

Illinois Association of Prescribing Psychologists

2025 Annual Report





A Letter From **Dr. Beth N. Rom-Rymer** CEO and President

Dearest Colleagues and Friends,

As I reflect on this past year, I am thrilled by the robust, energetic, and innovative work of the 20+ licensed prescribing psychologists in Illinois, the scores of psychologists who are training to become licensed prescribers in our state, and the enthusiasm and brilliance of our youngest trainees: our undergraduate and graduate psychology students. To date, we are the only state in our nation to have emboldened the next generations of prescribing psychologists in our Movement by giving them formal opportunities for pre-prescribing psychologist training at the undergraduate and graduate levels!

I am also encouraged by the strengthening of our alliances with frontline psychiatrists, physicians, nurses, and our formidable community partners: NAMI and Thresholds. Although we have been frustrated in much of our legislative lobbying efforts, this year, we have worked tirelessly with legislators and with our state agencies to expand prescriptive authority in Illinois and remove all barriers to critical, integrative care, including obtaining state Medicaid reimbursement. These priorities are not just policy goals; they are lifelines for the children, older adults, and other underserved communities, who are suffering, but must continue to wait for unfettered access to mental health treatment.

Our legislative partners, particularly Senate President Don Harmon, have been and will be, key to our legislative successes. We are most grateful for their steadfastness. Our incremental work takes time, patience, excruciating perseverance, and finely-honed skills. We will move closer to our legislative goals because, together, we have raised our voices and stood our ground.

Our prescribing psychologists are transforming community clinics, hospitals, and private practices—demonstrating, daily, how our training and expertise change lives. As always, we are collaborating with colleagues across the United States and around the globe, advancing prescriptive authority and shaping the future of psychology. We can take great pride in leading a powerful Movement that promotes health equity and systemic change.

I am very much grateful to each and every one of you as we are all working on behalf of our profession and those we serve.

Wishing you a warm and exhilarating holiday season, with all whom you love and cherish,

Beth

Beth N. Rom-Rymer, Ph.D. (she/her)
Illinois Association of Prescribing Psychologists
Founder, President and CEO
Association of Jewish Psychologists (AJP)
Co-Founder and President
Rom-Rymer & Associates
President
National Register of Health Service Psychologists
President and Chair (2021-2022)



ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES AND LOBBYING EFFORTS IN ILLINOIS AND NATIONALLY

We have been working, during the 2025 legislative session in Illinois, to build support among our legislators, specifically our state Senators, for our bill that would:

1. Lift the age constraints on treating children under the age of 17 years and treating older adults over the age of 65.
2. Give prescribing psychologists the authority to prescribe the Schedule 2 psychostimulants (ritalin, concerta, focalin, for eg.).

We have also been working, simultaneously, to give prescribing psychologists the authority to bill Medicaid for prescribing psychologists' comprehensive treatment. Over these last several months, we have held several important conversations with our lobbyists as to the most effective strategy for achieving this high priority goal. We are working with the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as with our legislators. We believe that we are very close to achieving this goal, as the HHS is as concerned as we are for the thousands of Illinoisans who are inadequately served or who have no access at all to mental health treatment because of the paucity of mental health professionals who are prescribers. We have prescribing psychologists, today, working in our mental health clinics, serving Medicaid populations, who are unable to prescribe for their clients. We are hopeful that this path to providing mental health services to the most under-served population in our state will soon be open!



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY MOVEMENTS

The first governmental entity to pass Prescriptive Authority legislation was the United States territory of Guam, in 1999. New Mexico, the first prescribing state, passed its legislation in 2002. Louisiana passed its prescriptive authority legislation in 2004. It took 10 years for another state to pass Prescriptive Authority. When I was President of the Illinois Psychological Association (2011-2012, 2013-2014), I was able to lead a statewide team of hundreds of psychologists to legislative victory in May 2014. In quicker succession, then, other states followed: Iowa (2016), Idaho (2017), Colorado (2023), Utah (2024). Today, psychologists in at least 20 additional states, including: Vermont, New York, Connecticut, Virginia, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Nevada, Arizona, California, and Washington State, are all actively pursuing prescriptive authority legislation by organizing state-wide coalitions of psychologists and third-party stakeholders. Together, they represent a meaningful cross-section of the country and reflect a shared commitment to improving access to mental-health care.

