



BPA News

Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Into the New Year!

Greetings, Black people! We stand at the threshold of a new year, bearing the scars of a fraught past and facing a challenging present. Dr. June Jackson Christmas, a titan of our field, has transitioned. Our Treasurer, Dr. Ikwunga Wonodi, a remarkable intellect and spirit, just beginning to share his full impact on our field, has also transitioned. Yet, we remain undeterred in our mission of healing and empowerment, striving to honor their legacy by rekindling the torches they held so high, their flames fueled by our collective grief and resolve.



*BPA President,
Dr. Stephen McLeod-Bryant*

Their torches will serve us well as we step into 2024, with former Harvard University President Dr. Claudine Gay's words in The New York Times starkly echoing "The campaign against me was about more than one university and one leader. This was merely a single skirmish in a broader war to unravel public faith in pillars of American society." This broader war attempts to sustain systemic inequities, sustain the brutality of racism and implicit bias, and sustain the shadows of underfunding and access disparities. Black communities continue to bear the brunt of the mental health



The 2024 Transcultural Conference will be held in Kenya. Stay tuned for further details.

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President's Message, cont.

burdens induced by these traumas of American society, often left drifting in a sea of inadequate resources.

We, the Black Psychiatrists of America, stand as beacons in this storm. We are among the healers who strive to truly understand the unique tapestry of experience woven into the Black psyche. We are the advocates who amplify unheard voices, the bridge-builders who connect communities to care.

Yes, the challenges are stark. Yet, remember the resilience woven into our very DNA. Think of Dr. Charles Prudhomme, defying the racism within the APA to become its first elected national officer in 1970. Think of Dr. Chester Pierce, recognizing the phenomenon of microaggression and describing its impact upon us. Think of Dr. Frances Cress Welsing, dismantling harmful racial narratives with unflinching clarity. Think of the host of elders, Altha Stewart, Annelle Primm, Bill Lawson, James Comer, Iverson Bell, and others who live among us to show us the way.

With this resilience, let us commit to in the new year:

- Empowering our communities: Building equitable care pathways, dismantling stigma, and fostering mental health literacy beyond the borders of academia.
- Breaking down barriers: Advocating for equitable funding, expanding access to quality care, and challenging the systemic inequities that keep our communities in shadows.
- Mentoring and nurturing: Reaching back to uplift the next generation of Black psychiatrists, ensuring the torch of care remains forever ablaze.
- Honoring Dr. Christmas's legacy: Continuing her fight for social justice, dismantling the racist constructs that harm our minds and bodies, and amplifying the voices of the most marginalized.
- Honoring Dr. Wonodi's legacy: Giving selflessly of his time and talent to serve the greater good.

The road ahead may be riddled with obstacles, but we have each other to stand as a mighty force, a collective consciousness forged in struggle and empowered by purpose. With our ancestors' memories as our guiding light, let us step into this new year, not with trepidation, but with unwavering resolve. Let us be the healers, the advocates, the changemakers - the relentless defenders of mental well-being in our communities and beyond.

Happy New Year, colleagues. Together, let us make it a year of healing, of advocacy, and of unwavering light.



Stephen McLeod-Bryant, MD
President, Black Psychiatrists of America

BPA Headed to LA, March 21-24, 2024

The upcoming conference organized by the BPA promises to be an enriching experience, taking place in Los Angeles, California, from March 21 to 24, 2024. Set against the backdrop of the vibrant campuses of UCLA and Drew University's Departments of Psychiatry, the event's central theme is "Exploring the Nexus of Community and Mental Health: Space, Place, and Identity." Notably, the dynamic leadership of Helena Hansen and Denese Shervington, both longstanding members of the BPA, guides the two distinguished departments.

The four-day program is thoughtfully curated to cater to diverse interests and professional levels. Commencing with Day 1, the focus will

be on medical trainees, offering insights into mentoring, career development, and an impactful opening ceremony. Attendees, including seasoned psychiatrists, will find valuable opportunities within and beyond clinical practice.

Friday's agenda spotlights women's issues in mental health and wellness, addressing critical concerns and fostering awareness. Saturday promises a stimulating array of talks covering a spectrum from social awareness to psychopharmacology, appealing to a broad audience. The concluding day, Sunday, will center on community outreach, delving into the challenges associated with delivering mental health services in Los Angeles. The program will scrutinize issues such as caring for the homeless population and showcase California as a harbinger of future developments in the broader national context.

This conference offers a unique opportunity for professionals to engage with cutting-edge topics, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. With an exciting and diverse lineup of sessions, the BPA invites all interested participants to join and contribute to this intellectually stimulating event. We look forward to your presence at what promises to be an unforgettable conference experience.

