



Police Psychological Services Section Newsletter

May 2021

Points of Interest:

- Conference Agenda
- Social Event 2021
- Officer Safety and Wellness Symposium
- Diversity Committee: Special Column
- Ethics Committee consultation process



Message from General Chair Lewis Z. Schlosser, PhD, ABPP

Greetings Colleagues,

I feel like it was just yesterday that I was quoting Jon Snow and asking for your support to become the Section's Education Chair. Fast forward a few years, including a life altering global pandemic, and my time as your Chair is more than halfway complete.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has forced us to re-define "normal" and be nimble with regard to how we do our work. While the feedback received regarding the section water cooler meetings was always positive, we decided to sunset these meetings. Personally, I appreciated seeing old friends and making new ones, and staying connected to colleagues. Thank you to everyone who attended, hosted, and contributed to making those meetings a success! We have talked about the possibility of holding future groups, either open-ended or topically focused, but on a less frequent basis (e.g., quarterly). Stay tuned!

As your Chair, I have started two working groups focused on developing resources for the police agencies and individuals we serve. One of the groups is focused on resources related to clinicians who are culturally competent with first responders, and the other is on helping agencies deal with the death of an officer. At our Section business meeting in New Orleans, I will share more about the work of these groups, as well as to formally acknowledge the dedicated section members (and IACP staff) who have contributed their time, expertise, and great ideas. Of note, the IACP Officer Safety and Wellness team is interested in partnering with our section on different projects and having section members lend their subject matter expertise to future IACP endeavors. Stay tuned again!

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members to get more involved in section leadership. If you want to get involved, please reach out to any of our section colleagues who are serving (or those who have served) on the board. They are an outstanding group of dedicated professionals who donate their time, wisdom, and service to the advancement of our profession.

I am looking forward to our annual conference in New Orleans in September. Read on in the newsletter for an update from our current education chair, Dr. Cerise Vablais. While I am enjoying serving as a your chair, I am also excited for the moment when I will "pass the gavel" to my good friend and colleague, Dr. Gina Gallivan. Please know that Gina has been so much more than a Vice Chair - she is a great partner and she is an exceptional leader in our field. I know that the Section will be in very capable hands next year with Gina as our Chair, and it will be my honor to serve as Past Chair and be of service to her and all of you next year.

Stay safe and healthy. Hope to see you in New Orleans!

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Vice Chair Update Gina Gallivan, PhD, ABPP

It was nice seeing so many of you at last year's IACP meeting! Our Education Chair, Dr. Michael Bricker, navigated his way successfully through numerous challenges and produced a great program for many of us to enjoy remotely. We are optimistic to see you in person at the next IACP conference in New Orleans.

One of my responsibilities as Vice Chair is to schedule our section's social hour and dinner. IACP is still working through guidelines for the many events happening during IACP 2021, so we will provide more information as soon as it is available

Another one of my responsibilities as your Vice Chair is overseeing the Ethics Consultation Committee (ECC). The ECC consists of 8 members confirmed by the IACP PPSS board and 2 representatives from the Board of Directors. The ECC serves as an educational resource for PPSS members by providing confidential ethics consultations and presenting at conferences. ECC members are all seasoned psychologists with expertise in all domains of police and public safety psychology. Issues the committee focuses on include dual relationships and confidentiality. To minimize the likelihood of unintentional harm from unethical behavior, the ECC was formed to provide consultation to all IACP members. The mission of the ECC is to promote and advance the highest levels of ethical professional psychological practice to law enforcement agencies through providing ethics consultation, education, and training to IACP PPSS members, law enforcement administrators, and other mental health professionals who work with law enforcement agencies. Please remember this invaluable resource available to all of us. Our ECC leader this year is Dr. Mariya Dvoskina. She is happy to assist you with any questions. Please see page 6 for a message from her.

Reminder for Section Members

The new PEPE Guidelines were approved by IACP and are posted on our section's webpage:

<https://www.theiacp.org/working-group/section/psychological-services-section>

Please update your resources to reflect these new guidelines.

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Membership Chair Update Michael Bricker, PhD

Greetings PPSS Section Members: While it has been a unique and challenging year, it has been heartening to see how engaged section members have remained – whether through strong attendance at the 2020 IACP Virtual Conference, making the transition and continuing our dialogue on IACP Engage, or attending our Water Cooler Meetings aimed at supporting and connecting members during this trying time.

This year has also been an unparalleled level of stress for law enforcement officers, and additionally to officers of color who have felt torn between their multiple identities. At the 2020 current issues session, this issue was highlighted by several chiefs of color who described how their officers have faced hostility and low morale, with officers of color often experiencing an extra layer of stress by feeling forced to choose between their loyalty to public service and personal feelings about racial inequities that exist.

As members of the PPSS, I believe we are uniquely poised to assist police agencies with such challenges. For example, our Diversity Committee has been actively producing resources for IACP that departments can utilize to support officers when interfacing with communities, as well as materials for how to support officers of color. Our togetherness as a Section this year, as well as actions like that of the Diversity Committee remind me again that we are stronger together and are strengthened by the diversity of our input, voices, and membership. But in order to remain relevant to IACP and its member organizations, we must continue to expand our membership to be reflective of new and diverse ideas for accomplishing this goal. Thus, as your Membership Chair, I would like to propose a few specific initiatives for 2021

I would like to put out a call to action for all current Section members to think about peers, employees, contractors, or students/trainees with whom they work, and to identify someone that they would consider assisting and mentoring into membership in the Section. We are eager to invite all competent and developing police and public safety psychologists to our fold. However, given the historical lack of diversity in our field and subspecialty, we would strongly encourage members to consider adopting a mentee who identifies with one or more of the diversity variables IACP recently outlined in the Constitutional Amendment that was passed by the Chiefs:

Section 3: Diversity and Inclusion (of the IACP Constitution, November 2019) The IACP represents a broad and diverse membership and welcomes the full engagement of all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religious and cultural affiliation. The IACP embraces the core foundational value that individual differences bring strength to the organization. Inherent in this recognition is a responsibility for continuous effort and intentionality to promote greater inclusion and diverse perspectives throughout the association's work.

