



# Insight

## CALENDAR:

### SEPTEMBER

This is an election year for RIPA, too. Nominations for December elections will go out in September.  
- Watch your mailbox!

### OCTOBER

31st - CE course "Legal & Ethical Aspects of Supervision"  
31st - FALL After-Session follows CE at at Crowne Plaza

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Contact Jack Hutson, Exec. Dir. at  
(401) 736-2900

Join RIPA

## Benefits to Membership

- **support representation** on Smith Hill to **protect and preserve** the profession
- provide **local leadership** for our profession
- create opportunities for **continuing education**
- create opportunities for **networking** and mutual support
- **educate the public** about psychology and access to services
- offer **consultation** on ethical matters
- **promote** research, education and training in psychology
- support R.I. **representation** in APA



1643 Warwick Avenue/PMB 103  
Warwick, R.I. 02889



# Insight

RIPA President Jim Campbell, Ph.D.

## President's Note

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have enjoyed our Rhode Island summer, finding time for rest and relaxation. The RIPA Board and committees have been busy on many fronts:

- Monitoring the legislative process and protecting the interests of the profession and the public.
- Planning a newly designed website and web-based communications systems to enhance member access to information and resources.
- Preparing a new schedule of high-quality continuing education programs.
- Developing longer-range plans to serve our members and support the profession of psychology in R.I.
- Participating in APA forums that are working to shape the future of psychology nationally.

There are many other important endeavors underway. All of them would benefit from new energy and ideas. *Please consider contacting a board member or committee chair to becoming involved in some aspect of RIPA's work.* For example, we are looking for a new chair for our Psychologically Health Workplace Award committee. This committee recruits and evaluates organizational applicants for RIPA's award. Award winners may then be considered for APA's national award. To indicate your interest in this, or to ask any questions at all, please contact me at: [Jim.Campbell@PsychologicalCenters.com](mailto:Jim.Campbell@PsychologicalCenters.com).

Sincerely,

*Jim*

Peter M. Oppenheimer, Ph.D.

## Legislative Update

The Legislative Committee has been working with the Board of psychology and the staff at the Department of Health for a couple of years to update our licensing law. On July 5, the revisions became law. We would like to thank our sponsors Senators Gallo and Fogarty, and Representatives Melo, Dennigan, Silva, Serpa, and Vaudreuil for their support and help. *When you see them this campaign season, please thank them for their support.* We would also like to thank our lobbyist, Jeff Taylor and his team at Advocacy Solutions for their assistance.

The newly enacted revision:

1. Updates and clarifies the language and organization of the law to standardize and streamline procedures. As a result, this revision will change the renewal period from annually to semiannually. Please stay tuned for further information from about when this will be implemented. We will do our best to make sure that there is a clear date of implementation and time to provide notice to licensed psychologists.

2) The change to the registration means that we will also be certifying our participation in Continuing Education programs every two years.

3) This will clarify the qualifications for psychologists for supervision and reciprocity with other jurisdictions. We have done this be consistent with the national effort to facilitate mobility among states and provinces.

4) This will clarify the rules for Temporary Permits: Post-Docs will now be able to take the EPPP once they graduate with the required pre-doctoral supervised experience. After passing the EPPP they can be issued a Temporary Permit to practice under supervision for a period of up to two years (with a one year extension possible). During that year they will be expected to obtain their post-doctoral supervision. Upon certification of the post-doctoral supervision the Temporary Permit would be upgraded to a License. We have done this to facilitate the transition of early career psychologists to professional practice.

5) We are aware of the movement in the country to remove the requirement for a post-doctoral year of supervised experience. The Legislative Committee and the Board of Psychology have decided at this time to keep the post-doctoral supervision requirement and the Temporary Permit.

6) The revisions also enable the Board of Psychology to divert psychologists who are subject to disciplinary action, to a program for impaired psychologists where appropriate, and for psychologists who may be impaired to seek guidance and supervision from their colleagues. Current rules require licensed psychologists to obtain 12 hours of Continuing Education credits this year. For information on what CE activities qualify, please refer to the regulations. Newly licensed psychologists are exempt from this requirement until after they renew their license for the first time.

You can view the licensing law at: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE5/5-44/INDEX.HTM>.

The Regulations can be viewed at <http://www2.sec.state.ri.us/dar/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/5136.pdf>.

