



# **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**2010**

## **2010 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The 2010 Annual Report was prepared with contributions from committee and task force chairs, liaison representatives and staff members: Mr. John Service, Executive Director, Ms. Carla Mardonet, Administrative Officer and Ms. Anna DiDonato, Membership Services Coordinator.

The report reviews the activities, projects, and accomplishments of the Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) since the previous Annual General Meeting and, in accordance with the by-laws, contains the views of the President on the present state of affairs of OPA.

The Report is tabled for acceptance at the 2011 Annual General Meeting held on February 25, 2010 at the Toronto Marriot Hotel.

### ***BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

#### **Members of the Board of Directors**

**Dr. Mary Broga**, Past-President and OPA delegate to the Council of the Practice Directorate of the Canadian Psychological Association

**Dr. Margaret Weiser**, President

**Dr. Connie Kushnir**, Financial Officer

**Dr. Joyce Isbitsky**, Thunder Bay-Sudbury Regional Director

**Dr. Jonathan Douglas**, Independent Practice Area Director

**Dr. Cheryl Hartridge**, Director-at-Large

**Dr. Maria Kokai**, Education Practice Director

**Dr. Diana Velikonja**, Kitchener-Hamilton Regional Director

**Dr. Charles Nelson**, Windsor-London Regional Director

**Dr. Jonathan Golden**, Community, Family and Children's Services Practice Area Director

**Dr. Ian Nicholson**, Health Practice Area Director

**Dr. Niki Fitzgerald**, Early Career Psychologist

**Dr. Oren Amitay**, Toronto Regional Director

**Dr. Brian Bigelow**, Justice Practice Director

**Ms. Vivien Lee**, Student Director

#### **Ex-Officio Members of the Board of Directors**

**Dr. Doug Saunders**, OPA representative to the Council of Representatives of the American Psychological Association

**Dr. Ruth Berman**, Former Executive Director

**Ms. Carla Mardonet**, Administrative Officer

In 2010, the OPA bid farewell to its former Executive Director, Dr. Ruth Berman, who held this position since 1989. Dr. Berman commenced her retirement on December 31,

2010, and Dr. John Service assumed his new role as our Executive Director on January 1, 2011.

The Board would like to extend its gratitude to all the active OPA members who have provided input and feedback, and especially to those volunteers who have participated in board committees, task forces, and ad-doc initiatives. We appreciate the dedication and commitment of our directors who offer their expertise, insight, experience, and time. We would also like to thank the OPA staff for their problem-solving abilities, tangible support, and resourcefulness.

The Board of Directors met five times. At the June 2010 meeting, the Board held a strategic planning exercise to review the goals of the Association and the communication strategies with members, stakeholders, and the general public. A review of the Mission, Vision, and Values of the organization was also conducted, and this will be posted on the new OPA website when launched in the spring of 2011.

Throughout the year, the Board continued its work on political advocacy. Meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Private meetings were also held with MPP's in their local offices.

Dr. Berman continued her work as an individual member of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Mental Health and Addictions. This important committee launched in 2009 under the initiative of the Minister of Health and Long Term care released a report in December, 2010 to help shape the future direction of public delivery of mental health and addictions services.

The OPA Prescriptive Authority Task Force reconvened as a Committee under the leadership of a new chair, **Dr. Diana Velikonja**, with **Dr. Jonathan Douglas** as co-chair.

As president, the one task that stands out for me this year was to ensure the succession of the executive director for OPA. I am grateful for the wise counsel and active engagement of all the past presidents on our Succession Planning Committee, **Drs. Ester Cole, Beth Mitchell, Ian Nicholson, Cheryl Pohlman, Doug Saunders, and Donald Rudzinski**, who donated their time and wisdom to advise the Board. They served alongside our Executive Committee, which includes our officers (President, Past-President, and Financial Officer) as well as **Drs. Maria Kokai, Diana Velikonja, and Joyce Isbitsky**. I am especially indebted to my two executive colleagues who served on the selection panel, **Drs. Mary Broga and Connie Kushnir**, whose patience and responsiveness was both an inspiration and an incentive. This multi-layered process required developing a succession plan, recruiting, and hiring a new executive director, and took nearly a year to accomplish.

Above all, I must tender my sincere thanks to **Dr. Ruth Berman** for her wisdom, patience, and staunch adherence to the keystones of professional advocacy and identity throughout this past year – which was not only my first as OPA President, but also her last as our executive director for OPA. It was a privilege to assume this role under her

guidance, and so I submit this report with gratitude on behalf of all members of our association. Thank you, Ruth, for so many years of service to the profession, and for setting the bar!

