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The American Journal of Psychiatry and the APA Committee of Residents and Fellows

### Residents' Journal

December 2008: Volume 3, Issue 12



The Residents' Journal

Editor-in-Chief: Molly McVoy, M.D.  
Issue Editor: Yavar Moghimi, M.D.  
Staff Editor: Angela Moore

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The following is an interview with Arthur Kleinman, M.D., on "Cultural Anthropology and Global Mental Health," mediated by Anna Yuwim, M.D. Dr. Kleinman is the Esther and Sidney Rabb Professor and former Department Chair of Harvard University's Department of Anthropology. Dr. Kleinman is also Professor and former Department Chair of Harvard Medical School's Department of Social Medicine. As one of the international community's leading medical anthropologists, Dr. Kleinman directed the 2001 World Mental Health Report. Dr. Yuwim is a third-year Adult Psychiatry Resident at NYU and one of the Deputy Editors for the Residents' Journal.

**Dr. Yuwim:** You chose to pursue a career that combines medicine and anthropology at a time when these two fields were considered disparate entities. How did you make this decision?

**Dr. Kleinman:** After completing my internal medicine internship at Yale during the Vietnam War, I became a Clinical Fellow at the NIH Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Thus, I began my medical career making not psychiatric disease but (spiro) and tuberculosis. Because my wife knew Chinese, I was sent as a public health service officer to the Navy medical research unit in Taiwan, where I was immediately impressed with the stigma associated with infectious diseases. In looking at stigma, it was impossible to realize how large a role history and culture played in determining which diseases were stigmatized, which carried less stigma, and which were even in some way "glamorous" to have, like tuberculosis, which at the time was thought of as deepening people's sensibilities and thus bringing them closer to the romantic notion of ineffability and the transitory nature of life. After that experience, I went to Harvard and studied anthropology because I wanted a systematic way to understand the social consequences of illness. I chose to study psychiatry because it was the most humanistic of the medical disciplines and, by focusing on the anxiety/depression associated with medical disorders, would enable me to combine anthropology with a medical specialty.

**Dr. Yuwim:** In your career, you basically defined the entire field of medical anthropology. How did you go about doing this, and what are some of the fundamental tenets of this field?

**Dr. Kleinman:** The medical and academic world was very different when I trained. In the middle of my residency, I was awarded a wonderful fellowship that allowed me to spend part of my time during my residency on research and writing and after my residency ended to go back to the field (Taiwan) for 1 year. This really supported my intellectual life. In the middle of all this, I published four articles and wrote my first book, which ended up defining my career. One article was on the central role of meanings in medicine. The second was an attempt to lay out a model for comparing healthcare systems around the world. The third compared the different forms of medical care around the world, like biomedical care and religious and folk ways of healing. The fourth article was related to the history of public health in China. Then I wrote my first book, *Patient and Healer in the Castles of Calcutta*. It basically says that public health is entirely wrong. If you really want to know what healthcare in society is like, you need to begin with the individuals who are sick. You need to examine the decisions they make, the ideas they have, and the ways in which they choose to navigate the different arenas of healthcare. In one of my empirical studies, I showed that around 75% of illness episodes in China never left the family network. People never went to any doctor or folk healer at all. This was an area even anthropology was not studying. The book took off and defined the entire field of medical anthropology. I had the phenomenon—that is different from most people—of having my greatest audience at the start of my career. Part of that was because there was a wave of interest gathering in this area, and somebody had to define it.

**Dr. Yuwim:** A topic about which you have written extensively is the pathologizing of normal human experience. I was really struck by your quote in your book, *Was Really Matters*:

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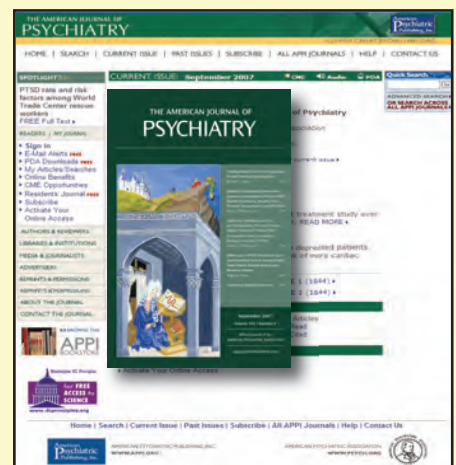
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*Calendar, American Journal of Psychiatry, 1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1825, Arlington, VA 22209-3901, jblair@psych.org (e-mail).*

*Because of space limitations, only listings of meetings of the greatest interest to Journal readers will be included.*

## FEBRUARY 2009

**February 18–22**, Annual Meeting of the American Neuropsychiatric Association (ANPA), San Antonio, TX. Contact: ANPA office; (614) 447-2077 (tel), (614) 263-4366 (fax), [anpa@osu.edu](mailto:anpa@osu.edu) (e-mail), [www.anpaonline.org](http://www.anpaonline.org) (web site).

**February 25–March 1**, American College of Psychiatrists Annual Meeting, Tucson, AZ. Contact: 122 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1360, Chicago, IL 60603; (312) 662-1020 (tel), (312) 662-1025 (fax), [angel@ACPsych.org](mailto:angel@ACPsych.org) (e-mail).

## MARCH

**March 5–8**, 22nd Annual Meeting of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, Honolulu. Contact: AAGP, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Ste. 1050, Bethesda, MD 20814-3004; (301) 654-7850 (tel), (301) 654-4137 (fax), [www.aagpmeeting.org](http://www.aagpmeeting.org) (web site).

