

IPSR NEWSLETTER

I o w a C h a p t e r , P h y s i c i a n s f o r S o c i a l R e s p o n s i b i l i t y

February 2003

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"We must make clear to the Germans that the wrong for which their fallen leaders are on trial is not that they lost the war, but that they started it. And we must not allow ourselves to be drawn into a trial of the causes of the war, for our position is that no grievances or policies will justify resort to aggressive war. It is utterly renounced and condemned as an instrument of policy."

-- U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert L. Jackson, Chief US Prosecutor at the Nuremberg Tribunals, August 12, 1945

Membership Registration The first edition of the Newsletter was sent in December 2002 to the 90 PSR members in Iowa whose addresses were provided to us by national PSR. We received back 30 cards. One of the newsletters was returned because addressee had moved. Tabulated results are:

Physicians	13
NonPhysicians	17

Interests

Environment & Health	18
Security/Nuclear	11
Violence Prevention	9
PSR Center Global Security	6
Attend conferences	7
Willing to speak	2
Sponsor an activity locally	1
Not interested in IPSR	4

If we did not receive the previous postcard from you, you will find another enclosed in this newsletter. We need to hear from you even if you are not interested in the Iowa Chapter of PSR. An up to date IPSR membership list allows us to make accurate reporting to national PSR, to contact members based on specific interests, and to optimize mailing costs. Thanks in advance.

IPSR as Medical Expert

As education of the public is a major emphasis of PSR, development of a group of Iowa PSR members who are willing to speak on important issues makes sense. We hope to be viewed by the media and public as expert on the medical aspects of a variety of issues.

Please consider studying up on a topic that interests you. We have already received questions from the media regarding child and maternal health in Iraq and the long term health effects of another war in Iraq on the Iraqi population and the world as a whole. We would like to develop the capability to be able to issue timely press releases regarding health issues.

IPSR Activities and Projects

Newspaper IPSR co-director, Dr. Maureen McCue, had an Op-Ed published in the Cedar Rapids Gazette September 2002. The Ottumwa Courier published Dr. James Fleming's letter: "Bush is determined to lead us to war regardless of the consequences" February 2003. Dr. Fleming is an IPSR member and practices in Fairfield. IPSR member, Dorothy Paul of Iowa City and Dr. McCue co-wrote and had published letters in the Iowa City Press Citizen and the Quad City Times respectively in support of the City No War Resolution movement in February. IPSR co-director Maureen Connolly had a letter to the editor, "Doctors oppose war with Iraq," published in the Iowa City Press Citizen this month that described the horrible effects another war in Iraq would have on child mortality. Let us know of other similar efforts of or articles about PSR members across the state.

Ads IPSR ran an ad in the Des Moines Register October 7, 2002. Several Iowa organizations and 137 citizens were listed as signatories in the ad. The six No War in Iraq billboards IPSR had up in eastern Iowa November-December 2002 attracted a lot of attention. The national PSR office was contacted by local media to find out who put up those billboards. IPSR may have started something. Move On! now has billboards up many many areas nationally (See photo on page 5). IPSR

is now working with Iowans for Peace to publish the Not in Our Name (NION) statement in the Iowa City Press Citizen. NION speaks against President Bush's statement "you're either with us or against us" and the unprecedented, reckless, aggression President Bush is planning to unleash in our names. The statement can be read at www.nion.us and be electronically signed.

Television On November 27, 2002, Dr. McCue and Dr. Connolly were interviewed by KGAN Channel 2 in Cedar Rapids for a news segment run that day on our billboards. On January 2, 2003, KCRG Channel 9 in Cedar Rapids interviewed Dr. Rachow next to the Iowa City billboard for a news segment on the No War in Iraq billboards. The Des Moines Register had a news article January 11, 2003 on anti war activities in Iowa and mentioned the IPSR No War in Iraq billboards put up in eastern Iowa. Greg Thompson's "The Other News" on Iowa City Public Access TV hosted Lori Nelson from Iowans for Peace, John Rachow from IPSR, and Tom Lewis from the International Socialist Organization on an hour long discussion "Don't Send My Dad To Bagdad" simultaneously with the Washington DC march against the war on January 18, 2002.

