



BPA News

Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

As I write this final message to you as President of the Black Psychiatrists of America, I am filled with gratitude for the enduring spirit and dedication that defines our organization. It has been an honor to serve alongside so many committed professionals who share a profound commitment to advancing the mental health and well-being of Black communities.



*BPA President
Stephen McLeod-Bryant, MD*

Our collective work continues to be essential in confronting persistent disparities and systemic challenges that affect the lives of those we serve. Yet, it is equally important to recognize the immense strength, resilience, and creativity within our communities—a wellspring of hope and progress that inspires all that we do.

As I prepare to pass the mantle of leadership to Dr. Rahn Bailey, I am confident in the future of the BPA and the vision held by those who will guide us forward. The passion and wisdom within this organization will undoubtedly carry us to new heights in advocacy, education, and healing.



The 2025 Transcultural Conference will be held in Grenada from November 6 - 10, 2025.

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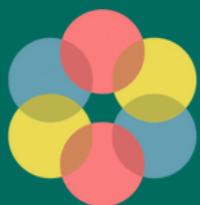
Francois Williams, MD

President's Address, *cont.*

I encourage each of you to remain engaged, to continue fostering collaboration, and to embrace innovation as we move ahead. As I have seen from Listserv and social media postings, many of you are already leading the charge here in the US and beyond. Together, we embody a powerful force for change—a beacon of hope for Black mental health across the nation and the diaspora.

Thank you for the privilege of your trust and partnership. I look forward with hope and determination to all that lies ahead for BPA.

Stephen McLeod-Bryant
President, Black Psychiatrists of America



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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>



Join Us in Grenada for the BPA Transcultural Conference!

By Napoleon B. Higgins, Jr., MD

It's not too late to register!

The Black Psychiatrists of America invites you to the 2025 Transcultural Conference on the breathtaking island of Grenada, West Indies. This unforgettable experience will combine science, culture, and community—bringing together professionals from across the African diaspora to explore innovative approaches to global mental health.

This year's theme focuses on bridging the gap between psychiatric care and community resources. In many parts of the world, access to psychiatric services remains limited. To help address these challenges, the BPA is hosting specialized training sessions for medical and mental health personnel, designed to strengthen local systems of care by collaborating with the dedicated community partners already doing the work on the ground.

Attendees will experience a rich exchange of ideas, cultural insight, and evidence-based strategies to support the mental health of the diaspora. Beyond the sessions, you'll enjoy Grenada's vibrant heritage, stunning scenery, and warm hospitality—making this both a meaningful professional development opportunity and a rejuvenating getaway.

Don't miss out—registration is still open, and we'd love for you to be part of this transformative event!

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The Black Psychiatrists of America Presents

2025 TRANSCULTURAL CONFERENCE

Roots of Resilience: Confronting the Legacy of Racism and Advancing Mental Health in the Diaspora



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

November 6-10, 2025 | St George's, Grenada

Hosted at the Royalton & St. George's University

**Learn More &
Register**



[HTTPS://BLACKPSYCHIATRISTS.ORG/BPA-FALL-CONFERENCE](https://blackpsychiatrists.org/bpa-fall-conference)



At Otsuka, we hold a deep respect for the value of every mind.

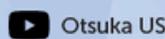
We will not rest until mental illnesses and brain diseases are approached with the same priority and urgency as our physical health and recognized as chronic diseases that warrant early, equitable, and accessible intervention.



Through products, programs, policies, and advocacy, Otsuka-people will defy any limitation that stands in their way until every mind is valued.



Discover our commitment to health for every mind



Dr. Higgins Receives Joseph Biden's United States President Lifetime Achievement Award!

By Napoleon B. Higgins, Jr., MD

Dear BPA Members,

I wanted to take a moment to share some personal news with the BPA family. Earlier this year, I was honored to receive the United States President's Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joseph R. Biden.

This recognition means a great deal to me—not just personally, but because so much of my professional and volunteer journey has been rooted in Black mental health and my work within the Black Psychiatrists of America. BPA has been the space where I've spent the bulk of my career giving back—whether through advocacy, education, or community engagement—focused on erasing stigma, expanding awareness, and supporting mental wellness across local, national, and international communities.

Much of this work happens quietly, behind the scenes, and I've never expected recognition for it. So when this letter from the White House arrived, I was genuinely stunned—so much so that, at first, I only told my wife and daughter. But as the reality settled in, I felt both humbled and grateful. The long nights, the unseen hours, the constant drive to make things happen for our community—all of it has been worth it.

If you've ever received something so unexpected that it left you speechless, you'll understand how I feel. I'm deeply appreciative to have this acknowledgment and even more thankful for the family, friends, colleagues, and BPA members who have been part of the journey. None of this happens alone.

With gratitude,

Dr. Napoleon B. Higgins, Jr.