The Ontario Psychological Association, on September 17, 2025, received the news that the Ontario Government is seeking to increase the scope of practice of several regulated healthcare professionals in Ontario, including psychologists, who will be given the authority to “prescribe psychotropic medications and to order appropriate lab tests.” Ontario will soon be the first jurisdiction **outside the United States** to grant this expansion in scope of practice. Since Ontario has a population of 16.2 million, it surpasses the state of Illinois, with a population of 12.8 million, therefore making it the most populous governmental entity that will have Prescriptive Authority. Dr. Diana Velikonja and Dr. Beth Rom-Rymer will be speaking about the Ontario Prescriptive Authority legislation and the international Prescriptive Authority Movement at the Canadian Psychological Association Convention in Montreal in early June 2026.

In addition to Guam, our 7 states, Ontario, and the U.S. military, prescribing psychologists can also prescribe on native lands overseen by the Indian Health Service and can prescribe on lands controlled by the U.S. Public Health Service and in the U.S. Coast Guard.

In 2010, I had conversations about the competence of prescribing psychologists and how they might be able to serve the needs of indigenous peoples for comprehensive mental health care, with then-Chief Psychologist of the Indian Health Service, Dr. Rose Weahkee. After her consultation with then-IHS Director, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. Weahkee wrote a proclamation, giving prescriptive authority to licensed prescribing psychologists on native lands, overseen by the Indian Health Service within the United States.



National and International Prescriptive Authority Movements Continued...

Beyond Canada, we have burgeoning or robust Prescriptive Authority Movements in other parts of the world. Because of the tremendous professional opportunities and interpersonal growth inherent in international partnership, I have always cultivated a global perspective as the foundation for the future of psychology and for those we serve and teach.

Elaine LeVine had worked, extensively, in the international arena, with Marlin Hoover and Elaine Foster, when she invited psychologists from the Netherlands to participate in the psychopharmacology training that she was conducting at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, in the early 2000's. Elaine and her colleagues spent several years, partnering with their Dutch colleagues, both in Las Cruces and in The Netherlands.

Beginning in 2019, international collaborations continued with psychologist colleagues in a growing number of countries, including: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, India, Jamaica, Jordan, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom. Across these regions, psychologists are exploring new ways to expand their scope of practice and to most effectively serve vulnerable communities.

In October of 2022, I spent a week in South Africa, with my South African psychologist colleagues, Dr. Joachim Mureriwa and Dr. Thabiso Rapapali. We, along with Dr. Judi Steinman, presented a panel on Prescriptive Authority for the 26th Annual South African Psychology Congress in Johannesburg, attended by an SRO crowd of over 100. After 3 days at the Conference, my colleagues took me to their homes, where I stayed for another four days and visited with their friends and families. To be welcomed as a member of my colleagues' families gave me an extraordinary perspective into the African culture, rich in history, tradition, having made tremendous contributions to thousands of years of civilization!

Next to Canada, South Africa has made the most headway in organizing psychologists around the prescribing psychologists' advocacy agenda that must be approved by the Minister of Health. Drs. Mureriwa and Rapapali (both of whom earned their MSCP) and Dr. Thabani Sibanda, created the South African organization, PASACP (Pharmacology Association for South African Clinical Psychologists), expressly to advocate for psychologists' prescriptive authority. Currently, Drs. Mureriwa and Rapapali are preparing a one-year training program, billed as an "Introduction to Clinical Psychopharmacology," for more than one hundred South African colleagues, with the support of a South African University and its Department of Psychopharmacology. Dr. Sibanda has recently (2025) published an article detailing the legal challenges facing the Prescriptive Authority Movement in South Africa.



National and International Prescriptive Authority Movements Continued...