Submitted by: **Dr. Margaret Weiser**, President

## ***INTERNAL AFFAIRS***

### ***FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE***

Committee Members: **Drs. Mary Broga, Margaret Weiser, Don Rudzinski, Brian Wilson, Charles Nelson, Ruth Berman, and Ms. Carla Mardonet.**

The OPA Finance & Audit (F&A) Committee is responsible for the management of the association's fiscal affairs, and that regularly includes preparation of an annual budget, production of an annual audit, investment management, fiscal policies, fund development, and budget management.

The F&A committee met three times last year by teleconference to review the financial statements and to plan prudently for the future of our association. During this year **Dr. Wilson** has regrettably resigned from the committee after many years of service.

Submitted by: **Dr. Connie Kushnir**, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

### ***HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE***

**The OPA executive and the Executive Director reviewed human resource operations as needed, and a Selection Committee was created to guide the recruitment process for the Executive Director.**

Submitted by: **Dr. Margaret Weiser**, President

### ***ETHICS AND POLICY COMMITTEE***

In 2010, the Ethics and Policy Committee met on 29 January (teleconference), 26 March, 21 May, 24 September, and 12 November. Membership was composed of **Dr. Ruth Berman (ex officio), Dr. Harvey Brooker, Dr. Joyce Isbitsky (board liaison), Dr. Christian Keresztes, Dr. Ian Nicholson (Chair), Dr. Doug Reberg, Erin Ross (Student representative), Judith Schapira, Leah Shapira (student representative) Dr. Marlene Taube-Schiff (early career psychology representative), Dr. Carole Sinclair, Dr. Margaret Weiser (ex officio), and Dr. Lynn Wells.** The committee was glad to have the addition of **Dr. Taube-Schiff** joined the committee this year but were saddened at **Dr. Christian Keresztes** having to leave the committee during the year.

The Ethics and Policy Committee worked at developing material and ethics and standards of practice for "PsychBytes" this year and included articles on pro bono service, the Ontario privacy commissioner's guidelines for users of portable data, CPA guidelines on supervision, and the Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists. The committee also collaborated with the Early Psychologists Taskforce and the Convention Committee in the development of the "Digital Boundaries" workshop at the 2011 convention.

The Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that they endorse the Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists and the Board did endorse the declaration at its November meeting.

The Committee reviewed the CPA "Ethical Guidelines for Supervision in Psychology" and compared it to supervision documents endorsed by the OPA Board in previous years. The committee then recommended that the Board endorse the guidelines which they did in 2010.

The "Ontario Family Law Practice - 2011 Edition" requested that the OPA Custody and Access Guidelines be published in the book and they were subsequently published in early 2011 as an appendix in this volume.

Work continues on the proposed guidelines for working with third parties. It is hoped to have them ready for approval by the Board of Directors in 2011.

The committee spent considerable time during 2010 on issues relating to complaints made against members who practiced in the area of custody and access assessment. After liaising with various members, the Ontario Medical Association, and the Ontario Association of Social Workers, it was decided that this was best focused on issues relating to frivolous and vexatious complaints. The committee met with **Barry Gang**, the Director of Investigations and Hearing for the College of Psychologists of Ontario who believed that the information provided greatly enhanced our understanding of the complaints and investigations process, particularly with regard to frivolous and vexatious complaints..

The committee also discussed, at various times over the year, the impacts on the Agreement on Internal Trade on Ontario psychology registration, new mandatory reporting guidelines in the schools, College requirements for areas of competence, and registering of outpatients in public hospitals.