**March 27–29**, 3rd International Conference of The International Society of Interpersonal Psychotherapy (ISIPT), New York City, NY. Contact: 2009 ISIPT Planning Committee; [hv2009@columbia.edu](mailto:hv2009@columbia.edu) (e-mail).

## APRIL

**April 22–26**, Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Montreal, Quebec. Contact: Society of Behavioral Medicine, (414) 918-3156 (tel), (414) 276-3349 (fax), [info@sbm.org](mailto:info@sbm.org) (e-mail).

## MAY

**May 14–17**, The 53rd Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry, San Francisco, CA. Contact: Executive Office, Amer-

ican Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry, P. O. Box 30, Bloomfield, CT 06002; (888) 691-8281 (tel), (860) 286-0787 (fax), [info@aapdp.org](mailto:info@aapdp.org) (e-mail), [www.aapdp.org](http://www.aapdp.org) (web site).

**May 15–17**, 5th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders in the Middle East, Limassol, Cyprus. Contact: Conference Secretariat; 1-773-784-8134 (tel), 1-773-782-6747 (tel), 1-208-575-5453 (fax), [meetings@worldeventsforum.com](mailto:meetings@worldeventsforum.com) (e-mail), [www.worldeventsforum.com/alz.htm](http://www.worldeventsforum.com/alz.htm) (web site).

**May 16–21**, 162nd Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, San Francisco, CA. Contact: Cathy Nash, APA Annual Meetings Dept., 1000 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 1825, Arlington, VA 22209; (703) 907-7822.

## JUNE

**June 16–20**, 2nd Thematic Conference on Legal and Forensic Psychiatry, Madrid, Spain. Contact: World Psychiatric Association, Alfredo Calcedo Barba, [forensicpsychiatry2009@gmail.com](mailto:forensicpsychiatry2009@gmail.com).

## AUGUST

**August 27–30**, Canadian Psychiatric Association 59th Annual Meeting, St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. Contact: 260-441 MacLaren Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 2H3, Canada; (800) 267-1555 (tel), (613) 234-9857 (fax), [conferene@cpa-apc.org](mailto:conferene@cpa-apc.org) (e-mail), [www.cpa-apc.org](http://www.cpa-apc.org) (web site).

## OCTOBER

**October 8–11**, 61st Institute on Psychiatric Services, American Psychiatric Association, New York, NY. Contact: Jill Gruber, APA Annual Meetings Dept., 1000

Wilson Blvd., Ste. 1825, Arlington, VA 22209; (703) 907-7815.

**October 27–November 1**, 56th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Honolulu, HI. Contact: AACAP, 3615 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20016-3007; (202) 966-7300 (tel), (202) 966-2891 (fax), [meetings@aacap.org](mailto:meetings@aacap.org) (e-mail), [www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org) (web site).

## MAY 2010

**May 22–27**, 163rd Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, New Orleans, LA. Contact: Cathy Nash, APA Annual Meetings Dept., 1000 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 1825, Arlington, VA 22209; (703) 907-7822.

## OCTOBER

**October 14–17**, 62nd Institute on Psychiatric Services, American Psychiatric Association, Boston, MA. Contact: Jill Gruber, APA Annual Meetings Dept., 1000 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 1825, Arlington, VA 22209; (703) 907-7815.

## OCTOBER

**October 14–17**, 57th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Boston, MA. Contact: AACAP, 3615 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20016-3007; (202) 966-7300 (tel), (202) 966-2891 (fax), [meetings@aacap.org](mailto:meetings@aacap.org) (e-mail), [www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org) (web site).

## MAY 2011

**May 14–19**, 164th Annual Meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, Honolulu, HI. Contact: Cathy Nash, APA Annual Meetings Dept., 1000 Wilson Blvd.,

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## OCTOBER

**October 18–23**, 58th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Toronto, Ontario. Contact: AACAP, 3615 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20016-3007; (202) 966-7300 (tel), (202) 966-2891 (fax), meetings@aacap.org (e-mail), www.aacap.org (web site).

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## Coming in the February 2009 issue\*

### THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY

#### *Correlates of Treatment-Emergent Mania Associated With Antidepressant Treatment in Bipolar Depression*

M.A. Frye, G. Helleman, S.L. McElroy, L.L. Altshuler, D.O. Black, P.E. Keck, Jr.,  
W.A. Nolen, R. Kupka, G.S. Leverich, H. Grunze, J. Mintz, R.M. Post, and T. Suppes

#### *Manic Symptoms During Depressive Episodes in 1,380 Patients With Bipolar Disorder: Findings From the STEP-BD*

J.F. Goldberg, R.H. Perlis, C.L. Bowden, M.E. Thase, D.J. Miklowitz,  
L.B. Marangell, J.R. Calabrese, A.A. Nierenberg, and G.S. Sachs

#### *Older Adults' Attitudes Toward Enrollment of Non-competent Subjects Participating in Alzheimer's Research*

J. Karlawish, J. Rubright, D. Casarett, M. Cary, T. Ten Have, and P. Sankar

#### *Neuropsychological Near Normality and Brain Structure Abnormality in Schizophrenia*

B.E. Wexler, H. Zhu, M.D. Bell, S.S. Nicholls, R.K. Fulbright,  
J.C. Gore, T. Colibazzi, J. Amat, R. Bansal, and B.S. Peterson

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