President's Message
By Glenn Martin, M.D.

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The New York State Psychiatric Association held its annual Fall Council Meeting on Saturday, October 23, 2010, at the LaGuardia Marriott Hotel in East Elmhurst, New York. Glenn Martin, M.D., NYSAPA President, called the meeting to order and welcomed guests Bruce Henscheid, M.D., Assembler Sport and Sam Mazaufsky, APA Director of Healthcare Systems and Financing. After introductions, members of the Legislative Committee, Budget Committee, and Council on Psychiatric Education presented financial statements for January-February 2011, which was approved by the NYSAPA Executive Director, Richard Altesman, M.D. presented the minutes from the meeting in February 2011, which was approved. Jeffrey Boorenstein, M.D., NYSAPA President, presented financial statements for January-September 2010 with a comparison for the same period in 2009 and 2008. Dr. Boorenstein stated that the organization is awaiting additional dues revenue in the coming months, which will result in increased income on the 2011 financial statement. Assuming membership patterns stay the same, the Executive Committee is considering a potential dues increase for fiscal year 2012 to offset anticipated decreases in revenue.

President's Report
Dr. Martin provided an update on the use and regulation of electronic health records. There have been some suggestions that the APA endorse an EHR vendor; however, the APA has not uniformly supported. Dr. Martin reminded the Council about Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs that began in 2011. By 2014, providers who are not using EHR systems will be penalized 1-2% of their fee schedule. The privacy advisory committee of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information recently issued formal recommendations regarding EHR systems, which are available online. Dr. Martin announced that New York State recently awarded $120 million to various health care organizations in the state to promote the use of EHR systems, improve information exchanges, particularly with regard to treatment for psychiatric conditions. Dr. Martin reported that the leadership of the Assembly is working on a Predator Civil ConfineMENT that would replace the “Applebaum” report. A revised copy of the policy has been circulated and he asked Council members to review it in anticipation of discussion at the Assembly meeting in November.

Dr. Martin also reported that while 400 psychiatrists are currently members of MSSN, 200 of them are also NYSAPA members. NYSAPA plans to reach out to those 200 individuals to see why they are not NYSAPA members with hopes of improving relationships and gaining more members. Finally, Dr. Martin provided an update on the Medicaid pharmacy benefit that would move the chronically ill population with HIV/AIDS, serious mental illness and substance abuse conditions to a Medicaid pharmacy benefit that would reduce costs and protect patients. At the Westchester brunch, Dr. Perlm an discussed local issues including the planned closure of all county-run mental health clinics and the need to move children out of emergency rooms as soon as possible to protect them from viewing traumatic events.

The New York City event was moderated by Jack Hirschowit, M.D., Legislative Representative for the New York County District Branch. Dr. Hirschowitz welcomed those in attendance and introduced Carol Bernstein, M.D., APA President, Seth Srin, Esq., NYSAPA Executive Director, Barry Perlman, M.D., NYSAPA President, and several others.

Budget Committee
Aaron Satloff, M.D., Chair of the Council on Psychiatric Education, presented the 2011 NYSAPA budget, which was approved by the Council.

NYSAPA Distinguished Service Awards
The Council presented three NYSAPA Distinguished Service Awards to three outstanding NYSAPA members. The first went to Robert Young, M.D., for his remarkable work on behalf of the Geneseo Valley District Branch and the second was awarded to Barry Perlman, M.D. for his tireless work on behalf of NYSAPA and the Committee on Mediation.

[See Council Meeting on page 4]
Area II Trustee's Report: Typical or Troubled  

By James Niningier, M.D.

With the recent tragic shootings in Tucson, attention has again turned to violence, the mental illness and societal issues in our treatment system. Though most mentally ill individuals are not violent, the attack on the Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and the indiscriminate murder of six people and the attack on the Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and the indiscriminate murder of six people and the stained glass of the图书inology of the American Psychiatric Association (NYSAPA) has highlighted the importance of the issue.

NYSAPA recognizes that psychological and emotional trauma in our society is a significant issue that needs to be addressed. NYSAPA is working towards creating a comprehensive plan to address this issue.

Psychiatry that of an estimated 6.4 million people ranging in age from 13 to 18, or about one in five with anxiety, eating disorders, and substance abuse disorders received treatment. Those with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and behavioral disorders were more likely to be murdered.

