

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

History: Charge revised December 1984, name changed March 1999, changed back to National Affairs July 2000; restructured & renamed May 2002; charge revised November 2002.

Composition: There are 8 members of the council. These 8 members consist of chairpersons of its 7 committees (Committee of American Indian, Alaska Native & Native Hawaiian Psychiatrists, Committee of Asian American Psychiatrists, Committee of Black Psychiatrists, Committee of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Psychiatrists, Committee of Hispanic Psychiatrists, Committee of International Medical Graduates, and Committee on Women.) and 1 additional member.

Charge: The council has the responsibility for the representation of and advocacy for both minority and underserved populations and psychiatrists from minority and underrepresented groups. The council seeks to reduce mental health disparities in clinical services and research, which disproportionately affect women and minority populations. The council aims to increase awareness and understanding of cultural diversity* and to foster the development of attitudes, knowledge, and skills in the areas of cultural competence through consultation, education, and advocacy within both the APA and the field of psychiatry** and public policy. The council aims to promote the recruitment into the profession and into the APA and retention of psychiatrists from minority and underrepresented groups both within the profession and in the APA. **"Cultural diversity includes issues of race, sex, language, age, country of origin, sexual orientation, religious/spiritual beliefs, social class, and physical disability."

Subcomponents:

- Committee of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Psychiatrists
- Committee of Asian-American Psychiatrists
- Committee of Black Psychiatrists
- Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues
- APA Minority Fellowship on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Mental Health Selection Corresponding Committee
- Committee of Hispanic Psychiatrists
- Committee on International Medical Graduates
- Corresponding Committee on Religion, Spirituality, and Psychiatry

**Defined as "including in undergraduate and graduate medical education, in faculty development, in research, in psychiatric administration, and in clinical practice."
(Position Statement on Diversity, APA Document Reference No. 99008)

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

**Committee of American Indian, Alaska Native
and Native Hawaiian Psychiatrists**

History: Charge revised December 1983; December 1996; name changed December 1991; restructured May 2002; charge revised November 2002.

Composition: Standard committee composition, usually from among American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian members.

Charge: The committee is concerned with the mental health of all American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian peoples on reservations and in rural and urban areas. The committee:

1. gathers information regarding the psychiatric needs and the mental health service delivered to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians;
2. keeps abreast of legislation, policy statements, and regulations at federal, state, and local levels which may affect research of mental health service delivery to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians;
3. maintains an active relationship with the Indian Health Service and other organizations and individuals involved with Indian mental health and health, including Indian tribes and communities;
4. develops position papers on issues affecting mental health of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians;
5. actively participates in educational programs, advocacy, and public policy to increase awareness of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian mental health issues;
6. assists in the recruitment, retention, and development of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian psychiatrists into the profession and APA;
7. encourages involvement of all American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian psychiatrists in American Psychiatric Association activities;
8. serves as consultants on delivery of mental health care to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian populations.

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

Committee of Asian-American Psychiatrists

History: Established 1977; restructured May 2002; charge revised November 2002, December 2005.

Composition: Standard committee composition, usually from among Asian-American members.

Charge: The committee acts to:

1. develop and update a directory of Asian-American psychiatrists;
2. support and assist in planning scientific sessions;
3. maintain a web page to provide effective communication among Asian-American psychiatrists;
4. develop position papers relevant to the mental health needs of Asian immigrants and Asian-American people;
5. assist in the professional development of Asian-American psychiatrists by working with liaison groups within the APA;
6. work in liaison with non-APA, non-Asian and Asian groups involved with Asian mental health issues;
7. perform outreach to primary care physicians with Asian-American patients to increase advocacy for patients and for the profession;
8. encourage membership and involvement of Asian-American psychiatrists in the American Psychiatric Association;
9. advocate for Asian-American and Asian patients to receive culturally competent quality health care including mental health care; and
10. work with the APA Division of Education to recruit Asian-American medical Students into psychiatry via liaison with the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association.

Kun-Po Soo Award

(Established 1987; funded 1991; name changed from Asian American Award in 1996).

This award was established to recognize significant contributions toward understanding the impact and import of Asian cultural heritage in areas relevant to psychiatry. The award also seeks to encourage scholarship and research in culture-specific mental health issues and treatment needs of Asian populations and to stimulate scientific exchange on transcultural issues. The winner may be asked to present a lecture at an APA annual meeting. Honorarium: \$1,000. Eligibility: Nominees need not be Asians, Americans, psychiatrists, or APA members. Submissions: Submissions must include a letter of nomination and documents to support the nominations. Published scholars will be encouraged to submit representative publications. Component: Committee of Asian-American Psychiatrists, under Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities. Funding: Donation from Dr. Kun-Po Soo.

