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Executive Director
Mark Vogel, Ph.D.

President's Column

Gary Myers, Ph.D., M.Div.



In this, my initial column as the president of ABSAME, it is an appropriate occasion for me to identify the distinctive features of our organization that contribute to the professional development of teachers and researchers in fields where the behavioral sciences health care education intersect.

Whenever an approach to more fully understanding or favorably impacting a subject of interest requires dialogue between two or more disciplines, we call this approach interdisciplinary. ABSAME is the premier organization dedicated to interdisciplinary study of how teaching the behavioral sciences to health care professionals in training can inform and transform their approaches to health care. ABSAME, through its annual meetings, its publication of its journal *Annals of the Behavioral Sciences and Medical Education*, and the textbook, *The Behavioral Sciences and Health Care*, creates a diverse community of inquiry that include teachers, researchers, and students in the field of health care education. This community is characterized by its openness to dialogue, its respect for difference, its interest in mentoring, and its willingness to find a common language that is not restricted by the jargon of disciplines.

In my seven years as a member of ABSAME I have marveled at the number of times that I have heard participants at the annual meeting emphasize the communal features of the organization. Every year people would talk about the "warm fuzzies" that they experienced through various activities and events scheduled at the annual meeting-ABSAME introductions-ABSAME coffee house-adventures embarked on during free

time-one on one conversations-discussions at presentations. I can remember that at times I felt a bit uncomfortable with all of this "warmth" at a professional meeting. But over time my discomfort gave way to understanding that hospitality, trust building, genuine interest in the work of others, and a commitment to share one's own work are all elements which make interdisciplinary dialogue and communal inquiry possible. Interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and research are founded on the recognition that no one paradigm is sufficient for adequately understanding a complex subject such as human health and illness. Interdisciplinary teaching and research absolutely depends on dialogue that discovers both the limits and possibilities of paradigms. But paradigms do not dialogue-only people dialogue and then only in environments that nurture it.

This is what I find most exciting about ABSAME-we know the value of the synergism that is created when people come together to share their work and their ideas. During my two-year term as president I want to extend the influence and benefits of the ABSAME community to both the current and the future members of ABSAME. To current members I extend the invitation to become more involved in providing leadership to the organization. It is time that we grow ABSAME so that it can have an even broader influence in health care education. To this end, I ask you to respond with your ideas as to how we can increase the visibility of ABSAME especially in the areas of membership, participation in the annual meeting, and fund raising. If you have ideas about growing and or publicizing ABSAME or wish to participate on the membership or program committees, or in other areas of leadership, please email your ideas and interests to me at gmyers@siu.edu. ■

Editor's Corner

José Luis Calderón, MD - Immediate Past President

As interim editor for the ABSAME newsletter I am excited to be a part of inaugurating our new electronic version, *Progress Notes*. After a unanimous vote by the Board of Directors at their monthly meeting in November 2006 our primary venue for disseminating up to date information to the Association's membership will be entirely electronic. No longer will you receive the familiar ABSAME Newsletter in the mail, but as we head toward the future our new electronic façade will offer easy access and up to date news about membership, board updates, articles, human interest, announcements, employment opportunities, national conferences and updates on the ABSAME Annual Meetings. With regard to annual meetings let me digress to say that our annual meetings themes over the past few years have sought to promote the inclusion and inculcation of the behavioral and social sciences in research and practice as well as medical education. This is progress!

Added emphasis has been placed on research and practice because they are inextricably linked to medical education. We see education as being ongoing and moving in both directions within the research to community-based practice continuum and other key components that lay in between; medical education and clinical practice. This approach has positioned ABSAME to contribute to realizing national public health goals to promote translational research while addressing its own goals to promote the behavioral and social sciences. In keeping with this, the 2007 annual meeting will focus on the behavioral and social sciences from 'Bench to Bedside'.

Given the Association's process reorganization over the past three years there is much to share with our standing and new membership. As president of the Association from 2004-2006 I was honored to have been part of many

changes in the SOP of the Association and blessed to have worked with a proactive group of professional women and men whose perspicacity of vision has made ABSAME into a mature, nationally recognized leader in the Behavioral Sciences and Medical Education. ABSAME is poised to take a pivotal role in the future of medical education as the need for including the behavioral and social sciences in every aspect of health and healthcare continues to gain momentum. Below are some key progress notes. Others are contained in this inaugural edition of the ABSAME Progress Notes.

