

Interested in Attending a Clinical Consultation Breakfast, Media Theatre, or Special Interest Study Group at the Annual Meeting?



Clinical Consultation Breakfasts, Media Theatre, and Special Interest Study Groups are just three types of programs at the Annual Meeting, but provide attendees with unique experiences that are not typically seen in standard Symposia.

Clinical Consultation Breakfasts are a forum for experts to share clinical wisdom and discuss difficult cases with attendees, including discussions of diagnosis, treatment, or other clinical issues. These are ticketed events and are limited to 15 participants.

Media Theatre programs feature full length motion pictures, commercially released documentaries, videotapes produced by members, music, and other forms of media relevant to child and adolescent psychiatry.

Special Interest Study Groups (SIGs), ticketed events for a maximum of 25 participants, are designed to allow individuals with similar interests to share their clinical or research experience, develop collaborations or networks, or discuss mutual interests. It is a particularly useful forum for emerging or ongoing collaborative groups.

Be sure to look for these unique learning opportunities in the AACAP Annual Meeting Program, which will be released in August 2007.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration Updates Black Box Warning on Antidepressants

AACAP Testifies At Hearing

■ **Kristin Kroeger Ptakowski and Stacia Hall, M.P.P.**

Last December, the United States Food and Drug Administration Psychopharmacologic Drugs Advisory Committee voted 6-2 in favor of updating black box warnings on antidepressants indicating that there is an increased suicide risk for young adults up to age 25. The advisory committee hearing was to discuss new data on the meta-analysis of suicidal thoughts, behaviors, and completed suicides in adults who have participated in placebo-controlled clinical trials of antidepressants.

According to the FDA analysis, there was a correlation between antidepressant medications and suicidality (suicidal behavior and ideation combined) and the patient's age. When suicidal behavior and ideation are considered together, the risk associated with drug treatment relative to placebo is elevated in subjects under age 25, reduced in subjects age 31 to 64, and further reduced in subjects age 65 and older. The Advisory Committee discussed the need for additional research to find the basis for the apparent relationship, as well as the concern that a black box warning could discourage physicians and patients from using all available treatment options. The Advisory Committee encouraged the FDA to provide education to primary care physicians for all patients using these medications and add language to the black box about the importance of treating depression in hopes that the additional warning would not prohibit physicians from treating patients with depression.

All FDA advisory committee meetings are open to the public and hold a period of time for public comments. AACAP reached out to local AACAP members from Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., to give individual oral testimony. Over 65 public witnesses testified. **Christopher Kratochvil, M.D.**, chair of the AACAP Work Group on Research's Pediatric Psychopharmacology Initiative represented the AACAP. **Carolyn Robinowitz, M.D.**, AACAP member and American Psychiatric Association president-elect, also testified. Other presenters included patients, family members and industry representatives. There was dramatic testimony against the use of antidepressants as well as testimony about successful treatment. New data presented by Robert Gibbons, Ph.D., indicated a 22 percent decrease in antidepressant prescriptions and a 49 percent increase in youth suicides after the black box warning on antidepressants for adolescents in the Netherlands.

For a copy of Dr. Kratochvil's testimony, AACAP's written statement, a sample letter to the editor, and AACAP press releases, visit AACAP's Web site at www.aacap.org. ■