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

Committee of Black Psychiatrists

History: Established 1970; developed from an ad hoc committee established 1969; charge revised December 1991; restructured May 2002; appointees to committee revised November 2002; charge revised December 2004. Composition and charge revised December 2005.

Composition: Standard committee composition, usually from among Black members. The committee requests that the President-Elect, when making appointments, appoint an APA member from each of these organizations – Black Psychiatrists of America (president or designee) and National Medical Association Section on Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (chairperson or designee) as two of the corresponding members to the committee. In addition, the committee requests that the President-Elect invite the Student National Medical Association to identify a corresponding member of the committee.

Charge: The committee acts to:

1. foster involvement of all Black psychiatrists in APA activities to increase awareness, sensitivity, and responsiveness of colleagues to cross-cultural issues relevant to psychiatrists and all patient populations;
2. advance scholarship and promote more extensive inclusion of ethnically relevant psychiatric education, research and teaching in consultation with the APA Council on Medical Education and Lifelong Learning;
3. support activities that increase the pool of Black psychiatrists, including recruitment and retention of medical students and residents;
4. work with the APA Department of Government Relations in developing policy recommendations and assessing the impact of legislation and regulations that affect the quality of life and mental health service delivery to Black Americans;
5. support and assist in planning for scientific presentations and publications which reflect a knowledge of cultural differences and clinical skills necessary to communicate empathetically with people of differing cultural backgrounds;
6. recommend nominees for the Solomon Carter Fuller Lecture Award;
7. foster public awareness in the African American community regarding mental health issues and psychiatric treatments through liaison with other APA components and APA staff, specifically the Department of Minority and National Affairs and the Office of Communications and Public Affairs.
8. foster awareness among Black psychiatrists of what the APA is doing to develop and advance participation of Black psychiatrists in the APA and in professional leadership roles through liaison with the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities, the Office of Minority and National Affairs, and the Office of Communications and Public Affairs;
9. support the recruitment and retention of Black psychiatrists and residents as members of the APA through liaison with the Office of Membership;
10. support the awareness among Black psychiatrists and residents of resources on scholarship and research in cultural psychiatry through liaison with the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities and the Office of Minority and National Affairs.

Solomon Carter Fuller Award

(Established 1969)

This award, honoring the first Black psychiatrist in the United States, honors a Black citizen who has pioneered in an area which has significantly benefited the quality of life for Black people.

Submissions: Letters of nomination, along with candidates' curriculum vitae may be submitted to a member of the Committee of Black Psychiatrists. Deadline: July 1. Honorarium: \$500 and a plaque.

Travel expenses are paid for nonmember winners. The winner presents a lecture at the APA Annual Meeting. Component: Committee of Black Psychiatrists under Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities. Funding: Sought annually by the Committee of Black Psychiatrists; Bristol-Myers Squibb currently supports the award.

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues

History: Established 1981; originally a task force established in 1978; restructured May 2002; composition revised December 2004; charge revised March 2006.

Composition: Standard committee composition, usually from Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual members; one of the two corresponding member positions is reserved for an APA member from the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists.

Charge: The committee is charged to assist APA to:

1. identify issues which affect the mental health of the gay, lesbian and bisexual populations;
2. advocate for services to improve the health and mental health of gay, lesbian, and bisexual patient populations;
3. advocate for the professional concerns of gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the APA;
4. support the development of leadership skills of gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the APA;
5. help educate APA members and their respective institutions regarding current scientific knowledge about sexual minorities help educate APA members and their respective institutions regarding mental health issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual patient populations;
6. help educate APA components and APA leadership about gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues;
7. collaborate with other APA components regarding gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues;
8. increase the general public's awareness of current scientific knowledge regarding sexual minorities;
9. increase the general public's awareness of the mental health issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual
10. patient populations;
11. increase the media's awareness of current scientific knowledge regarding sexual minorities;
12. increase the media's awareness of the mental health issues of gay, lesbian, and bisexual
13. populations;
14. destigmatize psychiatry within gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities;
15. liaison APA to gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities.

John Fryer Award

(Established 2004)

The award, named for John E. Fryer, M.D., honors an individual whose work has contributed to the improvement of the mental health of sexual minority communities. Submissions: Nominations are sought annually and include self-nominations or nominations by groups, institutions, or individuals.

