Galleria Dallas offers immediate access to more than 200 exclusive shops, restaurants and entertainment options. Settle into your luxuriously appointed accommodations, dine, or relax with a drink and catch the big game at Options Restaurant and Bar. Step outside and you’re in the Galleria, the best shopping experience in Texas. stroll down to Saks Fifth Avenue or start your wish list at Tiffany & Company.

The award-winning Westin is renowned for its luxurious guest rooms and for helping you manage your travel needs. Enjoy the extensive meeting facilities and comprehensive services at the business center. Guests also appreciate the on-site car rental agency.

At the Westin Galleria Dallas, every guest room features a coffee maker, 2 dual-line telephones with data ports and satellite television with movies on command.

To receive TSPP’s discounted room rate of $399, you must register with the Westin Galleria Hotel by October 12 by calling 972/450-2994 or 888/827-8536. Refer to the Group and Meeting Name: “Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians’ 2006 Annual Convention.

Another Outstanding CME Program
In keeping with tradition, TSPP has planned another outstanding CME Scientific Program for the Annual Convention. The program, “Update 2006: Advances in Clinical Management of Psychiatric Disorders,” will be conducted Saturday, November 4 and Sunday morning, November 5 and will feature presentations from the following faculty:

- "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: The Latest Developments" — Jonathan B.T. Davidson, MD, Duke University, North Carolina
- "The Current Essentials in Diagnosing Bipolar Disorder Today!" — Patricia Suppes, MD, UT Southwestern Medical School, Dallas
- "Alcohol and Substance Abuse: Realistic Treatment Options and Pitfalls to Avoid" — Edgar F. Nace, MD, Dallas
- "Sensibilty in Our Child and Adolescent Patients" — Urszula B. Kelley, MD, Presbyterian Dallas Psychiatric Hospital, Dallas
- "Medical, Legal and Ethical Issues in Serious Brain Injuries and Severe Mental Illnesses" — Robert L. Fine, MD, Baylor Health Care System, Dallas
- "Toward the Optimal Treatment of Depression" — A. John Rush, MD, UT Southwestern Medical School, Dallas

In addition, the winner of the Resident Paper Competition will make a presentation.

The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians designates this educational activity for a maximum of ten (10) AMA PRA Category I Credits ™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians is accredited by the Texas Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The presentation, "Medical, Legal and Ethical Issues in Serious Brain Injuries and Severe Mental Illnesses" will be conducted by the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians for two (2) hours of education in medicine and/or professional responsibility. This CME program is proudly sponsored by the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians on the occasion of the Society’s 50th anniversary of service to psychiatrists and their patients. Designed in a format consistent with lectures and discussion directed, the program is designed to provide its primary target audience of psychiatrists, as well as other specialties of medicine with clinically-relevant information regarding ethics, new developments in treatment and new directions in research. At the conclusion of the program, CME participants will be able to explore, to describe, and to discuss the following areas and topics:

- Causes of PTSD, with an improved ability to accurately diagnose and implement appropriate treatment.
- The diagnosis, prognosis and current effective therapies for bipolar disorder.
- Evaluation and treatment of alcohol abuse and other substances, with emphasis on realistic treatment outcomes.
- Recognition of obesity in child and adolescent patients.
- The various classes of comb and the implications of each on treatment and prognosis.
- Dealing with ethical dilemmas faced by the families, and the physicians, of patients in coma.
- Current strategies for achieving symptom remission and recovery in major depression.

Annual Business Meeting
The Annual Business Meetings of TSPP and the Texas Foundation for Psychiatric Education and Research will be conducted at the conclusion of the Scientific Program on Sunday. During the luncheon program, members will be entertained by a visual presentation of photos taken during the many events of the Annual Convention. Each registrant will receive a CD copy of the presentation as a memento of the 2006 TSPP Annual Convention and 50th Anniversary Gala.