I would like to propose the formation of a “Meet a Member” hour at the upcoming IACP 2021 Conference. This would involve recruiting a number of current members who are willing to attend an hour-long gathering at the conference where new section members, as well as prospective members attending the conference can meet and greet experienced PPSS members in the field. Currently, the structure of this would be similar to that of a speed-meeting format, where new/prospective members would sign-up and then be paired with several section members for 5-10 minute increments. It is hoped that this will allow for new and prospective members to more formally make introductions with several current members to help facilitate comfort and interest in building future connections and familiarity within our Section.

I recognize that some might see these proposals as ambitious, but I believe we must move beyond the status quo in order to continue to grow our section membership and diversity. While this may mean us committing some extra time and energy for a period, these actions can have lasting impact for years to come. If you would be interested in being a part of the upcoming “Meet a Member” hour at this year’s conference, please email me at drbricker@psychologicaldimensions.com.

In addition, if you’d be willing to mentor a prospective student or psychologist in preparing for application for Section membership, please e-mail me and I’d be happy to work with you (and them) to answer any questions about Membership and serve as a resource in any way I can.



Education Chair Update
Cerise M. Vablais, MBA, PhD, ABPP

Greetings all!

The Education Committee is just beginning our main task of getting ready for another great conference this September. We received 66 proposals for the conference and are looking forward to another year of timely and quality training. As some of you may be aware, the state of California recently passed legislation that will require psychologists to assess for explicit and implicit bias in the hiring process. The law goes into effect in January 2022. We hope to have presentations that specifically address this topic as well as other current events at the 2021 Conference.

Thank you to the Education Committee who is hard at work reviewing proposals for this year's conference.

Oliver R. Stone, PhD – Vice-Chair
Medina Baumgart, PsyD, ABPP
Mariya Dvoskina, PsyD
Katherine Kuhlman, PsyD
Colby Mills, PhD
Jon H. Moss, PhD, ABPP
Anastasia (Stacy) Pytal, PsyD
Chad D. Waxman, PsyD

IACP continues to monitor the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19 and will open registration for both the conference and lodging in May 2021.

Information can be found at <https://www.theiacpconference.org/>

Please contact me, cvablais@psspc.net, or Education Committee Vice-Chair Oliver Stone orstone@gmail.com, with any questions. We look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans!



**Immediate Past Chair
Evan Axelrod, PsyD, ABPP**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy. I wanted to start by thanking everyone who attended our virtual conference last year. It was honor to have served the section as your Chair, and I appreciate everyone who attended and made the most out of such a strange time. Hopefully, next year will provide an opportunity for even more of us to take advantage of everything our Section has to offer.

Since the conference, I have been enjoying taking on the role of immediate past Chair. I am incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to continue to serve the Section and support the mission of IACP and my fellow Board members. Serving as immediate past Chair has also given me the opportunity to see some of last years' projects through to completion, including the revision of the preemployment screening guidelines and an international roundtable on how to support law enforcement officers during a pandemic and civil unrest. I am looking forward to continuing to support the Board as we work towards a great conference in New Orleans!

IACP PPSS Ethics Consultation Committee

Mariya Dvoskina, PsyD
Chair, Ethics Consultation Committee

Our IACP PPSS Ethics Consultation Committee is available for consults. We've had a busy year and we love supporting our members! If you are dealing with ethical dilemmas or encountering situations in your practice or agency that you could use help with, please think of us.

Please feel free to submit your inquiries to mariya.dvoskina@gmail.com.

Meet our new IACP PPSS Section Liaison

While we said goodbye to Kim Kohlhepp in 2020, we want to extend a warm welcome to Andrea Watson, who is our IACP Staff Liaison for the Police Psychological Services Section. Please reach out to Andrea at watson@theiacp.org if you're having trouble accessing the section's Engage/IACP online community or have a question regarding IACP.

In addition to the Safety & Wellness Policy Council, Andrea also coordinates efforts for committees and sections in the National Security/Transnational Crime Policy Council.

IACP PPSS Diversity Committee

Oliver Stone, PhD
Chair, Diversity Committee

Established in 2017, the Diversity Committee strives to address matters that bridge policing and multiculturalism through engagement, education, and resource development. The Committee specifically aims to assist the Section and the IACP in general when matters involving diversity, equity, and inclusion are encountered in the support of policing. Members of the Diversity Committee are selected by the Executive Board and generally serve a two-year term.

Here are the current members: Mariya Dvoskina, Psy.D.; Maria Galmarini, Psy.D., ABPP; Stephanie McKenny, Ph.D.; Katherine Kuhlman, Psy.D.; Deborah Ontiveros, Ph.D.; Chris Sbaratta, Ph.D.; and Oliver Stone, Ph.D. (Chair).

The Diversity Committee recently submitted a presentation proposal for the upcoming IACP 2021 Annual Conference. We are currently working on the development of a survey that will help identify needs and knowledge gaps, the creation of brief resources that provide evidence-based recommendations about matters of topical interest (e.g., facilitating conversations about race; how to support officers of color), and will soon contribute to the development of guidelines that will be applicable when providing services to transgender and gender non-conforming officers.

The Diversity Committee welcomes any thoughts or feedback from any section members. Please feel free to contact us directly to continue the conversation.

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