Submitted by: **Dr. Ian R. Nicholson**, Committee Chair

## EARLY CAREER PSYCHOLOGIST TASK FORCE

- 1) **Dr. Niki Fitzgerald** took over as chair in February 2010. An email was sent out to ECP committee to inform them that **Dr. Daliah Chapnik** was stepping down and being replaced by Dr. Fitzgerald.
- 2) Teleconference on February 26<sup>th</sup> planned and completed. Only one able to attend, but feedback on topics to be discussed was provided by some of those unable to attend. Private practice workshop discussed during this teleconference and another held in July. Unfortunately two potential keynote speakers who were approached were unable to present. Ultimately workshop was postponed.
- 3) Letter from ECP to new College registrants including testimonials from several ECP, OPA members, was drafted and sent to the Membership committee.
- 4) On July 7<sup>th</sup>, a call for new committee members was put out and four responded. New committee members are: **Drs Amanda Gold, Steven Jett, Khush Amaria, and Ashraf Ahmed.**
- 5) An ECP night was held in Toronto on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Rick Morris presented his Tricky Ethical Issues talk to approximately 22 attendees. Attendees indicated that having the event just prior to the JEE was very helpful to them. As such, **Dr. Morris** has agreed to return on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to give the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of his presentation. The timing coincides with the March administration of the JEE.
- 6) In early September ECP members were sent a 10-question survey with the intent of learning more about the OPA-ECPs, such as where they practice, what OPA services they currently use, and what they would like to see from the ECP committee. The survey ran for 3 weeks, with weekly reminders. The summarized results are attached.
- 7) In the October edition of PsychBytes, the ECP Corner was introduced. This and future editions include the profile of an ECP, recent and upcoming ECP events, as well as a section on how ECPs have taken psychology out of the office and into the community.
- 8) On November 25<sup>th</sup>, **Dr. Nina Josefowitz** facilitated a talk on the oral exam process. The presentation was held at the OPA office so that the teleconference phone could be used, allowing ECPs from across the province to participate remotely. Attendance to the in-person presentation was capped at 20 people. Capacity was reached quickly. Approximately 15 ECPs participated remotely from places such as Kingston, Burlington, Sudbury, and Kitchener-Waterloo. Feedback from the event was positive from all participants. The remote participants however had difficulty hearing anyone but the speaker. A suggestion resulting from the night was for OPA to invest in external microphones for use at future ECP events as well as during Board meetings where similar difficulties have been noted.

## ECP Survey results from September 2010

Total number of respondents – 63

Total number of ECPs – 238

Response Rate – 26%

1) Where do people practice

a. 50% from GTA

2) What year are you in:

	Percentage
Internship	3.2
Supervised Practice	19.4
Autonomous Practice 1	27.4
Autonomous Practice 2	14.5
Autonomous Practice 3	17.7
Autonomous Practice 4	17.7

3) In what type of setting do you practice?

	Percentage
Private Practice	64.5
Hospital	35.5
School	9.7
Other	9.7
University/College	8.1
Community Mental Health	8.1

4) In what area do you practice?

	Percentage
Mood & Anxiety	65.1
Child	36.5

Health/Rehab	28.6
Personality Disorders	17.5
Educational/School	12.7

- 5) What type of events would you like to see?
- a. Workshops on a variety of topics, including:
    - i. Private practice related (marketing, technology, practice management, record keeping, website development)
    - ii. Supervision
    - iii. Life balance/pregnancy
    - iv. Ethics and jurisprudence
    - v. More social events
- 6) Issues identified as most relevant (more than one response permitted):

	Percentage
Developments in the field	68.3
Building a practice	66.7
Advocacy	54
Ethics and jurisprudence	47.6

- 7) Are you interested in having a mentor?

	Percentage
Yes	38.7
No	38.7
Unsure	22.6

- 8) Are you interested in mentoring a student?

	Percentage
Yes	57.1
No	12.7
Unsure	30.2

- 9) What OPA resources/benefits do you use (multiple responses permitted)?

	Percentage
Listserve	90.2
Insurance Discount	60.7
Workshops	37.7
Convention	32.8

- 10) In what other ways can the ECP committee serve you?
- a. More workshops
  - b. Lower fees
  - c. More networking events
  - d. Updated list of supervisors
  - e. More frequent updating of job board
  - f. Online discussions/forums for better access

- g. Short bulletin every 3-6 months

Submitted by: **Niki Fitzgerald**, Chair, Early Career Psychologist Task Force

### ***NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE***

The Nominations Committee includes members of the Governance Committee with the addition of Directors who will be leaving the Board. The committee discussed a vision for this committee. Ideally, it should be an arm of the Governance Committee and it should be actively seeking out individuals who show leadership potential and mentoring these individuals for leadership roles within the OPA. For 2011, a number of vacant positions for the Board of Directors were open for election, including: President-Elect; Financial Officer; Director Region 1; Director Region 4; Student Director; and three Practice Area Directors (Justice; Child & Youth; and Education). The committee reviewed all nominations received including those resulting from the Call for Nominations 2010. The slate of persons willing to serve on the Board of Directors, as well as any remaining vacancies, will be brought forward to the membership at the 2011 Annual General Meeting.

