

# Reflections on the History of AADPRT

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I want to thank Sheldon Benjamin, Chris Varley, Lucille Meinsler, and Miriam Rosenblum for all they did in inviting and arranging for former presidents to attend this meeting. It is a great honor for me to be asked to say a few words before this august body. I have nothing but the greatest fondness for the AADPRT. In its forty years I have missed only six meetings. Let me speak about the formative years of the organization.

I will start with the Institute of Living in Hartford, Connecticut. Bill Zeller was the training director and he was assisted and then succeeded by Charley Boren and in more recent times by Peter Zemen and David Goldberg. It was through the generosity of the Institute that our headquarters were in Hartford and we had the good fortune of being supported and subsidized by them with the endorsement of their medical directors: Francis Braceland, John Donnelly and William Webb. The outstanding line staff person who did the work was Ruth Black and in recent times Lucille Meinsler.

From the beginning the meetings were held annually in January at the Royal Sonesta Hotel on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter in New Orleans until the organization outgrew the size of the hotel. The entertainment on the street was nothing like anything else in the USA. If you wanted a night's rest for the 3 1/2 day meeting you learned to ask for a room facing the courtyard, not the street. Otherwise the street noise would keep you awake.

The plenary sessions were always well attended. For one, Jim Eaton, the Head of the Education Branch of the NIMH along with Mel Haas were there to advise training directors about applying for training grants. The feds were very generous in this era. Mel Sabshin, the medical director would attend the meetings and advise what was happening at the APA. In succeeding years the directors of medical education, Carolyn Robinowitz, Jay Scully and Debby Hales would represent the APA. Lester Rudy, Executive Secretary of the Board would give an update on the ABPN. In the 70's, the unilateral decision by the ABPN to eliminate the internship, the PGYI year, was the subject of much criticism till it was restored in 1976. The matching program for entry into residencies was getting off the ground and a representative from the Match would advise about the rules, regulations and procedures of the Match. Paul O'Connor would give the latest information regarding the RRC. Gene Usdin, a practitioner on the LSU faculty would come and

present a proclamation from the mayor of New Orleans honoring the president of the AADPRT.

One of the hot issues of the early years was the violation of the Match whereby some programs could not resist telling candidates in advance that they would be ranked number 1 and would try to extract a promise from the candidates that they would rank their program number 1. Some were so brazen that seven candidates would be told they would be number one for the six positions that were available. Sy Halleck, training director at North Carolina, would press the training directors to be honest and urged us to follow the rules and the organization would try to exert pressure on those allegedly in violation.

Another topic of ongoing concern was the recruitment of American medical students into psychiatry. Sid Weissman, the training director at Michael Reese Hospital, who moved on to Loyola before coming to Northwestern to be training director became our greatest source for accurate information regarding recruitment. He would access the databases of the APA and AMA and shed light on this nagging issue for us. As a faculty member at Northwestern I have had the privilege of having Sid as my boss as well as serving his predecessor, Ron Krasner, and now his successor, Joan Anzia.

The size of the AADPRT meetings has grown considerably since its formative days. For one the attendees in the 70's and 80's were principally training directors of general psychiatry programs. Only the largest of programs, like UCLA had associate training directors. Though Gordon Strauss would come with Joel Yager and Mina Dulcan would come with Peter Henderson, they were exceptions to the rule. The only recognized subspecialty was child psychiatry and child training directors tended to go to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry meetings rather than AADPRT unless they had double duty being both general and child psychiatry training directors at the same time. Hats off to people like Peter Henderson and Kailie Shaw who did both. Very few programs had residency co-coordinators and hence there were none at the annual meeting. I am so pleased to see that the organization continues to honor the memory of three of its past presidents who died prematurely: Peter Henderson, Harvey Schein and George Ginsberg.

The greatest joy for me over the years has been the social and professional networking with some of the finest psychiatry educators in America. I was always grateful to my colleagues for their wisdom and guidance which was especially important coming from the Sonora desert in Tucson to these meetings during the fourteen years that I was the training director at the University of Arizona. Without the warm welcome and interaction I would have felt very isolated professionally. Instead I was much enriched. I also want to thank all of you who so warmly greeted me and treated me royally during the twenty and one half years that I was the

executive officer of the American Arizona Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. I regret that I missed the one meeting In Seattle due to the earthquake.

I am so pleased to witness the growth and development of the AADPRT and on behalf of my fellow former Presidents I wish to toast you and pray for your continued success. Keep up the fine tradition!