



BPA News

Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Spring 2024 Meeting in LA!

Dear Members of the Black Psychiatrists of America (BPA),

I am thrilled to share with you the remarkable success of our recent Spring Conference held at the UCLA Psychiatry Department in Los Angeles. Supported by the Charles Drew psychiatric department under the leadership of our esteemed Dr. Denese Shervington, and UC Irvine led by Dr. Ruth Benca, this conference

was a testament to the incredible accomplishments of women of color in psychiatry. Queen Califia's legacy shines brightly through the collaborative efforts of these departments, embodying strength and resilience.

The event saw a record-breaking attendance of over 200 participants, including representatives from esteemed institutions such as UC San Francisco and UC Davis. Notably, we were honored to host representatives from NIDA, NIMH, and over 20 industry sponsors, making this our largest and most industry-supported meeting to date. *(cont.)*



*BPA Executive Director,
Dr. Napoleon Higgins*



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

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Jennifer Oruebor, MD

The Spring 2024 Meeting in LA! (cont.)



The Spring 2024 Meeting in LA! (cont.)

Highlights of the conference included a captivating interview with Metta World Peace conducted by our Scientific Chair, Dr. Danielle Hairston, and a special reception celebrating Dr. Marketa Wills, our member and incoming APA CEO, hosted at the SCHARP Center. Dr. Jack Barbour and his team orchestrated a memorable evening complete with live music and entertainment.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the diligent BPA staff and Board for their unwavering commitment to excellence, ensuring a seamless and unforgettable experience for all attendees. A special acknowledgment goes to Dr. Helena Hansen and her team at UCLA for their exceptional hospitality and professionalism. The Luskin Center was top-notch accommodations for our hotel.

The conference featured timely and informative lectures, thanks to the dedication of our speakers and the meticulous planning of our Scientific Chair, Dr. Danielle Hairston, and Co-Chair, Dr. Nicole Washington. I also want to express my appreciation to the Social Media committee for their efforts in spreading the word and engaging trainees.

As we reflect on this remarkable event, I want to extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Hairston for her outstanding service as Scientific Chair. Though she transitions from this role, her dedication to the BPA remains unwavering, and we eagerly anticipate her continued involvement.

I want to thank Jennis, Lana, and the entire VA Gladiators team for helping bring this together and making it all look seamless despite the challenges of our ever-growing conferences, which have unforeseen polymorphous twists and turns.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our upcoming conference in Kenya from November 7-11, 2024.

Furthermore, we eagerly anticipate our Spring 2025 conference in Atlanta with the Morehouse Department of Psychiatry as we continue on our journey through HBCU medical schools.

Thank you all for your unwavering support and participation. Together, we continue to elevate and celebrate excellence in psychiatry.

Warm regards,

Napoleon B. Higgins, Jr., MD
Executive Director
Black Psychiatrists of America (BPA)

Thank You!

Spring Conference Sponsors



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Though still basking in the glow of our Spring Conference, it's time to roll up our sleeves and build on the momentum we've gained from the intellect and enthusiasm of our conference hosts and participants. The BPA is growing (nearly 300 members), and harnessing the energy and good ideas without stumbling and losing the momentum we have gained is a challenge which your Executive Committee takes seriously. To that end, we welcome Dr. Samuel Williams, III, to the Executive Committee as our new Treasurer, following in the footsteps of our dearly departed Dr. Ikwunga Wonodi. Dr. Williams is a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist who is the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Community Behavioral Health for the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health. Having an MBA in addition to his MD, we look forward to his expertise in helping us maintain the fiscal health of the organization.



*BPA President,
Dr. Stephen McLeod-Bryant*

The APA Annual Meeting is looming next month, and many BPA members will be active presenting lectures and posters, participating in workshops, or engaging in the politics of the Assembly and Board of Trustees. Yours truly will be presenting a lecture at the invitation of APA President Petros Levounis, entitled "Black Psychiatrists Confronting Addiction From Prevention to Recovery". It will highlight the contributions of Drs. H. Westley Clark, Bill Lawson, Ayana Jordan, Nzinga Harrison, and Helena Hansen in addictionology, despite the barriers to our inclusion in American psychiatry. The APA Annual Meeting will also be an opportunity to continue our celebration of Dr. Marketa Wills hire as APA Medical Director and CEO. Look for announcements from Dr. Jonathan Shepherd, APA Caucus of Black Psychiatrists President, and the APA Division of Diversity and Health Equity for more information about educational events of interest to BPA members and Black Caucus activities.

Finally, the NMA Annual Meeting will take place in New York City the first week of August, followed by our Transcultural Conference in Nairobi, Kenya November 7-11. Dr. Napoleon Higgins, our Executive Director, is heavily involved in both events as Section Chair for the Psychiatry Section of the NMA meeting and lead administrative representative for our Kenya trip. (Look elsewhere in this newsletter for additional information about both.) There's a lot happening in the BPA with the intent to give you, our members, education to help you address the many mental health needs of our community, as well

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



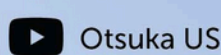
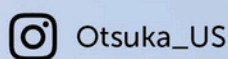
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Discover our commitment to health for every mind



PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, (cont.)

as provide support and nurturing for your growth as a beacon of healing for all to see. Harambee!

Stephen McLeod-Bryant, MD
President
Black Psychiatrists of America (BPA)

HELP US grow 

The recently concluded Spring Conference at UCLA was a success in large part because of the excellent work of the Scientific Program Committee preparing a wide-ranging and exciting program. However, they need help to keep the momentum going as we look to Kenya and beyond for our educational programming. If you have ideas for improving the program format, know of engaging speakers or topics we should be tapping into, or would like to help review abstract submissions in preparing the program, please consider joining the Scientific Program Committee.