*Peter M. Oppenheimer, Ph.D.*  
*Chair, Board of Psychology*  
*Rhode Island Department of Health*

## APA 2008 - BOSTON



(from L to R) Ronald Seifer, Ph.D.; Leslie Feil, Ph.D.; Louis Tuchetta, Ed.D.; Representative Patrick Kennedy; Amanda Pasquazzi; Peter Oppenheimer, Ph.D.

# Insight

Legislative Update

## Federal Advocacy

On July 15 Congress overrode the President's veto of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA). The legislation helps to correct

**Medicare** reimbursement decreases that were mandated by previous statute. The bill will increase psychotherapy rates by 5% from July 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009. This will partially offset cuts that were imposed in 2007.

Coinsurance for mental health care will be changed from the current 50-50 percent split to an 80-20 percent split (as is done for medical care). The phase in will begin in 2010 and proceed gradually. This is a long awaited end to a discriminatory practice.

Physician Quality Reporting Initiative bonus payments will increase from 1.5% to 2% in 2009 and 2010. There will be improvements to correct inappropriately paid claims.

## MH Parity

This spring the House and the Senate were able to come to a reasonable political compromise between Representative Patrick Kennedy's version of the bill in the House and his father's in the Senate. Considering the number of co-sponsors and the President's statement that he would support parity we were hopeful that the bill would proceed through Congress and be enacted before the summer recess. Unfortunately, the bill is now entangled in political posturing. It will be included in a package of tax bills

that have themselves become ensnared in political wrangling.

On August 14 APA President Alan Kazdin presented a Presidential Citation to Senator Ted Kennedy (MA) in appreciation of his support of health care reform and mental health parity in particular. Representative Patrick Kennedy (RI) came to the event to receive the award on behalf of his father. In his remarks Representative Kennedy spoke passionately about the need for parity and his efforts to get the bill passed in to law. He indicated that the Senate may take up the measure on September 18.

*Peter Oppenheimer, Ph.D.  
Legislative Chair*

# Insight

Psychologists in Rhode Island: An Early History 1953-1969

## The Founding of RIPA: Part I

by  
*Harold R. Musiker and Peter F. Merenda*

In 1953, Harold Musiker was a psychologist in the outpatient department of the Veterans Administration Mental Health Clinic in the old Hope High School building in Providence. At that time there were only three Ph.D. clinical psychologists in Rhode Island. Besides Harold, there was Eli Rubin at the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital in Riverside, and Powell Lawton at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Providence. There were many others employed as clinical psychologists in state agencies and private clinics, but all were either at a bachelor's level (most) or at a master's level. During that early period Harold often attended the weekly seminar in the psychology department at Brown University, and became acquainted with many of the Brown psychology faculty. He became aware of the desire to speak as one voice for psychology growing out of a controversy in the public press at that time about claims being made by Herbert Miles Jenkins (Ph.D. Harvard, 1952). Dr. Jenkins, a staff psychologist at the MIT Lincoln Laboratories in Cambridge was writing and talking about the alleged limited capacity of blacks and other minorities compared to IQ's of whites. A number of PhD- level psychologists in Rhode Island, including members of the Brown faculty felt that a public rejoinder to the claims be Jenkins was in order. Three Rhode Island psychologists, Harold Musiker, Carl Pfaffman (Brown), and Kennison Bosquet, Msc, Director, Providence Child Guidance Clinic wrote a letter to the editor, Providence Journal to rebut Jenkins' claims. It was also at that time (1954), but before mailing the signed letter to the Journal that RIPA was formed with Harold as President, and incorporated and filed with the Secretary of State in Rhode Island.

In 1956, Harold left the V.A. in Providence to become the Clinical Associate at Walter V. Clarke Associates, Inc. (WVCAI) on Waterman Street in Providence. In early 1957, John Bennett, Jr. joined Harold as clinical associates at WVCAI. And together, Harold and John recruited Peter Merenda in Wisconsin to become the Research Director of WVCAI, and he joined the staff in that psychological consulting firm in August 1957. Peter attended his first RIPA meeting in the fall of that year; Carl Pfaffman was president of RIPA, and Carl was also a drilling naval reserve officer (CDR, USNR) with Peter in the Brown Panel of the Naval Reserve Research Company in Rhode Island.

