

IASWR

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS ♦ 1993-2008

NEWS AND NOTES FROM WASHINGTON

COMMENTS ON NIMH DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

In November 2007 the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) requested input on its draft strategic plan. IASWR's comments addressed the need for research to study how to meet mental health needs in settings outside of the mental health system, e.g., nursing homes and child welfare agencies, and for intervention studies that specifically address persons who have co-occurring disorders. Further comments addressed research on providers including mental health aides who can play critical roles in treatment. In regard to developing tools to monitor and gauge illness, IASWR recommended that attention be paid to context including ethical issues, determinations of competence, self-care, and individual decision-making. For a copy of IASWR comments contact iaswr@naswdc.org. For information on the NIMH Strategic Plan, visit http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/strategic-planning-reports/index.shtml#priorities_overview.

NEXT STEPS IN EVIDENCE-BASED MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICES AND SOCIAL WORK

The report from the April 2007 symposium hosted by NIMH, *Partnerships to Integrate Evidence-Based Mental Health Practices into Social Work Education and Research*, was prepared by IASWR and includes definitions, models for teaching evidence-based mental health practices resources, and suggestions for the future. Available from IASWR's website or click on <http://charityadvantage.com/iaswr/EvidenceBasedPracticeFinal.pdf>, future actions address partnerships for research, education, and workforce development; doctoral education in social work; enhancement and sustainability of initiatives; and research on social work interventions. As one next step, NIMH and IASWR met with BSW program representatives in October 2007. Presentations are planned at the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Conference (January 17, 2008) and at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD Conference) in Destin, FL on March 7th.

TRANSPORTING RESEARCH TO PRACTICE

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in partnership with IASWR received a grant from the Lowenstein Foundation to address the gap between evidence-based research data and its application to practice. *Transporting Evidence to Social Work Practice: Model Development for Suicide Prevention for Adolescent Girls* will link together research on adolescent suicide with research on translating evidence-based practices into community settings.

IASWR is also working with the New York Academy of Medicine on a project to promote *Excellence in Social Work Coordination Services for Older Persons*. See project briefs on the IASWR website (www.iaswresearch.org).

IASWR is an affiliated organization to the Evidence-Based Behavioral Practice project, a transdisciplinary effort funded by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR). For more information visit <http://www.ebbp.org>.

WHAT'S ON IASWR'S WEBSITE

Visit www.iaswresearch.org or new slides from the October 2007 presentations on "Strategies to Build Research Expertise and Capacity across the Social Work Continuum" and important reports including:



IASWR AND NIAAA PARTNER TO INTRODUCE CLINICIAN'S ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Under a contract from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), IASWR is hosting workshops at the CSWE, SSWR and BPD conferences. Presented by Peter Delany formerly of NIAAA (now SAMHSA) and Catholic University professor Joseph Shields, on sabbatical with NIAAA, the focus is on how the NIAAA Clinician's Guide can be integrated into classroom and field education and can serve as a tool for translating evidence into practice. Feedback from these sessions is intended to inform revisions to the NIAAA Guide.

IOM CANCER REPORT HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE

In October 2007 the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report that can guide the agenda for future social work research and result in greater visibility for social work interventions across the cancer control continuum. The report, *Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: Meeting Psychosocial Needs* recommends that a specific standard be developed for psychosocial care, that health care providers ensure patients receive psychosocial care; that

cancer care include patient and family education related to psychosocial needs; that resources be available to support dissemination and uptake, and that health plans fully support the evidence-based interventions necessary to deliver effective psychosocial health services. The report recognizes the evidence-base for care coordination and case management services and cites cancer research by social workers Zabora and Ell. The report is available at

<http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3809/34252/47228.aspx>.

GSA CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS MOVE SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH AGENDA FORWARD

The 2007 Gerontological Society of America (GSA) annual scientific meeting included several presentations that move research agendas developed through IASWR-hosted symposia forward.

