



PLTC Psychologists in Long-Term Care

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Editor's Note

by Kyle S. Page, PhD



Welcome to the PLTC News N' Notes! As we continue to grow our membership and expand mediums to encourage a sense of connection between us, we have moved to an electronic format for our newsletter. As always, we welcome any input on this new direction. Please feel free to provide any suggestions or feedback about the News N' Notes. I can be reached at kylescottpage@gmail.com.

From a still cold and snowy Wyoming,

Kyle S. Page, PhD

PLTC Newsletter Editor

President's Column

by Pat Bach, PsyD, RN

[more..](#)

Dear Colleagues ...

I hope this newsletter finds you all well! After an incredibly challenging winter for many members across the country, we're finally able to enjoy spring and are heading into a busy summer season.



PLTC continues to move forward, guided by your input and our strategic plan. In an effort to augment member participation and return on investment, we're also incorporating new approaches to organizational health, as well as educational and experiential opportunities. These include the following:

- PLTC Conversation Hour - an interactive forum featuring PLTC member experts who present and discuss significant focal topics with participants via conference call. Program Committee Chair Dr. Julie Gersch provides more detail regarding these events in her column below. [\[more...\]](#)

Time for a Change: Revising our Standards of Practice

by Pat Bach, PsyD, RN & Rob Gibson, PhD, JD

[more..](#)

In an effort to expand and define our scope and standards of practice related to long-term care, a Standards Revision Task Force was created earlier this year and has been hard at work. While several PLTC members participated in the Conversation Hour focused on this topic, we've asked Task Force Chair, Dr. Rob Gibson to share an update with the entire membership.

Q: The need for psychological services in long-term care seems to be changing. Can you comment on this issue and how PLTC can address it?

A: There is a growing need for the provision of psychological services in Long-Term Care (LTC) settings. Psychologists, in particular, are well suited to the diverse needs of LTC residents across the continuum of LTC settings. This may include services for individuals outside more traditional skilled-nursing or residential care settings, as well as a broad range of ages and disabilities. Ultimately, provision of psychological services in LTC will move from being setting specific to being based on long term care needs.

Q: What foundation is being used to inform and direct the current revision efforts? [\[more...\]](#)

PLTC "Conversation Hour" Calls Off and Running

by Julie Schmitt Gersch, PhD

[more..](#)

Under the keen direction of our PLTC President's Office and the Board of Directors, a new member benefit began in 2015. PLTC now hosts bimonthly Conversation Hours ~ a time for members to call in, learn more about, and discuss in an open format specific topics of focus that are timely and pertinent to our industry.

In early February, we hosted our inaugural PLTC Conversation Hour on the topic of PQRS. Three expert panelists reviewed the history, present status, and future directions in the Physician Quality Reporting System plan to advance quality in health care. After the presenters gave a brief overview of each of these areas, the call was opened up to participants for Q&A about successful implementation. In appreciation for their prep time and generous sharing of expertise, warm thanks goes out to PLTC members and expert panelists Drs. Dori Bischmann, Paula Hartman-Stein, and Amy Rosett. We had a strong turnout of the membership and an overwhelmingly successful first ever PLTC Conversation Hour! [\[more...\]](#)

Medicare Penalties Catch Uninformed Psychologists Off Guard

by Paula E. Hartman-Stein, PhD

[more..](#)

The following article originally appeared in the March-April 2015 issue of the *National Psychologist* and is printed with the permission of the publisher, Mr. Marty Saeman.

Despite repeated announcements and warnings from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) of the financial consequences to providers who do not participate in Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) in 2013, some psychologists are angry, confused and shocked after receiving letters announcing an across-the-board penalty of 1.5 percent in 2015.

During an informal poll conducted during the February meeting of the Cleveland Psychological Association (CPA), about half had received notices of penalties. Thirty percent reported not knowing what PQRS is. Psychologists have been eligible to obtain small bonuses for PQRS participation from 2008 to 2014. Detailed information about how to participate is contained on the government website, CMS.gov.



According to CPA President Nancy Duff-Boehm, Ph.D., "Education from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is buried in a sea of information about labs and flu shots. It is very tempting for me to ignore my messages from CMS because so few pertain to my practice. Professional organizations should be doing a lot more to inform and educate their members." [\[more...\]](#)

PLTC Student Representative Selected for APA Congressional Fellowship

by Kyle S. Page, PhD

[more..](#)

Lindsay Gerolimos, Ph.D., current PLTC Student Representative, has been selected as the 2015-2016 APA Congressional Fellow. Beginning September 2014, she will spend one year working on the staff of a member of Congress or congressional committee, and will be involved in a variety of activities including drafting legislation, conducting oversight work, assisting with congressional hearings and events, and preparing briefs and speeches. She will also participate in a yearlong seminar series on science and public policy issues. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) administers these professional development activities for the APA fellows and for fellows sponsored by over two dozen other professional societies. [\[more...\]](#)

Call for News N' Notes Associate Editors

by Kyle S. Page, PhD

Want to take an active part in PLTC?

PLTC is currently seeking applications for an Associate Editor position to assist in developing our new electronic newsletter format. Associate Editors serve for two years and work directly with the editor in developing the newsletter, soliciting articles and featured content of interest to our membership, and play a direct role in the development of our organization!

Please contact the News N' Notes Editor, Kyle Page, at kylescottpage@gmail.com with questions!

PLTC Annual Business Meeting

by The PLTC Board

Dear Colleagues ...

The 2015 APA Convention will be held August 6-9 in Toronto, Canada.

In light of low projected PLTC member/Board attendance at this meeting, and in an effort to reach as many members as possible, **the annual business meeting will be conducted by conference call during the convention.** Access will be open to all members and accessible from both Canada and the United States.

Date: Friday, August 7, 2015

Time: 12:30 PM EDT / 11:30 AM CDT / 10:30 AM MDT / 9:30 AM PDT

Call in number: will be provided via the PLTC list serv prior to the event.

Plans for a "Breakfast Social" event are currently underway.. stay tuned for further information.

We look forward to your participation in this call and anticipate a very productive meeting ... thanks for your support!

The PLTC Board

LCDs Have Been Updated!

by Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee for SCG and PLTC (Cecilia Poon, Mary Lewis, and Margie Norris) has just completed updates for all the LCDs that psychologists use including Psychology, Testing and Assessment, Health & Behavior, and Incident To Services! These are posted on the **PLTC**, **SCG**, and **GeroCentral** websites. Please make use of them and contact us with any questions you may have about the links and updates!

- Public Policy Committee

Member Announcements

by Kyle S. Page, PhD

Congratulations on the New Arrival!

Congratulations to our Mentorship Committee co-chair, Kelly Gustafson, and her husband Ryan, on the birth of their son Mason Randall, born April 27. Mason joins his big sister, Taylor, who is delighted to have a baby brother. Kelly describes the baby as a "bundle of joy" who sleeps through the night and is an easy traveler. Best wishes to Kelly and her family!

Recent Member Publications:

- Ilem, A. A., Feliciano, L., & LeBlanc, L. A. (2015). Recognition of self-referent stimuli in people with dementia: Names and pictures as prosthetic memory aids. *The Clinical Gerontologist*, 38(2), 157-169.

Members are encouraged to submit any announcement that may be of interest to the membership, including new publications, conference presentations, or

general notes! To have your announcement included in future editions of News N' Notes, please email the editor at kylescottpage@gmail.com.

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