The transition from high school to college is a crucial period for all teenagers. For students dealing with pre-existing or newly emerging mental health problems, it can be a difficult and dangerous time. The American Psychiatric Foundation and the Foundation for Mental Health, in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, have launched a campaign to encourage them to speak up in the treatment system. Though some states have made progress in building the treatment system, many states lack the resources and support needed to address this issue.

Assembly Update  

By Rachel A. Fernbach, Esq.

The New York State Delegation, which includes the Medical Malpractice Representatives from all the states, attended the Fall meeting of the APA Assembly on November 19-21, 2010, in Washington, D.C.

Action Papers

The Assembly passed two action papers that may be of interest to members. The first is a paper presented by members from New York State entitled "Psychiatric Malpractice: A Case Study" and the second is an article by the American Psychiatric Foundation, the philanthropic and educational arm of NYSAPA. The report highlighted the ongoing activities of NYSAPA. We also provide information about the Red Flags Rule as well as spot suicide victims and engage families to foster the awareness and understanding of mental health.
integrated care that patients with serious and persistent mental illness require. Instead of handing over patients with SPMI to generic for-profit managed care, New York should turn to the existing network of clinics, outpatient departments and private practitioners who can carve out patients with SPMI to ensure that their health care is well managed to achieve reductions in symptoms, improvement in functioning and improved overall health with a concomitant reduction in costs for ERs and inpatient stays.

Using Reimbursement Methodology To Incentivize Clinic Treatment of Patients With SPMI

NYSPA recommended the targeting of the available dollars to enhance and incentivize outpatient treatment of patients with SPMI. These enhancements would be paid for by lowering payments for patients who did not have SPMI and thus, were budget neutral. NYSPA recommended that will enhance payments from the Medicare program while reducing the Medicaid cost sharing burden. NYSPA asserted that Medicare maximization should be a basic principle of Medicaid reimbursement reform – not just an afterthought.

Exemption of Psychotropic Medication From Prior Authorization Requirements

NYSPA recommended the exemption of certain psychotropic medications (primarily second generation atypical antipsychotic medications) used to treat schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses from the Medicaid prior authorization program.

NYSPA Protests Negative Ad in “Don’t Be Silent” Campaign

In October, 2010, NYSPA signed on to a joint letter to Richard Daines, M.D., the former NYS Commissioner of Health, protesting a print advertisement developed as part of DOH’s “Don’t Be Silent” anti-smoking campaign. The advertisement depicted a physician with his hands in handcuffs behind his back. The letter, prepared by MSSNY and signed on to by numerous other medical specialty organizations in New York State, requested that DOH immediately withdraw the advertisement from publications and other media because its depiction of physicians as criminals is wholly unacceptable. The letter stated: “Although we strongly assert that smoking cigarettes is an unhealthy practice and a poor individual choice, cigarettes are a legal product and cigarette-smoking is not a crime. To suggest the criminalization of the practice of medicine – based upon the content of the discussions about smoking that occur within the doctor-patient relationship – is simply wrong.” Following the submission of the letter, representatives from MSSNY, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Academy of Family Physicians met with Commissioner Daines and members of his staff. MSSNY was subsequently informed that DOH would not be running the advertisement and would substitute it with an ad that discusses the importance of physicians reaching out to patients about quitting smoking.

In an email message to all the signatories on the letter, MSSNY noted that the message to DOH from organized medicine on this issue was strong, loud and clear. MSSNY thanked each organization for creating a united front against an advertisement that was offensive to all physicians.

Classifieds

Rye Brook. Furnished offices in premier building-24/7 access. Excellent location and parking. Close to major highways. Large waiting room, magazines, water, cleaning service. Possible referrals. Dr. Adler 914 253-4927

Assembly Update continued from page 2

entitled “Conflicts of Interest – Principles and Guidelines,” which was drafted by a subcommittee of the Assembly Executive Committee. The new guidance document will serve as the organization’s official public policy statement and member guideline regarding potential conflicts of interest. The APA has worked for some time to develop a workable set of guidelines addressing this issue and the final result was considered to be a great success. All Assembly action papers may be accessed via the Association Governance link on the APA website (www.psych.org).

