



## NEWS FROM THE APA

### **Medicare Status – December 31 Deadline**

If you want to change your Medicare provider status from participating to nonparticipating (or vice versa), you have until December 31 to inform your Medicare contractor. For information about what it means to be participating or nonparticipating, see [KNOW YOUR OPTIONS: MEDICARE PARTICIPATION GUIDE](#) on APA's Web site.

### **APA Sends Action Alert to Members Urging them to Contact Congress to Repeal Broken SGR**

The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (i.e. the Supercommittee) represented a viable vehicle for repealing the flawed SGR formula. However, the Supercommittee's disappointing failure to agree upon a bipartisan deficit reduction package has made it urgently necessary for Congress to address the SGR before the end of the year. Failure to repeal the SGR or, at a bare minimum, take action to avoid the anticipated 27% payment cut will critically handicap the ability of physicians to treat Medicare beneficiaries. At present, physician payment rates under Medicare are scheduled to be cut by 27% on January 1, 2012.

In December 2009, the Congressional Budget Office scored the cost of an SGR fix at \$210 billion. Nearly 18 months later, the score for long-term reform has increased to an estimated \$300 billion. Further delaying SGR reform will only increase the cost, and make permanent reform much more difficult. If Congress were to wait until 2016 to eliminate the SGR, the combined score for providing temporary patches through 2016, and then eliminating the SGR, would approach \$600 billion.

The APA has sent out an [Action Alert](#) to its members urging them to please contact Congress in repealing the SGR NOW.

### **Applications Sought for Child, Adolescent Fellowship**



Psychiatry residents interested in pursuing a career in child and adolescent psychiatry are invited to apply for APA's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship. The program provides mentorship by senior child and adolescent psychiatrists and funding to participate in a wide array of sessions on child and adolescent psychiatry at APA's 2012 and 2013 annual meetings. The deadline for applications is January 12. Click [HERE](#) for details.

## Conflicting Minds Act Out on Screen



A new film opening across the nation will take you back to the early days of psychoanalysis. "A Dangerous Method" digs into the rocky relationship between fledgling psychiatrist Carl Jung and his mentor, Sigmund Freud. The film revolves around Jung, played by Michael Fassbender, and his troubled yet brilliant patient Sabina Spielrein, portrayed by Keira Knightly. Jung decides to try Freud's "talking cure," or psychoanalysis, on Spielrein. What starts as a strictly doctor-patient relationship develops into much more and tests the boundaries of Jung's friendship with Freud, played by actor Viggo Mortensen. "A Dangerous Method," directed by David Cronenberg, was released by Sony Pictures in New York and Los Angeles on November 23. The Washington, D.C., opening is set for December 16 with nationwide release in the weeks that follow. [View the trailer.](#)

## Another eFOCUS CME Survey Ready for You



Take APA's Clinical [eFOCUS](#) survey on alcohol dependence. Clinical eFOCUS is a continuation of the FOCUS program of lifelong learning and is approved by the ABPN as a self-assessment activity for 2 AMA PRA Category 1 credits. The survey provides an opportunity for you to share your opinion, see how others approach the same case, and learn more about patient management of alcohol dependence. Given your knowledge of alcohol dependence and the points made in the vignette, which treatment approach would you choose? Indicate your choice by clicking on the survey and then the voting buttons. [Take the survey.](#)

## Make Your Plans Now for APA's 2012 Annual Meeting and Save on Fees



APA's 2012 Annual Meeting is being held in Philadelphia from May 5-9. If you [register before January 3](#), you'll save on fees. Here's a [list of staff](#) who can answer your annual meeting questions. And to get a head start on planning your down time [see information on the City of Brotherly Love](#) created just for meeting goers..



### DSM-5 Online

Information on the development of the fifth edition of *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5) is available at [www.dsm5.org](http://www.dsm5.org). The site includes the latest draft criteria for diagnoses which are currently being tested in the field. Publication of the DSM-5 is scheduled for May 2013. See the latest [APA Update on the Status of DSM-5](#).

## **Disaster Psychiatry Tools**

Disaster Psychiatry has an important role in emergency prevention, response and recovery. The APA works to coordinate and disseminate valuable and timely [disaster psychiatry materials](#) to those in the field working to plan for and respond to local disasters.

## **APA Non-Physician Scope of Practice Information Center**

Scope of practice expansion remains a key issue for APA's District Branch/ State Associations (DB/SA). Twenty six states report that they expect scope of practice expansion efforts in 2012. If your DB/SA is interested in learning more about the strategies and resources needed to confront state legislative efforts by psychologists, visit the [APA non-physician scope of practice information center](#).

## **Renew your 2012 APA Membership by December 31, 2011 to receive a \$50 Gift Certificate from American Psychiatric Publishing!**

Your APA membership is up for renewal. If you send us your 2012 membership renewal by December 31, 2011, we will send you a \$50 gift certificate to use on an American Psychiatric Publishing purchase of \$100 or more. To be eligible, pay your APA 2012 membership dues or enroll in the APA Scheduled Payment Plan by December 31, 2011. Gift certificates will be emailed to all eligible members by January 15, 2012. Make sure we have a current email for you by going online at [www.psych.org/profile](http://www.psych.org/profile) to update your Member Profile with your current email address or call us at 888-357-7924. Please refer to the insert in your print renewal mailing for additional details. Renew your membership dues online today.

## **Enhance your APA Membership Experience by Periodically Updating Your Account Information Online**

Help us better serve you by logging into the **My Account** home page at [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org) to update your address information, password, and communication methods and to CHOOSE the information you want to receive by email from the American Psychiatric Association. Providing this information is optional, however, by doing so we will be able to serve you better by knowing more about your interests, preferences, and profile. To access your individual member account, login to the [APA website](#) using your APA User Name and Password and select **My Account**.

