

CIRCULAR LETTER #603

Pre-Meeting Fall

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 2007

The Group of Ants of Psychiatry?

Beginning in the 1990's (7) scientists became intrigued with how colonies of insects functioned effectively and productively with little or no centralized control. Not only are they able to work in highly specialized roles, but they can adapt quickly to changing environmental conditions. Several principles were derived from observations of insects such as ants, wasps and bees, as well as flocks of birds and herd animals.

The term "swarm intelligence" came into being to refer to a particular form of collective intelligence "which relies on the capabilities of several minimally intelligent but autonomous individuals" (2). Swarm intelligence involves "distributed control strategies," which are based on interactions among individuals at the same level rather than centralized control. Subsequently these principles have been applied to artificial intelligence in such applications as developing robots who can respond to and contain toxic spills (3), or in robotic weapons that can operate in concert (6). The robots interact with each other and the environment, sharing resources. They develop goal-oriented collective behaviors that, if successful, solve problems.

Inspired by the findings about animal behavior societies, the business gurus, always on the alert for new ideas to write books about that they can get managers to buy, picked up on this science and began advocating for less management and more individual autonomy in the workplace (1).

When the tragedies of 9-11 were followed by the successful disarming of the "shoe bomber" a few months later, a column appeared in the Wall Street Journal pointing out that the passengers on Flight 93 who wrested control of the plane from the terrorists who were aiming it at Washington, DC, acted effectively without directions from anyone outside the plane, and were emulated by those on transatlantic American Airlines Flight 63 (4). More recently, another editorial pointed out that the tragic fire in the building being demolished in lower Manhattan near the site of the World Trade Center bombings was probably caused by conditions created by attempts to adhere to an excessive amount of regulation from various governmental authorities that specified exactly how the process was to be carried out (5). Might these two examples illustrate swarm intelligence working and not working, respectively?

Within GAP we've had extensive discussions on how to shape the organization -- what our mission should be, what kinds of products we should be creating. I think these discussions have been productive. We might see them as the kind of collective behavior that involves group collaboration--a kind of swarm interaction. However, it is the committees whom we expect to create products that will take GAP out into the world to have an impact. We have talked about the fact that the autonomy of the committees can be both a strength -- allowing the real creativity to occur, and a weakness, when committees become stalled at an impasse. Perhaps the concept of swarm intelligence might explain why committees have difficulty being productive in between meetings--individuals in a swarm need proximity to

each other to act effectively. But the fact that our members are more intelligent than ants means that we ought to be able to maintain proximity with each other at a distance. We need swarm interaction at both levels, and need it to occur in between meetings as well. Let's go.



Reference List

1. Bonabeau E, Meyer C: Swarm Intelligence: A whole New Way to Think About Business. Harvard Business Review 2001;(May):107-114.
2. Bonabeau E, Theraulaz G: Swarm Smarts. (Cover story) Scientific American 2000; 282(3):72.
3. Bruemmer, D. J., Dudenhoefter, D. D., McKay, M. D., and Anderson, M. O. A Robotic Swarm for Spill Finding and Perimeter Formation. 2007, Report, The Human-System Simulation Laboratory Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory: Idaho Falls, ID.
4. Editorial Page. Let's Roll: The Salvation of Flight 63 is the Legacy of Flight 93. Wall St Journal . 12-28-2001.
5. Henninger, Daniel. The 'Toxic' Tower: A case study in the political paralysis of a modern society. Wall St Journal . 9-6-2007.
6. Scheidt, D. and Stipes, J. Cooperating unmanned vehicles. Networking, Sensing and Control Proceedings. 2005 IEEE, 326-331. 2005.
7. Wilson EO: Sociobiology: The New Synthesis. Cambridge, MA, Belknap Press., 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Publications Board is pleased to announce an exciting venture proposed to us by Howard Goldman, Editor of Psychiatric Services. Psychiatric Services (PS) is offering GAP the opportunity to have an ongoing GAP series in PS. As you know PS has become one of the main venues for GAP peer reviewed publications. This however would give us greater visibility by clearly identifying these articles as a GAP product while still crediting individuals with authorship. GAP committee's would propose topics they are working on or manuscripts submitted to the Publications Board they believe would be of interest to the PS audience for the GAP series to the editor of this column who would review them with the editor of PS. The process would continue as currently exists: regular articles (up to 3000 words), brief reports (up to 2000 words) and commentaries such as the "Taking Issue" or "Open Forum" approved by the GAP Publications Board would be submitted to Psychiatric Services for their peer review process. The Chair of the GAP Publications Board would be editor of the series coordinating between GAP and the PS Editorial Board reviewing the peer review feedback with the editor of PS in making a decision regarding acceptance, revision or rejection. While this does not guarantee publication it would mean that whenever there were two or more accepted publications PS would publish them with the visibility of the GAP imprimatur. While our emphasis over the past more than ten years has been on becoming known again by the greater world as GAP, our periodic articles are not enough. An identified entity in a leading professional journal coupled with our venture into the web-based training manual world seem to me to be the next step. How often the series appears depends on the productivity of GAP.