New ABPN Rules on Maintenance of Certification

The new American Board of Psychiatry

[See Assembly Update on page 6]

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Legislation. Finally, Deborah Cross, M.D., Glenn Martin, M.D., Panagiotis Roussos, M.D., Ph.D., Aaron Satoff, M.D., and Russell Denea, M.D., received an award for her many years of dedicated service to the APA and Area II. All three awardees thanked the Council for the recognition and honor. NYS-PAC Report Seth Stein, NYSVP Executive Director, presented the NYSVP-PAC financial statement for January–October, 2010, comparisons for the same period time for 2009 and 2008, and the list of contributions so far this year. Ms. Stein reported that there has been a downward trend in the amount of contributions over the past three years, at a greater rate than the downward trend in the number of members. She stated that the next PAC solicitation mailing will be going out in January and encouraged all present to contribute if they had not already done so.


Legislative Report Richard Gallo, NYSVP Government Relations Advocate, reported on the recent issuance by the NYS Insurance Department for the NYS Legislative Building Number 1 to Circular Letter No. 20, which discusses the impact of the federal parity law and mental health parity in the State of New York. NYSVP is very pleased that the Insurance Department has taken such a proactive stance regarding implementation of federal parity. Mr. Gallo also shared some highlights of the 2010-2011 enacted budget and provided an update on bills of interest that were either signed by or vetoed by Governor Paterson. Finally, Mr. Gallo discussed additional pending bills that are of interest to NYSVP.

Recent Paper Content Dr. Martin announced the winners of the third annual NYSVP-PAC Resident Paper Contest (see page 6 for list of winners and their paper topics). First place winner Panagiotis Roussos, M.D., Ph.D., a resident at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, presented his paper to the Council.

Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Stein reported that the NYS Insurance Department has issued a final version of its circular letter regarding the use of E/M codes by psychiatrists. A noteworthy change from the draft version is that the circular letter will take effect retroactively and that providers will not need to reread claims to carriers.

Ms. Stein provided an update on the Medicare RUC committee and its 5-year review of CPT codes. She expects that the committee may undertake a thorough review of CPT codes for psychiatry, which may increase coding options for use by members. Use of E/M codes by psychiatrists is expected to result in greater reimbursement from Medicare and third party payers.

Ms. Stein also discussed the new OHP Part 599 regulations, which do not allow for maximum use of E/M codes. This is a significant problem because it deprives clinics as well as the NYS Medicaid Program from receiving maximum reimbursement for services provided.

Assembly Update

Assembly Speaker Bruce Hershfield, M.D., was pleased to report that there are no planned cuts to the Assembly budget for 2011. He announced a new Assembly blog, which can be accessed at www.assemblywork.com. Dr. Hershfield reported that there are 30 action papers for review by the Assembly at its November meeting, there will be no formal seating for Deputy Representatives who will instead be seated as guests. Finally, Dr. Hershfield recognized Ann Sullivan, M.D., Speaker-Elect, and he stated that she has been wonderful to work with.

Assembly Reference Committees

As Chair of the APA Procedures Committee, Dr. Mott reported that the Committee has been discussing possible changes in the functioning of the Assembly Reference Committees that would improve their efficiency and effectiveness. A possible model are the MSSNY Reference Committees, which meet for a longer period of time and produce written reports of their work. NYSVP Ad Hoc Planning Committee In response to recommendations to Area II representation in the Assembly, Dr. Martin created an Ad Hoc Planning Committee to discuss possible reorganization of the NYSVP governing body, with C. Deborah Cross, M.D., NYSVP Immediate Past President, as Chair. Dr. Cross presented a report of the Committee, which recommended a variety of proposals, including increasing representation in the NYSVP Council from different areas of the state and the use of video conferencing as a way to improve communication among the district branches.

Area II Trustee’s Report

Area II Trustee James Nininger, M.D., reported on the recent corporate reorganization of the APA. The American Psychiatric Foundation has been merged into a newly formed entity while APA and APPI have been merged into the APA. These changes were made in an attempt to reduce costs and increase efficiencies. Dr. Nininger also reported that the Healthy Minds television program, hosted by Jeff Berenson, M.D., is now available to over 60% of U.S. television households. Finally, Dr. Nininger provided an update on practice guidelines. The Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Patients with Major Depressive Disorder has been published by PsychiatryOnline.com and as a supplement to the October American Journal of Psychiatry.

