

BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA, INC



MEDIA KIT

MISSION

The mission of The Black Psychiatrists of America is to address issues affecting the mental health of African people worldwide with special emphasis on Persons of African descent in the Americas and to provide a forum for continuing education for those who provide psychiatric care to these underserved population groups.

OBJECTIVES

The Black Psychiatrists of America seeks to serve as an influence towards the maintenance of high professional, ethical, and administrative standards in the field of psychiatry through the following objectives:

- To Improve the treatment, care, and rehabilitation of persons affected with mental disorders, developmental and emotional disabilities.
- To Develop and implement programs that work to eliminate racial, ethnic, religious, and gender bias and discrimination.
- To Establish and support standards in psychiatric practice, service, and facilities.
- To Promote research and professional education in those areas of psychiatry.

ADDRESSING THE MENTAL HEALTH of African Americans

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BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA, INC

HISTORY

The struggles, social conditions of Black Americans, professional experiences, and the barriers faced by black psychiatrists provided the thrust for our creation.

Since the graduation of Solomon Carter Fuller from Boston University School of Medicine in 1897, and for the next eight decades, black psychiatrists have persistently struggled to impact and effect change in American psychiatry. In the 1960s, it became increasingly evident that the traditional government and professional organizations were not responsive to the ever-evolving priorities of the African American community and their mental health needs. There was a growing need for an independent organization focused on the needs of professional Black psychiatrists and the patients and communities we represent and serve.

Founded in 1969, the founders of the BPA understood the importance of moving progressively to ensure African Americans' emotional and psychological development, affording them the tools to cope and succeed in the face of persistent racism.

In response to the BPA's demands, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) established the NIMH Center for Minority Group Mental Health Programs. The American Psychiatric Association (APA), the major psychiatric professional organization, was tenaciously challenged by the BPA for its apathy and neglect of psychiatric and social ills confronting African Americans.

The direction of the BPA is dictated by the growth of our organization and the present dilemmas facing African Americans. The initial and continuing philosophy is to effect change in American psychiatry for the betterment of African Americans and the country as a whole.

“
*What a great organization.
With BPA, I found a home
where I belong.*

—BPA Member

”



BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA, INC



MEMBERSHIP

Today, Black Psychiatrists of America comprises approximately 300 Black mental health professionals within the following membership segments:

General Members (62%) comprise most of BPA's total membership and include Black MD and DO psychiatric physicians who represent the vision our ancestors foresaw.

Students (25%) make up a full quarter of BPA's total membership and are invited to participate at any point along their academic journey to expose them to the mentorship of seasoned Black psychiatrists.

Psychiatry Residents (8%) compose the next largest membership segment. These members typically convert to General Membership when they complete their residencies.

Life Members (3%) are a crucial membership segment bringing in sustaining funds and the dedication required to ensure the continuation of BPA's mission.

Affiliate Members (2%) represent the smallest membership segment yet are crucial partners in BPA's work. These members are Black non-psychiatrist mental health professionals and other individuals with a vested interest in the success of BPA.

BLACK PSYCHIATRY DIRECTORY



In July 2023, in honor of Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, Black Psychiatrists of America launched the Black Psychiatry Directory. This directory is a valuable resource designed to connect individuals with qualified Black psychiatrists and mental health services across the nation.

In recognition of the urgent need for culturally responsive mental healthcare, BPA compiled a comprehensive listing of Black psychiatrists and mental health professionals. This directory aims to bridge the gap in access to mental health support for minority communities and empower individuals to seek the care they deserve.

Black psychiatrists and mental health service provider anywhere in the United States are invited to sign up for the directory. Together, we can expand the reach of mental health support and create a stronger network of care for all.

Here, we join hands and advocate for the importance of mental health within our communities. www.blackpsychiatrydirectory.com



BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA, INC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Stephen McLeod-Bryant

Dr. McLeod-Bryant was born and raised in Binghamton, NY. He attended the University of Rochester, receiving a BA, magna cum laude, in Cybernetics, then received his M.D. there in 1984. He completed his residency in psychiatry at the Tufts-New England Medical Center in Boston, MA. After finishing his residency in 1988, he became a faculty member of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). After 24 years at MUSC, he left Charleston to join Meharry Medical College's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. In 2015, he left Meharry and joined the University of Miami's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and is currently Clinical Associate Professor.

Executive Director

Napoleon Higgins, M.D.

Napoleon B. Higgins, Jr., MD, is a psychiatrist in the Houston/Clear Lake City Area. He currently serves as Owner, CEO, and President of Bay Pointe Behavioral Health Service, Inc., and South East Houston Research Group, Inc. He also practices as the Medical Director of Hold My Hand Residential Treatment Center and as the staff psychiatrist at Prairie View A&M University in the Student Services Center.

