

Executive Director's Report

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Great Decisions

We've had more than our share. I know I have when it comes to the AACAP. This year has brought two notable decisions. I took sabbatical for six months, and for that I thank **Dr. Sarles**, the Executive Committee and Council. Mary Crosby's

"retirement" served as a grand experiment, one which everyone benefited from. I came back refreshed and **Dr. Sarles** helped me make the most of my time away thinking about the AACAP's values and future. In late spring, I made a great decision to select Kristin Kroeger Ptakowski to serve as Deputy Director. She has been outstanding. I take pride in the many comments from leadership about her skill. Kristin's team includes: Nuala Moore, Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Elizabeth Hughes, Assistant Director of Education and Recertification, and Sarah Mechum, Legislative Assistant.

Other decisions produced my fighting Irish team of Earl Magee and Jennifer Medicus, who manage the Assembly, 57 components, 59 regional organizations, the Council, and the Executive Committee. They have such a good time, it's obvious that they're Irish. Though they have fun, they always "make the trains run on time."

Excellence is what the staff strives for. My other stalwart is Heidi Büttner Fordi, our Senior Director of Meetings and Continuing Medical Education. She has served the AACAP well for ten years: negotiating, negotiating and negotiating more to make all of our contracts win/win and to deliver A-Plus meetings.

Heidi's team, AACAP's most seasoned, had three babies this year. Congratulations to Heidi, Anita and Jeanine. Also, welcome to Renee Moran, a great hire. I have to mention this wonderful Annual Meeting, our sixth with our Canadian colleagues and our fourth in Toronto. Meetings each have their own flavor, and last year **Dr. Sarles** chose **Dr. Harmon** to serve as Program Chair, filling the shoes of a giant, **Larry Greenhill, M.D.** Both teamed with **Bennett Leventhal, M.D.** and Heidi Fordi to produce the masterpiece of the Joint Annual Meeting. Additionally this year, Pink Freud performed, thanks to **Eugene Beresin, M.D.** We also achieved record attendance with special thanks to Registrar Eva Brown and Assistant Registrar Nelson Tejada.

I want to recognize two other Directors, who happen to be newly hired: Frances Woodard, Director of Human Resources and Operations, and Min Zhao, Comptroller. Frances, supported by Danielle Jackson, Receptionist and Human Resources Assistant, started her tenure by managing a \$300,000 renovation for us, and Min is a no-nonsense professional who, with our Senior Accountant Jerry Lane and Accounting Assistant Naomi Franklin, is on his way to delivering A-Plus financial records.

Jim Wood, Director of Development and Communications, has also brought rich experience to his department. His team of Brad Cady, Webmaster, Nina Deck, Development Assistant, and Erin Baker, Communication Manager, works well together. I want to especially acknowledge Erin Baker for her work in delivering the message of child and adolescent psychiatry to the members, the press, and the public, and she does it effectively with pizzazz and compassion.

Membership is on the way to becoming stronger thanks to Membership Manager Sha'Dana Jenkins and Membership Coordinator Sherri Willis.

In a 30-person office, working with our members to implement a cohesive vision for mentally healthy children, we are constantly assessing our roles, and supplementing and reshuffling responsibilities. Much to our delight and benefit, Mary Crosby returned, serving as Acting Director of the department of Research, Education and Training. Stacia Hall then became Director in November and works with Research Program Manager Gail Mamatova and Research, Education, and Training Coordinator Camille Jackson. Mary is now our workforce initiative consultant and focuses on AACAP's ten-year priority: increasing the numbers of child and adolescent psychiatrists by 10 percent each year.

Years ago, we made a great decision about publishing our journal with Lippincott Williams and Wilkins. This year, we extended our contract and clearly we are valued. Congratulations to **Mina Dulcan, M.D.** and her predecessors whom I have been privileged to work with beginning with **Eveleen Rexford, M.D., Melvin Lewis, M.D.** and **Jack McDermott, M.D.**

Of all great decisions, our membership's selection of leadership is among the best. I have personally benefited from friends and giants in the field. I began with **Al Solnit, M.D., Sidney Berman, M.D., and Reg Lourie, M.D.** and worked with **Joe Noshpitz, M.D., Irving Berlin, M.D., George Tarjan, M.D., Bob Stubblefield, M.D., E. James Anthony, M.D., Helen Beiser, M.D., Irving Philips, M.D., Jerry Wiener, M.D., John Schowalter, M.D., Dick Cohen, M.D., Bill Ayres, M.D., Larry Stone, M.D., Dave Pruitt, M.D., Clarice Kestenbaum, M.D., Marilyn Benoit, M.D., Dick Sarles, M.D.** and **Tom Anders, M.D.**

The Sarles team has been fantastic: wise, devoted, generous and fun. Thank you for two great years, **Sandra Sexson, M.D., Steve Cuffe, M.D., James MacIntyre, M.D., Tom Anders, M.D.**, and my dear friend, **Dick Sarles, M.D.**, a role model for our members, making them proud of their specialty. He is both clinically astute and endearing and has focused the wisdom and passions of our members on what's important. He has brought us a more functional AACAP where leaders lead and components are able to realize their visions, all while having fun. Thank you, **Dr. Sarles.**

And now we turn in a slightly different direction to the passions, strengths and vision of **Dr. Anders.** Thank you AACAP, for all of your great decisions.