About AAPL

AAPL is an organization of physicians who specialize in psychiatry dedicated to excellence in practice, teaching, and research in forensic psychiatry.

Forensic psychiatry is a medical subspecialty that includes research and clinical practice in the many areas in which psychiatry is applied to legal issues. While some forensic psychiatrists may specialize exclusively in legal issues, almost all psychiatrists may, at some point, have to work within one of the many areas in which the mental health and legal system overlap. AAPL members include both the forensic specialist and the general psychiatrist who seeks information and professional support in those domains in which psychiatry and the law share a common boundary. These include, but are not limited to areas such as violence risk assessment, criminal responsibility, competence, child custody and visitation, psychic injury, mental disability, malpractice, confidentiality, involuntary treatment, correctional psychiatry, juvenile justice, ethics and human rights.

History

Founded in 1969, AAPL currently has over 2,000 members in North America and around the world.

Goals of AAPL

AAPL promotes scientific and educational activities in forensic psychiatry by:

- Facilitating the exchange of ideas and practical clinical experience through publications and regularly scheduled national and regional meetings
- Sponsoring continuing education programs for both forensic and general psychiatrist and other mental health and legal professionals
- Developing ethical guidelines for forensic psychiatry
- Stimulating research in forensic psychiatry and providing a forum for the presentation of the results of such research
- Developing guidelines for education and training in forensic psychiatry for both general psychiatry residents and post-residency fellows
- Providing information to the public through a speaker's bureau and published literature.

Annual Meeting

Each October AAPL holds its annual meeting designed for leaders, educators and practitioners of forensic psychiatry. The annual meeting boasts workshops, panel discussions, debates and symposia on all aspects of forensic psychiatry. The goal of the meeting is to inform attendees about current major issues in the practice, teaching and research in forensic psychiatry and afford them opportunities to refresh skills in the fundamentals of the discipline, engage in discussion with peers on the standards governing the profession, and update their present knowledge.

AAPL’s Expanding Mission

AAPL’s initial mission was primarily related to education of forensic and general psychiatrists, other mental health professionals, and legal professionals. The organization is now considering expanding its educational mission more broadly, to include policymakers (e.g., legislatures, administrative agencies, the judiciary), the media, and the public. In 2018 AAPL became a Member of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations www.thecfso.org

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