Croatia, Poland, and Australia are building momentum in their Prescriptive Authority Movements. Dr. Ivan Zecevic (ZEH cheh vich), a Croatian psychologist, collected information, in 2018 and 2019, from his Croatian colleagues, on their attitudes toward Prescriptive Authority in their country. A majority of the respondents supported prescriptive authority for psychologists and most reported that they would like to be “educated to prescribe psychotropic medications.” I have initiated correspondence with Dr. Zecevic and I look forward to meeting with him, soon, through video conference.

In Poland, research by Dr. Jolanta Banasiewicz; New Mexico prescribing psychologist, Dr. Monika Kos y Gonzales; and other colleagues found that approximately twenty percent of surveyed psychologists are open to expanding their competencies to include prescribing, and most respondents approach this possibility with thoughtful balance and professional responsibility. Drs. Banasiewicz, Dr. Kos y Gonzales, their co-authors, and another Polish-American colleague, Anna Wegierek, an Illinois prescribing psychologist, are continuing to highlight, in Poland, the courageous, meticulous work of prescribing psychologists in other parts of the world.

In Australia, Dr. Judi Steinman has been working with psychologist, Dr. Daniel Sullivan, as he is preparing to assess national attitudes toward prescriptive authority. Drs. Steinman, Rom-Rymer, Mureriwa, Rapapali, and other international leaders will be meeting to discuss the Australian RxP Movement on December 17th.

I am also beginning to explore, with Israeli psychologists, their interest in pursuing prescriptive authority and how we might support their efforts over the coming six to nine months.

I believe that it is critical to approach our numerous international partnerships with an attitude of collaborative science, flexibility, and honesty, with a commitment to reciprocity and respect and a desire to learn from them, as well as to contribute. I envision our global perspective as including opportunities and support for clinical services expansion, serving those most in need.



IAPP SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

AMPLIFYING VOICES, EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE, BUILDING COMMUNITY

In 2025, the Illinois Association of Prescribing Psychologists launched its first Special Interest Groups (SIGs), a major step in amplifying voices within our profession and ensuring that diverse perspectives are both heard and valued. The SIGs were created to tap into our collective knowledge and lived experiences, fostering collaboration, mentorship, and opportunities for thought leadership.

Each group is peer-led and focuses on a specific identity, community, or area of practice. Together, they create space for members to share expertise, publish articles, host webinars, and develop initiatives that strengthen advocacy, equity, and innovation in mental healthcare. Through this work, the SIGs deepen engagement within IAPP and across the broader psychology community, shaping conversations that directly impact patients, providers, and policy.

- **BIPOC SIG** – Amplifying the voices and perspectives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in psychology.
- **LGBTQIA+ SIG** – Advancing affirming care, advocacy, and connection for LGBTQIA+ providers and communities.
- **Access & Equity SIG** – Addressing barriers and expanding mental health access for underserved populations.
- **Neuropsychology SIG** – Sharing expertise, research, and practice in neuropsychology and prescribing psychology.
- **Student & Early Career Psychologists SIG** – Supporting students and new professionals as they develop their skills, build networks, and shape the future of the field.

To get involved, please email team@ilprescribingpsychologists.com, or scan the QR code below to submit an interest form.



<https://bit.ly/SIG-Interest-Form>

These groups have already become vibrant spaces for exchange, collaboration, and innovation. The dedication, generosity, and insight of every SIG member have laid a strong foundation for what's to come. Their efforts are not only strengthening our professional community but are advancing IAPP's mission: to expand access to quality mental healthcare and promote excellence across the field of psychology.



IAPP'S 17TH ANNUAL NETWORKING EVENT

Event Reflection & Recap

On the evening of August 23, 2025, the IAPP community came together for its 17th annual networking event—a joyous, meaningful convergence of practitioners, trainees, advocates, and colleagues in the field of psychology. The hybrid format allowed for broad participation across Illinois and around the globe, reflecting both our local roots and our national and international reach.

We honored the remarkable career of Thomas Lee, MD, a psychiatrist whose contributions to the AMITA/Presence/Ascension Health prescribing psychology fellowship program have shaped the careers of most of Illinois's 22 practicing prescribing psychologists. His retirement, this August, gave us all an opportunity to express our gratitude and affection for a man who taught us so much about the rigors of our discipline, while giving us some wonderful insights about the patients to whom we devote our careers.

