FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 26, 2004

Barry B. Perlman, M.D., President of the New York State Psychiatric Association, issued the following statement in response to an announcement by Eliot Spitzer, Attorney General of the State of New York, of the settlement of the lawsuit against GlaxoSmithKline alleging that the company withheld from the public and the medical community important research data concerning the safety and efficacy of its antidepressant medication paroxetine HCL (sold under the name Paxil®) for the treatment of children and adolescents with depression.

The New York State Psychiatric Association is the statewide medical specialty organization representing over 4,300 psychiatrists in New York and the New York State affiliate of the American Psychiatric Association, a national medical specialty organization with over 35,000 members.

Dr. Perlman stated:

"On behalf of the New York State Psychiatric Association, I congratulate the Attorney General for the successful outcome of the action brought by his office against GSK. When I participated in the announcement of the filing of the lawsuit with Mr. Spitzer on June 2, 2004, I stated that, while as a professional association we took no position on the merits of the legal action, we strongly advocated for full public disclosure of research sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. Only such transparency would permit physicians, including psychiatrists, to practice in an ethical and efficacious manner.

The settlement will insure that clinical drug research conducted by GSK for all drugs will be available in a publicly accessible data base. The specific disclosure of previously unreleased data on the use of Paxil® will provide important additional clinical information for the current discussion regarding the use of this medication for the treatment of depression in children and adolescents. Both steps will benefit the public.

We hope that this settlement establishes a precedent for the pharmaceutical industry and for all clinical researchers. We urge all researchers, universities and others conducting clinical research to insist on public access and the right to publish the results of the study without restrictions imposed by the company or entity which sponsored or paid for the research and to decline to participate in research that includes broad prohibitions or restrictions on public disclosure of the results of the study."