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APA Supports Academic Freedom

Arlington, Va. – The American Psychiatric Association (APA), the medical specialty society that represents more than 37,000 of the world’s psychiatrists, supports academic freedom and free intellectual exchange.

The field of psychiatry depends on the ability of its practitioners and researchers to freely exchange scientific ideas and discoveries independent of any interference from politically or ideologically motivated groups or movements.

Any attack on institutions of higher learning and individual scientists, academics and researchers based on political policy halts academic freedom. Such actions are anathema to the APA and would negatively impact the vital role research plays for our patients and profession.

One such recent example arose in Great Britain that would have threatened academic freedom, but it is reported that the situation – a proposed boycott of scholars and institutions that have not condemned Israel’s policies toward Palestinians – has ended favorably. This situation spurred an action paper to be passed by APA’s Board of Trustees and Assembly that strongly supports free intellectual exchange, especially as threats to academic freedom are not uncommon and have arisen around the world.

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 and www.HealthyMinds.org.

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