Executive Director

Black Psychiatrists of America



We want to feature **YOU** in our next newsletter! Share your wins so we can celebrate you. [Submit your highlight or article](#) by January 2, 2026.

New Benefit for BPA Members

By Stephen McLeod-Bryant, MD

Dear Members,

A free 30-minute legal consultation re: enrollment or employment disciplinary actions by trainees, employees, or faculty is now available to BPA members. This free consultation is provided through BPA's subscription with LegalZoom, an online legal technology and services company that helps individuals handle legal matters through a network of vetted attorneys.

Please visit our [Membership Benefits](#) page to learn more and to request your first consultation.

Warm regards,

Stephen McLeod-Bryant
President
Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.

Join the BPA Newsletter List

Did you know that you can choose how you stay connected to BPA? If you want to get updates about our work and community, you can customize your email preferences based on what you'd like to receive from us:

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Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Basal Cell Carcinoma in Gorlin Syndrome

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Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

Summary: A newly published set of national clinical guidelines expands the management of Gorlin syndrome beyond dermatologic treatment, emphasizing the role of psychological wellbeing, patient advocacy, and interdisciplinary collaboration in improving long-term outcomes.

Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Basal Cell Carcinoma in Gorlin Syndrome

A new manuscript, *Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Basal Cell Carcinoma in Gorlin Syndrome*, has been submitted to the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD)*. Gorlin syndrome, a rare genetic disorder linked to mutations in *PTCH1* or *SUFU*, produces a lifelong tendency toward multiple basal cell carcinomas. Beyond its biological complexity, the condition carries a visible and often stigmatizing burden that can reshape one's sense of identity. Recurrent growths and the surgeries required to manage them can leave lasting effects that extend beyond the body to affect mood and social wellbeing.

Of the many specialists who took part, Rahn Kennedy Bailey, MD represented psychiatry, adding a perspective often missing in dermatologic discourse. His involvement underscores a crucial but often overlooked dimension of dermatologic disease: the psychological cost of chronic visibility. Through this lens, the guidelines extend beyond procedural accuracy or therapeutic efficacy, inviting clinicians to consider the interplay between body and mind in the lived experience of illness. Dr. Bailey's input helped shape recommendations that view each patient within the full context of their physical and emotional experience.

This integrative effort is evident throughout the guidelines. The recommendations encourage structured counseling, patient advocacy, and shared decision making as integral elements of effective care. Rather than treating emotional recovery as ancillary, the guidelines position it alongside physical treatment outcomes, suggesting that wellbeing encompasses more than just histologic clearance. This approach resonates with broader debates in contemporary medicine regarding the need to bridge somatic and psychological care, particularly in diseases that alter appearance or social interaction.

The issues raised in the context of Gorlin syndrome point toward wider clinical and ethical

Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Basal Cell Carcinoma in Gorlin Syndrome, *cont.*

considerations. Visible or chronic conditions often expose patients to subtle forms of stigma, anxiety, and identity disruption that can compound physical suffering. Such experiences are not easily measured, yet they frequently shape adherence, satisfaction, and long-term prognosis. For patients from historically marginalized backgrounds, these challenges may intersect with systemic inequities in access to dermatologic care and the persistent underrepresentation of darker skin tones in clinical research and education. These disparities reveal how illness experience is structured not only by biology but also by culture, economics, and institutional visibility, areas that psychiatry and social medicine are uniquely positioned to address.

This panel's work reflects more than an update in clinical practice. It illustrates how guideline development can bridge disciplines while also addressing long-standing inequities in care. The inclusion of psychiatric insight invites clinicians to consider the emotional and cultural dimensions of illness, particularly for Black patients whose skin tones and lived experiences have too often been overlooked in dermatology. The result is a step towards a more meaningful model of care, one that fully incorporates patients' psychological wellbeing.



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Exciting News: New Post from One of Our Members Featured on PRMS Blog

We are thrilled to share that Stacia Hollingsworth, MD, a valued member of our community, has recently contributed an insightful article to the PRMS Blog titled *"In The Presence of Greatness!: How the Black Psychiatrists of America Continues to Inspire and Shape My Journey"*.

This article delves into the importance of engagement in mental health, particularly within the Black community, and offers a powerful reflection on the 2025 Black Psychiatrist of America Spring Conference.

Excerpt:

"So, if you're a student, resident, psychiatrist, or someone working within or even just interested in the mental health field, and you're wondering if attending a BPA conference is worth it, IT IS! GO! Find your people. Find your inspiration. The Black Psychiatrists of America isn't just an organization, it's a family and I'm so grateful to be a part of it."

Read the full article here: <https://www.prms.com/prms-blog/articles/2025/august/in-the-presence-of-greatness-how-the-black-psychiatrists-of-america-continues-to-inspire-and-shape-my-journey/>