Looking forward to moving forward.

Publisher's Note

Progress Notes is published by the Association for the Behavioral Sciences and Medical Education, 1460 N Center Rd., Burton, MI 48509. *Progress Notes* published two times per year. Submissions and letters to the Editor about issues of interest to the membership are welcome.

Jose Calderon, M.D. - Interm Editor
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New Format For Newsletter

Mark E. Vogel, Ph.D.

As Jose has indicated, we are making the move to an all electronic version of the newsletter *Progress Notes*. This version is being presented in the same newspaper column format as has been developed in the past - just now we are "printing" it only in a PDF format for download. We may move to a more web based format (i.e. web page) in the future, but would like your feedback. We are interested in know how you like to read the newsletter. Do you print it out? Do you just read online? Does the PDF version make it easy or difficult to download and view? Any feedback on how this production can meet your needs is appreciated. Send you comments to admin@absame.org. Thanks.

Mark your calendar

ABSAME's 37th Annual Meeting

Copper Mountain, CO - October 17-20, 2007

ABSAME Financial Report

Spring 2007

Albert H. Eaton, Ph.D. - Treasurer

ABSAME has always been a close knit group of similar minded professionals. Our organization, finances, and financial planning have always been minimalist. We have embarked on a new journey for ABSAME. I say we because, as the treasurer, I have captured some of our colleagues with financial expertise to participate in a financial planning committee. Our committee is working on ways to put ABSAME on firmer financial footing and to develop long term strategies to develop the kind of financial resources that would allow ABSAME to better realize the huge potential of its

members. It is certainly not about making ABSAME rich. It is about using the power that comes with secure funding to allow ABSAME to have the influence in medical education and ultimately in medicine that we discuss so fervently at our meetings.

You will hear and see more of what our group is doing as the year progresses. We are exploring alternative grant sources. We are considering ABSAME-branded items for sale, both to generate income and to create more ABSAME "buzz." Don't be surprised if you see a new logo

and you can order a new item with the logo on it in the near future. We have proposed a small change in fees to help with fiscal stability while being sensitive to the budget constraints we all have. I don't want to price myself out of the meetings either. We are working toward better stability financially by creating better value and more useful tools for the work we all do. There are lots of ideas on the table; from pens to podcasts. We are working to minimize the flops (there may be some) and maximize ABSAME's exposure, fun, and financial stability. ■

The *Annals* Needs You

James Campbell, PhD - Editor

The goal of the *Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education* is to inform, support, and stimulate discussion about the teaching and practice of medicine from the behavioral science perspective. Even a cursory review of articles accepted by the *Annals*, now completing its 10th year of publication, will reveal our dedication to showcasing scholarly work in the behavioral sciences that cuts across disciplinary boundaries by providing a wide-ranging forum for exchanging ideas about curricular innovations.

The editors of the *Annals* continue to encourage the members of ABSAME and the readers of the *Annals* to submit original articles and special section pieces for review. Our special sections include Reflections, which provides brief thought work on issues related to behavioral science and medicine; Blueprints, which in-

roduces innovative approaches to the application of the behavioral sciences along the entire spectrum of medical education; Journal Watch, which offers summaries of recently published articles in other publications that are related to the behavioral sciences and medical education; and Book Reviews of relevant current publications. Information for authors may be found on the ABSAME website:

<http://www.absame.org/pubs/annals>

In the coming months, we will continue to work toward two specific objectives: having the *Annals* indexed and placing the *Annals* online. In the meantime, we would like the readers of the *Annals* to be aware that some of the senior scholars in ABSAME are willing to provide scholarship mentoring by working with authors to bring their submissions to pub-

lishable quality. We will be providing more information about this opportunity in future issues of the *Annals*.

