

# THE *Community Psychologist*

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## From the President

**Jim Cook**

*University of North Carolina,  
Charlotte*



I'm writing this after just returning from the Executive Committee's (EC) MidWinter Meeting in early February.

This is the most important meeting of the year for the EC, where the annual budget is approved. During three long days we accomplished much. We approved a set of core competencies for practice in community psychology developed by the joint Council of Education Programs-Community Psychology Practice Council Task Group on Defining Practice Competencies. This document can help our graduate programs shape their curricula, and graduate programs will soon be asked to indicate the degree to which they provide training in these competencies. Prospective students will then have a clearer basis for choosing programs that meet their educational needs.

We also approved a plan to

move ahead with hiring an executive director for SCRA. It has become clear that we cannot continue as an "all volunteer" army of community psychologists and meet our goals. We need a staff person who can provide continuity that the rotating elected leadership cannot. We expect that a director will help us become a more effective organization and serve you, our members, better. By the time you read this, I hope this has been accomplished.

A large part of our time was spent developing a strategic plan that built upon our previously identified four focus areas. Under each of these focus areas are some (by no means all) of the tasks we'll be undertaking.

### Strengthening Our Academic Programs

- Provide mentoring for students and junior faculty;
- Provide seed funding for faculty research; and
- Recognize accomplishments of community psychologists in university settings.

### Gaining Greater Visibility

- Increase members on APA boards, committees;
- Increase relationships between our IGs/Committees and other divisions, including through interdivisional grants;

- Develop a broad visibility campaign for community psychology and SCRA;
- Increase coverage of community psychology in introductory and other textbooks;
- Translate our members' research into the popular media; and
- Use our Web site and social media to increase our exposure.

### Increasing Our Impact

- Continue mini-grants for practice work;
- Develop a public policy "marketplace" to showcase members' policy work; and
- Develop strategic partnerships with three service organizations.

### Supporting Our Members' Professional Development.

- Enhance Web site to make it the place for employers to post jobs and for members to find them;
- Create a searchable set of profiles of members on the Web site to facilitate collaboration and community;
- Strengthen research methods and data analytic capabilities through workshops at regional conferences, the Biennial, and APA.

## Canada

### International Regional Liaisons

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### 2012 Canadian Community Psychology Conference

A reminder to register for the 2nd Biennial Canadian Community Psychology Conference *Canadian Community Psychology: Justice and Social Change*. The conference will take place at Wilfrid Laurier University, in Waterloo, Ontario from May 4th to 6th, 2012. Sponsored by Wilfrid Laurier University, in partnership with the University of Ottawa, Université du Québec à Montréal, Université Laval, and the Adler School of Professional Psychology, the conference is designed to forge connections and share knowledge among community psychology programs across Canada. The conference will be bilingual in Canada's two official languages (French and English), with a special focus on aboriginal issues.

We are pleased to announce our two keynote speakers for the conference. Dr. Joseph P. Gone, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology and the Program in American Culture at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, will be speaking on *Reclaiming Indigenous Therapeutic Traditions: Culture as Treatment in American Indian Communities*. As a cultural psychologist, Dr. Gone addresses his research to a key dilemma confronting mental health professionals who serve Native American communities, namely how to provide culturally appropriate helping services that avoid the neo-colonial subversion of indigenous thought and practice. He has published articles and

chapters concerning the ethno-psychological investigation of self, identity, personhood, and social relations in American Indian cultural contexts vis-à-vis the mental health professions, especially as these pertain to therapeutic processes and practices such as psychotherapy and traditional healing.

Cindy Blackstock, our second keynote speaker, is Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, which provides research, policy, and professional development services to First Nations child and family services agencies in Canada. Ms. Blackstock worked in front-line child protection for provincial and First Nations child welfare agencies for over 13 years before moving on to her current position. She believes that ethics are the foundation of social work—they give life and shape to our relationships and skills. She has been recognized by OASW as a leader in the social work community during National Social Work Week. She also serves as Co-Convenor of the Working Group on Indigenous Child Rights for the UN-based NGO Group on the Rights of the Child.

We are looking forward to an exciting program with these keynote speakers, as well as site visits, workshops, poster presentations, mentoring sessions, and an innovative session format: three-minute thesis presentations, which will allow participants to connect and engage with others with similar research interests.