THE ANNUAL DAILY SCHEDULE

Thursday, November 2
2:00 pm Golf Outing Arranged by Dallas Members

Friday, November 3
7:00 am - 8:00 am Registration/Information
8:00 am - 5:00 pm Committee Meetings
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm Executive Council Meeting
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Welcome Reception with Exhibitors
8:00 pm - MIT After Hours Social

Saturday, November 4
7:30 am - 6:00 pm Registration/Information
7:30 am - 8:15 am Complimentary Continental Breakfast for Program Registrants
7:30 am - 2:00 pm Exhibits
8:30 am - 5:00 pm Scientific Program
11:00 am - 10:30 am Refreshment Break with Exhibitors
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Membership Luncheon Featuring Video Presentation by Dr. Creeson
2:30 pm - 2:45 pm Refreshment Break with Exhibitors
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Complimentary Continental Breakfast for Program Registrants
7:00 pm - 12:00 am Annual Gala with Entertainment

Sunday, November 5
7:30 am - 1:00 pm Registration/Information
7:30 am - 9:00 am Complimentary Continental Breakfast for Program Registrants
8:30 am - 12:30 pm Scientific Program
10:15 am - 10:30 am Refreshment Break
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm Annual Business Meetings’ Luncheon

DAILY SCHEDULE
To download a registration form — Visit www.txpsych.org

Westin La Cantera Resort
Reservation Deadline July 12, 2006

W esti n L a C an t e r a R es e r v at i on S t at i on
P hone 800-228-3000 or 210-558-6500

August 12-13, 2006

TopKkatrina — Another View from Houston

continued from page 3

1. Lessons Learned

The first, and still most affecting, lesson I learned from Katrina is that extraordinary circumstances can evoke extraordinary responses. It was almost astonishing to see how many volunteers, psychiatrists and others, appeared on a holiday weekend to assist in our efforts. I learned that heroes still exist, and that many of us in medicine are still able to live and to respond to our original voca- tional call. Given the societal and business changes that have impacted the practice of medicine over the past years, evaluating and treating the Katrina evacuees at the George R. Brown shelter was a rare opportunity to experience again the “pure culture” of being a doctor and helping a patient.

Another lesson learned, or rather re- learned, in the aftermath of Katrina, is that even in as solitary a profession as psychia- trics, interpersonal connections and a sense of active community are what can allow miracles to happen. We psychiatrists are nurtured, and our patients in turn are nurtured, by the spiraling connectivity of old and new colleagues, both within and out- side of our present experience.

Finally, another lesson is that we all have to live within a “not-really-the-end” exis- tence. We have learned this year that newer and more difficult challenges will continue to arise, through acts of nature as well as through acts of humanity. At this time in our history, we are not yet well-enough equipped to care for each other in the dark- ness. We still have a long way to go, with respect to Katrina and with respect to build- ing the community that we and our neigh- bors so desperately need. As psychiatrists, we are taught that maturity is the capacity to tolerate ambiguity. But, we must never forget our original call as healers and we must not forget that we are never alone. Armed with what we have learned from the first two les- sons above, we can now begin to enter the mystery of this third lesson.

Gratitude

I would like to express my thankfulness and admiration to my colleague, Dr. Sylvia Muzquiz, for her untiring work in the service of our patients and our mission. I would also like to acknowledge the responsiveness and thoughtfulness of the city of Houston leader- ship team, who were present around-the- clock to the ever-emerging evacuee needs. I also want to acknowledge the leadership and cooperation of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston medical staff who welcomed us into the George R. Brown proj- ect and supported our efforts.

Finally, I would like to honor the Katrina evacuees, who, in the face of overwhelming despair, embodied courage, grace, and the authentic human condition. They helped us all learn again what matters most.

THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOANALYSIS

offers a weekend psychoanalytic training program

Courses are held at 12121 Wilshire Blvd., #505, Los Angeles, CA 90025
Application deadline is June 25, 2006

Saturday and Sunday 6 hours each day 1 weekend a month 10 months per year

Courses offered are equivalent to ICP’s regular weekly psychoanalytic program.

This program is designed for those who live outside the Los Angeles area or work full-time.

