



Donald M. Hilty, MD

[October 21, 1964 - July 4, 2026](#)

- 1996-2000: Annual Meeting Program Planning Committee Member
- 1998: Early Career Development Award (formerly known as the Junior Faculty Achievement Award)
- 1999: Helped initiate the Work-in-Progress (WIP) at the Annual Meeting
- 2000: [Father of the AAP Presenter Feedback Program](#) ←click here for the history!
- 2000-2002: Annual Meeting Program Planning Committee Chair (implementing new initiatives in overall program interaction, presenter feedback, strategic planning, AAP leader faculty development)
- 2004 – 2005: AAP President
- [2007: AAP Distinguished Fellow](#) ←read his statement here!
- 2015: AAP Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2022-2026: WIP Selection Committee Member
- 2025: Beyond the Keynote Discussant

Memories from Friends and Colleagues

I met Don when we were both residents in San Francisco; he was at the California Pacific Medical Center and I was at UCSF. We were the resident councilors for the Northern California Psychiatric Society, and we hit it off immediately.

I always appreciated Don's soft-spoken style, tremendous intelligence, and wonderful sense of humor. Although we lost touch soon after residency, I was familiar with his groundbreaking work in telemental health, and we met again about 25 years later at the San Francisco VA Medical Center, where I was the Deputy Chief of Psychiatry, when he visited us as a leader in our VA's Western division. His kind face and twinkling eyes looked exactly the same, even though his hair was thinner and grayer.

Like so many in the AAP community, I will always remember Don fondly.

~ Kewchang Lee, MD, University of California – San Francisco

From Don Hilty's mentee Poorvanshi Alag, MD, MPH:

Dr. Hilty has been an extraordinary mentor to me, and I am deeply grateful for his kindness, guidance, and generosity. I also want to sincerely thank you for initiating mentor-mentee program, Dr. Hilty often mentioned. It gave me the opportunity to meet him and to have such an incredible mentor. That opportunity has profoundly shaped both my career and my life, and I will always be grateful. My thoughts are with Dr. Hilty, his family, and everyone who has been touched by his remarkable career and compassion.

Don Hilty was a visionary. He advocated for telepsychiatry and harnessing the power of technology for the advancement of mental health (not for company profits). He was pragmatic, receiving an MBA to harness the power of business acumen for the advancement of mental health services. But, most of all, he was a prolific, dedicated, kind, and generous human being.

Don was

A mentor's mentor.

An educator's educator.

A psychiatrist's psychiatrist.

An academic's academic.

A confidant's confidant.

A listening ear.

A pragmatic advisor.

And a colleague, mentor, supporter and friend.

His letter of support for me (and, I assume, hundreds of others) bolstered my promotion packet.

Don, you have left the world a better place.

Thank you.

With love,

Dorothy

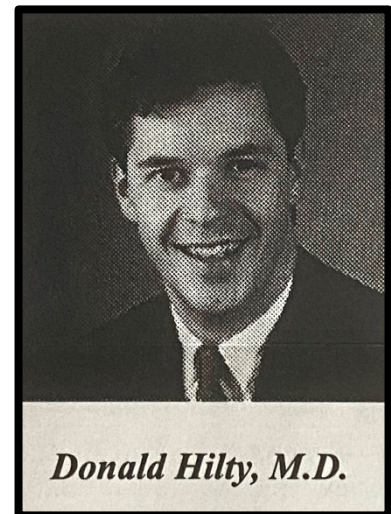
~ Dorothy Stubbe, MD, Yale School of Medicine

From longtime friend and colleague Josepha Cheong, MD:

Don was so devoted to AAP from the very beginning of his career - it's where he and I first met in 1998 at the San Diego AAP. He's been a constant presence at the AAP ever since - probably best known for his work in developing and establishing the presenter feedback program and serving on numerous committee and governance positions. What he is likely to be remembered best for is being the enthusiastic and devoted mentor to members of all categories - especially trainees and junior faculty. Just two weeks before he passed, he was still actively advocating for one of his advisees, making contacts on their behalf for promotion letters. He will always be greatly missed. He is an example of AAP at its best.



Andreea Seritan & Don Hilty
2013 AAP Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC
 photo credit: Josepha Choeng



Donald Hilty, M.D.
AAP President 2007
 photo credit: AAP newsletter



**Don Hilty, Priyanthy Weerasekera, Michelle Pato, David Lynn,
 Joan Anzia, Art Walaszek**
AAP Annual Meeting, Portland, OR
 photo credit: Josepha Cheong



Lost...then FOUND at the 2024 AAP Annual Meeting! Don's beloved Max & Mini Mug!
 photo credit: Holly Olmsted-Hickey



2006: Bob Boland, Josepha Cheong, Don Hilty, Linda Worley, Cathy Crone
photo credit: Josepha Cheong



Beyond the Keynote: Don Hilty, Nikhita Singhal, Adrienne Gerken
2025 AAP Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI
photo credit: Ailyn Diaz



Don Hilty and Isheeta Zalpuri
2023 AAP Annual Meeting
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
photo credit: Holly Olmsted-Hickey