Submitted by: **Dr. Mary Broga**, Chair, Nominations Committee

### ***MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE***

The Membership Committee included: **Drs. Ruth Berman; Mary Broga (Chair); Niki Fitzgerald; Cheryl Hartridge; Charles Nelson; and Fran Rauenbusch.** The committee reviewed all membership categories and made the following recommendations to the Board of Directors: that the Professional Affiliate Category be retained as a membership category and that a process be put into place for monitoring compliance with the requirements for membership in this category; that the Professional Affiliate Category be broadened to include other professionals registered by the College of Psychotherapists and also Behaviour Therapists/Technicians who may or may not possess a Master's Degree but who are supervised by a member of the College of Psychologists of Ontario; and that the Student Membership be extended to Honours B.A. students in psychology at a fee of \$15.00/year and that a process be developed for organizing and monitoring this new group. The committee reviewed the membership statistics compared to the same period last year. Since the number of members increased, the committee recommended to the Board that the reduced membership fee incentives introduced last year be repeated. Dr. Fitzgerald developed a letter based on information and testimonials from ECP members which was sent to early career psychologists who have not joined the Association.

Submitted by: **Dr. Mary Broga**, Chair, Membership Committee

## ***GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE***

Committee Members: **Drs. Ruth Berman; Mary Broga (Chair); Cheryl Hartridge; Maria Kokai; Charles Nelson; Cheryl Pohlman; and Doug Saunders**

The Governance Committee met by teleconference on the following dates in 2010: March 2, April 12, June 14, and October 4. The Committee focused its energies on filling several vacancies on the Board as well as monitoring the review of all policies and procedures. The committee reviewed and selected a Board Evaluation Tool which will be piloted at the end of the current Board's tenure. This tool is designed to assess the board's performance with respect to achievement of annual goals. The committee noted that there is no procedure currently for reviewing the governance model of the OPA. The committee discussed that the organization needs to first review its Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles. Based on this review, the governance model needs to be reviewed to see how it can facilitate meeting the Vision and Mission. In the past, there has been one external review conducted by Don Pearson and one conducted internally. The committee recommended that in the new year, a Governance Model review be conducted to examine membership of the board and its duties and responsibilities. The committee reviewed the major elements of Bill 65 which is a new bill from the Ministry of Consumer Services concerning incorporation of not-for-profits. This bill will likely have implications for the role of the board. The committee also realized that there was no policy regarding the length of term for board members. The committee researched various examples from other associations and proposed that Directors be eligible to serve a maximum of two three-year terms in the same position. Following a break in continuous service of at least one year, the same person may be eligible for re-election or reappointment to that same position. This proposed Bylaw amendment was approved by the Board of Directors at its October 2010 meeting and will be brought forward for ratification by the OPA membership at its Annual General Meeting in February 2011.

Submitted by: **Dr. Mary Broga**, Chair, Governance Committee

## ***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS***

### ***PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES***

Committee Members: **Drs. Oren Amitay, Joyce Isbitsky, Maria Kokai, Christina Lee, Pat Mc-Garry Roberts, Doug Saunders, Connie Kushnir (Chair) and Ruth Berman; Ms. Vivien Lee. Report submitted by Dr. Connie Kushnir**

The Public Education Committee (PEC) focused on two major initiatives: Psychology Month and provision of public education materials (posted on the website and provided to all members for wider distribution to the public).

## **Psychology Month 2010**

In December 2009, a reminder about Psychology Month was sent to all members and information about Psychology Month 2010 was revised to be sent to all members. The information was to be posted on the website in January.

At the Annual Convention in February, committee members staffed a table to provide information about public education materials and Psychology Month. A postcard was designed by **Dr. Joyce Isbitsky** which listed useful websites providing public education materials. This card was handed out at the public education table and was quite popular with the members. **Dr. Kate Hays**, in her acceptance speech as winner of OPA's Public Education Award, challenged members to tell at least five people about Psychology Month. A number of members did take up the challenge and reported the information via Survey Monkey.

**Dr. Oren Amitay** sent out information about Psychology Month to a number of Psychology Departments at several universities, reminding them that February is Psychology Month and asking that the professors tell their students about the initiative. **The school psychology sector was invited and encouraged to participate in Psychology Month activities by Dr. Maria Kokai by providing information and resources through the Association of Chief Psychologists of Ontario School Boards.** **Ms. Vivien Lee**, the Student Director of the Board, sent information about Psychology Month to graduate students directly. She provided some suggestions for some easy activities and described the initiative of the students at the University of Western Ontario in providing a series of free talks at the public library.

With the help of Ms. Rachel Adelson, a press release was sent out about stress advice to various media contacts. **Dr. Oren Amitay** sent the release along with a package of fact sheets about stress. A few media responses were obtained.