New Business

Richard Altsman, M.D., proposed that NYSVP send a letter to the APA regarding the fact that the American Professional Agency, Inc., the new APA-endorsed malpractice carrier, is not approved to do business in New York State, which may have a negative impact on members. The Council voted to send such a letter. The meeting was concluded with re-port from the following NYSVP committees: Public Affairs, Public Psychiatry, Children and Adolescents, Eco-nomic Affairs, Early Career Psychiatrists, Members-In-Training and Presidents and President-Elect.

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Silvia Halliger, M.D., President of the New York County District Branch, thanked PRMS for providing today’s breakfast and encouraged everyone to visit the District Branch’s new website, located at www.nycpsych.org. Next, Dr. Bernstein addressed the group, thank- ing all participants for their work in advocating for psychiatry and encour- aging experienced members to take MPTs and early career psychiatrists under their wing to promote mentorship and growth in the organization.

The following legislators attended the New York City breakfast: New York State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (D-Queens), New York State Assembly Members Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan) and James Brennan (D-Brooklyn); and New York City Council Member Mathieu Eugene. David Aglialoro, a staff member from the office of Assembly Member Catherine Nolan (D-Queens) and Joseph Goldblum, a staff member from the office of New York City Council Member Leroy Comrie, also attended the event.

Assemblyman Richard Gottfried was the first legislator to address the group. He discussed state budget issues and noted that he expects the incoming Governor’s budget to include significant cuts to Medicaid reimbursement rates. Assemblyman Gottfried stated that he supports the addition of antipsychotics to the Medicaid preferred drug list as well as final decision-making power for physicians. He then provided an update on an anti-torture bill that he introduced which prohibits licensed health care professionals from participating in torture or interrogation. The bill was recently revised to respond to input from several advocacy groups and he hopes that NYSVP will join in supporting the bill. Assemblyman Gottfried concluded his remarks by noting that he supports health care reform and a single payer system.

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky discussed the very difficult budget situation but cautioned that mental health needs and concern for the well-being of our citizens must remain a pri-ority. As Chair of the Committee on Veterans, he is very aware of the unique mental health issues facing veterans and service members. Council Member Eugene concluded his remarks by stat- ing that he supports NYSVP’s legislative agenda and encouraged members to contact his office at any time.

The final legislator to speak was Assemblyman James Brennan, who dis- cussed the sexually violent predator civil confinement program and the out-patient model currently in use in the State of Texas as well as the potential consolidation of the “O” agencies, which she does not expect to come to fruition. Finally, she commended Richard Gallo, NYSVP Government Relations Advocate, for his fine work on behalf of NYSVP.

The next speaker was New York City Council Member Mathieu Eugene, who is a physician as well as a legislator. He acknowledged the very difficult budget situation but cautioned that mental health needs and concern for the well-being of our citizens must remain a priority. As Chair of the Committee on Veterans, he is very aware of the unique mental health issues facing veterans and service members. Council Member Eugene concluded his remarks by stat- ing that he supports NYSVP’s legislative agenda and encouraged members to contact his office at any time.

The final legislator to speak was Assemblyman James Brennan, who dis- cussed the sexually violent predator consolidation of the “O” agencies, but does support an outpatient treatment model for sexually violent predators, which he believes would save the State of New York millions. Finally, Assemblyman Brennan stated that he support the expansion of Timothy’s Law and answered questions on the federal parity law and Medicaid man- aged care.

The New York City event was concluded with remarks from staff members from the offices of Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan and City Council

Glen Martin, M.D. and C. Deborah Cross, M.D.
 Albany Report continued from page 1

the other hand, a broad coalition of consumers and provider organizations, including NYSAPA, has vehemently opposed the idea. Instead, NYSAPA and others are urging that not for profit regional behavioral health plans be established utilizing a health home model that would manage the mental and physical health services, including primary and specialty care, for this population, maximizing the flow of funds for patient care and minimizing out-of-pocket expenses.

If the Medicaid Redesign Team cannot reach the targeted savings, Governor Cuomo has included language in the budget proposal that would give him the authority to implement the reductions -- an authority that the Legislature is not likely to give up without a fight. Nevertheless, the Legislature may be a rock and a hard place if the Governor includes such language in an emergency extender bill thereby forcing the Legislature to relinquish its author-

liability protections for psychiatrists and other physicians were in jeopardy when the hospital or institution they work for (either part-time or full-time) becomes insolvent and a claim is filed subsequent to its closure. Nevertheless, NYSAPA will pursue legislation in New York that would require hospitals to include physician liability coverage in the event the institution becomes insolvent or bankrupt.