At the spring meeting of RIPA in 1958, Harold, John, and Peter were sitting together alongside Anthony Davids of Bradley Hospital and Brown. The slate of the 1958-59 officers was submitted by the nominating committee. All three nominees were non-doctorates. For Rhode Island at the time, this perhaps was not unusual. But, for Peter who had only recently come from the mid-west and had been a member of the Wisconsin Psychological Association, he found it rather strange. He arose and asked the question of why there were no Ph.D.s on the slate. The chair of the nominating committee responded by saying that doctorate-level psychologists were called by telephone, but none chose to be a candidate. Peter then turned to Harold, John and Tony and asked each one if he had been called. They all responded to the negative. The slate went forth to be approved by the members present. But the upshot of that incident was that the incoming President appointed Peter chair of the Membership Committee which also served as the Nominating Committee. In the next years slate Dr. Davids was nominated as president. And since then, all presidents of RIPA have been doctoral-level psychologists.

(to be continued)

## ETHICS CORNER:

### What the Ethics Committee Does, how they do it, and how you can use it.

The Ethics Committee offers educational information regarding ethical conduct and standards of practice for psychologists. Our mandate is to serve RIPA members and consumers of psychological services. This committee does not adjudicate or mediate any complaints or disputes.

RIPA members or anyone from the general public can call the RIPA office for information about ethics or standards of practice; office staff gives the inquirer the on-call committee member's phone number. After gathering information about the inquiry, the on-call member consults with the rest of the committee and then responds to the inquirer. Committee members rotate on-call status every month.

We provide information that is educational only, drawing on the APA Code of Ethics, articles, texts and APA guidelines. We can direct callers to other agencies or organizations that might be useful, and if the call does not relate to a psychologist but to a member of another mental health discipline, we refer callers to the appropriate organization.

From time to time, the Ethics Committee develops or collaborates in the development of programs to educate either the membership or the general public. Sometimes this has resulted in CE programs. One, in January of 2007, focused on the "Top Ten Questions" posed to our committee over the past 10 years.

The Committee meets every other month on Fridays from 8:30 to 10 AM. We are happy to have additions to our committee if you are interested. For all of us this has been an opportunity to meet and discuss real or hypothetical ethical dilemmas, or other issues related to standards of practice and ethics.

Current members are: Leslie Feil, Chair; Suzanne Borstein; Colleen Gregory; Wendy Plante; Lisa Rocchio; and Bill Whelihan. Anyone interested in joining should feel free to contact us. The email address for the committee is: [ethics@ripsych.org](mailto:ethics@ripsych.org).

## RIPA Summer After-Session: June 6th



## RIPA BOARD

- **Jim Campbell**, Ph.D., President  
[jim.campbell@psychologicalcenters.com](mailto:jim.campbell@psychologicalcenters.com)
- **Lou Turchetta**, Ed.D., Past-President  
[lturchetta@aol.com](mailto:lturchetta@aol.com)
- **Mary Ann Ford**, Ph.D., Secretary  
[fordm@ride.ri.net](mailto:fordm@ride.ri.net)
- **Michael Robbins**, Ph.D., Treasurer  
[michaelrobbinsphd@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelrobbinsphd@hotmail.com)
- **James Curran, Jr.**, Ph.D., Member  
[jpcurran@ppp.necoxmail.com](mailto:jpcurran@ppp.necoxmail.com)
- **Peter Erickson**, Ph.D., Member  
[perickson@cox.net](mailto:perickson@cox.net)
- **Marshall Robinson**, Ph.D., Member  
[marshall@mrobinsonphd.com](mailto:marshall@mrobinsonphd.com)
- **Deanna Voisine**, M.A., APAGS Representative  
[deannavoisine@verizon.net](mailto:deannavoisine@verizon.net)
- **Peter Oppenheimer**, Ph.D., Council Representative; Legislative Chair  
[pmopp@email.com](mailto:pmopp@email.com)
- **Marjorie Pelcovits**, Ph.D., Federal Advocate Coordinator  
[mapelcovits@cox.net](mailto:mapelcovits@cox.net)

### - Committee Chairs -

- **Leslie Feil**, Ph.D., Ethics Committee
- **Clifford Gordon**, Ed.D., Continuing Education
- **Jeffrey Hughes**, Psy.D., Disaster Response Network
- **Sally Mayo**, Ph.D., Early Career
- **Jack Hutson**, Executive Director



**Rhode Island Psychological Association**  
1643 Warwick Avenue  
PMB 103  
Warwick, R.I. 02889  
**(401) 736-2900**  
[www.ripsych.org](http://www.ripsych.org)