As always, we encourage readers to provide feedback on how we can improve the *Annals* to better meet your needs. Please e-mail your suggestions and comments to me at:

campbellj@health.missouri.edu

Lastly, you can help support the *Annals* by asking your librarian to consider a subscription. If you would like an additional copy of the *Annals* for him/her to review, please contact me. ■



ABSAME 2007
October 17 - 20
Copper, CO

Call for
Presentations

**Behavioral
Science
Education:
Bridging
Bench to
Bedside**

Mark your calendar ABSAME's 37th Annual Meeting Call for Papers Announced

Translational research as defined by the National Institutes of Health is:

"To improve human health, scientific discoveries must be translated into practical applications. Such discoveries typically begin at 'the bench' with basic research in which scientists study disease at a molecular or cellular level – then progress to the clinical level or the patient's 'bedside.' Scientists are increasingly aware that this bench to bedside approach to translational research is a two-way street. Basic scientists provide clinicians with new tools for use in patient care and for assessment of their impact, and clinical researchers make novel observations about the nature and progression of disease that often stimulate basic investigations"

(<http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/clinicalresearch/overview-translational.asp>).

To crystallize ideas and develop tangible strategies to advance efforts in behavioral science, the ABSAME 2007 Annual Meeting will focus on translational research that emphasizes new approaches to patient care. The theme - Bridging Bench to Bedside - is inspired by and will contribute to the National Institutes of Health's effort to make innovative basic science discoveries quickly available to patient care by enhancing interaction and information exchange between scientists and clinicians.

We look forward to seeing you in Copper Mountain, Colorado.

Denise D. Gibson, Ph.D.
Nicole Borges, Ph.D.
2007 Program Co-Chairs

Come Explore the Beautiful Colorado Rockies

Copper Mountain Resort is located just 90 miles/ 90 minutes from Denver International Airport, in the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains in Summit County. Surrounded by spectacular mountain peaks, but conveniently located off of I-70; Copper is an easy drive from Denver. During the month of October, you can expect crisp sunny days and cold evenings! There are lots of hiking trails to enjoy including a section of the famous Colorado Trail which can be accessed within steps of the Copper Conference Center. Although October is considered a shoulder season in Copper, there are still many outdoor activities to enjoy, golf; hiking; biking; fly fishing; horse back riding; and jeep tours to name a few.

Of course you may want to relax in your cozy lodging accommodations. Each room has a complete kitchen, living room with a gas fireplace, an outdoor balcony, and a master bedroom and bath with an over sized soaking tub. Each building has outdoor hot tubs and a private fitness center. Attendees of the 2007 ABSAME meeting will be able to enjoy these luxury accommodations at the group rate of \$135/night for a one bedroom gold condo.

The village has many shops and restaurants, however, due to low occupancies in October restaurants will be opening on a rotation basis. The good news is, Copper will have at least one restaurant open each evening just for our group! In addition, we are planning a special bon fire evening with hot spiced wine, s'mores and a Native American story teller. For those attendees who wish to venture off the resort property, shopping and restaurants can be found in the quaint town of Frisco which is only a 15 minute ride from the resort. Complimentary transportation is provided to local off-site destinations.

**Program information
available online
www.absame.org**

**Call for Presentations Deadline
Extended to May 1, 2007**

New ABSAME Board Members

The new ABSAME Board members have been installed at the 2006 business meeting in Annapolis, MD. These individuals were from the recent membership elections. We have inclosed their brief biograph so that you might get to know them better.

Gary Myers, Ph.D. M.Div is the current president. He received his Ph.D. in Theology and Personality Studies from Emory University. Dr. Myers is an Assistant Professor in the Medical Humanities and Psychiatry departments at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Illinois. He is also the Director of Programs in Psychosocial Care, Religion and Spirituality in Psychiatric Practice and Spiritual and Cultural Competence in Family Medicine. He teaches in the areas of physician-patient communication, end-of-life care, human growth and development and religion and medicine for the Department of Medical Humanities. In the Department of Psychiatry he teaches a seminar in psychoanalytic psychotherapy theory and technique and supervises the psychotherapy of psychiatry residents. Dr. Myers is an ordained United Methodist minister and a Diplomate in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Dr. Myers's primary research interests are in the narrative construction of illness that occurs in physician-patient communication and in the development of approaches to medical and psychological care that take into account the religious and cultural needs of patients. More specifically, he has examined how narratives of illness and treatment become vehicles through which cultural values enter into the physician-patient conversation and shape the illness experience. By publishing papers and presenting his ideas at state, national, and international conferences, Dr. Myers has contributed to the critical study of the relationship between

culture and medical practices. Recent invitations to give a keynote address at the World Congress for Psychotherapy in Vienna and two presentations at the World Congress for Psychiatry in Yokohama have provided Dr. Myers with the opportunity to enter into an international and multicultural dialogue about the importance addressing the religious and cultural dimensions of care.