Radio On December 30, 2002 Dr. Maureen McCue, Dr. David Bedell, and Dr. John Rachow were guests on Iowa City's WSUI, "Iowa Talks" daily call-in program to discuss the adverse health and environmental effects another war in Iraq would have.

Collaborations IPSR officially became a member of the Iowa Coalition for Prevention of Firearm Injury. The coalition includes: American Academy of Pediatrics, Iowa Chapter; Community Action Preventing Gun Violence (CAPGV), Iowa City; Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa; Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault; UI Womens Action Center, Iowans for the Prevention of Gun Violence; and IPSR. On February 11, IPSR member, Peg Bouska PA-C, read a statement supporting legislation to close the gun sales loophole at a press conference held by the Coalition at the State Capitol in Des Moines. The legislation addresses gun shows, flea markets, estate sales, Internet sales, classified ads, and gifts or loans from unlicensed persons. These venues account for 40% of gun sales in the US.

City and State No War Resolutions Over 107 US cities, including San Francisco, Los Angeles,

Chicago, Madison, Milwaukee, Detroit, and Des Moines and two states, Maine and Hawaii, have passed No War in Iraq Resolutions in recent weeks. Physicians in Des Moines were active in advancing the resolution to make the effort a success. A similar effort in Iowa City spearheaded by IPSR, Iowans for Peace in Iraq, and Iowans for Peace prepared a proposed No War Resolution. In early February over 700 Iowa City religious and business leaders, local peace organizations, and concerned citizens signed a petition to ask the Iowa City Council to consider the resolution. At the February 18, 2003 Iowa City Council meeting, dozens of citizens

IOWA, WHERE PEACE GROWS!

argued before the Council to consider adopting the resolution. The Council agreed to formally consider a modified resolution at the March 11 Council meeting.

Blood for Peace IPSR and Iowans for Peace have joined with Iowans for Peace with Iraq to organize a blood drive to recruit a citizen "army" willing to shed blood for peace rather than to shed blood for oil. Donations are being scheduled for April 29, 2003. If you are willing to shed blood for peace on this day, registration in advance is required. Call 319-337-7290, write or fax to IPSR, or send an e-mail request to be scheduled for donation.

Peace Fair IPSR had a table at a Peace Fair held in the Iowa City Library, Sunday February 16. Signatures and donations in support of the Iowa City No War Resolution, Not In Our Name project, and Blood for Peace were collected. Printed materials from national PSR were handed out.

Upcoming IPSR Conferences

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! A weekend of IPSR programming is planned for April 12-13, 2003. A morning educational conference on Saturday, April 12 is tentatively entitled Redefining Health and Security and will be held in Iowa City. CME credit will be available for the Saturday morning meeting. On Saturday afternoon a retreat will be held for PSR members and other

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interested individuals to plan further development of the Iowa PSR Chapter. Ira Shorr, the current director of national PSR's Security/Nuclear program, is coming to Iowa for the event. The specific weekend will be announced soon. Wherever Ira goes he is accompanied by his political satirist alter ego, Jess Trusmee, an ultra compassionate conservative from an undisclosed (for security reasons) southern state. On Sunday of the same weekend, meetings with Ira Shorr, IPSR members, and other interested individuals will be held in Des Moines.

Issues will include PSR's role in pre-2004 election planning and development of alternate foreign policy. Presidential candidates are already testing the waters in Iowa, and the Iowa Caucuses are scheduled for less than a year from now. Robert Musil, Executive Director of PSR has promised to visit Iowa in 2003 as a guest of IPSR. We are planning this for the Fall of 2003 with a mind to get important issues, especially alternative foreign policies, in the political debates leading up to the 2004 elections.

