Introduction to the Special Issue: Invited Papers from APAHC Award Honorees, 2013–2015

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Introduction

This special issue of the *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings* (JCPMS) highlights the achievements and careers of seven distinguished psychologists whose work received special recognition during the time span of 2013–2015. They were chosen by the Awards Committee of the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers (APAHC) to receive one of APAHC's achievement awards. In 2013, there were three honorees: Drs. Cheryl King, Barry Hong, and Steven Tovian. The two honorees in 2014 were Drs. Mary Fristad and Edward Christophersen, and in 2015, there were two honorees: Drs. Richard Handel and William Robiner. Table 1 shows the seven award recipients categorized by the year and type of award they received.

In planning this special issue, Guest Editors Drs. Alisia Tran and Liz Cash, in collaboration with JCPMS Chief Editor Dr. Jerry Leventhal, selected a format modeled after that used by the *American Psychologist* for its annual awards issue. The *American Psychologist* awards issue

presents papers by recipients of awards granted by the American Psychological Association (APA) in that year. In keeping with The *American Psychologist* model, we invited each of the seven APAHC awardees to submit two articles, the first being an autobiographical personal statement about the development of their career as a psychologist and as a person. The second invited manuscript would be based on a topic of their choice based on some aspect of the honoree's work. Thus, each APAHC award recipient was invited to contribute two separate manuscripts for this Special Issue, with the documents to be published together. The plan was to publish all 14 papers (seven authors, two papers per author) in this issue of JCPMS, but due to publication deadlines, some manuscripts may not appear until the next issue.

Following the tradition established by the *American Psychologist*, each biographical article begins with a citation that is derived from documents submitted to the APAHC Awards Committee by sponsors who nominated each honoree. Drs. Barbara Cubic and William Robiner, who served as Presidents of APAHC and also chair of the APAHC Awards Committee, provided access to the nomination documents. We thank them for their assistance. Additionally, we gratefully acknowledge our debt to the *American Psychologist* and to APA. All articles, both biographies and “topic-of-choice” manuscripts, have undergone a peer review process and been assessed by three or more reviewers. Reviewers' feedback was provided to each author for their manuscripts. We thank the reviewers for their work.

In the next section we provide information about: APAHC as a professional association; JCPMS as APAHC's official journal; the APAHC annual awards; and the three categories for which awards are given. We also

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Table 1 APAHC award honorees for the years 2013–2015, with title and category of their award

Year	Honoree	Award
2013	Steven Tovian	Ivan Mensh Award for Distinguished Achievement in Teaching
	Barry Hong	Joseph D. Matarazzo Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in Academic Health Centers
	Cheryl King	Bud Orgel Award for Distinguished Achievement in Research
2014	Edward Christophersen	Joseph D. Matarazzo Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in Academic Health Centers
	Mary Fristad	Bud Orgel Award for Distinguished Achievement in Research
2015	William Robiner	Joseph D. Matarazzo Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in Academic Health Centers
	Richard Handel	Bud Orgel Award for Distinguished Achievement in Research

discuss the APAHC Awards Committee and the process for selecting awardees.

Missions of APAHC and JCPMS

The origins of APAHC stem from a period of unrest among psychologists in academic health centers (AHCs). In the early 1980s, the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) had determined that psychologists should be excluded from the definition of medical staff. This threat prompted a call for psychologists working in AHCs to convene at an initial meeting held at the 1981 APA convention. The meeting resulted in the formation of a task force whose mission was to develop a national organization to support AHC psychologists. APAHC (then known as the Association of Medical School Psychologists, or AMSP) was thus formed. APAHC received provisional approval from APA at the 1982 convention to be designated as Section 8 of the Society of Clinical Psychology, Division 12 of the APA. APAHC was formed with an Executive Committee that included the leadership of Reuben Silver, Ivan Mensch, Joseph Matarazzo, and Sidney Orgel, among others (Silver, Carr, & Leventhal, 2005).