Jeff Kingsley, D.O. is the current president-elect. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Scranton in 1995 in liberal studies with concentrations in biology, chemistry, history, and cultural anthropology. He received his Master of Science degree from the University of Scranton in 1997 in biochemistry. His medical degree was received from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2001. Dr. Kingsley completed a residency in family practice with the Columbus Regional Healthcare System in 2004 and became faculty at Columbus Regional Family Practice Residency Program at that time. He has been associate director of the family practice residency, clinical director of the family practice department, as well as director of the urgent care department through this past year. He holds faculty positions with the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, the Medical College of Georgia, and Mercer University. He is board certified in family medicine.

Dr. Kingsley is presently engaged in active clinical research as the CEO and CMO of SERRG, Inc. Research is being conducted in several medical disciplines furthering medical and behavioral science education. Additionally, he is an emergency medicine physician and a hospitalist.

Dr. Kingsley's primary interest in medical education is the fostering of clinical and leadership skills to practicing physicians, residents, and medical students.

Chaitanya Haldipur M.D. is a member-at-large. He is a Professor of Psychiatry at SUNY Upstate Medical University at Syracuse. He has been a member of the faculty since 1974. After completing his undergraduate education in India, he obtained his post-graduate training in psychiatry in Cambridge, England and Edinburgh, Scotland. He is a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and also has a diploma in Psychological Medicine. For several years, he worked at a state funded psychiatric center where he was briefly the Medical Director of the facility. At present, he is the Chief Psychiatrist at the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Syracuse, NY. He is the Director of Undergraduate Education in the Department of Psychiatry in the Medical School. He is a Co-Director of Practice of Medicine course that is taught to first and second-year medical students. He also directs the Behavioral Science course for sophomores. For the third and the fourth year students, he directs a six-week Psychiatry Clerkship. He is a distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

Michael C. Hosokawa Ph.D. is also a member-at-large. He received his B.A. from the University of Northern Colorado in biology, Masters in Public Health Education from Oregon State University and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Oregon. He has held faculty positions at Lewis and Clark College, San Diego State University and the University of Oregon. He has been at the University of Missouri School of Medicine since 1974, as Professor of Family and Community Medicine. In 1992, he became Associate Dean for Curriculum and led the complete revision on the medical student curriculum. Between 1994 and 2002, he was also Interim Dean

See: **Board Members**; Page 6

Board Members

Call for Papers

The Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education

FALL 2007

The editors of the *Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education* would like to invite you to contribute to the *Annals*. We are looking for papers for publication in the Fall 2007 issue. If you have something you've been intending to write for weeks/months/years, please do it now. Any manuscript received by June 1 will receive a full review no later than August 15.

You may submit this information electronically via email to campbellj@health.missouri.edu.

See instructions to authors at:

<http://www.absame.org/pubs/annals/authinfo.htm>

Also, many of you have contributed to the *Annals* through original articles, essays, etc. plus several of you have served as peer reviewers. We appreciate your endeavors to support the *Annals*. Another way that you can help support the *Annals* is to ask your librarian to have your library consider subscribing to the *Annals*. If you would like an additional copy of the *Annals* for them to peruse, please let us know and we will send you one.

Thank you,
James Campbell, Ph.D.
Editor

for Minority Affairs. In the Department of Family and Community Medicine he is the director of faculty development and the academic primary care fellowship director. He has an adjunct appointment as Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis in the College of Education.

Teaching responsibilities in addition to responsibilities for the medical student curriculum include small group leader for Psychosocial Aspects of Medicine and serving as a small group facilitator for the problem-based learning blocks in the basic sciences. At the graduate level, he teaches learning theory, planning for change and principles of medical education.

