

CHARTING THE FUTURE

PROGRESS AND PROMISE FROM ASPPB'S 64TH ANNUAL MEETING

ASPPB held its 64th Annual Meeting in Dallas Texas from October 30th - November 3rd, 2024. They say everything is bigger in Texas, and that's exactly what we found this weekend. Bigger issues, bigger discussions, and bigger plans going forward. We want to thank our member jurisdictions, ASPPB staff members and various liaisons who took the time to join us.

CEO REPORT to ASPPB's Jurisdictions and Allies

Mariann Burnett-Atwell, PsyD ~ ASPPB's CEO

As I look back to the history of ASPPB, I am proud to see how the Association, which is about to enter its 65th year of existence, continues to evolve and to show vitality, strength and resilience through change and transformation. This year presented us with challenges and opportunities shared at our 64th Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas. The implementation of our Strategic Plan continues to progress. Here is a topline summary of some of those accomplishments.

Website: The beginning of the year will see the launch of our website during the first quarter of 2025 and will allow you to find information easier in a dynamic platform designed to highlight features and content of interest to jurisdictions, professionals, media, and the public. More details can be found in a follow-up article in this publication.

Communications: ASPPB's Communications and Engagement Department is working to provide more touchpoints and closer collaboration between the Association and its constituents, generate richer content and increase our footprint on owned social media channels as well as cultivating relations with influential media. Look forward to a Future Town Hall series, a Board training curriculum revamp, and a new member database.

Long Range Planning Committee: One of the charges of the Committee is to reset and redefine ASPPB's role with APA/CPA, in particular on the three pillars of regulation: education, exam, and experience. We held our first meeting in October at the first Psychology Executive Round Table between ASPPB, APA, and CPA where we discussed what is working, areas of opportunity and how to preserve the field of organized psychology.

Governance: The advances to the election process include the completion of strategic questions, so members better understand how nominees plan to apply their skills to the strategic plan and the short- and long-term work of the Association.

Legislative Affairs: ASPPB has developed a framework for a legislative affairs position to help boards monitor and act on legislation impacting the profession. We will start the search to fill this position early 2025. Also, the Board will discuss how to incorporate member insights around diversity, explore ways to enable greater attendance at ASPPB meetings by members, and develop an annual report card for members to gauge our progress with the Strategic Plan.

As we wrapped our 64th annual meeting I

am reflecting on the passion and dedication you have for our profession. Know that I appreciate each of your voices because they carry wisdom, the understanding of the complexities of your jurisdictions and the needs of the professionals and the public you represent.

Thank you for your partnership.



*Mariann Burnett-Atwell,
PsyD, ASPPB's CEO*

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NAVIGATING TOGETHER: Lessons in Governance and Growth

Michelle G. Paul, PhD ~ ASPPB's 2024 President

As hiking enthusiasts, my husband and I enjoy exploring the many trails that exist in Las Vegas. **There are times when he is certain that the path we are on will get us there, and there are times when I strongly feel I know a better route.** Then I realize that my husband who has been sort of quietly saying "I really don't think it is a good idea, "eventually gets louder and says, "It's really not a good idea!" as I realize the path is not leading to our intended destination.

This is when re-evaluating and putting down one's exuberant confidence is important. It is when I remind myself that in life, to accomplish a collective goal, it is necessary to listen to one's partner because it is one of the foundations of a healthy relationship. When hiking, it is not so much about our own fitness, it is also about recognizing the challenges, fitness, and obstacles our companion may be facing, or the fact that the trail itself may have changed. Hiking reminds me to stay nimble and that my husband

appreciates my outreached hand, whether he needs it or not.

Reflecting on the last 10 months at the helm of ASPPB's Board of Directors, **I am proud of the work our team has accomplished.** We set out to deconstruct and examine ASPPB's governance structure, comparing high-functioning boards to ours, and gathering membership feedback to identify areas for improvement. This included transforming the nominations committee into a leadership development committee, enhancing our town hall meetings for greater transparency and communication, and empowering members to have a say in selecting leadership roles.

Furthermore, this year has presented additional challenges related to the EPPP- the conversation of the national exam's direction as a two-step model, new insights, and implementation challenges. There were really good reasons why the exam, in a two-step



Michelle G. Paul, PhD, ASPPB's President

model, made sense when initially conceived and rolled out over the last 10 to 15 years. However, times and circumstances change. It was uncomfortable and humbling to receive criticism. This echoed the importance of flexibility and active listening in leadership. If we hold onto inflexible beliefs, we risk losing sight of our goals—just as I did on that trail.