Soon after its formation, APAHC leaders began educating the broader audience of psychology on the unique situations and challenges of those working in AHCs. Today, as outlined in the *Officers' Manual of the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers* (2015), APAHC's mission encompasses the following objectives:

The purpose of the Association is to promote the discipline and profession of psychology in academic health centers and to encourage and support psychologists' participation in institutional governance, research, educational programs, administration, leadership, and policy development. APAHC's mission is to strengthen the role of psychology and behavioral science in health care research, clinical

care, and the education of graduate students, doctoral interns and postdoctoral psychology fellows/residents, as well as with medical students, physicians, and resident physicians, and other health professionals. By fostering active leadership roles for psychologists in all facets of training, clinical practice, research, and administration in academic health centers, APAHC seeks to promote the status and collegial roles of psychologists with other AHC psychologists and health care professionals. APAHC articulates and promotes the concerns, values, privileges, priorities, responsibilities and rights of academic health center psychologists through:

- (1) Linkages to other psychologist and psychology organizations;
- (2) Linkages to academic leaders in other health care disciplines, especially through the Association's membership as an academic society in the Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS) of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC); and
- (3) Liaison to or membership in other professional organizations dealing with education, training, certification, and credentialing.

APAHC fosters the inclusion of strong psychological and behavioral science programs within the practice of medicine and health care, the recognition of psychology as a health care profession, and the infusion of psychological knowledge and expertise into research, treatment, prevention, health promotion, and teaching programs in academic health centers that benefit patients, health care trainees, and the general public. These objectives [are] pursued to address the unique problems, opportunities, educational research, and clinical practice matters confronted by psychologists in academic health centers, medical schools, and teaching hospitals.

APAHC is unique from other psychological organizations, in part because of its dual affiliation with psychology, through APA, and with medicine, through its academic society membership of the AAMC CFAS.

Publication of JCPMS began in 1994, with Dr. Ronald Rozensky serving as the Founding Editor. In 2005, Springer Science + Business Media, the publisher of JCPMS, and APAHC leaders finalized an agreement that JCPMS and APAHC would enter into a collaborative relationship for their mutual benefit. Ownership of the Journal remained in the hands of the publisher, now known as Springer Nature, a global publishing enterprise which currently publishes approximately 750 academic journals that cover the full range of human scholarship and research. In 2007, the JCPMS mantle of leadership passed to Barbara Cubic, who served as JCPMS's second Editor-in-Chief for the next 6 years; in 2013, Gerald Leventhal became the third psychologist to serve as Chief Editor (Leventhal, 2013).

JCPMS's objectives and content reflect the same emphases as those of APAHC, namely, advancing interdisciplinary research and practice at the interface between psychology and medicine. The Journal provides a forum for original papers, ranging from single case studies to broader literature reviews, as well as clinically relevant research, all related to the work of psychologists in AHCs and with diverse medical populations. JCPMS also covers topics of significant theoretical or practical importance for the application of psychology in medical settings, e.g., professional training, clinical practice issues, and AHC administration and governance. Thus, the missions of JCPMS and APAHC intertwine and support one another. Together, these activities confirm a collaboration that benefits the Association and the Journal, and more broadly, the objective of advancing the science and practice of psychology and its role in AHCs and beyond.

History of APAHC Awards

The APAHC awards provide the opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of its members and other AHC psychologists in research, teaching, and service. Under Dr. Carl Zimet's APAHC presidency, beginning in 1992, the awards offered by APAHC (then known as AMSP) first recognized educators and researchers by honoring Dr. Ivan Mensh for teaching and Dr. Joseph Matarazzo for research. The efforts of both Mensh and Matarazzo, starting in the 1950s (documented more completely in Silver et al., 2005), were foundational to establishing a formal organizational body within the APA for psychologists in medical schools and AHC settings. As will be seen in a number of the biographies of this Special Issue's awardees, the impact of

both Mensh and Matarazzo continues to be noted by contemporary psychologists in academic healthcare settings. Mensh ultimately became the namesake for the APAHC teaching award in 2006 (Ivan Mensh Award for Distinguished Achievement in Teaching). Additionally, in 2006, the research award was named after Sidney A. "Bud" Orgel, who served as a long-term executive committee member and, ultimately, the president of AMSP from 1988 to 1990. Matarazzo became the namesake for the APAHC lifetime achievement award created in 2009 (Joseph D. Matarazzo Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in Academic Health Centers).