For more information about the conference, please visit <http://ccpclaurier.wordpress.com/>

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### Canadian Research Showcase

In this issue of the TCP, we continue a series of short profiles show-casing community psychology research and practice efforts in Canada. This issue highlights a

Partnership Research Chair being established at the Université Laval in the area of child abuse prevention (*Chaire de partenariat en prévention de la maltraitance*). Headed by Marie-Hélène Gagné, Full Professor in the School of Psychology at the Université Laval in Québec City, Québec, the Chair is at the center of efforts currently underway to develop an integrated strategy to prevent child maltreatment in Québec.

The *Chaire de partenariat en prévention de la maltraitance* is building a university-community partnership around the goal of increasing collective capacity to reduce the incidence of physical abuse, psychological abuse, and child neglect. The partnership involves university researchers, government decision-makers, public institutions, and provincial associations. Co-researchers come from five other French-speaking and bilingual Canadian universities and four different research centres. Current community partners include two major child protection agencies, both designated as academic and social research institutes. These agencies are principal partners in an evolving provincial network of social agencies offering comprehensive, innovative, and evidence-based services to children, adolescents and their families. This collaboration among university and community partners will ensure synergy between scientific rigor and sensitivity to community context, two elements that are both essential to any effective prevention strategy.

The chair and its partners believe that child maltreatment prevention initiatives should adopt a population approach, adjusted to the level of risk presented by families. Such an approach calls for the implantation of a multilevel strategy, starting with the general population and then focusing on an increasingly restricted number of high-risk families, with intervention intensity

increasing according to level of risk. One particular program stands out for its integration of many levels of prevention as well as for the amount of scientific evidence demonstrating its efficacy: the Australian program *Triple P – Positive Parenting Program* (Prinz, Sanders, Shapiro, Whitaker, & Lutzker, 2009; Sanders, 1999). This program will inspire the chair and its partners as they seek to implement and evaluate a multilevel prevention strategy in Canada.

The specific objectives of the chair include: 1) mobilizing university and institutional partners around child maltreatment prevention by establishing knowledge exchange regarding effective preventive practices; 2) accompanying the development and implementation of such practices; and 3) planning and evaluating a global, multilevel strategy to prevent child maltreatment to be implemented in multiple sectors of Québec's child welfare, public health and educational service delivery systems. The ultimate goal is to develop and test strategies, adapted to the Canadian reality, which can then be disseminated more widely, supported by scientific evidence for their effectiveness.

For more information about the *Chaire de partenariat en prévention de la maltraitance*, please contact Marie-Hélène Gagné at Université Laval (marie-helene.gagne@psy.ulaval.ca).

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## References

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## Europe/Middle East/Africa

### International Regional Liaisons

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## News from the Middle East

### Written by Amy Carrillo and Hana Shah

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The Middle East region welcomes one new student representative! Hana Shahin (master's student at The American University in Cairo) will replace Shehab Abdel-Rahman as student representative. Hana enjoys speaking to undergraduate and graduate students about community psychology and encourages interested students to become SCRA members. We are excited to have her as part of our team!

Due to the ongoing transition period, we are still in the planning phase of our colloquia for community psychologists and colleagues with interests in community-based prevention, intervention, and evaluation. However, we are currently assisting community psychology masters students at The American University in Cairo with developing a Web site for community organizations that will be user friendly, provide relevant information, and introduce community psychology practices and views to organizations working in Cairo. As part of the launch, we are working to help bring community organizations together to share these

useful resources and facilitate social networking.

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## Asia

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## News from Asia

### Written by Toshi Sasao

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The regional meeting in Asia, *Innovative Social Change Efforts and Well-being in East Asia*, originally scheduled in October 2011, has been re-scheduled to take place in late May 2012 at International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan. Once again, if any SCRA member happens to be in the region, he or she will be more than welcome to join us. Details will be announced on the SCRA listserv shortly. This date change will hopefully draw more participants to this networking event in the Asia Region including China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and other East Asian countries. Inexpensive (but very comfortable) campus housing may be available on a first come, first serve basis, but a request needs to be made immediately by contacting Toshi Sasao at the above address. Another news item is that Kota Tamai has been recruited as a new student rep in the region. He is about to obtain his Ph.D. at International Christian University as this TCP goes into press. Kota will be a post-doctoral student at the same institution for a year.

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