

Get involved!

This is a great way to help shape the future of the organization and to meet other members from across the country.

Joining SSPC not only will increase your knowledge of the field of cultural psychiatry, but it will introduce you to a stimulating group of educators, practitioners, and researchers who are excited to meet new members and are keen to share their experience, knowledge, and opportunities with you!

Dues for trainees are only \$25. Join now for 2011 and start networking today with colleagues in cultural psychiatry. To find a membership form visit www.psychiatryandculture.org.

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Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture

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Special thanks to Alpna Munshi, Yavar Moghimi and Felicia Wong for writing this brochure.



*Interested in
Culture and
Mental Health?
Join SSPC!*

*Promoting Interest in
Cultural Aspects of
Mental Health*

What is the SSPC?

The Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture (SSPC) is an organization of psychiatrists, other health professionals, and experts in social science committed to the promotion of research, clinical care and education in the cultural aspects of mental health and mental disorders.

Why should I join?

SSPC has an international and multidisciplinary membership. Members of SSPC are working on the cutting edge of new developments in clinical research, educational initiatives, and field-work in cultural psychiatry. The Society holds an annual conference that showcases the latest research in cultural psychiatry, and directs the society's efforts in medical and psychiatric education.

SSPC welcomes residents and graduate students, and encourages their full participation in all activities. By joining you will be exposed to leaders in the field of transcultural psychiatry in the US, Canada, and around the world. By broadening the scope of the organization beyond the traditional medical model, the multidisciplinary membership is an asset to this complex and dynamic area of psychiatry. Joining SSPC will enhance your ability to think about how culture influences your practice and education, and will expose you to an amazing group of colleagues ready to guide, mentor and stimulate your careers.

Benefits of Membership Include:

* **Networking:** You will meet other like-minded residents. If you feel that cultural psychiatry is given little time in your program, or that fellow residents and faculty do not share your interest, you will meet residents and faculty who share your interest in this area! The SSPC provides opportunities for sharing ideas, learning about national and international clinical electives, and forming friendships and lasting professional relationships.

* **Mentorship:** A large number of SSPC members have been leaders in cultural psychiatry research and teaching for decades. These members are approachable. Many are very keen on meeting residents and have provided guidance to current resident members on research, elective opportunities, and general career advice. Some members hold chairs in the area of cultural psychiatry or participate in expert panels, such as the DSM V Task force. Others are involved in cross-national research sponsored by international organizations such as the World Health Organization (W.H.O.). As a group, members of SSPC have had a major impact on mental health policies at both the national and the international levels.

* **Resources:** SSPC is expanding its website in order to collect references on cultural psychiatry, including articles, books, and other educational resources, along with patient education materials.

* **Presentations:** Residents are encouraged to submit and present papers and posters of their original research at the conference. These can include educational initiatives in which they have been involved, cultural formulations of patients, and clinical research. In 2011 SSPC will have an entire half-day

session in the Annual Meeting dedicated to work of residents.

* **Participation in Committees:** Residents are invited to actively participate on committees. In 2011 one trainee will be appointed to the Board.

* **Awards:** Each year SSPC gives two fellowship awards to trainees.

One resident or fellow in psychiatry receives the John Spiegel Fellowship, a travel award to attend the conference to present his or her manuscript in cultural psychiatry. This award is given on a competitive basis. This award is given on a competitive basis.

The Charles Hughes Fellowship in Cultural Psychiatry is presented to a graduate student who has an interest in and commitment to research in cultural aspects of mental health and illness. This award is given on a competitive basis to fund travel for the recipient to attend the conference to present his or her original paper.