Those nominated need not be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or psychiatrists, but psychiatrists who are nominated must be APA members. Honorarium: \$1,000. Travel expenses are paid for nonmember winners. The winner may be asked to deliver an award lecture on a subject of his/her choice at the Annual Meeting or IPS (depending on rotation schedule). Component: Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues under the Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities, with the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists. Funding: Supported by several sources, including but not limited to the Gill Foundation and by contributions by members of the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists.

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

**Minority Fellowship on Gay, Lesbian, and
Bisexual Mental Health Selection Corresponding Committee**

History: Established 2004.

Composition: Standard corresponding committee composition

Charge: The purpose of the APA Minority Fellowship on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Mental Health is to provide educational, mentorship, and leadership opportunities to psychiatrists-in-training who are committed to improving the mental health of gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons. The fellowship also aims to stimulate the recipients' interest in and further their ability to educate others about the relationship between mental health/illness and transcultural factors.

Each year, two psychiatry residents serve as fellows. Fellows serve for two years. The fellows actively participate in the fall component and APA annual meetings. The fellows serve as members-in-training on a component of their choosing and join the APA/SAMHSA and APA/AstraZeneca fellows in the APA Minority Fellowship Program. Another element of this fellowship is mentorship with a member or corresponding member of the APA Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues. This psychiatrist helps guide the fellow through the APA annual meeting and provides mentorship throughout the year. Fellows also serve as liaisons to the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists (AGLP). As such, they inform AGLP members of APA activities and promote APA membership within the AGLP.

Transportation, lodging, meals, and incidentals in connection with the fellows' attendance at program-related activities are reimbursed.

Applicants for the fellowship must be: Psychiatric residents in at least their second Post Graduate Year (PGY-2) of training as of July 1 of the first fellowship year, United States citizens or permanent residents at the time of appointment, and APA members. Fellows are selected on the basis of

- 1) promise for excelling in their field,
- 2) leadership potential,
- 3) commitment to serving gays, lesbians, and bisexual men and women, and
- 4) demonstrated interest in the relationship between gay/lesbian/bisexual mental health and other transcultural factors.

Application materials (application form, CV, essay outlining career goals, a letter of reference from the applicant's director, and two additional letters of reference) are due by January 31 of the first fellowship year. Applicants are informed of the committee's decision in June of the first fellowship year.

The fellowship appointment starts in September of the first fellowship year and ends after the APA Annual meeting of the second fellowship year. The Fellowship is not to be awarded until outside funding is secured.

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

Committee of Hispanic Psychiatrists

History: Established 1970 as Task Force on Mental Health of Spanish-Speaking People in the U.S., converted to committee 1976; restructured May 2002; composition revised December 2004.

Composition: Standard committee composition, usually from among Hispanic members; one of the two corresponding member positions is reserved for an APA member from the American Society of Hispanic Psychiatry.

Charge: The committee functions to:

1. keep the roster of Hispanic psychiatrists current;
2. assist in the development of training programs that support the evolvement of adequate mental health services for Hispanic people;
3. support and assist in planning for scientific presentations pertaining to Hispanic related issues, including recommendations for the Simon Bolivar Lecture at the Annual Meetings;
4. foster involvement of all Hispanic psychiatrists in APA academic/scientific activities to increase awareness, sensitivity and responsiveness of colleagues to cross-cultural issues relevant to psychiatric care;
5. encourage the involvement of Hispanic psychiatrists in committees, components, task forces, and other governance activities of the Assembly and the Board;
6. foster communication with other minority committees of the APA and other Hispanic organizations; and
7. keep abreast of legislative actions that affect Hispanic populations.

Simon Bolivar Lecture

(Established 1975)

This award honors a prominent Hispanic statesman or spokesperson, and is designed to sensitize the APA membership to the problems and goals of Hispanics. Honorarium: \$500 and a plaque, with travel expenses for nonmember winners. The winner presents a lecture at the APA Annual Meeting.

Component: Committee of Hispanic Psychiatrists, under Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities. Funding: Sought annually by the Committee of Hispanic Psychiatrists.

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

Committee on International Medical Graduates

History: Established 1979; replaced a previous task force and committee related to the topic; named changed 1990; restructured May 2002; charge revised December 2005.

Composition: Standard committee composition, usually from among IMG members.

Charge: The committee is charged to:

1. serve as a national psychiatric research group on all issues relating to international medical graduates (IMGs) in the specialty;
2. advocate on matters of current and future legislation affecting IMGs and be available to testify at hearings or to recommend positions to the Association;
3. involve itself with problems of acculturation, cultural competency, credentialing, licensure, residency training positions, continuing psychiatric education, location of academic positions or practice potential;
4. maintain liaison with the AMA's Committee on IMGs and attend meetings on invitation and to encourage liaison with other organizations concerned with international medical graduate issues when the opportunity arises;
5. maintain a strong liaison with the existing APA Committees of Asian-American and Hispanic Psychiatrists; and
6. receive such special assignments as requested by the Medical Director.

