

## CASE REPORT

### PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE SECTION AWARDS: RESEARCH BY FELLOWS IN FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOLOGY

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#### Introduction

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The Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section is supporting research in our field by the establishment of an award that may be granted annually to the best paper by a fellow in forensic psychiatry or forensic psychology.

This award is consistent with the Section's longstanding support for research being an integral component of the training programs that prepare professionals for careers in our subspecialties. The Section was a cosponsor with the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law of the Joint Committee on Accreditation of Fellowship Programs in Forensic Psychiatry, which included training in research as part of its "Standards for Fellowship Programs in Forensic Psychiatry." The Section has provided financial support for, and continues to endorse the work of, the AAPL Accreditation Council on Fellowships in Forensic Psychiatry, which mandates training in research in all accredited forensic psychiatry fellowships.

The award consists of several components:

- (1) a printed certificate of award;
- (2) a monetary award;
- (3) one year's free membership in AAFS, including a free subscription to the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* if the award winner meets the basic membership criteria of the Section.
- (4) free registration for the AAFS convention in the year that the recipient is granted the award;
- (5) guaranteed presentation of the award-winning paper at the scientific program of the Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Section; and
- (6) recommendation to the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* that the paper be published.

In 1989, the first award was granted to Neil S. Kaye, M.D. from the forensic psychiatry fellowship program of the State University of New York at Syracuse, New York. In 1990, the second award was granted to Pascal Sauvayre, Ph.D., of the forensic psychology fellowship program of New York University School of Medicine at New York, New York.

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In 1991, the third award was granted to Daniel Martell, Ph.D., of the forensic psychology fellowship program of New York University School of Medicine at New York, New York.

The year 1991 was remarkable for the large number of interesting and competent papers that were submitted for consideration by the Awards Committee. It was decided to create a new category, Honorable Mention, to acknowledge the papers that were not able to receive the main award. Winners of Honorable Mention status receive:

- (1) a printed certificate of award;
- (2) invitation to join the Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Section, if the Honorable Mention recipient meets the basic membership requirements of the Section; and
- (3) recommendation to the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* that the paper be published.

The success of our program has prompted the AAPL Association of Directors of Forensic Psychiatry Fellowships to initiate a similar program to recognize research by fellows in forensic psychiatry. Our award remains unique in that it is open to both fellows in forensic psychiatry and fellows in forensic psychology.

We believe that the award is a demonstration of how small amounts of money, judiciously distributed, can have a beneficial effect, furthering the development of forensic science. In a short time, the program has increased the awareness of the Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Section among directors of training and fellows in forensic psychiatry and psychology. It has stimulated the submission of additional research papers by young members of our field to the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. It has become a new credential that gives early recognition to talented researchers. It has increased the salience of research as a major component of training for careers in forensic psychiatry and psychology.

The Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Section is proud to share the 1991 award-winning and honorable mention papers with the readers of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

### **Erratum**

In the article, "The Trial of Louis Riel: a Study in Canadian Psychiatry" (Vol. 37, No. 3, May 1992, p. 852), I erred in stating that Valentine Shortis was found not guilty of homicide, a verdict supported by the cabinet. In actuality, the insanity defense failed and Shortis was sentenced to death. The cabinet was evenly split over a recommendation for clemency. The Governor General, Lord Aberdeen, then commuted Shortis to "imprisonment for life as a *criminal lunatic* (italics mine), or otherwise as may be found fitting." This action exacerbated the discontent of French-Canadians over the Riel case. This decision in the Shortis case may have been a factor in the election of a Liberal, Wilfrid Laurier, who became the first French-Canadian prime minister of Canada in 1986.

Shortis remained incarcerated for 42 years; in the earlier years, he was frequently described as mentally ill. In his later years, he apparently functioned quite well and was released at age 62 in 1937; in 1941 he died suddenly of a heart attack.

Both the Jackson and Shortis cases reflect the fact that Canadian authorities were not adverse to considering the impact of mental illness in deciding the disposition of offenders, a step that was rejected in the Riel case.

I wish to thank Abraham L. Halpern, M.D., for bringing this error to my attention.

Irwin N. Perr, MD, JD

### **Erratum**

The articles that appeared in the May issue of the journal under the Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Section Awards were erroneously labeled Case Reports on the title page.