Furthering the *Evaluating Social Work Services in Nursing Homes: Toward Quality Psychosocial Care and its Measurement* agenda, Kelsey Simons, Mercedes Bern-Klug and Robin Bonifas presented findings from their national and state-wide studies.

IASWR’s executive director, Joan Levy Zlotnik, served as the discussant. Bonifas identified links between nursing home survey deficiencies and organizational attributes of the facility; Simons examined the link between nursing home social worker characteristics and intent to leave, and Bern-Klug examined the disconnect between the federal regulations related to social work caseloads and the caseloads that the social service provider respondents perceived to be reasonable. The studies found that about 50% of nursing home social service providers have social work degrees and that about 30% are BSWs who are often isolated from professional support and mentoring.

At a symposium entitled “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Midlife and Older Adults Negotiate Transitions,” social workers David Jenkins, Harriet Cohen, and Tarynn Witten presented on coming out to grandchildren, older lesbian and gay adults entering long-term care, and late life transition-transgender emergence in later years. Karen Fredrikson-Goldsen served as the session’s discussant. Promoting LGBT research by social workers and research related to life-stage transitions were key recommendations emerging from an IASWR hosted 2005 symposium, *Enhancing the Health and Well-Being of LGBT Individuals, Families, and Communities: Building a Social work Research Agenda*.

The research by Simons, Bern-Klug, Bonifas, Jenkins and Cohen are all partially supported through the John A. Hartford Foundation’s social work initiative, underscoring the importance of the Foundation’s investments in social work research in understudied areas of gerontological practice.

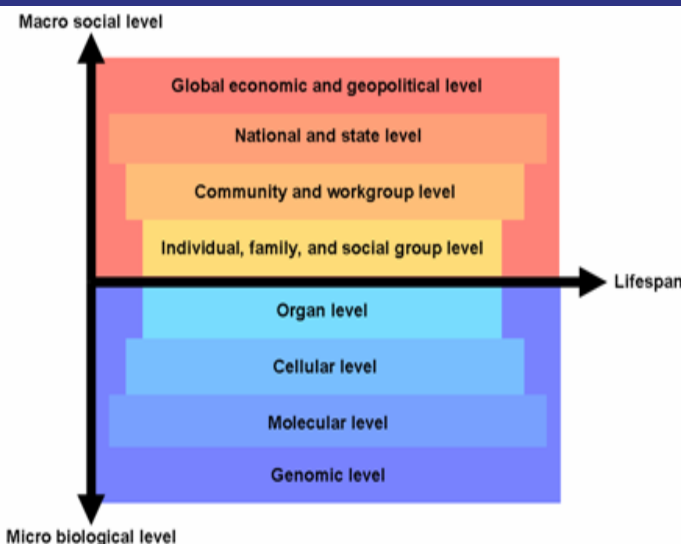
IF YOU HAVE NIH FUNDING -- TELL IASWR

There is no national source of information on social workers who receive research funding. IASWR has worked for several years to create a database of NIH funded social work researchers. We know it is not yet complete. If you have received funding, visit the IASWR website and click on the NIH directory on the right sidebar – If you are not included or we do not have information on your most recent grants, please contact Vitali Chamov, vchamov@cswe.org

ABRAMS’ PRESENTATION BROADENS SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES PERSPECTIVE

Addressing several key priorities including transdisciplinary science and the value of systems thinking for population impact, David Abrams, director of the NIH’s, OBSSR, highlighted the increased visibility of the behavioral and social sciences at NIH at the Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Social Sciences Associations (COSSA) in early December. Abrams stressed the need for strong behavioral science integration into the gene by environment research and provided an excellent conceptualization (see below) of the health continuum from genes to global politics and policies. To view his presentation visit: <http://www.cossa.org/annualmtg/COSSA.Abrams.12.07.pdf>

Health as a continuum between biological, behavioral and social factors across the lifespan and across generations
Adapted from Glass, McAtee (2006). *Soc. Sci. Medicine*, 62: 1650-1671



OBSSR is providing copies of its 2007 strategic plan - *The Contributions of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research to Improving the Health of the Nation: A Prospectus for the Future* to all deans of schools of social work, public health and medicine. It can serve as a guide for research development, especially across disciplinary boundaries.