Legislation

The year ahead for physicians and the practice of medicine will be historic as New York implements the Affordable Care Act, confronts a massive budget deficit, and grapples with critical issues at a time when Governor Cuomo has indicated the State is at a pivotal crossroads that calls for a complete retaliation. As of Wednesday, February 9, 2011, more than 8,000 bills have been introduced. To date, there are over two dozen bills to expand the scope of practice of allied health care professionals, which run the gamut from repealing the requirement for nurse practitioners to practice pursuant to a collaborative agreement with a physician to demanding that full-thickness plastic surgery. In addition, to accomplish Governor Cuomo’s health care goals including redesigning Medicaid, some measure of tort reform in New York State is essential. Nevertheless, there are at least half a dozen bills that would alter or repeal the modest gains that physicians and hospitals have been able to eek out of the Legislature over many years. Proactively, MSSNY continues to promote major tort reform legislation and NYSAPA remains committed to assisting MSSNY in this fight.

For further information on any of the matters discussed in this article, please contact Richard Gallo at (518) 445-3545 or richardgallo@galloassociates.org. A list of bills that are currently being monitored by NYSAPA can be viewed at the NYSAPA website at www.nyspsych.org.

Psychiatrists are urged to contribute to the New York State Psychiatric Political Action Committee to enhance NYSAPA’s ability to meet the challenges that lie ahead in our profession. To make a contribution, please send a check payable to the “NYS-PAC” to the New York State Psychiatric Political Action Committee, Inc., 400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 202, Garden City, New York 11530.

By Paul Feigelson

NYS Council Member Mathieu Eugene took the podium next and stated that when making budgetary and other fiscal decisions, legislators must be mindful of the impact those decisions will have on public goods and services. He addressed the planned closure of county-run mental health centers through-

Figure 2

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Member Leroy Comrie Westchester Brunch

The Westchester brunch, which took place the following week, was moderat-
ed by Susan Stabinsky, M.D., Legislative Representative for the Psychiatric Society of Westchester.

Dr. Stabinsky, a psychiatrist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Montrose, spoke about the mental health needs of returning veterans, which are different today than ever before.

Complicating fac-
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Figure 1

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Susan Stabinsky, M.D. and Senator Suhi Oppenheimener

The Westchester brunch, which took place the following week, was moderated by Susan Stabinsky, M.D., Legislative Representative for the Psychiatric Society of Westchester. Dr. Stabinsky, a psychiatrist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Montrose, spoke about the mental health needs of returning veterans, which are different today than ever before.

Complicating factors include the younger age of the veterans, difficulties with securing jobs and education due to the current economy and increased problems with addiction.

Dr. Stabinsky then welcomed Representative Congresswoman Nita Lowey, New York State Senator Sue Oppenheimener

(D-Westchester); New York State Assembly Members Robert Castelli (D-White Plains) and Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale), and Westchester County Legislators William Burton, Kenneth Jenkins and Lyndon Williams. She also introduced Giant Stitchell, M.D., Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health.

The first legislator to address the group was Congresswoman Nita Lowey who spoke about the mental health needs of returning veterans as well as her strong support for mental health parity, especially in the new health care exchanges. Next, Senator Oppenheimener discussed state budget issues, her lack of support for the proposed consolidation of the “O” agencies and the challenges associated with the sexually violent predator civil confinement program.

