

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Psychologist's work wins national award

Diagnosis, treatment research gets notice

By Maria Burnham

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East Memphis psychologist Edward Wise, a distinguished researcher in private practice, has won the top national honor bestowed by the American Psychological Association on a private practitioner.

He received the 2005 Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Independent Practice in the Private Sector last month in Washington.

Wise, who is executive director of the multi-discipline practice Mental Health Resources, said the nomination was a huge surprise; winning, an even greater one. "I have practiced for 25 years and this honor is not one that I ever imagined myself receiving."

Wise received the award based in part on the strength of his published research on diagnosis, treatment strategies and outcome methodology. (*The Journal of Clinical Psychology* named one of his published articles among the



Edward Wise

Title: Clinical psychologist and executive director, Mental Health Resources

Hometown: Los Angeles

Education: BA, Washington University in St. Louis, 1975, (cum laude); PhD, University of Wyoming, 1980; internship, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, 1980.

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10 most significant in the area of assessment over the past decade.)

His clinic has also developed an intensive outpatient program that has served as a national model for similar programs. Many patients who previously would have been

hospitalized, such as those who were too depressed to physically get out of bed, are now treated through these programs.

Memphis has had a strong psychological treatment community for a long time, but it was only associated with inpatient treatment, said Memphis psychologist Tim Faris, who nominated Wise for the award.

Wise's practice brought the spotlight to the significant out-patient work that was being done here, he said.

"I felt he deserved the honor and the outcome validated the belief," Faris said. "He exemplifies the highest example of a scientist practitioner model."

Any private practitioner from the association's 150,000 members can be nominated for the highly competitive award. The scientific and professional association is the largest of its kind.

"There is nothing more rewarding than helping someone change their life," Wise said. "By the time people get to us, nothing else has worked and they are stuck. What I do is life-changing...work."