Dr. Hosokawa's research interests are in learning, learning styles and predictors of success in medical school. Other interests include geriatrics and cultural diversity. He has published papers in a variety of journals including Academic Medicine, Medical Education, Family Medicine, Annals of Behavioral Sciences and Medical Education. He contributed to The Behavioral Sciences and Health Care text.

In addition, **Michael Walsh, M.D.** has been appointed by the president to fill a vacant member-at-large position. **Stan Cohen, Ph.D.** has also been appointed as an Senior Advisory ad hoc member of the board.

We welcome all new board members!

CHOCOLAT

Finding Serenity in our Senses

Barbara E. Moquin, Ph.D., APRN, BC-P

Chocolate, music and therapeutic relaxation... how better to learn about Complementary and Alternative Medicine than to experience the benefits in real time? According to the Cochrane Collaboration, Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) and now also known as Integrative Medicine, is defined as "a broad domain of healing health resources that encompasses all health systems, modalities and practices and their accompanying theories and beliefs, other than those intrinsic to the politically dominant health system of a particular society or culture in a given historical period...includes such practices and ideas self-defined by their uses and preventing illnesses or promoting health and well-being. Boundaries within CAM and between the CAM domain and that of the dominant system are not always sharp or fixed."

Presenting Complementary and Alternative Therapies for the Promotion of Emotional and Physical Health at the 2006 ABSAME Conference, held in Annapolis, Maryland was yet another positive Mind-Body experience for me as a teacher. Thanks in large part to the 30 plus participants who were open to learning. The workshop began and ended with music from the critically acclaimed CD: Shaman by Santana. Traditional healing by Shamans as practiced by certain world cultures is only one example of the five Domains of CAM as defined by the National Center for Complementary and Al-

ternative Medicine, a Division of the National Institutes of Health. These Domains include: Alternative Medical Systems, Mind-Body Interventions, Biologically-Based Therapies, Manipulative and Body-Based Therapies and Energy Therapies.

The participant's energy made for a lively workshop that combined didactic information and experiential exercises to inform participants of CAM use in depression, aging and minority populations. Clinical use and relevant research citations were discussed regarding humor therapy,

*"The
participant's
energy made for
a lively work-
shop..."*

movement (dance/yoga) and aerobic exercise. With no encouragement necessary, participants were soon on their feet, moving with laughter and increased oxygen exchange, complements of exercises from The Wellness Book by Herbert Benson, M.D.

An introduction to REIKI, the ageless art of healing that mobilizes and focuses the energies of the therapist and patient to achieve physical and psycho-

logical healing and well being, set the foundation for the workshop. As a REIKI Master and subject matter expert in numerous Mind-Body modalities I use REIKI in my Integrative Psychotherapy private practice. I have experienced amazing results from using REIKI. To enhance workshop participant's understanding and to introduce them to REIKI our experiential session included a discussion on the benefits of essential oils such as lavender and eucalyptus (aroma therapy), mindfulness meditation (using chocolate to engage and bring our thoughts and taste buds into synch!), relaxation, guided imagery and acoustic therapy. The response was exciting. Many had not known the healing power of REIKI or experienced a mind-body interaction until then.

Participants concluded the workshop with suggestions for Future Considerations regarding necessary CAM research that will contribute to the prevention of disease and promotion of emotional and physical health both locally and globally. More and more CAM research and use of CAM is becoming an integral part of medical practice and should be included in medical education.

Out May 2007!

Olle Jane Z. Sahler, John E. Carr (Editors)

The Behavioral Sciences and Health Care

2nd, completely revised & expanded edition 2007, ca. 520 pages, softcover, US \$49.00 / € 42.95, ISBN: 978-0-88937-307-5

A clearly structured, compact text on the behavioral sciences for medical and other students and trainees, including practical features such as annotated review questions and a practice exam.

The brand new edition of this compact text presents succinct information about the wide variety of behavioral, social, and psychological sciences that comprise the behavioral sciences relevant to health and wellness.

Based around but expanding on the Integrated Sciences Model, and integrating the Institute of Medicine's key themes for medical training, the new edition is organized in sections covering: Biological Mediators of Behavior; Individual-Environment Interaction; Development Through the Life Cycle; Social and Cultural Determinants; Societal and Behavioral Health Challenges; The Health Care System, Policy, and Economics; Physician-Patient Interaction; Psychopathology.

