

Do you have comments or suggestions? If so, we'd like to hear about it!

HealthNews is published bi-monthly by the Health Psychology Programs and is distributed free of charge to students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the Program.

Questions or comments should be referred to: HealthNews, The California School of Professional Psychology, 6160 Cornerstone Court East, San Diego, CA 92121-3725 Telephone: 858.623.CSPP, x358 Email: ksmart@cspp.edu

Submission Deadline for April 2000 edition: March 15, 2000.

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Health PhD Alum Wiederhold Presents at Virtual Reality Conference

The 8th Annual Medicine Meets Virtual Reality (VR) conference entitled "Envisioning Healing: Interactive Technology and the Patient-Practitioner Dialogue" was held at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel on January 27-30, 2000.

Health Psychology Program alum Brenda Wiederhold, MBA, PhD, with *The Center for Advanced Multimedia Psychotherapy at CSPP, Research and Service Foundation*, co-chaired a symposium entitled, "VR & Mental Health" with Ian Alger, MD, of New York Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Medical College of Cornell University. CSPP underwrote continuing education credit for Wiederhold's symposium. Jointly sponsored by the University of California, Irvine College of Medicine and

Aligned Management Associates, Inc., the MMVR conference defines the leading edge of interactive computer-based technology for healthcare. Physicians, researchers, and entrepreneurs from around the globe shared clinical experience and examined emerging technologies over the four-day conference.

Wiederhold also co-moderated a session entitled, "VR in the 90s: What Did We Learn?" States Wiederhold, "The mental health symposium, which spanned one-and-one-half days, provided extensive evidence of the use of VR in treating anxiety disorders and eating disorders, with data from several controlled studies being presented. Results of neuropsychological studies using VR for assessment and treatment were also presented. Next year's conference will be in Newport Beach in January and will be increased to 2 days, with an additional poster session being held on Friday evening. In just 6 years, the field has gone from conceptual ideas to solid data proving efficacy." φ

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with clinical training who can work with medical patients and are able to develop programs that help in the prevention of health problems.

Q: What is foremost on your mind regarding your career objective in health psychology?

A: That is an interesting question which I can answer on a couple of levels: first here at CSPP and then nationally. My goals here are to continue to strengthen and expand health psychology programs and to

develop areas not immediately covered in our curriculum such as psychosocial oncology, cardiac rehabilitation, and children's health.

A personal objective is to continue doing my research in chronic illness and autoimmune disorders. Secondly, I have a desire to influence the direction of the health psychology field through my involvement with Division 38: Health Psychology and APA. φ