### **Summary of Activities in Ontario School Boards in 2010**

- \* An information booth was set up for a week in the school board foyer with different handouts for teachers and parents
- \* An article was published about psychology in the web based newsletter that goes to all educators at school board
- \* An article on a psychology topic was distributed electronically to all employees of the board
- \* The psychology department launched a new poster and brochure on psychology services
- \* A series of workshops organized by UWO doctoral clinical students were announced in a broadcast message to the Board
- \* An inspiration message on the psychological impact of teacher support on students was sent out to all teachers electronically
- \* A new mental health resources website was launched as part of Psychology Month
- \* A presentation was offered to teachers by the Chief Psychologist
- \* Videos on different psychology related topics were shown.

- \* Presentations to teachers and parents on several topics were offered and were well attended.
- \* Had a display of students' art work in the school board lobby and had a poster contest to create poster for the Psychology Department
- \* The Psychology Department in two large boards created articles for parents to be published in the school newsletters during the month of February.
- \* Video presentations were offered in schools and in the board offices on different psychology related topics to teachers, parents and students.
- \* There was a display of psychology related books in the school board library.
- \* A Psychology Symposium was offered to teachers, parents and students covering four topics and presented by members of the Psychology Department.

### **Other Psychology Month Activities**

- \* The University of Western Ontario Clinical Psychology Students provided a free lecture series on a range of topics during the month of February at the Central Library in London. Last year was the third year for this project.
- \* Two Psychologists in Sault Ste. Marie organized a one day workshop/training session on electronic resources for psychologists in the Sault.
- \* Psychologists in treatment centres around the province promoted psychology month and set up information booths for staff.

### **Other Public Education Activities**

**Dr. Maria Kokai** has continued to provide information for the website which may be of interest to the general public. The information can be accessed through the "OPA Helpline" button on the website.

In December of 2008, the Board approved the establishment of the OPA Media Recognition Award. The second annual award was presented in February 2010 to Libby Znaimer, VP News and Information, Classical 96.3FM and AM740, Host, "The Zoomer Report". The Public Education Award was given to **Dr. Kate Hays** for her work in developing and promoting the Psyching Team for the Toronto Marathon.

OPA awarded the Toronto Police Service (TPS) the Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award in May of 2008. In March of 2010, TPS won the 2010 National Psychologically Healthy Workplace Award in the category of Government, Military, and Educational Institutions. **Dr. Connie Kushnir** attended the award presentation. The two psychologists from TPS, who are also OPA members, Drs. Carol Vipari and Dr. Cathy Martin-Doto, also attended the award ceremony along with the Staff Superintendent who accepted the award on behalf of TPS.

**Dr. Maria Kokai** attended the State Leadership Conference in Washington in March as the Public Education representative for APA.

**Ms. Vivien Lee** developed a Facebook page for OPA.

Submitted by: **Dr. Connie Kushnir**, Chair, Public Education Committee

## ***DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK (DRN)***

The Disaster Response Network(DRN/OPA) included the following members: **Drs. Ester Cole** (Chair), **Ruth Berman** (ED),**Anna Baranowsky** (on leave), **Linda McLean**, **Gerald Goldberg**, **Douglas Saunders**, **Margaret Weiser**, **Lori Gray**, **Rajko Seat**, **Helen Lathrop**, **Pushpa Kanagaratnam**, **Brian Cole**, St. John's Ambulance – Director, Standards & Support. The Canadian Red Cross is represented by **John Saunders**, Manager, Disaster Services, International and Youth Programs; and **Tom Windebank** – Canadian Red Cross – Manager, Disasters Management.

In 2010, the Committee held 4 meetings (January 7, June 17, October 7, and December 16, 2010).The role of committee is to partner with the Canadian Red Cross; plan professional development, review updated resources; consultation, and networking with CPA and APA.

The core DRN goals focus on:

- (a)The coordination and provision of pro bono services to communities impacted by disaster and/or crisis situation(s);
- (b) the dissemination of information and access to DRN mental health training for OPA members;
- (c)Support of members in their provision of disaster response services;
- (d)Uphold professional standards regarding disaster mental health care; and
- (e)Collaborate with other organizations providing disaster relief services and short-term volunteer interventions.