New chapters deal with Stress, Adaptation, and Illness; Geriatric Health and Successful Aging; Palliative Care; Health Care Issues Facing Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals; Competency in Clinical Education; Health Literacy; and Changing Risk Behaviors. Clear appendices review principles of epidemiology and biostatistics.

Each chapter begins with guidance questions and ends with current recommended readings and review questions. A complete 300+ question-and-answer USMLE-type review section not only allows readers to check how well they have learned the material, but also highlights important points and adds additional specific information to supplement the text.

The authors of this text are experienced teachers and researchers drawn primarily from the membership of the Association for the Behavioral Sciences and Medical Education.



Review comments on the first edition:

"Takes attempts to integrate basic and behavioral sciences to a new level...Will enable students to see the importance of all aspects of a patient's life and their influence on healthcare behaviors... Material is presented in a logical and concise manner that will appeal to medical students." (Patricia Lenehan, writing in *Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education* 9 (2))

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Flashback of 2006 Meeting

Bob Wolosin, PhD

Casting about for an appropriate metaphor for ABSAME's 36th Annual Meeting (October 18-21, Annapolis, MD) I kept thinking food, perhaps because Annapolis has a number of splendid restaurants, and perhaps also because I like food. But what kind of food? It was certainly not a full course meal-something that leaves the diner bloated and sleepy; rather it seemed more like a sampler-mixing light, intriguingly piquant dishes with some heavier fare. Eventually, tapas came to mind. Tapas are those small Spanish appetizers that can also form an entire meal when many are ordered together. The offerings on the program--the plenary speakers, workshops, brief papers and posters--sampled a broad, interdisciplinary spectrum and left me with a desire to take action--if only to find out more.

Some of the "dishes" I tried:

Upon arrival on Wednesday, I joined Jack Carr's session on the treatment of chronic depression. I was struck by the rigor, yet flexibility, of the Cognitive Behavioral Analysis System of Psychotherapy, and suspect that, like many a psychotherapy tool, the effectiveness of the approach reflects the depth of the person using it. At one point, Jack showed a videotape of an actual session with a patient, demonstrating not only technique, but genuine affection for his patient and enjoyment of the encounter.

In contrast, Dr. Orrin Devinsky's plenary on the connections between depression and epilepsy reminded me of the medical education conferences I used to attend. An expert and an accomplished speaker, Dr. Devinsky's thesis was that, "Epilepsy is a risk factor for depression, and depression is a risk factor for epilepsy." In fact, for epileptics, depression

predicts quality of life better than aspects of the seizures themselves. His use of the image of small, inconsequential blows, repeated over time and ultimately causing heavy damage, drove home the necessity for aggressive treatment of even mild forms of epilepsy.

Something different again was Cy Worby's workshop, ostensibly dealing with clinician bias that provided an ABSAME moment for me. Cy started talking about relationships in general as examples of cultural bias. Soon, the session became personal and intense; participants spoke the need to be vulnerable and use their vulnerabilities to connect with others on a more authentic level than we usually allow ourselves-especially in highly ritualized medical encounters. And no, we did NOT end by joining hands and singing "Kumbaya."

The town of Annapolis and the adjoining Maritime Republic of Eastport proved to have their own delights, including fine restaurants, a lovely harbor, the Naval Academy and the Maryland Statehouse. There may even have been a ghost or two, left over from colonial times, haunting the Robert Johnson House. Just ask Jose.

One of the reasons I attend year after year is to re-connect with people I've come to admire and like, but have not seen lately. This meeting afforded ample opportunity for reunions, and they were truly heartwarming. I also noticed the turnover in attendees--new people coming, former stalwarts not there. I missed Dorris.

More ABSAME moments: Joao's A capella rendition of Bach (a kind of one person Swingle Singers); the traditional introductions; Professor Fabrega's mag-

isterial overview of the place of psychotherapy among primates (even monkeys get the blues-go figure!); Larry Mauksch talking about his father Hans-one of ABSAME's "floundering fathers."



