

Position Statement on Interference with Scientific Research and Medical Care

Approved by the Board of Trustees, September 2009
Approved by the Assembly, May 2009

"Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees...These are...position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects..." – *APA Operations Manual*.

The American Psychiatric Association deplores any and all acts of intimidation, physical interference, terrorism, and violence that impede the progress of scientific research or the provision of legal medical care.

Patients in need of medical psychotherapy should have the same respect and access to care as any other persons needing medical treatment. APA strongly objects to stereotyping or caricaturing patients who utilize medical psychotherapy, especially in ways that minimize the seriousness of their illness.

The position statement originally was approved by the Assembly in May 1995 and by the Board of Trustees in March 1995.

This position statement was proposed by the Council on National Affairs. The members of the council are Terry Stein, M.D. (chairperson), Nada L. Stotland, M.D. (vice-chairperson and Assembly liaison), Leah J. Dickstein, M.D., Clifford K. Moy, M.D., Lourdes M Dominguez, M.D., Fred Gottlieb, M.D. (Board liaison), Mary Kay Smith, M.D. (Board liaison), Billy Jones, M.D. (observer-consultant), and Andrew J. Elliott, M.D. (APA/BurroughsWellcome Fellow).