

# BPA News

Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.



## Do you have something to say?

Well, we want to hear from you. BPA is looking for writers and exciting articles from our membership. Articles may include topics about current events, opinions, mental health, announcements, gatherings, etc. It is the sole discretion of the BPA of the articles accepted for publication. Articles should be 100-300 words. We do ask that you please edit and proof your own submission. It is simple. We will be asking for:

- Article Title
- First name, last name, and email address.

## We love pics!

Include a high-resolution electronic picture of yourself and relevant content.

If submitting images, please include them in an attachment with a caption explaining the image.

- Please subscribe to all FAIR USE AND IMAGE COPYRIGHT LAWS.
- Please send articles to [info@blackpsychs.org](mailto:info@blackpsychs.org)

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**BPA News**



**ANNOUNCING OUR NEW BPA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
DR. NAPOLEON HIGGINS!**

The BPA Board of Directors is excited to announce that one of our very own - Napoleon Higgins - has agreed to become our new Executive Director. He is a skilled child psychiatrist, entrepreneur, public speaker and author who brings his many talents to the Black Psychiatrists of America at a critical time in our organization's history.

We extend a warm welcome to you and believe that we are in good hands as we continue the important work of BPA started in 1969.



**Genius Brands Appoints  
Nationally Recognized  
Psychiatrist  
Dr. Cynthia Turner-Graham, to  
Its Board of Directors**

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif., June 21, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Genius Brands International, Inc. ("Genius Brands" or the "Company") (NASDAQ: GNUS), a global brand management company that creates and licenses multimedia entertainment content for children, today announced the appointment of Dr. Cynthia Turner-Graham to the Company's Board of Directors.

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**Members in the News**



Rahn Bailey MD appointed Chair, Department of Psychiatry  
Louisiana State University School of Medicine

William Lawson MD, PhD elected chair of the  
Washington Healthcare Justice Education  
Economic Empowerment Coalition, Inc

Danielle Hairston, M.D. President, APA Black Caucus



## OUR BPA COMMITTEES ARE BEING REACTIVATED!

Standing committees of the BPA shall include Program, Governmental Affairs, Public Relations, Research and Medical Education, and Awards and Newsletter. To this list, a Social Media Committee will be added as an ad hoc committee until the Constitution and By-laws are amended.

For now, we will activate the three committees most relevant to our "reconstruction" phase of organizational development. These are:

- 1 - Program Committee
- 2 - Social Media Committee
- 3 - Governmental Affairs

IF INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN, AND/OR CHAIRING ANY OF THESE COMMITTEES, PLEASE NOTIFY Cynthia Turner-Graham @ [forsoundmind@gmail.com](mailto:forsoundmind@gmail.com)

### INSPIRATIONAL WORDS FROM ALTHA STEWART - September, 2020

"...I was reminded that in times like this we have historically pulled together and worked on solutions that come out of our shared experiences and our excellent training as psychiatrists. Recently someone on this listserv asked 'what would Carl Bell do about some issue under discussion?' and... I answered myself: he would tell us to gather our collective intelligence and put it to work on behalf of our people."

Alyce, Freddie, Carl, Frances, Phyllis, Chester, Jeanne, Solomon and all the others gone now, expect us to move the needle a little further in the time we have the honor to fight for what is needed and right at this moment, in this place.



## Regional Trustees:



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## **President's Letter**

**by: Benjamin F. Roy, M.D.**

President's Letter, August 11, 2021, Benjamin F. Roy, M.D. August 11, 2021 Part 1 of 3.

It has been a long journey from desegregation to where we are in medical education and as medical professionals. We are in an intellectual war with philosophy. There are no inherent human rights but privileges defined by law and wealth; a government can choose whom it wants to protect, whom it does not, and sadly there is even worse. Too often, Western education descends from eugenics [2]. Too often in the segregated educational system, pre-school ridiculed children who did not have a majority culture name or sound differently when they spoke with the vernacular of the family that raised them. Elementary school labeled imaginations and turned non-adhering learning styles into disorders. The education system tried to conform learning to something more acceptable while shaming the same creativity that formed the child. If a child dared to falsify a teacher's argument and defend against a more powerful adult, the child could be labeled as a problem or oppositional defiant.