An intriguing presentation came from BlueGenes Labs (CEO Nick Glimcher, Consultant Jerome (Jro) Bernardes), who introduced their DNA-based precision tool to support prescribers in tailoring treatment and enhancing patient trust. Our legislative update session, led by lobbyist Mark Taylor, offered a clear look at both our victories and ongoing challenges—setting a clear agenda for 2026 advocacy: 1/ to continue lobbying for the removal of the age restrictions in our statute; and 2/ the removal of the constraint on prescribing psychologists' use of the (Schedule 2) psychostimulants; 3/ the broadening of prescribing psychologists' authority to treat Medicaid patients.

These annual and biannual networking meetings, always bubbling up with such joy, enthusiasm, and commitment to our Mission, are continual reminders of all that we do and the strong bonds that are forged as we travel together on this exciting journey!

Thank you to everyone who attended, contributed, and continues to support this Movement. Your indefatigable work and dedication fuel our progress.



REFLECTIONS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

2025 IAPP NETWORKING DINNER

I appreciated being part of such a thoughtful gathering and it was inspiring to see the commitment IAPP has to advancing psychology and improving access to mental health care! The event also made me even more excited for my upcoming move to Illinois and the opportunity to be among such a vibrant professional community.

I am currently licensed in Wisconsin and will soon begin the process for licensure in Illinois. I am especially passionate about early identification of developmental and mental health concerns, reducing disparities in diagnosis and treatment, and helping providers and families feel equipped to support children and adolescents. My ultimate professional goal is to combine clinical work, consultation and advocacy in ways that expand both equity and access. In line with IAPP's mission, I am also very committed to advocating and advancing prescriptive authority for psychologists (with an obvious special interest in pediatric/adolescent and young adult care).

I'm looking forward to staying connected and am grateful for the support of IAPP as I continue on this journey. Please extend my thanks to Dr. Rom-Rymer for her leadership and for creating spaces where psychologists can imagine and pursue new possibilities for our field. The way that she connected with and celebrated each individual in attendance was very admirable.

-Anwuri Osademe, Psy.D. , MA



Tribute to Dr. Thomas Lee



KaiNani Kastor



Damo Antwine Jelani



Dr. Morgan Ferris-Johnston



THE VOICES OF IAPP

“Adding prescriptive authority to my practice has truly transformed how I care for my patients, including being a veritable “one-stop shop.” It has increased access to care for the members of my community, which will only become more tangible once current restrictions are lifted. Being a prescribing psychologist has also impacted my career in that it has given me expertise that can be used across the country (and internationally) to assist with RxP efforts, including grassroots work and legislative advocacy, as well as educating the next generation of prescribing psychologists and ensuring our specialty has a seat at the table.”

-Derek C. Phillips, Psy.D., MSCP, ABMP

“Being able to prescribe medications, conduct neuropsychological testing, and provide psychotherapy certainly broaden my capabilities as a clinician. This diverse skill combined with the fact that I speak Polish allowed me to offer comprehensive care to my patients, addressing both physiological and psychological aspects of their health. It enabled me to tailor treatment plans more effectively, considering a wider range of factors that may impact my patients well-being. This holistic approach not only enhanced my ability to diagnose and treat but also fostered deeper connections with my patients as I guide them through their healthcare journey.”

-Anna Maria Wegierek, Psy.D., MSCP



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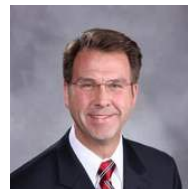
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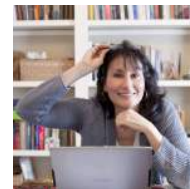
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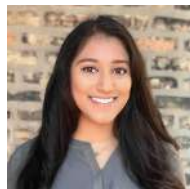
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Our IAPP Mission

is to fully implement the practice of prescriptive authority by highly trained prescribing psychologists; expand the scope of practice of prescribing psychologists to the full extent of their training and expertise, through effective legislative lobbying and the development and sustaining of alliances with community stakeholders; advocate for the mental health needs of the most underserved populations within Illinois; promote broad diversity and inclusivity within the prescribing psychologist community; and ensure broad diversity and inclusivity within the Association.