### **2010 Activities and Reviews:**

- Consultations with CPA and the National Emergency Preparedness Advisory Consortium (NEPAC);
- Consultations with APA ( preparations of community handouts; DRN Advisory Committee's presentations at Annual Conventions);
- Members' appraisal of community services- St. John's Ambulance;
- Meeting with Kentucky based researchers who study the impact of trauma on children and families (samples from Canada, U.S., and Mexico).
- Exchange of information about the international Resiliency Conference (June, Halifax), as it applies to DRN activities;
- Regular updates of OPA/DRN website information and multi-cultural resources in times of need;
- Learned about the Pearson Airport Crisis Support Team, and Panel Advisory for Toronto Transit;
- Started discussions about the development of community pamphlets with "hands-on" information;
- Several members consulted with the media about applicable background information, or gave interviews;
- Learned about online trauma training opportunities.

OPA members continue to update their volunteer information questionnaire. Members are encouraged to contact the local branch of the Ontario Red Cross for training sessions, and attend a First Aid Course. They are asked to notify the Association office about their local training. Copies of the Memorandum of Understanding between OPA and the Canadian Red Cross are available to the membership. Members are asked to share information on the DRN / OPA listserv. The committee welcomes new members.

Submitted by: **Dr. Ester Cole**, Chair, OPA/DRN.

### ***MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LIAISON COMMITTEE***

**The Ministry of Education Liaison Committee** for 2010 included the following members: Drs. Lynne Beal, Ruth Berman, Ian Brown, Ester Cole, Maria Kokai (Chair), and Cheryl Pohlman. Dr. Carolyn Lennox joined the committee to follow up on the issue of shortage of school psychologists. As per OPA BoD decision (in 2008), as an affiliate member representing OAPA, Caroline Koekkoek, President of OAPA joined the Committee in 2009.

The role of the Committee is to share information and discuss issues with the Ministry of Education concerning the provision of psychological services and related programs for school age children enrolled in publicly funded schools in Ontario.

Committee meetings: In 2010 the committee requested and collected input regarding issues to be addressed with the Ministry from SecPE Council and from the Association of Chief Psychologists of Ontario School Boards.

**Liaison with the Ministry Special Education Policy and Program Branch**: the Chair of the Committee and the Education Officer designated by the *Special Education Policy and Program Branch* of the Ministry set up the meetings for the Committee. In 2010 two meetings were held: June 1, 2010 and November 19, 2010.

#### **June 1, 2010:**

The Ministry shared information regarding the status of current initiatives, including Learning for All K-12, Caring and Safe Schools, Special Equipment Amount, Student Support Leadership Initiative, Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, etc. Assistance in these initiatives and other areas was offered to the Ministry by OPA.

The OPA Committee shared information regarding the advocacy efforts concerning PPMs 144, 145, as well as regarding the advocacy efforts concerning the shortage of school psychologists.

#### **November 19, 2010:**

The agenda included further discussions about the topic of student mental health in the context of OPA's response to the Ministry of Education consultation regarding the "Mental Health and Addictions Strategy" in November 2009, and of the Ministry's future

plans. SEPPB has conducted special education funding discussions across the province to discuss effective practices and is working on a proposal. Contribution and support from OPA was offered to the Ministry, since the psychology sector already plays an important role in school boards in the area of student mental health. Summary of activities in these areas in school psychology was shared with SEPPB.

**Liaison with the Ministry Learning Environment Branch:**

In addition to the ongoing liaison and communication with the *Special Education Policy and Program Branch*, the committee, joined by the President of the Association of Chief Psychologists with Ontario School Boards (ACPOSB), Dr. Patrick Carney, jointly submitted a letter to the Minister expressing concerns about **Bill 157** in February 2010. Consequently, this joint committee had numerous meetings and ongoing communication with the *Learning Environment Branch* responsible for Bill 157 (Keeping our Kids Safe at School), and related PPMs 144, 145, to advocate for changing these PPMs and exempt school psychology practitioners from the mandatory reporting requirement. A positive outcome is expected in the near future.

**Meeting with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities:** in February 2010 to address the shortage of school psychologists trained by Ontario universities.

**Other activities of the OPA Education Liaison Committee:**

- Input was collected from the psychology sector in education and from the Chief Psychologists of school boards on psychology's involvement in mental health services, teacher training and parent education, and a summary of activities was provided to SEPPB.
- Input was collected from the psychology sector in education and from the Chief Psychologists to be submitted to the Minister's Advisory Council for Special Education (MACSE).
- Presentation by the Ministry on "Caring and Safe Schools" was organized for the Spring 2010 meeting of the Association of Chief Psychologists of Ontario School Boards.
- A joint letter by OPA, OAPA and ACPOSB was sent to the new Dean of OISE regarding the need for training more psychology practitioners to work in education (July 2010).