President Elect

Rahn Kennedy Bailey

Rahn Kennedy Bailey, M.D. serves as the Kathleen & John Bricker Chair, Professor, and Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Sciences Center and is the Assistant Dean for Community Engagement. Dr. Bailey's early research focused on Psychotic Disorders/SPMI, grew to include Depressive Illness/Bipolar Mood D/O, expanded to forensic topics, Competency, Confidentiality, and Risk Management. Currently, his focus is Health Disparities, Healthcare Reform, and Violence. He has 86 peer-reviewed publications in over 20 refereed journals and published three books. In 2022, Dr. Bailey received the National Medical Association Ernest Y. Williams, M.D. Clinical Scholars of Distinction Award. Dr. Bailey was also selected as the 2024 awardee of the American Psychiatric Association Solomon Carter Fuller Award. He was elected the 2023-2025 Chair of the APA Caucus on Global Mental Health.



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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.

Immediate Past President

Cynthia Turner-Graham, M.D.

Dr. Turner-Graham is an adult psychiatrist who completed her undergraduate studies at Fisk University, and medical studies at the University of Kansas School of Medicine where she received her M.D. degree. Psychiatry residency training was completed at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry in Nashville, TN.. She is the President and CEO of ForSoundMind Enterprises, Inc., provides workshops, lectures and experiences that facilitate greater insight, personal growth and more wholesome relationships. Dr. Turner-Graham is board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology.

Treasurer

Ikwunga Wonodi, M.D., M.B.A, DFAPA

Dr. Wonodi is a Service Chief in the adult service line at Sheppard Pratt, and Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine. He completed his medical studies at the College of Health Sciences, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Psychiatry residency training and schizophrenia research fellowship were completed at the University of Maryland/Sheppard Pratt Program and Maryland Psychiatric Research Center, respectively. He earned an MBA from the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. Dr. Wonodi's interests include healthcare management, education, mental health equity, and biomarker studies relevant to people of African ancestry. He is a member of the Diversity Committee of the Maryland Psychiatric Society.



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Chairperson, Scientific Program Committee

Danielle Hairston, M.D.

Dr. Hairston is the BPA Scientific Program Chairperson and has served in the past as the Member-in-Training on the BPA Executive Committee. She is currently the Director of Residency Training in the Department of Psychiatry at Howard University School of Medicine and the Chairperson of the Black Caucus of the American Psychiatric Association. She attended Rutgers University for her undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences and attended Howard University College of Medicine for her medical degree. Dr. Hairston was Chief Resident for the Department of Psychiatry at Howard University. She also has the opportunity to speak nationally and internationally about the impact of racial trauma and culture on mental health. Her interests include psychosomatic medicine, minority mental health, cultural psychiatry, and collaborative care.

Council of Elders Co-Chairperson & Chairperson 50th Anniversary Committee

Altha Stewart, M.D.

Dr. Stewart, a former President of the Black Psychiatrists of America, and first African American President of the American Psychiatric Association, now serves as the Co-Chair for the BPA Council of Elders for the Association. She was recently elected as Secretary for the American Psychiatric Association and is the current Executive Director for Just Family Care Network (Memphis, TN), a federally funded System of Care program for children with serious emotional disorders and their families. She also serves as Director for System of Care for the Shelby County Juvenile Defender Unit (Memphis, TN).

Member-In-Training

Ja'Nelle Blocker M.D.

Dr. Ja'Nelle Blocker attended Xavier University of Louisiana for her undergraduate studies then went on to achieve her Doctor of Medicine degree from American University of Integrative Sciences School of Medicine. She is currently a psychiatry resident at Howard University Hospital where she serves as the recruitment committee co-chair and one of the CIR delegates. She is genuinely committed to educating, treating, and advocating for the underrepresented minority population and helping minorities matriculate in medicine. She has served as the community service and fundraising chair of CMMP (Comprehensive Medical Mentoring Program) in the recent past. Her professional interests include community and global mental health, advocacy, and lifestyle medicine.



BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA, INC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mid-Atlantic/ Eastern Regional Trustee Region I

Tiffani L. Bell, M.D.

Dr. Tiffani Bell is the Eastern Trustee for Black Psychiatrists of America. She is a Quadruple Board Certified Physician who specializes in Adult Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Lifestyle Medicine and Obesity Medicine. Dr. Bell completed medical school at Medical College of Virginia, and both residency and fellowship at Bowman Gray/Wake Forest School of Medicine. She has worked in academic medicine and has held leadership positions in several national organizations including; currently serving as a Delegate from the American Psychiatric Association to American Medical Association, Young Physicians' Section. She previously served as the Residency Fellow Member representative for BPA, was selected to be an APA/SAMHSA Fellow and served on the American Medical Association's Minority Affairs Section, Governing Council. Dr. Bell is passionate about education, tackling stigma and implementing policies that promote improved access to care and minority mental health.

