

Society for Family Psychology

Celebrating our Past and Crafting our Future

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This year is the 25th anniversary for Family Psychology as a Division of the American Psychological Association. Over these years Family Psychology has grown into a specialized knowledge base and practice domain within the larger discipline of Professional Psychology. We have a substantial research base that focuses on clinically significant processes of change, a diverse practice that is both systematic and creative, and as a profession that is recognized as a “specialty” in the American Psychological Association.

Now it's time to celebrate our distinguished past by starting a dialogue within the Society. It's time to ask critical questions of research, practice, policy/diversity, and education/training. It's time to chart the course of our future by linking what we do with the larger context of professional psychology.

Here is a summary of key discussions that have been taking place all year, along with a list of the activities planned for this year's convention. We hope you'll plan to attend our events in Toronto, join in our online discussions, and be part of the synergy that is shaping our Society in 2009.

Discussion Forum.

This year in TFP we begin a series of “visions” of the profession. These featured articles are intended to bring forward

discussion and ideas about who we are and where we need to go as a profession and as a society.



Family Psychology Clearinghouse.

We began development of a web based clearinghouse to become a resource for family psychologists in research and practice settings. Sections will include:

- A scientific clearinghouse for studies, specific findings, and our EBP recommendations.
- A practice innovations section for clinical inspirations, applications of family psychology in unique settings, and other practice tips.
- A educational section through which workshops are provided along with suggestions for syllabi, family course content, and ways to meet program and accreditation requirements for APA.
- A continuing education section where online CE opportunities are provided.
- An advocacy section in which current information is provided about political and social issues such as health

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care reform and interpersonal violence.

- A diversity section offering ideas, studies, and other information for culturally relevant family psychology practice.

Membership Initiatives.

Membership in the Society remained steady despite overall drops in APA and in many other divisions. In an effort to increase membership among new professionals and students, the Board developed two membership enhancement programs.

- a. Targeted “new member” sponsorship: Members can volunteer to both identify and sponsor one new member. The new member will receive the normal free membership during the first year. The sponsor will then donate the Society membership fee for the second year.
- b. Regular “new member” sponsorship: Members can volunteer to sponsor a new member from within a pool of potential new members who respond to an invitation to join this special program. A committee of the membership chair, the president elect, and the student member to the board will choose new members to receive board sponsorship. ■