George Tarjan Award

(Established 1992)

Established in memory of George Tarjan, M.D., this award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the enhancement of the integration of international medical graduates (IMGs) into American psychiatry. Honorarium: \$500 and a plaque. Non-APA members may be reimbursed for their expenses funds permitting. Eligibility: Medical doctors who have contributed significantly to IMG issues. Submissions: Nomination by self or by groups, institutions, or individuals, of individuals in the U.S. who graduated from medical schools abroad or individuals outside the IMG community who contributed significantly to IMG issues, and must include a letter of recommendation and a curriculum vitae. Component: Committee on International Medical Graduates under Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities. Funding: In part by AstraZeneca, in part by contributions from IMG members, and in part from Dr. George Tarjan's presidential fund.

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

Committee on Women

History: Established 1975; restructured May 2002; charge revised November 2002.

Composition: Standard committee composition, usually from among women members.

Charge: The committee, which replaced a former task force, acts to:

1. define and advocate preventative therapeutic actions to meet the mental health needs of women;
2. promote the recruitment, involvement, and retention of women psychiatrists in academic, research, administrative and professional organizations, and develop methods for increasing their participation and leadership;
3. review and stimulate research in women's mental health and address misconceptions that exist in the general population and the profession about women's mental health issues;
4. provide information, networking, mentorship and collaborative opportunities for women colleagues at all stages of career development.

In December 1994, the committee established formal liaison with the Association of Women Psychiatrists, with expenses to be borne by the Association of Women Psychiatrists.

Alexandra Symonds Award

(Established 1997)

This award was established in memory of Alexandra Symonds, M.D., to acknowledge women psychiatrists' outstanding contributions and leadership in promoting women's health and the advancement of women. Honorarium: \$500 and a plaque. Eligibility: A woman member of APA who has demonstrated sustained, high-level contributions and significant leadership in advancing women's health. Deadline: First Friday in June. Component: Committee on Women under Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities. Funding: Initial funding provided through a \$50,000 unrestricted educational grant from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. The award is cosponsored by the Association of Women Psychiatrists.

COUNCIL ON MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH & HEALTH DISPARITIES

**Corresponding Committee on Religion,
Spirituality, and Psychiatry**

History: Established 1978; charge revised 1994; name changed October 2000; restructured as corresponding committee May 2002; charge revised March 2006.

Composition: Standard corresponding committee composition.

Charge: The committee recognizes the diversity and multi-cultural nature of APA members and patient populations. Its mission is to promote the understanding of the patients' individual belief systems with empathy and respect. Towards achieving these goals, the committee will

1. Advocate for patients by raising psychiatrists' awareness concerning the importance of religion and spirituality in the lives of many of our patients.
2. Advocate for the profession by affirming the importance of religion and spirituality in the lives of many psychiatrists and encourage discussion concerning ethical issues that these beliefs raise in the doctor-patient relationship.
3. Support education, training and career development by encouraging education concerning religious and spiritual issues at the medical school, psychiatric residency and graduate levels. The goal is to enhance cultural competence in the practice of psychiatry.
4. Define and support professional values by emphasizing
 - a. The importance of religious and spiritual beliefs in defining and enforcing the ethical standards of the profession in the health care environments.
 - b. The need to consider religious and spiritual beliefs and practices (for example, religious beliefs or practices such as dietary or Sabbath observances that might present an obstacle to a potential subject's participation) in the development and maintenance of standards for the protection of human subjects in psychiatric research.
5. Support research directed toward the understanding of both negative and positive aspects of religion and spirituality in psychiatric patients and support the development of more accurate diagnosis and more effective treatments based on these findings.
6. Encourage liaisons with other organizations concerned with spirituality and mental health, and collaboration with clergy, for example, through the Association of Professional Chaplains, which cosponsors the Oskar Pfister Award.

Oskar Pfister Award

(Established 1983)

This award honors an outstanding contributor in the field of psychiatry and religion. Selection is made by the Corresponding Committee on Religion, Spirituality, and Psychiatry in consultation with representatives of the Association of Professional Chaplains. Honorarium: \$1,000 and plaque presented at the APA Annual Meeting. The winner may be asked to present a lecture at the Annual Meeting. Component: Corresponding Committee on Religion, Spirituality, and Psychiatry under Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities. Funding: Association of Professional Chaplains and the Harding Foundation