In all, there have been 22 awardees for the Ivan Mensh Award for Distinguished Achievement in Teaching, 23 awardees for the Bud Orgel Award for Distinguished Achievement in Research, and seven awardees for the Joseph D. Matarazzo Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in Academic Health Centers. A comprehensive list of all APAHC award recipients can be found on the Awards page of the APAHC website (www.div12.org/section8/APAHCAward.html). On occasion, it has occurred that an award was not given in a particular category, as nominees must demonstrate a level of achievement commensurate with the high standards set by the awards. Moreover, in professional and scientific associations, there are many deserving individuals who, for many reasons, may either not be nominated, or if nominated, may not be selected. For example, the APAHC teaching award has not been given since 2013.

Award Categories

APAHC achievement awards are typically reserved for more senior psychologists with a demonstrated track record of excellence in the area of the award. The Ivan Mensh Award for Distinguished Achievement in Teaching acknowledges the contributions of outstanding psychologists who work in and conduct innovative teaching and training in medical school and AHC settings. The Bud Orgel Award for Distinguished Achievement in Research acknowledges psychologists who work in and contribute to the advancement of research and scholarship in medical school and AHC settings. The Joseph D. Matarazzo Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in Academic Health Centers is given to psychologists whose work in medical schools and health care settings has enhanced the roles of psychologists in education, research, and clinical care. Nominees should be exceptional senior psychologists who have made substantial contributions to psychology in AHCs across their careers.

APAHC Awards Committee and Nominations

The Awards Committee is chaired by the Past-President of APAHC. The Committee is further comprised of two or more additional members, one of whom must be a past recipient of an APAHC award. The Awards Committee fulfills its duties within the award nominations cycle, and makes its recommendations to the Board of Directors. Indeed, service to APAHC seems almost incumbent upon our highlighted award recipients. Drs. Richard Handel, Steven Tovian, Cheryl King, Barry Hong, and William Robiner all previously served on the APAHC Board, with Drs. Robiner, King, and Hong also having served terms as President. For our present group of honorees, Dr. William Robiner chaired the Awards Committee for 2013, when Drs. Cheryl King, Steven Tovian, and Barry Hong received awards. Dr. Barbara Cubic chaired the Awards Committee for 2014, when Drs. Fristad and Christophersen received awards, and also for 2015 when Drs. Handel and Robiner received awards.

The call for award nominations is typically disseminated early in the calendar year, with finalization in March or April. APAHC regulations state that nominations must be made by either current APAHC members or a previous recipient of an APAHC achievement award. Non-APAHC members can be nominated for the APAHC achievement awards. Traditionally, nominations are made to the APAHC Awards Committee, and the Chair of the Awards Committee is responsible for the nomination and selection process, including securing individual plaques to commemorate each award.

Regarding procedures for formal presentation of the APAHC awards, in earlier years, the President of APAHC presented the awards at the Division 12 Awards Ceremony held at the APA annual convention. However, many awards are presented at that meeting, so members of the APAHC Board felt that a less crowded, more personal setting would be better. In 2010, the Board decided that the awards ceremonies should take place at the beginning of a suitable assembly, such as an APAHC program at the APA

convention or at the APAHC conference, depending on the recipients' availability. This year, in 2016, the APAHC Board voted to amend procedures for award nominations and award presentations in more fundamental ways. Henceforth, instead of yearly, award nominations will be solicited and awards granted biennially, i.e., every other year. Similarly, the formal presentation of awards will also occur every other year at APAHC's biennial conference.

Closing Remarks

In this Special Issue, the award recipients' personal biographies give them an opportunity to offer readers some insight into how the awardees became who they are as professionals and as individuals. The format also provides award recipients an opportunity to showcase some of their recent original work. These award recipients exemplify how psychologists may flourish in academic medical and healthcare settings. Their personal narratives are a source of inspiration for us all. We hope you enjoy reading these contributions as much as we have.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest Elizabeth Cash and Alisia G. T. T. Tran declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Human and Animal Rights and Informed Consent This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by the authors.

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