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**APA Explores Mental Health Disparities through *OMNA on Tour***

**Arlington, Va.** – As the nation becomes more educated on mental health concerns, from awareness of the struggles with PTSD of returning veterans to helping children concentrate and focus in school, many are not aware of the mental health inequalities that exist for minority communities. In an ongoing effort to address these disparities, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Office of Minority/National Affairs (OMNA) is pleased to announce the latest stop on its breakthrough program, *OMNA on Tour*, in the Midwest (Chicago area) on Friday, Oct. 27.

*OMNA on Tour* is designed to educate communities around the nation about the significance and impact on community well-being of ethnic and racial disparities in mental health. The tour aims to foster collaboration among a variety of stakeholders with the goal of developing local action plans to eliminate mental health disparities. While on tour, OMNA Director, Annelle Primm, M.D., M.P.H., APA member experts and other mental health professionals will engage constituencies from a wide variety of disciplines, such as to psychiatrists, primary care physicians, substance abuse treatment providers, community leaders, and local mental health system administrators.

“Health care providers need to learn about the ways in which minority populations are unique from an economic, social, medical, and historical point of view,” said Dr. Primm. “Psychiatrists should seek out information about how to maximize the quality of care they provide to these groups, including how best to communicate to optimize treatment and patient outcomes.”

The Midwest tour stop in Arlington Heights, Ill., will cover topics ranging from advocating for elimination of mental health disparities through the political system to confronting cultural competencies in diverse populations across the age spectrum.

*OMNA on Tour* will take place on Friday, Oct. 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago in Arlington Heights. A reception precedes the event on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago-Arlington Heights, Oakwood Room. To register in advance contact 703-907-8539 or [omnaontour@psych.org](mailto:omnaontour@psych.org). Onsite registration and donations accepted.

**About the American Psychiatric Association:**

The American Psychiatric Association is a national medical specialty society whose more than 37,000 physician members specialize in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org) and [www.HealthyMinds.org](http://www.HealthyMinds.org).

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