As we strive for growth—both personally and organizationally—it's crucial to embrace diverse perspectives and question our assumptions. Over the next two months and beyond, we aim to continue cultivating trust and reflecting on our journey, using empathy, validation, and critical thinking to navigate challenges. It is an honor to serve you.

SHINING A LIGHT ON PROGRESS:

ASPPB's Vision for Excellence A lesson on courage and introspection

Hugh D. Moore, PhD, MBA ~ ASPPB's 2024 President-Elect

There's a story that's often told in my family about my father. Now, I can't say with certainty whether it's true or not. Some family members insist it happened exactly as they say, though the details are often blurry and sometimes even contradictory. I imagine many of you have heard similar stories in your own families—those tales that evolve with every telling.

Anyway, the story goes like this: my father and his friends were at a nightclub, juke joint, or some other establishment that served alcohol. It was likely sometime in the 1950s. At some point during the night, an argument broke out between the patrons—maybe it was two people, or three, or even ten. Who knows? But the situation quickly escalated into chaos. There was yelling, screaming, bottles breaking, chairs flying, and fists being thrown. Ultimately, shots

were fired, and in the midst of it all, the lights were shot out. The entire room was plunged into darkness.

Everything suddenly went quiet. The only sound was people scrambling along the floor, unsure of what would happen next. And then, true to his nature, my father stood up, struck a match, and yelled, "What's going on in here?"

Now, I can't confirm if this story ever really happened. My father neither confirmed nor denied it. But it sure sounds like something he would have done. He was never one to shy away from shedding light on a situation, no matter how risky it might be.

I think the lesson in that story is clear: **never be afraid to illuminate a situation to understand what's truly going on.** There's always



Hugh D. Moore, PhD, MBA, at ASPPB's 64th Annual Meeting

risk involved. You might find out something good, or you might discover something bad, but unless we are willing to look closely and see the situation for what it is, we'll remain in the dark.

That's why ASPPB exists. We were formed to illuminate a troubling situation. Years ago, the process of examining future psycholo-

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Dr. Hugh D. Moore Continued...

gists was inconsistent in some places and nonexistent in others. There was no reliable way to ensure mobility for psychologists across the United States and Canada. There was no uniform standard to determine if those entering our profession had the knowledge and skills necessary to practice independently.

ASPPB stepped in to create the tests and processes we all know today. We helped establish uniformity in how psychologists are evaluated for competence. The road has never been easy—there has always been controversy, always agitation, not just from within our profession but also from external forces. But I firmly believe that those best equipped to determine competency in psychology are the very people practicing in this field.

As I begin my presidential year, I remain focused on the same principles I advocated for when I first ran for election to the ASPPB Board of Directors. My priorities will be:

- **Opposing the deregulation of our profession:** There are ongoing efforts to weaken the regulations that protect our field's integrity. I am committed to preserving the high standards of professional psychology and improving them where needed.
- **Enhancing mobility:** The pandemic made it abundantly clear that we need to evolve. Today, we have new models of practice—like telehealth—that were unimaginable when ASPPB was founded. We must ensure that professionals can practice across borders, whether through traditional or virtual means, in a way that maintains the integrity of our field.
- **Collaborating with our guilds (APA/CPA):** Our relationship with organizations like the APA and CPA is symbiotic. It's not a matter of either-or. As our field continues to evolve, changes must be driven by data. We must work together to nurture what is healthy in

our profession and eliminate what is harmful or unsafe.

- **Empowering early career psychologists:** The future of psychology lies in the hands of the next generation. I remain dedicated to mentoring early career psychologists while also welcoming the fresh perspectives they bring to our field.

ASPPB is not a single-issue organization. Our organization is constantly multitasking to address a variety of challenges and opportunities. Personally, service and dedication have been at the core of my journey in psychology, and I look forward to continuing that work with the Board of Directors, our membership, and all stakeholders to ensure that the regulation of our field remains strong and adaptive.

