

# Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association

## *Working for you!*



The Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association is a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association and your professional organization in the state of Ohio. The OPPA focuses on all aspects of psychiatric care and includes public, academic and private practice psychiatrists, as well as psychiatric residents.

**Our power is strengthened with each member's support and involvement. Your membership is critical to our profession and the patients for whom we care.**

Following are examples of what the OPPA has done and is doing for its members:

- **Advocating in the State legislature on key bills that directly impact psychiatry** and patients with mental illness including unlicensed alternative medicines, health insurance simplification and scope of practice issues. In this General Assembly, continues to advocate on more than 25 legislative bills that impact psychiatrists and their patients!
- **Advocating for adequate funding in the biennial budget** for ODMH, ODADAS and ODJFS – in the original biennial budget bill as well as in the mid-biennial review!
- **Meeting with the State Medical Board of Ohio** to negotiate a markedly reduced burden associated with checking Ohio's Automated Rx Reporting System and developing rules for pain management!
- **Opposing "Step Therapy" language and "fail first" language** by pharmacy benefit managers, managed care companies and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) so that physicians are not limited in prescribing the most appropriate and effective medications for persons covered by Medicaid.
- **Gaining a continued exemption for psychiatrists** from the prior authorization process for mental health medications prescribed to patients covered by ODJFS!
- **Thwarting efforts by organized psychologists to practice medicine** via the legislature to establish a pilot program in Ohio prisons whereby psychologists could prescribe medications. The OPPA will continue to adamantly oppose this measure. Increased efforts to educate policy-makers, other practitioners and the public at large are also happening on a variety of fronts! Please let us know if you are willing to get involved!
- **Protecting the rights of patients and psychiatrists** by addressing managed care issues that threaten access to needed and available inpatient psychiatric services.
- **Representing and enhancing the image and interests of psychiatrists** by working with the news media, regulatory agencies and constituency groups to disseminate information to consumers, family members and the general public on issues of psychiatric medicine.
- **Providing grassroots advocacy training** so that more psychiatrists can have a direct input on shaping public policy as it relates to psychiatry and individuals with mental illness!
- **Holding the annual Advocacy Day at the Statehouse** for psychiatrists to meet one-on-one with their legislators to have direct impact on shaping public policy.
- **Advocating for expanded use of tele-psychiatry** to improve access to psychiatric services!
- **Partnering with Primary Care Physicians to improve access to psychiatric services** and to better coordinate care between multiple physicians!
- **Educating members at multiple OPPA educational events** to present the most up-to-date scientific information on the treatment of psychiatric disorders. This year, these efforts will address such topics as the annual psychiatric update with nationally sought-after speakers, DSM-5 coding workshops, CPT coding and billing for psychiatrists, and we're in the process of planning a workshop on risk management!
- **Communicating issues of importance** at the local, state and national levels through information on the Web site, the quarterly publication, *Insight Matters*, and periodic *e-Insight Updates*.