



BPA News

Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hello BPA,

These are exciting times in our organization. The return of the BPA Transcultural Conference was an overwhelming success. The coined term of the conference was, "THE BPA IS BACK!"

The 2022 Transcultural was possibly the largest Transcultural conference in many years. We sold out our Registration early and were overwhelmed by our response. We must apologize that we could not accommodate more.

Honestly, we had not anticipated such a response. The speakers and lecturers were of a high quality of psychiatry in the Black community on such a level that you would hear nowhere else. It was, in fact, Black Psychiatry every day, day in and day out. It was indeed a wonderful experience that you would have had to be there to experience.

For 2023, we will build off the experience from our past, our pandemic season, and further growth into our future. We are excited about the lineup and plans for the 2023 Hybrid Spring Conference at Meharry Medical College on March 23-25th. We hope you will join us there. But the fact is, we can only do this with you. We hope that you will renew your membership with the



*BPA Executive Director,
Dr. Napoleon Higgins*

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Ja'Nelle Blocker M.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE, *cont.*

BPA so that we can continue our mission to help Black professional psychiatrists elevate and lift the minds of Black people. We hope you will join us with your membership, talent, and expertise. As the African proverb says, "It takes a village to raise a child." It is also true; it takes you, the Black Psychiatrist, to make the Black Psychiatrists of America. We can not do this without you. Please continue and join us in our purpose and mission. Thanks.

International News



The first Nigerian Mental Health Law since becoming an independent nation was signed by President Muhammadu Buhari. According to Nigerian psychiatrists, the law will help replace the Lunacy Act of 1958, which practitioners condemn as outdated and inhumane. You can find more information [by clicking here](#).

JOIN OUR LISTSERV

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



SCAN ME

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE
BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA, INC.

Spring Conference 2023

RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY: EXPLORING THE NEXT
STEPS TO IMPROVE BLACK MENTAL HEALTH

REGISTER NOW >



Meharry Medical College

1005 Dr. D.B. Todd Jr. Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37208

Cal Turner Family Center for Student Education – Ballroom A

Thursday, March 23 – Saturday, March 25, 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the most rewarding aspects of serving as BPA President is the opportunity to work with such a stellar group of psychiatrists who are motivated and actively engaged in righting the inequities and injustices in our mental health system. Most importantly, they are bringing new voices and solutions to bear on the determinants impacting Black people, and more. They are making a positive difference in their home communities, and recognize the value of extending their reach exponentially through joining efforts with fellow Black psychiatrists. At our recent Transcultural Conference, we voted to expand our Executive Committee by adding an International Trustee, providing opportunities to learn from, as well as to support diasporic psychiatrists throughout the world.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the most recent additions to our leadership team.

REGION 2 TRUSTEE

Gina Newsome Duncan, M.D.



Dr. Gina Newsome Duncan is an adult psychiatrist in private practice at Eastover Psychological & Psychiatric Group in Charlotte, North Carolina. She earned her B.S. in Chemistry from Hampton University, her M.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and completed her general psychiatry internship and residency at Harvard at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH)/McLean Hospital Adult Psychiatry Residency Program. She was Chief Resident of Psychotherapy at MGH and an APA/SAMHSA Fellow. She previously served as the Associate Dean for Admissions for the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University.

Dr. Duncan is passionate about the intersection of spirituality and psychiatry, strength-based approaches to building resilience, and faith- and community-based approaches to addressing disparities in mental health.



*BPA President,
Dr. Cynthia Turner-Graham*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, *cont.*

BPA SECRETARY

Tammara Davis, M.D.



Dr. Davis is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree before attending the University of Tennessee School of Medicine where she completed her M.D. degree. She received Adult Psychiatry Residency training at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington D.C. Dr. Davis is a board-certified psychiatrist with 15+ years of experience working with an economically diverse population of adolescents and adults. At Peninsula Regional Medical Center, she has served as Inpatient Consultation-Liaison Psychiatrist and as Chief Medical Officer for Tele-Help 24/7, a telemedicine startup company. Currently she serves as a contract tele-psychiatrist for Primecare Medical, Inc.

REGION 5 - INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEE

Geoffrey Walcott, MB.BS, DM Psychiatry



Dr. Walcott was born in Clarendon, Jamaica and attended Clarendon College where he received the B.O Frazier Reid award for chemistry. He furthered his education at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, where he received his MB.BS degree in medicine and his DM in psychiatry. Dr. Walcott has worked as the Consultant Psychiatrist in charge of Community Mental Health Services in the South Eastern Regional Health Authority, Jamaica and is currently the Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Director for Psychotherapy Associates. He serves on the Steering Committee and is Director of the Preceptorship program for management of Schizophrenia for Janssen Pharmaceutical Latin America and Caribbean. He is an international conference presenter, author of nineteen peer reviewed journal articles, two book chapters, and served as reviewer for three international journals



Abiba Salahou Selected for Doximity Op-Med Fellowship

Abiba Salahou is a 4th-year medical student at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, a member of the national Gold Humanism Honor Society, and a 2022-2023 Doximity Op-Med Fellow. The Doximity Op-Med fellowship is a competitive 1-year program for healthcare clinicians and trainee leaders. Abiba is passionate about advocacy for marginalized communities and as an Op-Med fellow, she will publish at least 6 original articles throughout the year. Her first article titled, "What the Response to Monkeypox Reveals About Medical Discrimination" explores how the initial public health response to the mpox outbreak, and the stigmatizing language used by mainstream media, impacted the LGBTQ community and mirrored the harmful response to the AIDS epidemic. Be on the lookout for her next article titled, "Resisting Complacency As We Work Toward Racial Equity in Medicine". [Click here to read the article at Doximity.](#)



Abiba Salahou, MS4

MEMBER



REPORT

Dr. Wilsa Charles Malveaux to head new Sports Psychiatry Committee

By Nicole B. Washington, DO, MPH and Tiffani Bell Washington, MD, MPH



BPA has created a Sports Psychiatry Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Wilsa Charles Malveaux, in response to the outpouring of desire by our members to become a formal resource for Black athletes in the wake of the Damar Hamlin incident. Dr. Charles Malveaux has penned a formal statement that can be found on the BPA website at this link: <https://www.blackpsychiatrists.org/bpa-statement>. The BPA hopes to provide a resource such that Black athletes from a variety of sports and levels of play know that we are here to provide mental health support.



