Welcome to AADPRT

To better meet the nation’s mental healthcare needs, the mission of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training is to promote excellence in the education and training of future psychiatrists.

The American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT) is the primary organization for psychiatry graduate medical education and program directors in the United States. AADPRT supports quality medical education in psychiatry in the United States and partners with colleagues in other countries. We participate in setting national standards for training and support members in developing their unique programs as well as helping them adhere to regulatory training requirements.

Membership

AADPRT is comprised of over 700 general psychiatry and subspecialty program directors, chairs of departments of psychiatry and other psychiatric educators from nearly 200 institutions. Over 200 program coordinators are affiliated. AADPRT promotes inclusiveness and members are encouraged to take an active role. Over half of our members participate in the leadership, committees and task forces of our organization.

Technology

We have embraced technology in enhancing communication. A vigorous listserv is regularly used by membership who ask pragmatic questions regarding running their training programs and learn about developments relevant to graduate medical education. There also is an active website (aadprt.org) which contains valuable information for members including educational tools and resources such as model training curricula and content from annual meetings.

Journal

AADPRT, along with The American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry, The Association for Academic Psychiatry, and The Association of Directors of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry support the journal Academic Psychiatry.
Collaboration and Advocacy

We partner with a number of organizations including the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). Collaborations have included developing core competencies and milestones with the ACGME and creating a new system of board certification with the ABPN, which now includes clinical skills evaluations while in training.

Annual Meeting

AADPRT’s annual meeting brings together our membership and many others interested in quality psychiatric education. Our annual meeting is an opportunity for a group of individuals with a common mission to come together to share their perspectives, experiences, frustrations, and successes with fellow training directors around the country. It is an opportunity to reflect on best practices, to learn from colleagues, and to consider how best to move the field of psychiatric education forward. The meeting offers a number of learning environments, including plenary speaker presentations; large group meetings with representatives from the ACGME, NRMP, and ABPN; more intimate workshop sessions which utilize techniques based on adult learning theory; poster presentations; caucus and task force meetings, a new training directors’ orientation; a coordinators’ program; and informal social and educational activities.

Over 600 individuals attend the annual meetings. The Program Chair creates a theme, and presentations are oriented toward it. The theme for the 2014 annual meeting was “A Vision for Residency Education: Focusing on Patients, Setting our Sights on Quality.” Prior themes have included “Inspiring Residents to Make a Difference”. Plenary speakers have included Helen Mayberg, MD, ”Paths to Recovery: What Can Neuroimaging Teach Us About Depression and Its Treatment” and Joia S. Mukherjee, MD, Partners in Health, “Addressing the Global Burden of Mental Health: Strategies for the Future.”

There are multiple awards given to residents and fellows in training encouraging them to become involved in psychiatric education. Information regarding past and future meetings can be found at our website.

Support for Coordinators

In keeping with the core values of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training’s mission of excellence in educating and training future psychiatrists, the Psychiatry Residency Coordinators’ Caucus (PRCC) is equally dedicated to the professional growth of its members. PRCC’s mission is to better educate our members in the administration and management of residency training programs and allow for more opportunities in professional growth, which will enhance our ability
to work collaboratively with program directors to strive for excellent quality training in our programs.

**Leadership**

The organization is led by a President who has a term of one year, with guidance from a Steering Committee comprised of past presidents and upcoming officers and from a larger body, the Executive Council, which offer perspectives and provide stability in leadership. Presidents regularly offer commentary to membership:

Christopher Varley, MD (2014-2015)

Our primary responsibility is to train the psychiatrists of tomorrow. Our graduates will become the care providers for those with severe mental illness, will advance our scientific knowledge base, and define our best understanding of the nature and description of mental illness. In order for us to be successful in this task, we must understand each resident as an individual, appreciate and nurture their interests and passions, and provide a training environment which best suits their individual needs. We promote individual self-definition and adherence to a rapidly emerging evidence base so that our graduates provide the best care, reach out to those most in need, recognize the field’s research needs, and define our field. In order to be most effective, we cultivate and nurture the passions of our residents and to inspire them to do their best. In turn, we are at our best when we believe that our work is compelling and that we are making a difference in advancing psychiatric education.

Adrienne Bentman, MD (2013-2014) **New Frameworks for Learning: Models, Meaning, and Milestones.**

In these times of change and transition, we must be mindful of the need to innovate and develop without losing sight of the basic elements at the heart of our work -- ailing patients, caring doctors, dedicated teachers, and the creation of a community of learners. These are the sustaining aspects of our endeavors. The links between the old and the new, foundational ideas and real experience continue to influence and inform us.

Kathy Sanders, MD (2012-2013) **Me, Thee, We**

When welcoming our Class of 2016, I came up with a motto for residency training: Me, Thee, We, a simple description of the transformation from medical student to independent practicing psychiatrist. What is the mystery, the magic, the challenge of going from medical student to independent practitioner who bears a societal mantle to care, to heal, to tender through the adversity of illness? The professionalism of the physician psychiatrist is one of compassion, integrity, respect for others, sensitivity to diverse patient populations and adherence to ethical principles while being accountable
to self, colleagues, and the profession. When I welcome in the new interns, my task is to frame and make sense of what lies ahead for each of them as they traverse this journey. Residency training/education is a four year journey of transformation from the medical student full of ambition and desire for an idealized life of the doctor through engagement in numerous relationships in a variety of settings to emerge as the professional who knows how to lose self-interest for the good of others.

Richard F. Summers. MD (2011-2012) Are We Getting Better?

I have been trying to envision the residency training program of the future. We will have an opportunity to shape this view, although broader forces will surely have a great impact on it. But, if we imagine things as we would like them to be, we will have a roadmap to the future.

I envision a residency training program with strong core value of professionalism and service, structured educational goals with few but quite meaningful assessment procedures, flexible requirements, easy to use learning platforms and information systems, ready availability of decision support systems, less interruption by communication technology, a focus on the needs of our patient populations, seamless transitions from medical school to residency to lifelong learning, and training directors who are freed up by less bureaucracy to spend more reflective time thinking about educational content and the individual developmental trajectories of their residents.

AADPRT – A HOME FOR PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Members have a special fondness for AADPRT. There is a camraderie in our organization as we share the unique and important responsibilities of educating the next generations of psychiatrists. We appreciate the opportunity to orient and welcome new members. For many of us it has not only afforded important professional and collegial relationships, but also many lifelong friendships.