NIH PEER REVIEW NEWS

IASWR attended several meetings and provided official input in response to NIH’s information gathering on the peer review process. Among IASWR’s concerns was the extent to which reviewers must be funded and experienced NIH researchers, which limits the pool of social workers who can serve on review committees. Several organizations raised issues about the difficulties of reviewing emerging areas of research, i.e., community-based participatory research, if the current reviewers are less familiar or comfortable with the modality. For more information visit: <http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/>.

SERVICES AND IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH AGENDAS HIGHLIGHTED

In September 2007 NIH hosted a trans-institute symposium, *Building the Science of Dissemination and Implementation Research* that included many social work attendees and several

social work presenters including Charles Glisson of the University of Tennessee. For more information visit:
<http://obsr.od.nih.gov/di2007/index.htm>.

IASWR PRECONFERENCE AT SSWR DRAWS BROAD FEDERAL PARTICIPATION

The 2008 Washington, DC location provided an opportunity for IASWR to invite broad participation from federal agencies to the IASWR Preconference Institute on Thursday January 17, 2008. Agencies participating include the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ), Bureau of Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Science Foundation, and numerous institutes of the National Institutes of Health including NIMH, NIDA, NIAAA, NICHD, NIA, NCI and OBSSR. The Justice Research and Statistics Association, American Cancer Society, American Psychological Association, and Gerontological Society of America will also be participating.



SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH FEATURED IN REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE

IASWR works closely with NASW and our sister social work organizations on the Social Work Reinvestment Initiative (SWRI), a multi-year, multi-level effort to secure federal and state investments for recruitment, training, retention, and research that strengthens the profession and the communities it serves. Beyond legislation already introduced, i.e., the National Center for Social Work Research Act (S. 106) and the Social Worker Safety Act (H.R. 2165), 2008 will also see the introduction of new legislation to meet the SWRI goals as well as the creation of an investment plan in each state. For more information about SWRI, visit <http://socialworkreinvestment.org>.

IASWR INVITES FEEDBACK ON LISTSERV

Since 2001, when IASWR last conducted a survey of our Listserv subscribers several changes have occurred and subscribership has increased to almost 3000. While anecdotal feedback has been quite positive, IASWR will be inviting feedback through an online survey within the next month. Watch for this and please respond.

To Subscribe to the IASWR Listserv:
 Send email to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.SC.EDU
 Leave subject line blank and type in message area:
**Subscribe IASWRLST then type
 your firstname and lastname**

IASWR NEWS

Barbara E. Solt, IASWR's senior program associate and LISTSERV ANNOUNCEMENTS EDITOR has announced her retirement, effective mid-March after eight years on staff. Please join us in wishing her fun in her next life stage.

2008 IASWR SUMMER WORKSHOPS PLANNED

JUNE 9-10, 2008

How to Use and Conduct Qualitative Research in Mixed-Method Research

JULY 7-8

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis

AUGUST 1-2

**Qualitative Data Analysis:
 It's Not Just Anything Goes!**

To register for one or more of these two-day intensive workshops visit www.iaswresearch.org.
 Space is first come first served. Fee is \$450 per workshop.

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IASWR SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

- Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD)
- Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
- Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education (GADE)
- National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (NADD)
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

IASWR Thanks 2007-2008 (as of January 7, 2008)

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Visit IASWR's website to join your colleagues by making a tax deductible contribution to support IASWR's work.

ABOUT IASWR

IASWR is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization based in Washington, DC, founded in 1993. IASWR's mission is to enhance the knowledge development of the social work profession by developing research capacity, enhancing the translation of research to practice and policy, and representing the interests of the profession in the national scientific community.

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