As I look to the future, I prefer it to be more Star Trek than Mad Max; a future where psychology thrives in an enlightened, collaborative, and innovative world.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Herbert L. Stewart, PhD ~ ASPPB's 2024 Past-President



Herbert L. Stewart, PhD,
ASPPB's 2024 Past-President

I've been asked to offer a few words on the occasion of rotating off the ASPPB Board of Directors. It has been my honor and privilege to have served for the

past six years as Member-at-Large for the Exam Track, President-Elect, President, and Past-President. I am just back from our 64th Annual Meeting of Delegates in Dallas, Texas, where we—as always—worked hard, learned a lot, networked, and had some fun. There is no denying that this meeting was more stressful than usual, particularly at the beginning when we were working through some difficult issues as an organization. But we managed to discuss, vote, and begin the process of coming together in support of our shared core mission, the protection of the public. **In so doing, we drew on the intelligence, dedication, and goodwill of all our members, and I was proud of us.**

Looking back, I recall the first ASPPB meeting I attended, in 2015 in Atlanta. At that point I had served on the Virginia Board of Psychology for six years, and I was interested in what other jurisdictions were doing. I remember meeting so many kind, smart, and helpful individuals, and listening to some excellent presentations. And by the end of that meeting I just thought to myself, **"These are my people!"** I also began to realize that jurisdictions were a lot more similar than I had thought in the ways they went about their mission. As I continued to attend meetings, I began to more fully appreciate the importance of the work of ASPPB, whether in advancing licensure mobility through the EPPP, increasing access to care through the PSYPACT interstate compact, interfacing with the education and training communities, or providing resources and advocacy to our state and provincial boards.

My time on the Board of Directors was eventful, as we adjusted to the challenges of Covid, challenges to the exam, the challenge of examining ourselves through the "deep dive" project, and the challenge of

determining how to best go about making consequential decisions as an organization. As board liaison to the exam program, I was fortunate to have a close-up view of how a truly state-of-the-art professional licensing exam is created and maintained by dedicated volunteers and talented staff. **I am certain that as we move forward with a reimaged exam integrating knowledge and skills that those same high standards of quality will be maintained.**

My time in the board was also immensely rewarding, both professionally and personally. I had the privilege of working closely with a dedicated team of professionals committed to advancing the field of psychology. I learned more of the storied history of ASPPB and had the opportunity to see the breadth of psychology regulation in the US, Canada, and internationally. Along the way I collected memories and friendships that I will cherish forever. While my service on the board is coming to a close, I remain committed to ASPPB's mission and I hope to stay involved and contribute in other ways. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the staff, our volunteers, and my fellow board members for their dedication and hard work. Thank you all for your support, and I look forward to ASPPB's future successes.

THREE TAKEAWAYS ON THE ROLE OF AI IN MENTAL HEALTHCARE:

Opportunities, Challenges, and Regulatory Considerations

Technology is ubiquitous in the field of healthcare and as artificial intelligence (AI) continues to evolve, its integration into mental health care presents significant opportunities, challenges, and the need for robust regulatory frameworks. Here are three key takeaways on this dynamic intersection as presented by keynote speaker, Leanna Fortunato, Ph.D. Director of Quality & Innovation, American Psychological Association.

1. Opportunities for Enhanced Care

AI tools, such as advanced conversational agents like consumer-facing ChatGPT, are being adapted for healthcare and have the potential to transform patient interactions. Unlike earlier chatbots like Eliza, which offered basic scripted responses, today's AI can adapt, engage in meaningful conversations, and make predictions. This technology can support early detection of mental health issues by analyzing data from social media or voice patterns, identifying individuals at risk before they seek help. Furthermore, AI can streamline administrative tasks—such as documentation and

scheduling—freeing up mental health professionals to focus more on patient care.

2. Challenges of Implementation

Despite the potential benefits, the adoption of AI in mental health care faces significant hurdles. Concerns about algorithmic bias are paramount; AI systems can perpetuate existing disparities if trained on non-representative data. Additionally, mental health providers often hesitate to embrace these technologies due to worries about safety, effectiveness, and increased workloads. A 2022 survey by the Pew Research Center indicated that 60% of people were uncomfortable with AI in healthcare, highlighting the need for greater education and transparency.

