



## **Dr. Karen Shedlack of Vinfen receives Distinguished Fellowship from the American Psychiatric Association**

**Cambridge, Mass.** — Vinfen, Massachusetts' leading human services organization, is pleased to announce that Dr. Karen Shedlack, medical advisor for the Mental Retardation division, was awarded a 2007 Distinguished Fellowship by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) during the 51st Convocation of Distinguished Fellows on May 21.

The Distinguished Fellowship is a national honor awarded annually by the APA to psychiatrists who have made and continue to make significant contributions to the profession and the community. Excellence, not mere competence, is the hallmark of the potential Distinguished Fellow.



“Being named a Distinguished Fellow of the APA is a great honor for me. I am proud to be recognized by my peers for my work in psychiatry and mental retardation/developmental disabilities as individuals with these conditions are largely misunderstood, underserved and marginalized,” says Dr. Shedlack.

Before joining Vinfen in 2006, Dr. Shedlack served as medical director for the Adult Developmental Disabilities Program at McLean Hospital, and worked in the Department of Psychology and Brain Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and in Developmental Disabilities/Mental Retardation (MR/DD) at the John Umstead State Hospital in North Carolina and the University Medical Center at SUNY Stony Brook in New York. She also has contributed to the design of service delivery for individuals with disabilities in various cities across the U.S. and in Berlin, Germany.

A graduate of Wellesley College and the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Dr. Shedlack completed her residency in Adult Psychiatry at McLean Hospital and Fellowship training in Psychiatric Neuroimaging at Duke University Medical School and at the University of Edinburgh Medical School in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology and a former member of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) Human Rights Committee, she has received several awards including a Laughlin Award for Chief Residents in Psychiatry, the Medical Student Psychiatry Clerkship Teaching Award from the University of North Carolina, and a Dista Fellowship Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry.

In addition to her position at Vinfen, she teaches at Harvard Medical School as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and consults for McLean Hospital, the Mass. DMR, STRATTUS Mental Health Center and the National Birth Defects Center.

### **Vinfen: Celebrating 30 Years of helping to transform lives**

Established in 1977, Vinfen is a private, nonprofit human services organization that provides a comprehensive array of services to children, adolescents and adults with psychiatric, developmental, and behavioral disabilities. Vinfen supports thousands of individuals each year in more than 300 residential, respite, day, and crisis intervention programs and services in eastern Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. Vinfen's 2,000 dedicated employees are experienced, highly trained professionals who provide a full range of educational, rehabilitative, and clinical services. For more information, visit <http://www.vinfen.org>.

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