

2025 Black Psychiatrists of America Elections

PRESIDENT ELECT

Tiffani Bell Washington MD, MPH, MBA, FAPA, FOMA, DABLM, DABOM



I'm honored to be nominated for President-Elect of BPA. As a quadruple board-certified psychiatrist and former Member-in-Training Representative and Region 1 Trustee, I bring deep experience, organizational insight, and unwavering commitment to our mission. As a delegate, I advocate for policies that advance mental health equity and reduce stigma in Black communities. My clinical work in whole person integrative and lifestyle psychiatry centers on empowering individuals—patients, trainees, and colleagues alike—to live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

Since 2020, I earned an MPH from Harvard and an MBA from Yale to enhance and strengthen my ability to serve at the intersection of psychiatry, public health policy, and leadership. Since graduating, I've greatly reduced my clinical load to focus on advocacy and building systems that not only support physician well-being but also the wellbeing of our community.

BPA was a lifeline during my training— I remain inspired by the excellence and wisdom of our members. If elected, I will champion mental health literacy, expand BPA's digital presence, increase and fortify the pipeline from medical school to psychiatry. With the country's changing policies, my greatest hope is that BPA remains a safe haven and incubator for the growth, excellence, and collective power of Black psychiatrists—where we are supported, seen, and equipped to lead in every space we enter.

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PRESIDENT ELECT

Nicole B. Washington, D.O., MPH



Dr. Nicole Washington is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana where she attended Southern University and A&M College. After receiving her BS degree, she moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma to matriculate at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed residency in Psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa and a master's degree in Public Health through the University of Illinois at Chicago. Since completion of her residency training, Dr. Washington has spent most of her career caring for and being an advocate for those who are not typically consumers of mental health services, namely underserved communities, those with severe mental illness and high performing professionals. Dr. Washington has been an active member of the Black Psychiatrists of America and has served as chair and co-chair of the Communications and Social Media Committee as well as both chair and co-chair of the Scientific Program Committee. In these roles, she has worked tirelessly to advance the mission of the BPA. As President Elect, and subsequently President, she has the goal to increase visibility and membership of the organization so that the benefits of this esteemed organization are experienced by more Black psychiatrists as she has found this organization to be an invaluable asset to her career and wants to share that with others.

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SECRETARY

Juandalyn Peters, M.D.



Dear BPA colleagues,

It is my pleasure to offer my services as Secretary of our wonderful organization. Since joining BPA last year, I have joyfully proclaimed to multiple colleagues and friends that "I have found my tribe!" It has been such a pleasure to interact with peers, learn from the elders and mentor the trainees and students. However, I recognize that it is not enough to pay my dues and enjoy the benefits, without making more of a contribution to the ongoing vitality of our cherished BPA, particularly in these politically and socially challenging times.

I was born and raised in The Bahamas, obtained my medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine, and went on to complete General Psychiatry training at Duke University Medical Center, and a Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. I opened a solo private practice in South Florida upon graduation and have kept that practice for the past twenty years, satisfying my need for service to our larger community by having contract positions at community mental health centers and agencies that serve mentally ill foster children. Further I have given talks for multiple service organizations, churches, and media outlets - all with the focus of improving education about psychiatric illness, decreasing stigma, and improving the quality of life for psychiatric patients.

In terms of the Secretarial role, I am detail-oriented, a good (and twice published) writer with strong editing skills. I am confident that any further requirements of the position will be developed with time, guidance, and the humility to ask questions. I look forward to serving our organization and being a part of uplifting Black America and ourselves at a time when we all need each other the most.

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REGION 2 TRUSTEE

Vivian Campbell, MD, DLFAPA



I am seeking to represent the Southern Region as a Trustee on the Black Psychiatrists of America Executive Committee. If elected, I will support the objectives of BPA that improve the standards of the profession and outcomes for people engaged in mental health treatment. BPA is a standard bearer for combining a progressive definition of excellent clinical care and the benefits of organizational psychiatry to promote practices and policies that ensure parity for all people seeking to improve their mental health. I live in Charlotte, NC and have been in practice since 1993 in a variety of clinical settings. In addition to military service, I have worked in community psychiatry, private practice, carceral settings, with non-profits and in the federal system. In each of those settings there were more people of color and financially disadvantaged people in need of clinically competent, compassionate, culturally informed care than psychiatrists trained to provide the services. I want to contribute to promoting solutions to increase access and to support psychiatrists in practicing in a manner that is meaningful and sustainable for the physician. I have nurtured connections between colleagues via informal networks such as a book club, support groups and mentorship as recognition that in some localities mental health providers of color may have fewer peer relationships that represent their intersectional identities. I have contributed to bridging connections with the wider community of colleagues through serving on the executive committee of the Charlotte Psychiatric Society, committee participation with my APA District Branch and prior service on non-profit and advisory boards. We face more challenges to maintain the progress of the past several years, but the needs of the people we care for professionally remain constant. I welcome the opportunity to represent the ideas and concerns of the Southern Region to further BPA's mission to improve access, equity, and excellence.

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REGION 3 TRUSTEE

LaRissa Chism Buggs, MD, FAPA



LaRissa Chism Buggs, MD, FAPA (University of Michigan, '97) is board certified in both Adult and Forensic Psychiatry and brings over two decades of experience in clinical practice and community mental health leadership. She is the co-founder and medical director of Cultivating Life Clinic, a charitable safety-net mental health organization dedicated to providing culturally competent, faith-informed care to uninsured and underinsured populations in Indiana. The clinic also operates a “street psychiatry” clinic serving individuals experiencing homelessness. Dr. Buggs is also a cofounder of The Nexus Center, a multi-faceted community wellness center that houses the clinic and supports educational, nutritional, and economic empowerment initiatives. In addition, she provides telepsychiatry services through Avel eCare and maintains a private forensic psychiatry practice offering expert evaluations and consultations.

A member of both the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL), Dr. Buggs’ clinical work has centered on community and public psychiatry, with a strong commitment to reducing stigma and improving access to care for underserved Black communities. A proponent of the power of presence, she believes that meaningful representation and inclusion strengthen both the profession and the communities psychiatrists serve.

If elected as Trustee 3 (Midwest), Dr. Buggs will amplify the voices of her colleagues, foster mentorship among early-career psychiatrists, and advance the mission of Black Psychiatrists of America through advocacy, education, and culturally responsive initiatives that promote mental wellness and equity for Black communities nationwide.

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REGION 5 TRUSTEE

Wolé Akóşílè MB, BS, MPH, Cert. Addiction. Psych FRANZCP, FACHAM, PhD



Associate Professor Wole Akosile is a globally recognised addiction psychiatrist and specialist in addiction medicine, based in Queensland, Australia. He serves as Adjunct Associate Professor at the National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research, University of Queensland. He leads clinical innovation as Director of Addiction and TMS Programs at New Farm Clinic, where he also chairs the Medical Advisory Committee. As a member of the Queensland Board of the Medical Board of Australia and the Oceania Representative for the International Society of Addiction Medicine, Associate Professor Akosile is a respected advocate for best practices and policy in mental health care across the continents.

Associate Professor Akosile's research, with over 38 peer-reviewed publications, focuses on substance-enhanced psychotherapy and culturally responsive care. He is a passionate mentor and founder of the African Australian Psychiatry Group, advancing support and visibility for psychiatrists of African heritage. Beyond academia, he is an accomplished author, using fiction to illuminate the lived experiences and mental health challenges of Africans and the global Black diaspora. Associate Professor Akosile's leadership, crosscultural expertise, and commitment to equity continue to shape the field of psychiatry and inspire the next generation of mental health professionals worldwide.