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

2024 Spring Conference

EXPLORING THE NEXUS OF COMMUNITY AND
MENTAL HEALTH: SPACE, PLACE, AND IDENTITY
MARCH 21-24, 2024



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
www.blackpsychs.org

CONFERENCE	HOTEL
UCLA Los Angeles, CA 90024	Luskin Conference Center 425 Westwood Plaza Los Angeles, CA 90095
Charles Drew University Los Angeles, CA 90059	[855] 522-8252

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

<https://luskinconferencecenter.ucla.edu> | Reservation Code: LG2403BPA1

We want to feature **YOU** in our next newsletter! Share your wins so we can celebrate you. [Submit your highlight or article](#) by April 1, 2024.



Dr. Iverson Bell, Jr. receives Recognition for Achievements

Dr. Iverson Bell has been recognized for his extensive and exceptional work in the field of psychiatry. He received the Elam Black Psychiatrists of America Lifetime Achievement Award from the Black Psychiatrists of America during the 2023 Transcultural Conference.

And, the American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training has also honored Dr. Bell by designating an award in his name. The Dr. Iverson Bell, Jr. Faculty Fellowship Award will promote “the professional growth of outstanding Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) psychiatrists, creates a pipeline for involvement within AADPRT, and provides recognition of the awardee’s potential to contribute to the field of psychiatry.”

This award builds on the legacy of Dr. Bell by fostering education innovation projects through the provision of a \$500 honorarium, coverage of travel and registration expenses for the AADPRT Annual Meeting, and assignment of an AADPRT mentor who will guide the award winner in preparing a poster or workshop at the following AADPRT Annual Meeting.



*Award Winner,
Dr. Iverson Bell*

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CONGRATS TO OUR NEWLY BOARD CERTIFIED PSYCHIATRISTS

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Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

Dr. Flanagan receives the HMF Lifetime Achievement Award

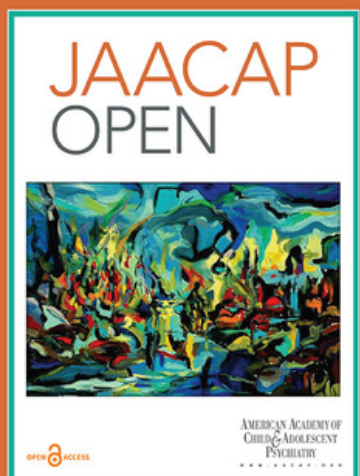
On December 1, 2023, Dr. Kathy Flanagan, a long-time member of the BPA, was awarded the Houston Medical Forum 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award for her unwavering commitment to the mission of HMF (local NMA Affiliate chapter) and outstanding achievements and service to the greater Houston community. Mayor Sylvester Turner proclaimed December 1, 2023, as Dr. Kathy C. Flanagan Day in Houston, Texas, because of her outstanding achievements, unyielding dedication, and transformative contributions that have greatly enhanced the quality of life and healthcare within our city, declaring her an inspiration and a true beacon of service and excellence.

Born to serve, Dr. Flanagan has a passion for community service. She currently serves on the boards of Menninger Clinic, Justice Forward, and Interfaith Ministries. She is a member of The Links, Incorporated, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. She has chaired several nonprofit organizations' gala events and received several community service awards.

In 2021, 100 Black Men, Metropolitan Houston Chapter, Inc. named her Woman of the Year because of her commitment and service to the underserved communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Houston Chronicle called her the "Well-heeled" Doctor" and "Oscar Worthy" because of her commitment to the community and her style, grace, and love for stilettos. Houston Style Magazine described her as "Houston's Best Kept Secret" and, most recently, "A Woman Who Inspires."



*Award Winner,
Dr. Kathy Flanagan*



AACAP Announces Search for JAACAP Open Editor

Applications due: Feb 8, 2024

[Learn More >](#)

SNMA Attends NMA Cobb Symposium

The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) is the result of a need to support and foster underrepresented medical students, with the end goal of “giving back” to underserved communities.

The SNMA has been in existence since 1964. LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans is proud to be part of Region 3 chapter since 1971. In April 2022, SNMA participated in the LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans/NMA Cobb symposium where students had an opportunity to interact and thrilling lectures and Q & A sessions. Additionally, LSU Department of Psychiatry sponsored a mental health research day on August 1, 2023, where SNMA had an opportunity to showcase their work.

SNMA annual meeting will be held in the Spring of 2024 in New Orleans. LSU Health sciences Center-New Orleans, along with the 100 Black Men Association will sponsor a Mental Health Day where SNMA students will have an opportunity to present their research posters to the university & SNMA members alike.



Have you visited BPA's new Career Center? [Click here!](#)