

AWARD WINNING RESEARCH PAPERS IN PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

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Introduction

While the stated purpose of the AAFS Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section Award for the Best Paper by a Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry/Psychology and for the paper(s) that earn Honorable Mention in the Award processes is to encourage research in the new generation of forensic psychiatrists/psychologists, there is a secondary aim. That secondary goal is to encourage research among established practitioners who do not regard themselves as researchers. It is hoped that, by demonstrating that respectable research is possible by the most junior members of the profession, more experienced practitioners will take courage and apply themselves constructively to the data readily at their disposal.

Forensic psychiatrists/psychologists in private practice and in institutional settings have access to case materials that can be of value to others in the field. In some instances, a single case, if it demonstrates an unusual facet of a problem, or if it is an example of a rare clinical or forensic phenomenon, and if it is linked to a survey of the existing literature on the subject, may be of broad interest to the profession. In other instances, a series of cases (each inconsequential in itself), if systematically collected over the course of time, tabulated and subjected to relatively elementary analysis, may (in the aggregate) shed light on a condition or issue of importance.

Furthering the goal of encouraging research, even among those who have never regarded themselves as researchers, Neil Kaye, M.D. of the Psychiatry & Behavioral Science Section presented a Workshop entitled *Statistics for Everyone* at the 1993 AAFS scientific program in Boston, MA. The Workshop introduced participants to the basic theory and application of elementary statistical analysis, such as might be used in research. Appropriately enough, Dr. Kaye was the first recipient of the Section's Award for the Best Paper by a Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry/Psychology.

Both because the Award winning paper and the Honorable Mention winning paper are intrinsically worthwhile, and because they furnish encouraging examples of research that can be done by persons who are not full-time researchers, the Psychiatry and Behavioral Science Section is proud to share them with the readers of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

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