Submitted by: **Dr. Maria Kokai**, Chair, Ministry of Education Liaison Committee

## ***AUTO INSURANCE TASK FORCE***

After a lengthy process of consultation, the Financial Services Commission introduced new insurance regulations. The new regulations have reduced the basic policy limits, incorporated assessment costs within the new lower limits, capped the fees payable for assessments and examinations, and removed psychologists from signing the catastrophic impairment application for patients with mental and behavioural disorder. In addition, insurers are no longer required to obtain an Insurer Examination to deny a benefit, and a Minor Injury Definition, Minor Injury Guideline (MIG), and financial cap were introduced for a basket of soft tissue injuries.

In order to respond to changes in the regulations, the Task Force engaged in a lengthy and comprehensive review and update of the OPA Guidelines for Assessment and Treatment in Auto Insurance Claims; a Practice Handbook was also created to accompany them. These documents were reviewed by a large number of peer psychologists in the province and approved by the OPA Board.

As of February 2011, we are still in the early implementation phase of the regulations, which are expected to have a profound impact on patients with psychological impairments and psychological practice.

During 2010, the Task Force also continued to be active with the Coalition of Health Care Professions, was involved in the implementation of the electronic data submission system (HCAI), and co-held two well-attended workshops for psychological practitioners. Most recently, Dr. Ron Kaplan was appointed to the medical panel created to review the catastrophic impairment criteria, which will complete reports in 2011.

The Task Force continues to inform government and other stakeholders of the impact of legislative changes on patients with psychological impairments and psychological practice.

Please continue to provide feedback regarding your experience with the new regulations. We will be asking for responses to surveys in order to inform our input to government and other stakeholders. We anticipate holding further educational workshops.

Submitted by: **Dr. Ron Kaplan**, Co-chair, Auto Insurance Task Force

## ***APA COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES***

During 2010, the APA Council of Representatives (COR) met in Washington DC at its mid-winter meeting and in San Diego in August, at the time of the APA Convention.

Major organizational themes during the year included financial and staff adjustments to APA to weather the effects of the recession; efforts to consolidate and expand the diversity initiatives begun in previous years within the organization; efforts to improve the balance of representation on COR; new initiatives to address diminishing membership numbers by reducing general membership fees; commitment to follow-up in regards to APA's strategic plan goals; and increasing on revenues through licensing APA documents and materials.

During the year, APA participated in several civil legal cases related to gay rights, prisoners' rights, and other significant social issues in the United States. APA was also dealing two law suits that directly affected the organization. One was a legal action taken by the APA Board of Directors regarding what the Board was entitled to receive from APA Insurance Trust in regard to financial and performance-related information. The second was a class action complaint against APA and APA Practice Organization (PO) over the collection of a special practice assessment on licensed professional psychologists when they renew their APA membership. The assessment was used to support professional practice advocacy. A hearing will be held in early March regarding the validity of the complaint.

With regard to fiscal matters, the organization began to see steady increases in assets and revenue in 2010, despite diminishing membership numbers. These increases combined with the release of the latest version of the APA Publication Manual enabled the organization to post a budgetary surplus for 2010. Overall the financial health of the organization was strengthened in 2010 and the 2010 financial statement showed a surplus of about \$6 million. Plans are underway to create a special 'Investment in APA' fund to preserve and grow the APA publications stream by creating new (typically electronic) products, expand the organization's marketing efforts and enhance APA's infrastructure (primarily IT) to support this expansion.

APA's activities overall in 2010 were to implement the previously agreed on strategic plan. This involved determining in particular what resources were required to address the advocacy goals of the strategic plan. The strategic plan is organized around three strategic objectives:

1. Maximize organizational effectiveness
2. Expand psychology's role in advancing health
3. Increase recognition of psychology as a science

These arise from the APA Vision Statement developed as part of the strategic planning process:

## **APA VISION STATEMENT**

The American Psychological Association aspires to excel as a valuable, effective and influential organization advancing psychology as a science, serving as an **effective champion** of the application of psychology to promote human rights, health, well being and dignity.

