



Council of Professional Geropsychology Training Programs

Council of Professional Geropsychology Training Programs (CoPGTP)

Website: www.copgtp.org

CCTC Meeting Spring 2016

The **Council of Professional Geropsychology Training Programs** seeks to assist and recognize academic institutions, internship and fellowship programs, and continuing education providers dedicated to the principles and practice of professional geropsychology. Each member of the Council is committed to providing training consistent with the Pikes Peak Model for Training in Professional Geropsychology, which specifies attitudes, knowledge, and skill competencies and core features of training for professional geropsychology practice. The mission of the Council is to promote state-of-the-art education and training in geropsychology among its members, provide a forum for sharing resources and advancements in and among training programs, and support activities that prepare psychologists for competent and ethical geropsychology practice.

CoPGTP was established in 2007 following the 2006 Pikes Peak National Conference on Training in Professional Geropsychology. CoPGTP has over 40 national and international member programs.

The CoPGTP Officers for 2014 are:

Rebecca Allen, Ph.D., Chair, The University of Alabama

Victor Molinari, Ph.D., Past-Chair, University of South Florida

Elizabeth Mulligan, Ph.D., Chair-elect, V.A. Boston Healthcare System

Lindsay Jacobs, Ph.D. Secretary, Salem VA

Douglas Lane, Ph.D., ABPP, Treasurer, V.A. Puget Sound Healthcare System

Brian Carpenter, Ph.D., Graduate Program Member-at-Large, Washington University in St. Louis

Heather Smith, Ph.D., Internship program member-at-large, Milwaukee V.A. Hospital

James Long, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Program Member-at-Large, Central Arkansas V.A. Medical Center

Gregory Hinrichsen, Ph.D., Post-licensure program member-at-large, Mt. Sinai Medical Center

Organizational structure

CoPGTP holds monthly executive board meetings that address its ongoing activities, which so far in 2015 have included reports on budget, membership, newsletters, the annual meeting, the development of the Geropsychology ABPP certification, website administration and the expansion of our online resources, survey of APPIC members regarding geropsychology, core competencies initiative, promotion of www.gerocentral.org, creation of a burgeoning e-learning and development center, program and award applications, and ways to promote the Pikes Peak model of geropsychology training. Twice a year the monthly conference calls are conducted as “town hall” meetings, open to any CoPGTP members for their input and general participation.

Resources

The CoPGTP website includes these resources devoted to training issues in professional geropsychology:

- List of member organizations who provide geropsychology training at the doctoral, internship, post-doctoral, and post-licensure levels
- The Pikes Peak Geropsychology Knowledge and Skill Assessment Tool (competencies evaluation tool for supervisory or self-rating purposes)
- APA's revised "Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Older Adults"
- Recommended resources associated with the Pikes Peak Model attitude, knowledge, and skill competencies in geropsychology (books, articles, websites, APA videos, web-based training, etc.)
- Geropsychology course descriptions and syllabi (for doctoral as well as internship/post-doctoral courses)
- List of CoPGTP members available to consult regarding development of geropsychology training programs
- Newsletter archive (published twice annually)
- Links to other resources and organizations

Member organizations can access the website (www.copgtp.org) to update their program information, keeping the resources on the website timely and relevant.

Programs/Awards

- The annual dinner meeting is held at the Gerontological Society of America's Annual Convention in November.
- Awards: We sponsor two awards. *The CoPGTP Award for Research in Geropsychology Training* provides \$1500 for research that advances training in professional geropsychology. *The CoPGTP Award for Innovative Training in Geropsychology* is awarded to a program that advances professional geropsychology training.

Updates

1. Eighty-three internships on the APPIC website are providing some level of geropsychology training, ranging from specific geropsychology rotations to providing opportunities to work with older adults within non-geropsychology-specific rotations. CoPGTP plans to send recruitment letters to these sites to join so that they can access training resources.
2. CoPGTP has sponsored a foundational competencies survey for experts in the field to prioritize geropsychology competencies. The purpose is to develop a basic 14 hour continuing education program in line with our taxonomy. Ultimately we want to build content in CE programs that reflect intermediate and advanced competencies. 150 people responded to the survey and we are now in the process of analyzing the results.
3. CoPGTP has been working with the other geropsychology groups to coordinate edits on the APA specialty renewal application. The Psychologists in Long Term Care, Committee on Aging, Society of Clinical Geropsychology, and Division 20 (Aging & Human Development) have agreed to take responsibility for different sections of the application. The renewal is due by the end of the year.
4. A subcommittee has been formed to discuss how to recruit young geropsychologists into Academia. It seems that many young well-trained geropsychologists are opting for positions with the VA , leaving very few to consider working in the universities and training graduate students in geropsychology. The good pay and opportunities in the VA system seem to sway the balance against academic jobs, particularly with the push for federal grants and the low pay line in getting these grants.

5. CoPGTP is trying to get students and early career psychologists involved with our organization. Student representatives have been recruited to assist different board members with tasks.
6. Two geropsychologists will be presenting at the ABPP workshop series, one of whom is the ABGERO representative to the ABPP BOT, who will also be attending the Specialties summit that occurs right after the workshop. CoPGTP believes it's imperative for geropsychology to be aware of the latest developments in the push for individuals specializing in the field. The Council of Specialties and ABPP are co-sponsoring the summit, and representatives of all the important APA training committees will be there.