

Working Together to Promote Clinical Science

Bethany A. Teachman, *Chair, Coalition for the Advancement and Application of Psychological Science*

THE COALITION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT and Application of Psychological Science (CAAPS) strives to promote science to understand, reduce, and prevent the burden of mental illness, and foster adaptive development and well being. CAAPS is an umbrella organization that was formed in 2016 to provide an opportunity for organizations committed to clinical science to have a means for working together productively on shared goals. Our member organizations work on many different aspects of the creation, dissemination, and application of clinical science and the training of clinical scientists, but share a commitment to prioritizing a scientific epistemology to advance knowledge and improve human well being.

The coalition emerged from two clinical summit meetings in 2015 as numerous groups expressed a desire to come together to discuss common concerns, such as how to ensure the public understood the value of clinical psychological science. The original two meetings were coordinated and generously hosted by the Association for Psychological Science, and brought together eight organizations to seek ways to work together to advance clinical science and increase its impact in reducing the burden of mental and behavioral illness. At these meetings, it soon became evident that despite serving unique roles in the field, the groups had much in common and many of the groups shared a commitment to training, promoting innovative research, and the dissemination and implementation of research-supported clinical practice. Thus, at the end of the second meeting it was decided that it would be helpful to have a more formal way to continue meeting and working together.

This led to the birth of CAAPS, which became incorporated as a nonprofit in 2016. The coalition holds bi-annual meetings, bringing together the leadership of various clinical science organizations to discuss issues of common concern in the field. CAAPS focuses on two complementary and intersecting goals:

1. Use the current state of the science to reduce the burden of mental illness.

- a. promote adoption, and safe, reliable delivery of empirically validated assessment, prevention, and treatment approaches
- b. ensure the public's access to high-quality mental and behavior health care
- c. optimize the sustainable implementation of effective services
- d. encourage bidirectional communication and partnerships between researchers and practitioners

2. Improve the science and the field to be better positioned to reduce the burden of mental illness in the future.

- e. reconsider and develop new clinical science training models
- f. increase understanding of mental illness through research innovation
- g. promote research participation and create systems of routinized large-scale collection of data that would be shared freely with researchers

We strive to operate in a way that is inclusive, collaborative, and transparent, and have made a commitment to value and respect equally the generation and application of clinical science. The guiding principles for the group include the following: (a) give priority to the public's welfare over all other competing interests (e.g., guild, personal); (b) as a public trust, prioritize acting ethically with transparency and integrity; and (c) prioritize a scientific epistemology to advance knowledge and improve human well being.

Current member organizations include: Academy of Psychological Clinical Science (APCS), American Psychological Association (Clinical Practice Guidelines Advisory Steering Committee), Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT), Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology (SSCP), Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (COGDOP), Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (CUDCP), Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, and the

Society for Research in Psychopathology (SRP).

Organizations currently in an observer role include: Association for Psychological Science (APS), Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), and the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS).

The coalition is at very early stages, so both its membership and its agenda are likely to grow as CAAPS determines how it can best contribute. The group has begun some collaborative projects across organizations (e.g., developing a media kit for journalists; conducting focus groups with junior and senior members of the field to explore innovative ways to advance training of clinical researchers and practitioners; creating a clearinghouse of tools for providers and educators that focus on how to apply evidence-based principles of change). Joint initiatives will occur whenever organizations feel they can achieve their shared goals most effectively by working together. In addition, having the umbrella structure is intended to allow organizations to easily share information to keep track of trends and learn from each other's prior successes and failures. Moreover, the hope is that we can have opportunities through CAAPS to think more "big picture" about the field than typically occurs within a given organization as a function of having so many different perspectives represented in the coalition.

In many ways, CAAPS' unique role is less about doing some specific initiative that no other group does and more about the benefits that follow from having a coalition so that work can be coordinated and more effective, and there can be a strong voice for the science of clinical psychology. Along these lines, our most recent meeting, which was held at the ABCT Annual Convention in New York, focused on changes in funding for psychosocial research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and was followed by conversation with the new NIMH director, Dr. Joshua Gordon, about the ways psychosocial research can help NIMH achieve its mission. As another example, the coalition is pursuing grant support to encourage data sharing in the clinical field. While there are many groups within the open science movement advocating for sharing data, there has been less uptake of these resources and services by the clinical field, so CAAPS aims to serve as a bridge between the open and clinical science fields.

As CAAPS evolves and grows, we are very appreciative of the support we have received from ABCT, which has helped with both practical aid (e.g., hosting meetings and providing administrative support) and a greatly valued partnership as we jointly strive to promote clinical science to understand, reduce, and prevent the burden of mental illness.

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you
miss
it?

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Videos on-line from ABCT's 50th Annual Convention

- ▶ *Michelle Craske's Presidential Address, "Honoring the Past, Envisioning the Future"*
- ▶ *Invited Panel 1: Technology and Treatment*
Chair and Moderator: Christopher Fairburn; Panelists: Kathleen Carroll, Ellen Frank, David Mohr, Ricardo Muñoz
- ▶ *Invited Panel 2: Cognitive Science and Transdiagnostic Principles*
Chair and Moderator: Steven Hollon; Panelists: Emily Holmes, Jutta Joormann, Matthew Nock, Bethany Teachman
- ▶ *Invited Panel 3: Neuroscience and Psychological Treatment*
Chair and Moderator: Michelle G. Craske; Panelists: Eric Nestler, Elizabeth Phelps, Mary Phillips, Daniel Pine
- ▶ *Invited Panel 4: Dissemination and Implementation*
Chair and Moderator: David Barlow; Panelists: Bruce Chorpita, David Clark, Edna Foa, Vikram Patel
- ▶ *Lifetime Achievement Award Address*
David M. Clark, Ph.D., University of Oxford