David Adler, MD
Chair, Publications Board

Dear Colleagues,

GAP Committees should know about the journal Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine (PEHM) www.peh-med.com as a place to publish.

I have recently taken on the position of Editor-in-Chief. This new peer-reviewed journal has a very strong (International) Editorial Board, (See <http://www.peh-med.com/edboard>) and a focus on psychiatry. Importantly, we are referenced in PubMed. The publisher, BioMed Central, is the owner of The Scientist, and well over one hundred other medical journals. Harold Varmus is Chairman of the Advisory Board of BioMed Central. Others on the Board are quite distinguished. (see www.biomedcentral.com). Open-access is supported by NIMH, the National Library of Medicine, Wellcome Trust, numerous other foundations worldwide, and hundreds of universities and institutions in 32 nations. (see www.biomedcentral.com/members).

All of the articles in the open-access journal Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine (PEHM) are downloadable by anyone with access to a computer and are archived permanently in multiple sites world wide. In many parts of the world, open-access IS the library.

Among the many medical open access journals, Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine (PEHM) is almost unique - a sort of a think-tank and nexus for information sharing, new ideas, and careful analysis and commentary on issues relevant to medical humanities and the philosophy of medicine. As Editor-in-Chief I hope to lead PEHM into new technologies, the philosophy of biology in medicine, relational neurobiology and other new medical disciplines. The journal will retain and strengthen its interests in medical ethics and medical humanities.

We can publish very rapidly, and are also able to have special issues on topical themes --- these can be published in hard copy as a stand-alone supplement (ie., as a real-live book for your library, coffee-table or desk-top.) We can also rapidly publish, and in hard copy, the proceedings of a meeting/conference.

You may know that there can be a charge to the author for an on-line, open-access publication such as PEHM, or a discounted charge, or no charge at all. How this works often requires some discussion/clarification and I am pleased to be contacted about this by interested parties. Any "corresponding author" of a publication who can be identified with to a BioMed member university (eg, Yale, Rice, Oxford, Cambridge, Northwestern, Arizona State, and dozens other) can publish in our journal, if the article passes "peer-review" - for no charge. Other contributors pay a \$1500 fee, sometimes a discounted fee, it depends (there are lots of exceptions - authors from the poorest nations in the world can get in for free, many foundations support, etc.) If there are several authors (as is the case with a GAP Committee) there is a fee or not depending upon who the corresponding author is. All of this is discussed through links to the [www.peh-med](http://www.peh-med.com) <[http://www.peh-med/](http://www.peh-med.com)> web page. Or, again, please contact me directly. GAP Committees with manuscripts can work within these rules in one of many ways.

The web-page also offers an opportunity for comments on the article, which, after they pass review, can also be published (and there is no charge here.) The journal now aggressively aims for written Commentaries on published manuscripts, and offers authors the opportunity to respond to their critics and commentators (since we are web based, there is no size limit). All of this can be accomplished rapidly.

We do very much welcome submissions from GAP Committees and, of course, also from my colleagues at GAP. I am also very interested in your thoughts about this project. Please take a look at PEHM and tell me what you think. www.peh-med.com. Please also support this journal by simply signing up on the lower left corner of our web-page for email alerts on new articles. There is no cost for this, and when you do so, you count as a "subscriber." This helps us with our publisher, and also increases our grant support for the project.

Best wishes,

Michael Schwartz, M.D.,
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Philosophy, Ethics, and Humanities in Medicine (PEHM)

**You are invited to join the GAP Task Force on:
“Integrative Psychiatry in the Age of Neuroscience”**

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday, 11/8 <u>and/or</u> 11/8	2-6 pm 7 - 8:30 pm	Zenger A Woodlands Restaurant (dinner)

Friday, 11/9 brief recap and distribution of articles (time TBA)

Agenda and general topics

**“Biological Psychiatry” Meets the Psychosocial:
A Merger for the 21st Century?**

“Biological Psychiatry, Past, Present and Future” excited considerable interest at our last meeting when proposed by Stuart Copans as the topic for a brief opinion piece. Fellow thinkers, learners and writers are welcomed to brainstorm about whether we should develop our lengthy draft, return to Stu’s outline, abandon the project altogether or rethink and redivide it.

Background:

Experience, including psychotherapy, alters neural connections and gene activity.

(Eric Kandel, Nobel Laureate 2000)

We have long understood that genes, brain circuitry and neurotransmitters influence our thoughts, feelings and actions. Only recently, however, have we learned that thoughts, feelings and actions can shape the brain’s physical structure and the activity of genes throughout life.

Experience alters neural connections and gene expression. Experience includes not only interaction with the environment but also internal sensations, emotions and memories-- both conscious and unconscious. All experience, including mere thought and imagining, alters gene expression and sculpts neural networks. Psychotherapy can rewire brain circuitry and turn gene action on and off.