Midwestern Regional Trustee, Region II

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.



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Midwestern Regional Trustee, Region III

Welton C. Washington, M.D.

Welton Washington, M.D., is currently serving as a Regional Trustee (Midwest Region) for the Black Psychiatrists of America. He is an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and an attending psychiatrist at Washtenaw County Community Support and Treatment Services. He is a member of the American Psychiatric Association and is the 2014 recipient of the Nancy C.A. Roeske, M.D. Award for "Excellence in Medical Student Education. He is a member of the American Psychiatric Association and is the 2014 recipient of the Nancy C.A. Roeske, M.D. Award for "Excellence in Medical Student Education

Western Regional Trustee, Region IV

Wilsa M.S. Charles Malveaux, M.D., M.A.

Dr. Wilsa M.S. Charles Malveaux, MD, MA, completed her BA and MA in Psychology at Stanford University and her Medical Degree at Howard University College of Medicine, HUCM. She completed her residency training in Psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she was a Chief Resident.

Dr. Wilsa Charles Malveaux is a Board-Certified psychiatrist skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of an array of illnesses from anxiety and ADHD to mood disorders and Schizophrenia. Dr. Wilsa Charles Malveaux lends her expertise as a psychiatric consultant to the U. S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), to a professional sports league, Olympic & Paralympic athletes, and multiple professional sports teams, and organizations. She is also CEO and President of WCM Sports Psych

International Trustee, Region V

Geoffrey Walcott, MB.BS, DM

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 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.

BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA, INC

FAQS



What are the primary goals of the Black Psychiatrists of America?

The primary goals of the Black Psychiatrist of America are to:

1. Provide mental health services to the African American community
2. Provide resources, support and ongoing training to Black psychiatrists and
3. Encourage and develop young African Americans to go into fields of mental health.

What steps have been taken to reach those goals?

The Black Psychiatrists of America sponsors two annual meetings for our membership every year — our Spring Conference meeting and our Transcultural Meeting. At these meetings, we provide our membership with the opportunity to earn CME credits as well as to provide educational materials. We have a diverse panel of speakers that discuss the issues that pertain to the primary goals of our organization.

What associations do the Black Psychiatrists of America partner with?

We have partnered with numerous organizations some of which are the SNMA, AHMHA, NAMI, APA, ABPsi, NABSW and many others. Our associations with these groups allow for us to provide a wealth of support to our members and lets them know that we are concerned with the profession, with their practices and with their overall well being.

What are the benefits of membership?

The benefits of membership in the Black Psychiatrists of America are: stay professionally up-to-date, have the opportunity to network, and learn and earn continuing education credits. The BPA is a resource center of valuable materials. We give our members the opportunity to let their voice be heard by contributing to our newsletter as well as speak at our annual conferences.

How has the organization grown since its establishment in 1969?

The organization has grown to encompass a diverse group of membership all over the world. From the Dominican Republic to Egypt and back, our members are concerned physicians that care the mental health of black community world wide.

What do you want people to know about the Black Psychiatrist of America?

We want them to know that we are here to service the community and that we are here to help and sustain them.

BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA, INC

QUOTABLES



“

The conferences are so friendly and intensely focused on our people.

-Conference Attendee

”

“

It is great to hear scientific information that is culturally relevant to the population of patients I serve and the community I live.

-BPA Member

”

“

It's great to see BPA back!

-Member

”

“

I always have such a great time meeting with colleagues and friends.

-Conference Attendee

”

“

There is no other place to find an in-depth conference about our people.

-Conference Attendee

”

BLACK PSYCHIATRISTS OF AMERICA, INC



MEDIA + MEMBERSHIP REACH



1.5K +



1500 +

Newsletter Subscribers



500 +



300 +

Association Members



300 +



CONTACT INFO

If you are making a media inquiry or a request for a subject matter expert or speaker, please contact our media team at media@blackpsychs.org.

For general inquiries and comments, please email us at info@blackpsychs.org.

For inquiries directed to our executive board, please email our president at president@blackpsychs.org

For inquiries related to financial matters, please email our treasurer at treasurer@blackpsychs.org.

If you have questions about submitting an abstract for an upcoming BPA event, please contact our program team at callforpapers@blackpsychs.org.



Please note that BPA does not make referrals or accept clients directly. Our directory of Black mental health professionals is available at blackpsychiatrydirectory.com.

Practitioners, list your practice in the Black Psych Directory. Click here.



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