

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

Richard Rosner,¹ M.D.

Introduction

Although Forensic Psychiatry was one of the initial constituents of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences since AAFS was founded in 1948, it was only recognized as a subspecialty by the American Psychiatric Association in 1992. One of the needs of the field is for an even more extensive and more secure base in empirical research. The Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Section of AAFS is committed to encouraging research as a component in the training of forensic psychiatrists and psychologists. Towards that end, the Section continues to offer both its Award and its Honorable Mention citations to the best research papers submitted for annual consideration by the Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Awards Committee.

The details regarding the components of the Award and the Honorable Mention citations have been published previously [1].

The nature of the evaluation process may serve as a model for other AAFS Sections that seek to provide a similar stimulus to research by trainees:

1. The evaluators of the research papers submitted by the Fellows in Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology are volunteers from the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. They are familiar with the standards of sound research and with the processes of reviewing research papers.
2. All papers are received by the central office of AAFS and distributed to each of the evaluators, who rank-order each submission. The Award is given to the research paper that has the highest combined rank-order. Papers that are worthy of recognition, but which do not receive the main Award, are granted Honorable Mention citations.

The Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Section is pleased that the 1992 Award-winning paper, by Dr. Greenberg, and one of the 1992 Honorable Mention papers, by Dr. Schultz-Ross, have been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* and can be shared with pride with the AAFS membership.

Reference

- [1] Rosner, R., "Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Section Awards: Research by Fellows in Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology," *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, JFSCA, Vol. 37, No. 3, May 1992, pp. 876-877.

¹Medical Director, Forensic Psychiatry Clinic, New York, NY.