In high school, counselors often invalidated dreams and steered the student below their potential. Decisions were based on past performance that did not look at an adolescent's strengths and gifts that were non-conforming to the majority culture. Unlike so many others, intellectuals who believed in themselves did not listen, stayed defiant of what others said, and pressed through to college, where sadly, many faced much of the same scrutiny. In suddenly integrated medical schools, students faced judgment that they didn't deserve to be there. The student on the right believed that you wouldn't be there without affirmative action, and the one on the left thought bitterly you were taking the place of someone who better deserved to be there, even though you earned that spot without affirmative action. Many were finally getting the opportunity that was denied to many others. Residency training which was your first professional interaction with the public, focused on your hair, cornrows with extensions, and that afro for fear white patients would be afraid because you didn't fit the corporate look of a physician due to your non-conforming dress or attire. Much of this had little to do with making a statement and more to do with being Black or, essentially, not White.

As an attending with your newfound hierarchy status, you tried to remedy inequities and transform care, but the pressure of lies and entrapment to establish reasoning to question your qualifications despite your level of equivalent training. Once, there was a thriving independent black education and healthcare infrastructure for those interested in medicine [9]. The Flexner Report eliminated nine black medical schools [8] and abbreviated the number of interns needed to staff the 128 black hospitals at the time [10]. Among these were Homer G Phillips Hospital in St. Louis [7], Provident Hospital in Chicago [15], and John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital at Tuskegee [6] that provided physician and nurse training and cared for African Americans excluded and disabused by segregation. The Hill-Burton Hospital Construction Act of 1946 retained a separate but equal basis of hospital care, siphoning black patients into white hospitals but denying admission privileges to African American physicians.

The National Medical Association (NMA) advanced the notion that health care is a right. The NMA opposed the American Medical Association and advocated for the failed National Health Bill of 1939 [10]. John Kenney, MD, President of the NMA, posed questions that addressed the social engineering of the social determinants of health, which was anathema to organized medicine [1]: "Every negro doctor, negro lawyer, negro teacher, or other" leader" in excess of the immediate needs of his own people is an anti-social product, a social menace." Continuing legislation slowly dismantled black hospitals that are gone and forgotten. In 1969 a group of psychiatrists created the Black Psychiatrists of America (BPA) to confront the racism that impacted their colleagues and patients. The BPA was not about self-interest but protecting patients' and psychiatric professionals' hopes and dreams from assault. A safe haven was formed to further the unmet needs of Black mental health.

References [1] Paul B Barringer. "Negro education in the South." In: Report of the Commissioner of Education for the Year 1900-1901. Washington, DC, 1902, pp. 509–513. [2] Paul Brandon Barringer. *The American Negro: His Past and Future*. Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards, Broughton, Printers, and Binders, 1900. [3] Legalize It All. How to win the war on drugs (Apr. 2016). url: <https://harpers.org/archive/2016/04/legalize-it-all/>. [4] Karl Binding and Alfred Hoche. *Allowing the Destruction of Life Unworthy of Life: Its Measure and Form*. Ed. by Cristina Modak (Translator). Suzeteo Enterprises, 2012. [5] Thomas John Carey. "Clennon King." In: *Mississippi Encyclopedia* (2017). url: [Clennon%20King](#). [6] Eugene H Dibble, Louis A Rabb, and Ruth B Ballard. "John A Andrew Memorial Hospital." In: *Journal of the National Medical Association* 53.2 (1961), pp. 103–118. [7] Joyce Marie Fitzpatrick and Brian Shackelford. *The Color of Medicine: The Story of Homer G Phillips Hospital*. documentary. 2020. [8] Abraham Flexner. *Medical Education in the United States and Canada*. Washington, D. C.: Science and Health Publications, Inc., 1910. [9] Vanessa Northington Gamble. *Making a Place for Ourselves: The Black Hospital Movement, 1920-1945*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. [10] John A Kenney. "The Negro hospital renaissance." In: *Journal of the National Medical Association* 22.3 (1930), pp. 109–112.



## Past President and Executive Director Nana Dr. Patricia Ann Newton

Modified from an OBIT in the New York Times from Oct. 29 to Oct. 30, 2020.

Nana Dr. Patricia Ann Newton 1945 - 2020 Past President and Executive Director the Black Psychiatrists of American, Inc. Dies at 75. She was an internationally acclaimed psychiatrist, leader, scholar, lecturer, published author, pioneer, and traditional Ghanaian Royal, Divisional Chief in the Ashanti region, Kingdom of Agogo. "Nana Dr. Pat (Sehkmets)," as she was affectionately called by patients and colleagues, became a nationally recognized expert on "Post Traumatic Slave Disorder" and how the trauma affects anxiety disorders and mental health today in Blacks. She was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease in Maryland and to the State Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene.