PSR 40 Years Ago

PSR was founded in 1961 to educate the public on the danger of nuclear weapons. The government's position was that good civil defense planning would enable the US public to recover from a massive nuclear attack. Publications in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by PSR physicians soon after established the fallacy of this view. Furthermore collection and analysis of baby teeth by PSR physicians from American children linked contamination with strontium 90 to US atmospheric nuclear tests. The public demanded and got the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963 in which the three major nuclear powers agreed to stop atmospheric nuclear weapons testing. PSR has come a long way since. To review PSR's work over the last 40 years, go to the PSR website, www.PSR.org, and click the link to "A History of Accomplishments."

Web Meisters and Content Masters

The web meisters who maintain the IPSR web site, www.iowa-psr.org, were introduced in the last newsletter. We are in the process of assigning IPSR

members to be content masters of the major sections of the web site that include: Home page, Nuclear/Security page, Environment & Health page, Violence Prevention page, and Membership and Newsletters page. Each content master will be responsible for collecting and analyzing potential content for the web site in their assigned area and communicating with the corresponding web meister.

**A root of violence
is the belief that
violence is inevitable.**

Fight Despair and Help PSR

Buy Barbara Kingsolver's new collection of essays, *Small Wonder*, written in response to 9/11. Royalties from the sales of this book go to PSR, Habitat for Humanity, Environmental Defense, and Heifer International. These elegant, poignant essays provide a rationale that we can hope and not despair in the face of an outbreak of worldwide insanity. The epigraph is Wendell Berry's, "To treat life as less than a miracle is to give up on it." The national PSR website has a link to buy the book online through Amazon, but you may want to consider purchasing it from your favorite local independent bookseller. Recall that Barbara Kingsolver was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2000, the country's highest honor for service through the arts. She was also the keynote speaker at the 2002 national PSR meeting in Washington, DC.

IPPNW Petition In 1981, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War was founded. This International coalition is comprised of one affiliate per nation, and PSR is the United States affiliate to IPPNW. The work of IPPNW was instrumental in bringing a end to the cold war and was awarded the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize for its work. In response to the threat of war in Iraq, IPPNW is advancing the International Physicians and Health Professionals Petition to Oppose

War Against Iraq. The full petition can be viewed on the IPPNW website, www.ippnw.org. Click on the link "Sign IPPNW's International Petition" to register your signature online. Nearly 1000 signatures have already been collected. The petition describes the likely short and long-term adverse outcomes of another war in Iraq: worsening of the devastating effects of the 1991 Gulf War on Iraqi civilians, especially children, possible escalation of conflict to neighboring countries, including Israel in the Middle East, increasing polarity between the West and Islamic countries, and likely stimulation to further growth of terrorist elements. The petition

declares that non-military measures can most effectively deal with the threat from Iraq, reaffirms the rule of law and primacy of the UN Charter, opposes unilateral, illegal military action, supports continued UN weapons inspections, urges the UN to initiate an international commission on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and hold signatories to the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty to their obligations, and asks the UN Security Council to remain committed to non-violent, diplomatic means to remove weapons of mass destruction from Iraq. **PLEASE SIGN THIS PETITION!**

Why I'm Reactivating my PSR Membership

By Veronika Kolder, MD

My seven-year old daughter recently asked me, "Mom, do you take care of people that can't pay?" My immediate uncensored thought was, "Not if I can help it, dear." My cynicism about medical practice reached an all time high.

Now, I didn't start out a moneygrubber. Just the opposite, activism and advocacy were my motivators from high school through medical school. But I've spent the last seven years gutting it out in solo private practice and I'm almost ready to throw in the towel. Despair sets in when I crunch the numbers. I can't seem to bring my overhead expenses under 69%. I pay 46% taxes by the time you total federal, state, and social security. And that doesn't count the tax contributions I make on behalf of my three employees.

Because of my daughter. . . I want to be able to tell her that, together with other doctors, I work for change that supports life and health.