SIGN THE STATEMENT IN SOLIDARITY AT
[blackpsychiatrists.org/bpa-statement](https://www.blackpsychiatrists.org/bpa-statement)



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2022 BPA Transcultural Conference

By Cynthia Turner-Graham, MD

"Reclaiming Our Mental Health-Our History and Our Future"

San Jan, Puerto Rico

November 10 - November 13, 2022

Spirits were high as we gathered in sunny San Juan last fall for the first face-to-face gathering of BPA in four years. The Condado Ocean Club, a beautiful oceanfront hotel provided a relaxing setting for fellowship, fun and great learning from some of the best and brightest psychiatrists among us.

The presentations at the conference focused on topics related to both historic and contemporary aspects of Black mental health as well as the current status of Black mental health in the United States. Disparities in mental health treatment and access to care across the diaspora were reviewed, specifically in Puerto Rico with its unique experiences of disaster psychiatry and recovery after Hurricanes Maria and Irma in 2017.



BPA President, Dr. Cynthia Turner-Graham and Dr. Jessica Isom, 2022 Delgado Award recipient

HIGHLIGHTS

- The premier documentary showing of our professional elders and ancestors sharing first-hand experiences of BPA at and before its inception. Dr. James Comer, the 2nd BPA President following Dr. Chester Pierce, was both featured in the documentary and spoke live via Zoom.
- Dr. Jessica Isom's Delgado Award and Lecture. "A Greenbook for Equity Travelers" provided an artful comparison between the advocacy work needed today with that of previous generations to bring awareness and solutions to the challenges of racism.
- The last presentation of the conference by Dr. Hunter Adams shared an expansive review of Dr. Pat Newton's life work as well as their ongoing collaborative research efforts at the time of her passing. She was with us in spirit, as we poured libations and remembered her countless contributions to the life and vitality of BPA.
- Boat ride around the cape on a Catamaran, complete with music, dancing, food, drinks, and a great time of socializing.

**REGISTER
NOW**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR BPA'S SPRING 2023 HYBRID CONFERENCE. EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE THROUGH FEBRUARY 23, 2023. ADD AN ADDITIONAL 15% OFF FOR MEMBERS (50% FOR STUDENTS).

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

2022 BPA Transcultural Conference, *cont.*

By Cynthia Turner-Graham, MD

EVERY PRESENTATION was exceptional and rich in content, and included:

- **The Origin Story of BPA:** The Untold Conversations that Impact the Current Climate of Black Psychiatry; Michelle Clark MD, James Comer, MD
- **Communications and Social Media in Psychiatry;** Nicole Washington, DO, Ja'Nelle Blocker, MD
- **CrearConSalud and Mental Health in Puerto Rico;** Dimas J. Tirado-Morales, MD, MPH
- **Intramuscular Administration of Racemic Ketamine for Treatment-Resistant Depression;** Nathan Carter, MD
- **Violence as a Social Determinant of Mental Health**
 - **A Social Determinants of Health Approach to Gun Violence in the Context of Traumatic Stress;** Rahn K. Bailey, MD
 - **Race and Violence: A deeply flawed narrative;** Charles C Dike, MD, MPH, FRCPsych
 - **Violence in the Mentally Ill: victims or perpetrators?** William Bradford Lawson MD,Ph,D DLFAPA
- **Meeting the psychological needs of the Black athlete-Sports Psychiatry's Responsibility;** Ulrick Vieux, DO, MS, DFAPA, Kim Arrington, PsyD, Hakim-Muta Muhammad, MD
- **Blacks in American Psychiatry: Impacting Training, Treatment and Research;** Altha J. Stewart, MD
- **Natural Disasters: Pathways to Recovery and Resilience;** Napoleon B. Higgins, Jr. MD, and University of Puerto Rico Panelists: Dr. Karen Martínez and Cynthia Hernández Otero, M.Ed., EdDc
- **Black Mental Health & Advocacy through Film;** Danielle Hairston, MD, and Helena Hansen, MD
- **The Adams-Newton Mosaic Self-Model: From the Drama Through the Trauma to Wellbeing;** Hunter Adams, MD

I extend special thanks to our Executive Director, Dr. Napoleon Higgins, and the Scientific Program Committee, Drs. Danielle Hairston and Nicole Washington. Chantalle Hinton served as our meeting coordinator and did a stellar job both planning and providing oversight at the meeting.

DID YOU KNOW THAT BPA HAS A NEW CAREER BOARD?

- **Researcher - Addiction, Behavioral, & Cognitive Neuroscience** at the University of Missouri
- **Forensic Psychiatrist** at Tulane University
- **Director of the UCSF General Psychiatry Residency Training Program** at the University of California
- **Psychiatrist** at the CIA

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JUSTIN POPE, JD
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