The goals for the organization can be found @ <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2009/10/strategic-plan.aspx>

In other matters, Council:

- Received reports from Publications and Databases Directorate regarding the development of strategic goals regarding ‘recognition and reputation enhancement’ efforts
- Received the report of the Task Force for Educating and Training Psychologists to Participate in Multi-Disciplinary Team Science.
- Considered amending APA’s bylaws to provide more equitable distribution of Council seats between Divisions and States/Provinces
- Voted to approve an extension of Industrial/Organizational and Sport Psychology as proficiencies in professional psychology
- Voted to approve the recognition of Psychopharmacology and Personality Assessment as proficiencies in professional psychology
- Voted to approve the recognition of Professional Geropsychology, Clinical Neuropsychology and Behavioural and Cognitive Psychology as specialities in professional psychology
- Received and requested further review of Telepsychology Guidelines for Psychologists,
- Received updates on the ‘Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) and the Involvement of Psychology’.
- Received an Update on the ‘Recognition of Psychotherapy Effectiveness’

As the Ontario representative on COR, my role includes liaising between Council and OPA, as well as representing OPA and Ontario members at Council meetings regarding both services and governance. I make use of the OPA members’ listserv to keep members updated regarding APA activities, opportunities, and information. I also provide information, linkage, and support to OPA members seeking information about APA. Finally I try to inform APA of relevant OPA activities and initiatives.

Submitted by: **Dr. Doug Saunders**, APA Council Representative

## ***COUNCIL OF PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS (CPAP)***

In 2008-2009, CPAP voted to form a firmer and more resourced organization through the support of CPA. The directors of the newly formed CPA Practice Directorate are the members of CPAP. The Directorate and CPAP held its first meeting in January 2010. During this meeting, members participated in a strategic planning process which served to identify the goals of this new Council. Primarily, the Practice Directorate is to serve national/provincial/territorial organizations in providing a common base for advocacy. The results of the strategic planning process indicated that the Practice Directorate needs to focus on access to psychological services for all Canadians, especially the most vulnerable, and to improve psychology's relationship to primary care. There was also a need to develop a common language to describe psychological services so that associations speak with a common voice to stakeholders. As well, it will serve as a knowledge exchange centre for associations. CPAP and the Practice Directorate met in June during the CPA Convention. During this meeting, Delta Media, a consulting firm specializing in strategic communications and government relations, was hired to develop an advocacy plan based on common language. Working with members, Delta Media gathered key information needed to develop a detailed advocacy implementation plan which will be unveiled in January 2011.

It was noted with approval that the CAPP grant for CPAP from APA, while reduced to 15K from 20K was not cut 100% as had been previously indicated.

Submitted by: **Dr. Mary Broga**, CPAP Representative

## ***CONCLUDING REMARKS***

2010 was a productive and challenging year for psychology in Ontario. The OPA has a strong core of dedicated volunteers who lead active committees. Their work is the foundation for our internal and external affairs. Continuity is essential for our existing and developing links, particularly our communications and project work with government ministries and other stakeholders. I am grateful for the commitment of all our committee chairs. My heartfelt thanks to Past-President **Dr. Mary Broga**, who during her last year on our board of directors led several core internal committees concurrently, including Governance, Nominations, and Membership, as well as representing the OPA at the Council of Provincial Associations of Psychologists (CPAP).

Special thanks are also owed to **Drs. Faith and Ron Kaplan**, who led the Auto Task Force through yet another turbulent year of changing regulations, and who worked concurrently with our colleagues in CAPDA to provide timely education on these matters. Thank you as well to **Dr. Maria Kokai**, who in her role as chair of our Ministry of Education Liaison Committee ensured that the OPA was pro-active regarding changes in school settings, while also forging new links for Public Education opportunities.

While 2010 was indeed the last year of service for our former executive director, **Dr. Ruth Berman**, there can be no doubt that her familiar presence and years of wisdom will continue to contribute to the work of the OPA. I hope that members of this association will encourage **Dr. Berman** to share her recollections and reflections on the nature of our profession.

But there were not only farewells and departures this year. The OPA board welcomed back **Dr. Ian Nicholson** and **Dr. Douglas Saunders**, two past-presidents, who returned to the table of our board of directors. During this busy and surprising year, we were all indebted to the active contributions of so many of our OPAMEM listserv contributors who took “grassroots initiatives” to new heights, forming an active group with many questions and concerns for advocacy, and indeed **Dr. Jonathan Douglas** stepped forward to join the sitting board of directors of the OPA.

It is equally important to welcome and celebrate the passion and clear voices of our Early Career Psychologists and student members, who are revitalizing communication patterns and interactions with the public and the media. Special thanks are due to **Dr. Oren Amitay** for his inspiring media presence, online, in press, and on radio. **Dr. Fitzgerald** quickly formed an ECP group that continues to evolve in active discussion and meetings among members near and far.

If you have only read this summary report, I do hope I have sparked your curiosity to read some of these committee reports mentioned above. We welcome your comments, ideas, and involvement.

Please share your concerns, suggestions, and feedback as we continue our transition in 2011.

Submitted by: **Dr. Margaret Weiser**, President