Like most Americans, I work hard. I am that pathetic physician who lugs home canvas grocery bags full of charts to be dictated, paranoid about documentation adequacy, not yet able to afford electronic records. Work begins at 4:30 AM with dictations and ends at 4:30 PM. Weekends see me doing rounds at the hospital, meeting clients for wound care and donor inseminations at the office, and, yes, dictating more charts at home. You parents will appreciate my daughter's goodwill when at age three she had to accompany me to Ground Rounds. After patiently sitting through the lecture, she kept pulling on my sleeve, insisting I raise my hand during the question and answer period. Frustrated by her interruption, I snatched her up and we left. Afterwards, through

tears, she explained. She had wanted me to ask the smart doctors how they get their charts done fast so I could play with her on weekends.

Guilt aside, I'm disgusted when I think of where my hard earned Pap dollars won't and will go. For example, they won't go on to the UN Population Fund for services to poor women and children. President Bush has reneged on the already slim \$34 million promised by the previous administration. Instead, my taxes will pay for the public relations campaign that has made war with Iraq an acceptable inevitability in the eyes of most Americans. No matter how much I treasure my public library card, it just doesn't make up for the bigger injustices. And don't even get me started on Enron. They report \$2 billion profits from 1996 through 2000 and pay no taxes. My adjusted gross income during the same period was less than 0.005% of Enron's profits and I pay 46% taxes. How does it make you feel?

But, let me get back to my daughter's original question about free care. Not even in my most philanthropic dreams did I think I would be providing as much free care as I am today. I subsidize almost all the services provided to my senior and disabled clients in part because Medicare reimbursements in Iowa are the lowest in the nation. I am seriously considering not participating in Medicare. Yes I've come a long way.

So why reactivate my PSR membership now? Because of my daughter. A few years from now I want her to get excited about what citizens can accomplish when they participate in a democracy. I haven't been a good role model: I need to start focusing on what gives me hope. I want to be able to tell her that, together with other doctors, I work for change that supports life and health. I care about what she thinks. A little maternal vanity perhaps, but for me reactivating my membership is also a foothold for sanity. Whatever your reasons, consider the benefits of joining or reactivating your membership in Iowa PSR.



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IPSR Business Meetings

IPSR monthly business meetings are on the second Monday of the month from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at our office, Room 200, 20 E Market in Iowa City. The office is on the second floor of the annex attached to Old Brick. The meetings are open to all interested individuals. If you have ideas or issues to advance but cannot attend or want to confirm the next meeting, please send letters to our mailing address, e-mail mac81185@aol.com, or fax 319-828-9911.

Support IPSR

Renew your national PSR membership. Get colleagues to join PSR through the Iowa Chapter office because fees for new PSR members in Iowa and for

reinstatement of lapsed memberships go directly to the Iowa Chapter. Can't volunteer? Consider supporting IPSR with a donation. PSR is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. Some of IPSR recurring expenses are office space rental, newsletter printing and mailing; and website fees. Conference registration fees never completely cover conference, food, and CME costs, so underwriting is welcome.

Contact IPSR

Got ideas? Contact us, please. Our mailing address is Iowa PSR, 20 E Market St, Room 200, Iowa City, IA 52240. E-mail can be sent to: mac81185@aol.com. Faxes can be sent to 319-828-9911. Check our web site: www.iowa-psr.org.



MoveOn billboards are going up nationwide. Visit www.moveon.org to contribute.

IPSR

20 E Market, Room 200
Iowa City, IA 52240

Firearms are the fourth leading cause of death in the US after heart disease, cancer, and motor vehicle accidents.

Please detach and pass on to physicians, other health care professionals, or citizens who may be interested in PSR.

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Keep me updated on IPSR activities by e-mail

New Member

Send me the newsletter via:

Renewal

e-mail

US post

Reinstatement

(Contributions toward newsletter welcome: see below.)

PSR Membership:

\$125 - Health professional with doctoral degree

\$50 - Other health care professionals and general public

\$35 - Retired

\$15 - Student (first year student membership is free)

\$10 - Newsletter contribution

NAME: _____ Degree(s) _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE(s): _____

E-MAIL: _____

DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCIBLE

Make checks payable to IPSR and mail to:

IPSR
20 E Market, Room 200
Iowa City, IA 52245

Membership confirmation will be sent by national PSR.