For further information please call (310) 207-8441
Visit our web site: www.icpla.edu

Gratitude
As I prepare to take office, the next in the long line of 140 presidents of the Texas Medical Association, I see tremendous challenges on the horizon. Some are closer than others. The Texas Legislature is about to engage in a special session that could impose taxes on physician practices. Insurance companies, hospitals, government regulators, and limited-license practitioners all want a piece of what we’ve got. There are times I feel the family of medicine is like the pioneer wagon train riders who, when seeing an enemy emerging over the horizon, very methodically circle the wagons, turn their guns inward, and fire. Specialization in our profession has brought many rewards for us and benefits for our patients, but I am afraid it has resulted in some loss of unity. When we speak of our fellow physicians in a specialty other than our own, we must remember: There is not a “they” — only “us.” Make no mistake about it, we are engaged in a conflict. A conflict for the preservation of the principles upon which this great profession was founded.

A conflict for the freedom to practice medicine in the best tradition of our profession.

A conflict to protect and preserve the rights of our patients.

A conflict to protect and preserve our rights as free men and women to practice as professionals.

A conflict we should win because right is on our side.

As we go forward, we simply do not have the luxury of becoming so self-consumed that we become divided.

Ed Hill, MD, our current American Medical Association president, warns us of this when he tells of attending a meeting of trial lawyers. One speaker stood up and said, “I sue doctors — I sue them in an atmosphere of fear. But I also have one fear — and that fear is that someday they will get together and become unified.”

I call upon all physicians of Texas to join this great army and speak out in unity for medicine.

I call upon all alliance members to continue to speak out in unison for medicine.

I call upon each specialty society and its members to speak out in unity for our patients.

We need many voices, but one message. And so around this great state we will come together.

Whether it be when speaking for your county society, your state association, or AMA; whether it be when speaking as a physician or an alliance member; whether your specialty be obstetrics or psychiatry... many voices will ring out, but there will be one message — and this will be a resounding cry of victory for our patients.

FEDERATION OF TEXAS PSYCHIATRY

The Federation was established on July 1, 2004 with the following purposes:

A. to promote the common professional interests of psychiatrists;

B. to facilitate the coordination of and work in concert with state professional psychiatric associations and state professional subspecialty psychiatric associations, to unify programs that advance public and professional education and advocacy for psychiatry and persons with psychiatric illnesses;

C. to provide centralized services to state professional psychiatric associations and state professional subspecialty psychiatric associations;

D. to make psychiatric knowledge available to other practitioners of medicine, to scientists, and to the public; and,

E. to promote the best interests of patients and those actually or potentially making use of mental health services.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

JULY

28-30 TSCAP “Treating the Consequences of Trauma and Other Disorders”
9 Hours Category 1 Credit
Omni Corpus Christi Hotel, Corpus Christi, TX
$125 Single/Double; $135 Triple/Quad Rate Prior to July 14 / 1/800/843-6664
Refer to the group and meeting name
(Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry) for discounted rate
For more information, contact Debbie Sundberg 512/478-0605

AUGUST

12-13 Federation Mental Health Advocacy and Leadership Conference
Westin La Cantera Resort, San Antonio, TX
$179 Room Rate Prior to July 12 / 210/558-6500 or 800/228-3000
Refer to the group and meeting name
(Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians) for discounted rate
For more information, contact Debbie Sundberg 512/478-0605

NOVEMBER

3-5 TSPP’s 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
Annual Convention & CME Scientific Program
“Update 2006: Advances in Clinical Management of Psychiatric Disorders”
Westin Galleria Hotel, Dallas, TX
$139 Room Rate Prior to October 12 / 972/450-2954 or 1/888/627-8536
Refer to the group and meeting name
(Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians 2006 Annual Convention)
For more information, contact Debbie Sundberg 512/478-0605

3 TSPP Committee Meetings
Member Luncheon
Executive Council Meeting
Welcome Reception with Exhibitors
MIT After Hours Social

4 TSPP Scientific Program
Member Luncheon
50th Anniversary Gala Banquet

5 TSPP Scientific Program
Annual Business Meetings’ Luncheon

DBSA Texas Open House — A number of TSPP members attended an Open House hosted by the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Texas (DBSA Texas) in their new offices in Austin on April 21. Pictured left to right: John Bush, Miriam Feaster, Gary Ester, MD, Eileen Rosen, Clifford Gay and Debbie Sundberg.