Dr. Newton died on September 27 in Baltimore, MD, unexpectedly. A visionary, determined and outspoken advocate, Dr. Newton spent a lifetime devoted to behavioral science medicine and exploring how psychiatry and psychology played pivotal roles in the environment and chemical origins in Black people. Patricia Newton was born on August 11, 1945, in Tuckerman, Arkansas to McKinley and Bernice Newton. Her Dad Dr. McKinley Newton was her high school principal later becoming a college professor and her Mother was her high school basketball coach.

Patricia went to University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, she graduated in 1967 with a degree in pre medicine, graduated magna cum laude from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN) with her Master's in Molecular Biology. And while completing her Master's degree, she worked as a microbiologist for the State of Tennessee. Then completed her medical school education and psychiatry training at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, MO). She became a resident in psychiatry, then chief resident and instructor in clinical psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine.

Final stop was Baltimore, Maryland, where she earned a second Masters, at John Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She served on the academic faculty for over sixteen years at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine while becoming the first female chairperson of Provident Hospital. She left the hospital in 1983, and remained an innovative leader in the mental health area, President and Medical Director and editor of health information and educational services of Behavioral Medicine Associates, Inc. in Baltimore and held the same positions by forming both Newton & Associates Inc., and Newton-Thoth, Inc., as an International behavioral science management consultant firm and International Meeting Planners. She was also most notably known for revitalizing the Black Psychiatrists of America (BPA) in Maryland and remaining involved with the organization as one of their key medical directors and council of elders today. Dr. Newton strongly believed as an African-centered psychiatrist, that psychiatry and psychology played pivotal roles in the environment and chemical origins of trauma in Black people. Dr. Patricia A. Newton redefined how one relates and understands what it means to be Black today.  
at newtonthothfund@gmail.com

## The Chester Pierce Endowment Fund

The Humanitarian Award of the APA was renamed the Chester Pierce Humanitarian Award to honor an illustrious black psychiatrist and social scientist. In this regard an annual or biannual award was made every year to an individual or organization that has exhibited a distinctive humanitarian focus or activity. A few years ago, it was felt that Dr. Chester Pierce's legacy deserves more prominence. Consequently, there was a drive within the International Council and the Caucus of Global Mental Health to make this possible. An approval was finally achieved to raise the necessary funds to sustain an endowment. The CEO of the APA Dr. Saul Levin announced a goal of one hundred thousand dollars to be raised and this is to be supplemented by fifty thousand dollars to be donated by the APA Foundation. Currently about seventy thousand dollars has been raised. The drive is still on and will end in October. Dr. Chester M. Pierce [1927-2016] was an accomplished African American who distinguished himself in multiple diverse areas. He was an eminent psychiatrist, academician, advocate, and researcher. Early in his life, he showed great promise. He was an all-rounder and played football, lacrosse, and basketball for Harvard College where he obtained his AB and then his MD in 1952. As an athlete, he made history by being the first African American football player to play south of the Mason Dickson line. His academic career was studded by numerous awards and recognition worldwide. He spent most of his career at Harvard University and Medical School as a professor of psychiatry and education. He contributed to the founding of the Black Psychiatrists of America which organization is about to celebrate its 50th anniversary. His contribution to the founding of that organization was pivotal and monumental. He advocated on behalf of minorities, children and the disenfranchised. He has been described as a humanist and a New Order Guru. His range of research interests was as broad as it was varied. He was interested in stress under a variety of conditions. He introduced the term "Microaggression" to describe some interracial behavior. He also described vividly some group dynamics in intercultural contexts reflecting racial tensions. Dr. Pierce's work helped illuminate reactions to stress in other difficult and extraordinary conditions such as occur in Antarctica. Dr. Chester M. Pierce held the Presidency of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology as well as that of the American Orthopsychiatric Association. He served as a consultant to various institutions, agencies, and NGOs. For example, he served as a senior consultant to the Surgeon General of the US Air force, US Arctic Research Commission, the Peace Corps, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as well as the Children's television workshops i.e., Sesame Street and Electric Company. He is credited with about 200 books, chapters, and other publications. This list of publications does not do full justice to his academic and advocacy work. At the personal level, he was a quiet and soft-spoken individual who was modest in his opinions and extremely kind and helpful to individuals who came in contact with him. Many successful current psychiatrists and other professionals owe their success to him.

So, anyone who is interested in contributing to this worthwhile drive is encouraged to give generously in order to achieve the goals stated above.

I am enclosing a pledge form. If you have any questions you may contact me or Kit Hall of the APA @ [khall@psych.org](mailto:khall@psych.org).