3. Regulatory Considerations

As AI tools become more prevalent, regulatory oversight is crucial to ensure safety and efficacy. In the U.S., while the FDA regulates medical devices, there remains a gap in comprehensive guidelines for AI applications in mental health. Recent executive



Leanna Fortunato, PhD, Director of Quality and Innovation at APA was ASPPB's keynote speaker at ASPPB's 64th Annual Meeting

orders, the Blueprint for AI Bill of Rights, emphasize the need for transparency regarding AI use, but more standardized regulations are necessary to protect patients and ensure equitable access to these technologies. As the global conversation on AI in healthcare evolves, collaboration with organizations like the WHO can help create a unified regulatory framework.

In conclusion, while AI holds tremendous promise for enhancing mental health care, addressing the challenges, and establishing a clear regulatory landscape will be essential to harness its full potential responsibly. For more information from the APA on how to evaluate AI-enabled clinical or administrative tools click [here](#).

The Launch of ASPPB's Enhanced Website

As we celebrate our upcoming 65th anniversary, we are excited to announce a redesign of the ASPPB website. The current site serves as our public face and a vital repository of knowledge, connecting us with a diverse range of national and international audiences. It plays a crucial informative role in the lives of member jurisdictions, students, licensure applicants, psychologists, psychology organizations, the public, and the media. We anticipate the revamped website will launch in the first quarter of 2025.

ASPPB has dedicated significant time and effort to enhancing this site, working with Pixelslam to create a portal that will meet the needs of our members, liaisons, applicants, volunteers and the public. Our new site will continue to support ASPPB services

— including the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (CPQ®), Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC), PSY|Book, and more. Additionally, we are incorporating 'thought leadership' in the form of articles and resources that we hope will make the site even more valuable to our visitors.



Sample page of the upcoming ASPPB website.

Stay tuned for our new website launch, which promises to enhance your experience and provide even greater support for our community!

A TIME TO SHINE: ASPPB AWARDS

On November 1st, 2024, ASPPB held an awards ceremony to recognize a few of our dedicated members and volunteers.



Sam Sands, MN
ASPPB State and Provincial Service Award 2024



Alex Siegel on behalf of Ron Ross, PhD
ASPPB Fellow Award



Herb Stewart, PhD
Former ASPPB Presidents Award



Michelle G. Paul, PhD
ASPPB Presidential Award



Paul D. Kolstoe, PhD, ND
ASPPB Fellow Award



Pam Groose, MO
ASPPB Fellow Award



Photos from ASPPB's 64th Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas. October 30th - November 3rd, 2024.

CHECK OUT ASPPB On Social Media

If you're not following us, you're missing out. In an effort to connect with the wider psychological community, ASPPB has ramped up our social media presence. We're highlighting our member jurisdictions, checking in from events like the APA 2024 Convention, and sharing valuable insights into the many ways that ASPPB can help your career journey.



ASPPB: Empowering Your Career Journey

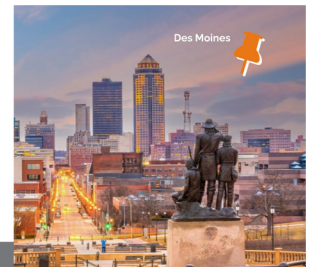
Dr. Hao Song leads the enhancement of psychological licensure exams, promoting safety and professional standards across the United States and Canada.



Associate Executive Officer of Examination Services
Dr. Hao Song, PhD, ICE-CCP

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

IOWA STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY



In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to join the United States of America. The name Iowa, and its nickname, 'Hawkeye State,' are both a tribute to the area's Native American heritage. Today, Iowa is home to just over 3.2 million residents, with 220,000 of them living in the state capital of Des Moines. The Iowa State Board of Psychology oversees nearly 900 licensed psychologists and offers an independent license at the doctoral level as well as a license with prescriptive privileges. In 2024, the Board of Psychology became a part of the larger Iowa Board of Behavioral Health Professionals.

Check us out on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).



ASPPB's 2024 Board of Directors

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Michelle G. Paul, PhD (NV)

President-Elect:

Hugh D. Moore, PhD, MBA (TN)

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Herbert L. Stewart, PhD (VA)

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Ramona N. Mellott, PhD (AZ)

1st Year Member-at-Large:

Stacy Waldron, PhD (NE)



Congratulations Dr. Whitney Koch Owens, PhD, for being elected as '1st Year Member-at-Large on the ASPPB Board of Directors.

STAY CONNECTED:
engaged@asppb.org

Email us with questions!