

2021 Virtual Spring Conference

In the early 1960s, a group of psychiatric educators began to meet regularly at the Yale Faculty Club. This group, organized by Dr. Iago Galdston, the head of Psychiatric Education for Connecticut, eventually became the nucleus of a new national organization dedicated to collaboratively solving the problems that arise in psychiatric training. An organizational meeting occurred in Chicago, but the first official meeting of the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT) occurred in New Orleans in January 1971. Nearly 200 training directors attended that meeting, when Dr. Galdston was selected as the first president.

Psychiatry training has changed in many ways over the last 50 years, but AADPRT's devotion to promoting excellence in the education and training of psychiatrists remains undiminished. Successive generations of training directors, training coordinators, program assistants, assistant and associate training directors, and other interested professionals have faced major changes in funding, curricula, and requirements with aplomb. When confronting the most vexing of problems and uncertain of times, selfless AADPRT members routinely come together and support each other. The last 9 months have been some of the most difficult in the history of the organization, but the leadership, administrators, and members of AADPRT have once again risen to the challenge. We have made significant changes in our approach and programming, but AADPRT continues to ensure that every psychiatry residency training director has the resources available to create well-rounded, foundationally strong psychiatrists. It was with great sadness that we had to reschedule the 50th in-person meeting of AADPRT from Spring 2021 to Spring 2022. The difficulties and dangers of creating a face-to-face meeting with hundreds of academic psychiatrists from across the USA seemed too great to surmount. Demonstrating our characteristic flexibility, however, we have created AADPRT's first ever Virtual Spring Meeting, March 3–6, 2021.

The 2021 Spring Virtual Meeting is just one of many changes AADPRT has made. AADPRT has begun a series of virtual training offerings throughout the year to bring vital information to training directors, with the following interactive presentations:

- J1 Waiver in Academia: Bringing the Unicorn Home!
- Preparing for the Applicant Flood Tide
- Planning for Our Virtual General Psychiatry Interview Season
- Exploration of the Situational Judgment Test (SJT)
- Recruitment and Outreach Through the Use of Virtual Fairs
- Grabbing the Third Rail: Race and Racism in Clinical Documentation
- The Hidden Factor in Trainee Wellness: Supporting Trainees Who Experience Patient Aggression and Discrimination-Based Aggression/Harassment

We hope our members had a chance to participate in these presentations, but if not, all are stored on AADPRT's Virtual Training Office (to access: log in to aadprt.org, then go to VTO>Virtual Classroom>Virtual Workshops). AADPRT leadership decided to open the workshop and poster selection committees for the 2021 Virtual Spring Meeting to volunteers from the general membership rather than only the steering committee. Opening the selection committees helps ensure the presentations will meet the needs of the entire membership and provides an additional avenue for members to take leadership responsibilities within AADPRT.

Our 2021 Virtual Spring Meeting will be packed with valuable information, so even though you are staying at home, you will want to block your schedule for March 1–6. Plenary speakers will address issues that are both timeless and timely. We have provided many committees and caucuses an opportunity to present to the entire AADPRT membership. Rather than being able to attend only one committee and caucus meeting, members will be able to attend all of them. To foster mentorship and continuing professional growth, we will have workshops targeting training directors at different phases of development: new training director, early career, mid-career, and lifer workshops. Each will focus on the unique challenges of that stage.

Training programs across the USA continue to struggle with the impact of this once-in-a-lifetime COVID-19 disaster. We have had to make decisions and to deal with challenges that Dr. Galdston and his crew could never have imagined. All of us deserve a chance to relax and enjoy the fellowship of those select individuals who know exactly what we have been experiencing. While I wish we were meeting in person in New Orleans, our 2021 Virtual Spring Meeting is the next best thing.

—Randon Welton, M.D., Program Chair