



BPA News

Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 29 marked two years since the passing of our former Executive Director, "Nana" Patricia Newton. The Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc., our members, affiliates, and friends are all beneficiaries of her years of diligent and caring oversight. It was abundantly clear that she was in the middle of a very busy life, planning a much longer, active one, uninterrupted by something as inconvenient as a premature leave-taking.



BPA President, Dr. Cynthia Turner-Graham



Left-to-right: M. Chris Griffith, MD; Napoleon Higgins, MD; Yolanda Malone-Gilbert, MD; Cynthia Turner-Graham, MD; and Rahn Bailey, MD

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MEMBER-IN-TRAINING

Ja'Nelle Blocker M.D.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, *cont.*

We were all blessed by her clear sense of purpose and vision to improve the quality of life for all people of the diaspora, wherever they lived in the world. We could also agree that Dr. Newton was a "force of nature", serving as medical director and strategic mastermind, as well as mentor, teacher, encourager, and friend.

As members and friends of BPA, you need to know that your elected Board of Directors has taken up the mantle and actively building upon the legacy left by Dr. Newton. We are a committed and engaged Board, working to collaboratively build a sustainable infrastructure and brighter future for BPA members and those we serve.

Here is a summary of some of our accomplishments over these two years:

1. An Executive Director, Napoleon Higgins, was hired;
2. VA Gladiator provides executive and committee support, serves as our webmaster, and provides conference planning services;
3. We received a generous grant from Janssen Pharmaceuticals to create a prototype "Mental Health Greenbook" in Houston, Texas to identify culturally-informed mental health resources appropriate to an individual's level of clinical acuity;
4. We are engaged in networking and relationship-building with other mental health stakeholders - patient groups, professionals organizations, the media, and other stakeholders;
5. A series of 16 lectures are being presented by board members for the 3rd year to address important clinical aspects of mental health and substance abuse for the Danya Institute;
6. BPA Committees are being activated, prioritizing
 - Public Relations who will oversee our public-facing image on social media, with journalists and the press
 - Membership who is working to inspire engagement of our members, oversee board development and succession planning

To maintain and build upon our momentum, we need your knowledge, wisdom, and cumulative experience to help us meet the myriad needs calling for our collective attention. How will you get involved?

Peace and Power,



Cynthia Turner-Graham, M.D.
BPA President

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[Sign up for our private listserv today for real-time conversation and up-to-the-minute content. Visit https://www.blackpsychiatrists.org/listserv](https://www.blackpsychiatrists.org/listserv)



SCAN ME



We thank Dr. Sarah Vinson, who generously opened her home for a BPA reception during the recent NMA Annual Conference in Atlanta. She is the Interim Chair of Morehouse School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry.



Call for Mentors

By Ja'Nelle Blocker, MD

The Howard University chapter of Comprehensive Medical Mentoring Program (CMMP) is currently recruiting health professionals and health professional students to mentor our scholars. We currently have more than 150 members (all of whom have a min gpa of 3.3 and are general CMMP members). We will be competitively selecting 30 scholars that will be paired with mentors. Dr. Blocker, BPA's very own member-in-training trustee, serves as one of the CMMP HU Chapter Liaisons and would greatly appreciate your consideration in mentoring their scholars.

Comprehensive Medical Mentoring Program was created to provide minority students, who may come from disadvantaged or underprivileged backgrounds, with experiences that foster successful matriculation into health-professional schools. This will ultimately increase diversity within the medical field, which is an additional goal of the organization. Using both minority health-professional students and residents in training to operate as mentors allows participants to learn more about medicine and ways to handle potential pitfalls that are more common to their own demographic. Also having attending physicians, faculty members, and health administrators involved as mentors, and in other ways, will give an added layer of support to the students and residents helping to create a pipeline of mentoring for all who participate at both the learning and training stages. We currently serve the DC metropolitan area and Louisiana.

 <p>HOWARD UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL MENTORING PROGRAM</p>  <h2>CALL FOR MENTORS</h2> <p>We are currently seeking health-professional students, residents, attending physicians, faculty members, and health administrators who are enthusiastic and willing to serve as mentors for our HU CMMP scholars!</p> <p><i>"matriculating minorities into medicine"</i></p>	 <p>HOWARD UNIVERSITY COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL MENTORING PROGRAM</p>  <h2>OUR MENTORING PIPELINE</h2> <p>Using both minority health-professional students and residents in training to operate as mentors will allow HU CMMP scholars to learn more about medicine and ways to handle potential pitfalls that are more common to their own demographic.</p> <p>Having attending physicians, faculty members, and health administrators involved as mentors, and in other ways, will give an added layer of support to the students and residents, helping to create a pipeline of mentoring for all who participate in both the learning and training stages.</p>
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DEAL

FREE MEMBERSHIP EXTENSION

In honor of our Transcultural Conference, all new membership plans and renewals purchased during the month of November 2022 will receive an automatic three-month extension through December 2023.

BPA Shines at Gala

By Napoleon Higgins, MD

Drs. Rahn Bailey and Napoleon Higgins attended the Ashley Jadine Foundation Anniversary Gala on September 25, 2022. Dr. Napoleon Higgins received a mental health advocate Honoree award for his work in the Houston community, and Dr. Rahn Bailey was a guest speaker. It was a night filled with advocacy and entertainment, including spoken word, inspirational rap, and jazz music.

Transcultural Conference Hurricane Update

By Napoleon Higgins, MD

Hello BPA, We are excitedly preparing for our renewed Transcultural Conference in Puerto Rico on November 10-13, 2022. We have had multiple questions regarding the status of the island and hotel since Hurricane Fiona. We are happy to report that the hotel did not receive any damage and that the airport and roads in San Juan are all back open. We have had several registered people and are well on selling out seats for the conference. I look forward to seeing you all there. Register and book your stay today!

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA

Transcultural Conference
*Reclaiming Our Mental Health:
Our History and Our Future*



November 10-13, 2022
Condado Ocean Club en Puerto Rico