Note to next year's Program Committee: Please build in more time for post-presentation discussion. One of the "ABSAME differences" is that we have lots of smart people who represent different disciplines, and one of the ways we get outside our usual frames of reference is through listening to one another as we address questions and comments to speakers. I found that this meeting simply didn't allow enough of that kind of interaction.

When ordering tapas, it is best to combine a number of dishes together and allow everyone in your party to sample each dish. I hope to see you next year at Copper Mountain. ■

Administrative Update

Mark E Vogel - Executive Director

ABSAME Annual Meetings Planned Three Years in Advance

Since 2004 the Board has placed the program planning the capable hand of Laurel Humbert, a professional meeting planner. She has worked closely with Al Eaton, PhD, ABSAME treasurer to identify properties for future meetings. A crucial part of this decision was based on the Association planning its annual meeting at least three years in advance. In early 2006, it voted for the 2008 annual meeting to be held at the Catamaran hotel in San Diego. Currently we are looking toward selection of the 2009 and 2010 meeting properties (a return to Santa Fe for 2009 has been proposed). This has allowed for careful planning to better meet the needs of ABSAME and its membership. We are grateful to the 2005-2006 planning committee co-Chaired by Patrick Hardigan, PhD, of Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale/Davie (Scientist at large) and Jeff Kingsly, DO, of SERRG, Columbus Georgia (President-elect) for helping to make the 2005-2006 meetings a success. This is progress!

Program Co-chairs Term Extended To Two Years

In a move toward consistency from one presidential administration to the next the board has given tacit approval for a two year term for program co-Chairs so they may work with the ABSAME president during their two years in office. Previously co-Chairs, who are ABSAME members in good standing who are not on the Board, served for one year. This left gaps year to year as new co-Chairs must learn the ropes and ways of the board while attempting to plan an annual meeting. The term was piloted between 2004 and 2006 by then president José L. Calderón, MD and co-Chairs Patrick Hardigan, PhD and Jeff Kingsley, DO (president-elect). Results showed improved transition from one meeting to the next in planning and logistics that resulted in greater satisfaction on the part of the board. Furthermore, new co-Chairs will be selected during the first year of the current co-Chair's term to allow the incoming co-Chairs to take part in the planning process before they begin their term. This eliminates on the job training and allows a seamless transition in planning from administration to administration. This is progress!

ABSAME Board Meets Monthly

As the need to address of issues related to the mission increased quarterly Board meeting were no longer capable of addressing them all. In response to this the ABSAME Board voted to convene its teleconference meetings on a monthly basis. This venue has been successful and has allowed more time to discuss the myriad of agenda items that crossed the table these days. Many thanks for the Board for taking the increased responsibility and commitment this venue requires. This is progress!

National Board of Medical Examiners

ABSAME has collaborated with the NBME who has announced it will include two members of ABSAME on their committee to develop NBME items in the area of behavioral and social sciences for national board exams. This breakthrough was inaugurated at the 2005 annual meeting where stakeholders from the NBME attended the annual meeting in October and met with selected ABSAME members who took part in several sessions to brainstorm and develop items for future inclusion in the national board exams. This is in keeping with the IOM report of 2005 to include behavioral and social sciences in medical education and is another way ABSAME is demonstrating its leadership in this area. This is progress!

Call for Nominations for ABSAME Board

There are two seats to fill on the ABSAME Board of Directors. New Board members will assume their positions at the close of the ABSAME Business Meeting in October 2007. We hope you will consider yourself or a colleague for one of the two positions. The ABSAME Board of Directors is a great opportunity to work nationally with colleagues in behavioral science and medical education. 1) Member-at-Large (physician) 3 year term 2) Member-at-Large (non-physician) 3 year term

Board members must be members of ABSAME in good standing. Membership on the ABSAME Board of Directors requires a moderate amount of time and effort. The full Board meets face-to-face for a half-day prior to the annual meeting. Board members also communicate via email and in monthly 1 hour long conference calls. Each Board member is encouraged to serve in one or more ABSAME committee and act as liaison to other behavioral science groups. You may nominate as many people as you wish. Self-nominations are encouraged. To nominate, please provide the names, full mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and FAX numbers of nominees. Nominations must be received at the ABSAME Central Office by June 1, 2007.

Send your nominations by email to admin@absame.org