Psychiatry is uniquely positioned to reconceptualize the integration of “bottom-up” “biological” treatments” with “top-down” “psychosocial” treatments.

Please contact me if you are interested in participating. RSVP if you plan to attend the Task Force meeting: I will send a packet of optional background reading and a copy of our draft.

RSVP: Devra Braun, M.D. DevraB@aol.com Phone: (203) 252-4627

You are welcome to collaborate with the Task Force without making any long-term commitment or change in your regular committee affiliation. However, Steering has invited us to submit a proposal for creating a permanent committee. Ideas for a future committee, including proposals for chairperson & members, will be warmly received.

FALL 2007 MEETING
 122nd MEETING OF
 GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2007

10:00 a.m.	GAP Office Opens Masefield A Room
10:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting Masefield B Room
11:00 a.m.	Contributions Committee Masefield B Room
12:00 noon	Publications Board Hutchinson A Room
2:00 p.m.	Board of Directors Cooper B Room
2:00 p.m.	Task Force on Neuroscience Zenger A Room
4:00 p.m.	Fellows Meeting Cooper A Room
4:30 p.m.	Fellows Selection Committee Masefield B Room
5:30 p.m.	Reception of the Board of Directors Room 688
6:30 p.m.	Fellows Dinner Cooper A Room
7:00 p.m.	Contributions Committee Dinner Hudson Room
9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room Irving A and B Rooms Hosted by: Child Psychiatry

Thursday Committee Meetings

Addictions	7:00 p.m.	Vanderbilt Room/Room 107
Child	8:00 p.m.	Library Room
International Relations	8:00 p.m.	Veranda Room
Psychopathology	3:30 p.m.	Gallery Room

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2007

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Cooper-Greeley Rooms
8:30 a.m.	General Membership Meeting Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:30 a.m.	Committee Meetings
10:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
12:00 noon	Luncheon Cooper-Greeley Rooms
	Steering Committee Meeting Irving A Room
1:00 p.m.	Fellows Meeting Irving B Room
2:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings
3:00 p.m.	Coffee Break
5:00 p.m.	Poster Session and Juice Break Foyer – Cooper-Greeley Rooms
5:30 p.m.	Plenary Session: Howard Goldman, M.D. “The Importance of Imprimatur in Disseminating Mental Health Information”
6:30 p.m.	Cocktail Reception Red Oak Terrace
7:30 p.m.	Dinner Cooper-Greeley Rooms
9:00 p.m.	Hospitality Foyer - Cooper-Greeley Rooms Hosted by: Cultural Psychiatry

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2007

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Cooper-Greeley Rooms
	Steering Committee Meeting Irving B Room
	Fellows Breakfast Meeting Irving A Room
9:00 a.m.	Committee Meetings
11:30 a.m.	Luncheon Cooper-Greeley Rooms
12:00 noon	Board of Directors Wrap Up Meeting Cooper B Room

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ADOLESCENCE	ROOM 688
AGING	MASEFIELD B ROOM
ADDICTIONS	VANDERBILT SUITE/ROOM 107
CHILD PSYCHIATRY	LIBRARY ROOM
COLLEGE STUDENT	STUDIO ROOM
CULTURAL PSYCHIATRY	ROOM 219
DISABILITIES	LYNDHURST SUITE/ROOM 104
DISASTERS AND TERRORISM	ROOM 217
FAMILY	HUTCHINSON B ROOM
GENDER ISSUES AND MENTAL HEALTH	HUTCHINSON A ROOM
HUMAN SEXUALITY	ROOM 207
IMG	JOHN CARRERE ROOM 101
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	VERANDA ROOM
LGBT	ROOM 205
MEDICAL EDUCATION	PARLOR ROOM
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	ROOM 201
PLANNING, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS	ROOM 305
PREVENTIVE PSYCHIATRY	ROOM 215
PSYCHIATRY AND THE COMMUNITY	KYKUIT SUITE/ROOM 103
PSYCHIATRY AND THE LAW	SLEEPY HOLLOW/ROOM 105
PSYCHIATRY AND RELIGION	ROOM 209
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY	GALLERY ROOM
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY	PORTICO ROOM
RESEARCH	ROOM 203
SOCIAL ISSUES	ROOM 211
TERRORISM and POLITICAL VIOLENCE	ROOM 221
THERAPEUTIC CARE	ZENGER ROOM
PSYCHOTHERAPY	ROOM 223
WORK AND ORGANIZATIONS	VAN CORTLANDT/ROOM 106

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**DATES OF FUTURE
 GAP MEETINGS**

2007**NOVEMBER 8-10****2008**

**APRIL 10-12
 NOVEMBER 13-15**

2009

**APRIL 16-18
 NOVEMBER 12-14**

2010

**APRIL 15-17
 NOVEMBER 11-13**