County Legislator Lyndon Williams [See Brunches on last page]
out Westchester and the importance of seeking expert advice and input during the transition process. The next speaker was Assemblyman Robert Castelli who remarked that he is a Vietnam veteran and discussed the importance of mental health services and outreach for returning and other veterans. He indicated his support for mental health parity and an expansion of Timothy’s Law as well as streamlining state agencies without reducing necessary services. Next, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin discussed the potential consolidation of OASAS within the Department of Health. As Chair of the Assembly Alcohol and Substance Abuse Committee, she is committed to ensuring that current services are maintained during any possible consolidation or reorganization. Assemblywoman Paulin also discussed the sexually violent predator program and the planned closing of county clinics. The next person to speak was County Legislator William Burton who discussed the transitional closing of county mental health clinics, which is expected to result in a 2% tax saving in the current budget. He also recognized Commissioner Grant Mitchell for his work and assistance during the difficult decision-making process. Finally, Legislator Burton announced that, as part of a Medicaid fraud recovery pilot program, Westchester County recovered $600,000, which will be used to fund necessary programs and services. Next, County Legislator Kenneth Jenkins, the Chair of the Board of Legislators, addressed the group, stating that he is very pleased to work with organizations like NYSPA and its district branches to ensure that services are maintained and that citizens receive the support they require. The Westchester event was concluded with remarks from Grant Mitchell, M.D., a psychiatrist who serves as the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health. Dr. Mitchell discussed the planned closing of county mental health clinics and his continuing commitment to oversight to ensure that patients are successfully referred to alternate clinics and that the indigent population continues to be adequately served. Commissioner Mitchell also provided an update on the Care Coordination Project, a pilot program aimed at the top users of Medicaid services within the county to provide coordination of care in an attempt to improve outcomes and reduce Medicaid expenditures. In its first few years of existence, the program has already saved millions of dollars with no cuts in service. The Care Coordination Project is also in talks with New York State to develop a managed care plan that would provide care coordination services throughout the state in collaboration with Beacon Health Strategies.

**NYSPA is Pleased to Announce the Winners of the Third Annual Resident Paper Contest**

**First Place**
Panagiotis Roussos, M.D., Ph.D., Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Schizophrenia susceptibility D-amino acid oxidase polymorphisms are associated with reduced sensorimotor gating, working memory and reduced anxiety in the LOGOS cohort of healthy males

**Second Place**
Zimri Yaseen, M.D., Beth Israel Medical Center

Construct Development: The Suicide Trigger Scale (STS-2), a Measure of a Hypothesized Suicide Trigger State

**Third Place**
Seethalakshmi Ramanathan, M.D., SUNY Upstate Medical University

Can the macroeconomic environment during infancy have enduring behavioral influences?

Thank you to all the participants.

**Physicians No Longer Subject to Red Flags Rule**

Pursuant to the Red Flag Program Clarification Act of 2010, federal legislation signed into law on December 18, 2010, physicians and other health care providers will no longer be subject to the requirements of the FTC Red Flags Rule. The Red Flags Rule seeks to prevent identity theft by imposing requirements on financial institutions and other creditors who extend credit to their customers. In the past, the FTC had taken the position that the Rule applied to physicians and health care providers who extend credit to their patients by allowing payment for medical services following the provision of service. However, due to confusion over application of the rule to physicians and other professionals, enforcement of the Rule was delayed several times over the past 18 months, most recently until December 31st of last year. The Red Flag Program Clarification Act limits the definition of “creditor” to only those entities that use consumer reports in connection with a credit transaction, furnish information to consumer reporting agencies or advance funds to or on behalf of a person. The goal of the legislation was to limit application of the Rule to only those entities that engage in activities that are associated with the greatest risk of identity theft. Clearly, physicians and health care providers do not engage in the high risk activities enumerated in the bill and will no longer be required to comply with the Red Flags Rule.

**Assembly Update**

and Neurology rules on maintenance of certification were a hot button issue discussed during the Assembly meeting. Under the new rules, psychiatrists are required to solicit evaluations from their patients, which may violate the APA ethics code and generally accepted psychiatric principles. The APA has agreed to work with the ABPN to develop guidelines specifically designed for psychiatrists that would permit them to maintain their certification while also continuing to fulfill their ethical and professional obligations. Procedures for Handling Complaints of Unethical Conduct. For the past year, the APA Ethics Committee has been developing proposed revisions to the APA guidance document entitled “Procedures for Handling Complaints of Unethical Conduct.” The changes, which were approved by the Assembly, were designed to clarify ambiguities, streamline the ethics process and provide clearer guidance, in general. Profile of Courage Award NYSPA would like to congratulate Jean Tropnas, M.D., a member of the Brooklyn Psychiatric Society and recipient of the 2010 Assembly Profile of Courage Award for his work on behalf of the Haiti earthquake disaster relief effort. Dr. Tropnas, a member of the faculty at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, has visited Haiti several times since the disaster and is also working with the local Haitian community in Brooklyn.

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