We are also looking to grow our social media influence and presence through our Social Media and Communications Committee. This is one of our newer committees and they have been active in building our LinkedIn and Instagram accounts. If you have ideas or expertise in this area, please consider joining the Social Media and Communications Committee.

All Committees meet virtually and have listservs to communicate among members between meetings. The committees also provide a good opportunity for members-in-training and early career members to add to their CVs with active participation.



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Membership Dues Increase Notification



Over the past decade, the BPA has maintained its membership dues at a consistent rate, striving to provide accessible and valuable programming to our esteemed members.

However, as you are all aware, the costs of operation and program development have increased, particularly in the wake of the pandemic and the subsequent rise in expenses across various sectors.

As our membership continues to grow exponentially, so do the operational costs associated with running our organization. We are committed to upholding the quality of programming and services that you have come to expect from us, and this necessitates investment in infrastructure, resources, and expansion of our offerings. Therefore, after careful consideration, the BPA has decided to adjust our membership dues for the first time in over a decade.

Effective May 15th, 2024, the new membership dues will be as follows:

- Full Membership: \$325 (previously \$250)
- Affiliate Membership (Non-Psychiatrists): \$250 (previously \$200)
- Resident Membership: \$100 (unchanged)
- Students: Free (unchanged)

We remain committed to serving our members and enhancing the value and impact of the BPA within our community. Your continued support and participation are invaluable to us, and we look forward to embarking on this journey of growth and advancement together.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, [please do not hesitate to reach out to us.](#)

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Napoleon B. Higgins, Jr. MD
Executive Director
Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.



A Mentally Healthy Nation **For All**

Dear Dr. McLeod-Bryant and BPA Members:

Please accept our warmest congratulations on the 2024 BPA Spring Conference. This year's theme of Exploring the Nexus of Community and Mental Health: Space, Place, and Identity is especially relevant given the rising mental health crisis in the United States and beyond. It was a privilege to connect and collaborate with you all during the conference and Saturday's President's Luncheon.

As you know, there is still much work to do to effect change in American psychiatry for the betterment of African Americans and the country as a whole. APAF looks forward to continued collaboration with BPA to help make America and our world as good as its promise.

Very truly yours,

Rawle Andrews, Jr., Esq.
Executive Director
American Psychiatric Association Foundation

Sign Up to Mentor or Be Mentored



We've heard the call and need for mentors. And we're stepping up to organize. As we strive to foster a supportive community and promote professional growth within the field of psychiatry, we are reaching out to invite participation in our mentoring program facilitated by the Black Psychiatrists of America.

Whether you are an experienced psychiatrist willing to share your expertise or an aspiring psychiatrist seeking guidance and support, we invite you to join our mentoring program. We aim to match mentors and mentees based on expertise and interest, creating valuable connections and opportunities for growth.

Mentorship is a powerful tool for personal and professional development, and your involvement can make a significant impact. Thank you for considering this opportunity to be part of our mentoring program. Together, we can create a supportive environment that empowers individuals to thrive in their careers.

SIGN UP



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2024 TRANSCULTURAL CONFERENCE

**THE POWER OF US: COLLECTIVE
ACTION FOR BLACK MENTAL
HEALTH ACROSS THE DIASPORA**



SAVE THE DATE

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Nairobi Serena Hotel

Safari | November 11-13, 2024
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differently
*makes a world
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Introducing BPA's Newest Board Member

Hello! My name is Jennifer Oruebor, and it is my honor to serve as your Member-in-Training Trustee for the next two years. I am originally from Houston, TX. I graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 2016 with a B.S. in Psychology. After college, I worked and completed a master's in medical science at Boston University before matriculating at Texas A&M School of Medicine in 2020. I'm excited to start my psychiatry residency at UT Southwestern in Dallas, TX this July and extend a big congratulations to all of my peers who matched this year! I first learned about BPA when I met Dr. Turner-Graham at an APA conference. She invited me to attend the BPA reception that evening and we had a time! That was the first time I had ever found myself in a room full of psychiatrists that looked like me, and it was the first time that I ever felt at home within medicine. I look forward to serving our community throughout the diaspora and elevating trainee voices.



*Jennifer Oruebor, MD
Member-in-Training Trustee*

BPA's Career Center

Feeling stuck in your current job? Burned out and in need of a change? Feeling stagnant in your current role. Well, go where you are celebrated and not just tolerated! The Black Psychiatrists of America (BPA) is here to support you. Our newly launched job listing board and career hub, powered by WebScribble, offer a tailored platform for psychiatrists seeking fresh career opportunities. Whether you're experiencing burnout or simply ready for a new challenge, the BPA's job board is designed to facilitate your career transition. Moreover, if you're aware of a company seeking qualified psychiatrists or want to advertise your own company or school's job openings, our platform is the ideal space to connect with talented professionals.

By leveraging the BPA's network and resources, you can discover exciting career prospects and take proactive steps towards professional growth. Join us in cultivating a vibrant community of psychiatrists and employers dedicated to advancing mental health care. Explore the possibilities and seize new opportunities with the BPA today. Together, let's embark on a journey of career fulfillment and meaningful impact within the field of psychiatry. [Visit the Career Center today!](#)

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Congratulations!



Sydney Gore (Howard University College of Medicine) matched into Psychiatry at UC San Francisco.



Magaline Alcindor (Howard University College of Medicine) matched into Psychiatry at Zucker Hillside Hospital.

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

