



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

*The Division of State,
Provincial & Territorial
Psychological Association Affairs*

2024 Officers

PRESIDENT (2024)

Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
645 Water Garden Way
Roswell, GA 30075
Phone: 917-363-5706
Zoe07470@gmail.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT (2024)

Raymond Folen, PhD, ABPP
PO Box 833
Honolulu, HI 96808
Phone: 808-521-8995
hpaexec@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT (2024)

Paul Korte, PhD
800 Hospital Drive (BH)
Columbia, MD 65201
Phone: 573-355-2084
pkorte@paloaltou.edu

SECRETARY (2024-26)

Jeanne M. Slattery, PhD
840 Wood Street
Clarion, PA 16214
Phone: 814-229-7242
jslattery176@gmail.com

TREASURER (2023-2025)

Nanci Klein, PhD
1263 East South Temple Unit#9
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102
Phone: 801-350-0116
nklein@sisna.com

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2023-25)

Michele McKinnie, PsyD
1648 Ellis Street #302
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-582-1321
michelecattherine@hotmail.com

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2024-26)

Julie Wolter, PsyD
426 Scrabbletown Road A -1
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Phone: 603-340-1167
jwolterpsyd@gmail.com

APA COUNCIL REP (2023-25)

Chuck Hollister, Ph.D.
1051 S Freemont Avenue
Springfield, MO 65804
Phone: 417-227-0960
chuckatmopa@gmail.com

CESPPA REP (2022-24)

Danna Fowle, CCM, IOM
PO Box 1585

Norman, OK 73070

Phone: 405-664-0270

okpsychassociation@gmail.com

STUDENT REP (2023-25)

Kymbriona Taylor, M ED
506 S. 6th St. Room 16
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: 708-296-5964
ktaylor@mail.missouri.edu

Focus on 31

Fall 2024 • Volume 56 • Issue 3

Serving a Population Under Stress: What's Your Magic Wand?



**By Mayra Zoe
Ortiz, PsyD
Division 31
President**

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted our lives on so many levels. Even after the public health

emergency ended, we continue to live in a nation of stress and uncertainty. From the global pandemic, economic changes, anti-EDI legislation, racial injustices, religious biases, and the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, the clients we serve have been impacted by these events. On November 20, 2023, the APA

What's your magic wand?

Continued on page 13

APA President-elect Co-endorsements



**Peter
Oppenheimer
PhD**

I am running for APA President to raise the voice of our fellow psychologists in APA, and to promote psychology as a vibrant profession that has much to contribute to the world. APA has not paid enough attention to the concerns and needs of its professional members in recent years. APA's focus should be on

Oppenheimer statement

Continued on page 14



**Beth Rom-
Rymer, PhD**

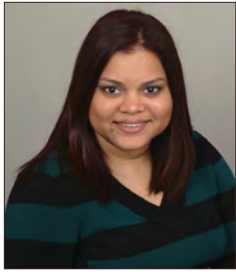
I am very much honored to have been endorsed by Division 31 for APA President-Elect 2024. I look forward to our many collaborative endeavors over the next several years.

We are living in a world shaken by trauma: the ongoing, devastating violence in the Middle East, Ukraine, and other parts of the world; the struggle to

Rom-Rymer statement

Continued on page 15

A Seat at the Table: When BIPOC Women Leaders Challenge Traditional Power Structures



by **Michelle
Casimir,
PsyD, ABPP**

Growing up in Trinidad & Tobago, I was taught that having a strong work ethic would put me on the right path to becoming a leader. What I did not expect were the many racial and gender barriers I would have to overcome as a Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) woman leader. Some of these challenges still exist today and I am often praised for my resiliency. However, resilience can lead to mental and exhaustion for people who have been historically marginalized. To remain empowered, I needed to build a community of BIPOC colleagues and allies and seek mentorship to sustain my growth as a leader.

I did not always fully understand the importance of having a community of my colleagues to help with my growth as a leader until my graduate school professors encouraged me to join my local SPTA. I took on SPTA leadership roles that opened doors for me to learn how to be a leader in psychology. Still, I was struggling to obtain leadership opportunities in other areas of my work as a public servant. Attempts to challenge inequality only created further divisiveness and hostile work environments. As a BIPOC woman seeking leadership roles, I was ignored, overlooked, dismissed and criticized for voicing my thoughts. I became anxious in different spaces often worrying about feeling included. The mass mobilization against systemic racism in the post COVID era forced organizations to confront racial and social inequities. I began having difficult conversations with colleagues about my experiences with microaggressions that created leadership barriers for me. I

felt more confident in pursuing leadership roles and found allies along the way. My journey was not just about overcoming hurdles but using them as opportunities for discovery and growth.

The way I experience the world as a multiracial immigrant continues to influence the way I lead others. This goes beyond my experiences of colonialism, historic marginalization and oppression. Through my own diasporic lens, I build connections, recognize the value of others and model authenticity. Being a BIPOC woman in leadership is transformative and courageous but I have learned the importance of prioritizing my own well-being to sustain myself in the work I do. BIPOC women leaders deserve to embrace their power and have the right to self-preservation. Community and mentorship are critical to dealing with ongoing challenges. Therefore, in each of our spaces, let us continue to advocate for equity and inclusion of our BIPOC women leaders.

Call for Officer Nominations:

Division 31 is seeking nominations for the following positions:

President-elect

Treasurer

Council of Rep

Member -at -Large

Student Rep

Nominations should include a statement of qualifications and curriculum vitae (CV). Please refer to Div. 31 Bylaws to learn more about these positions.

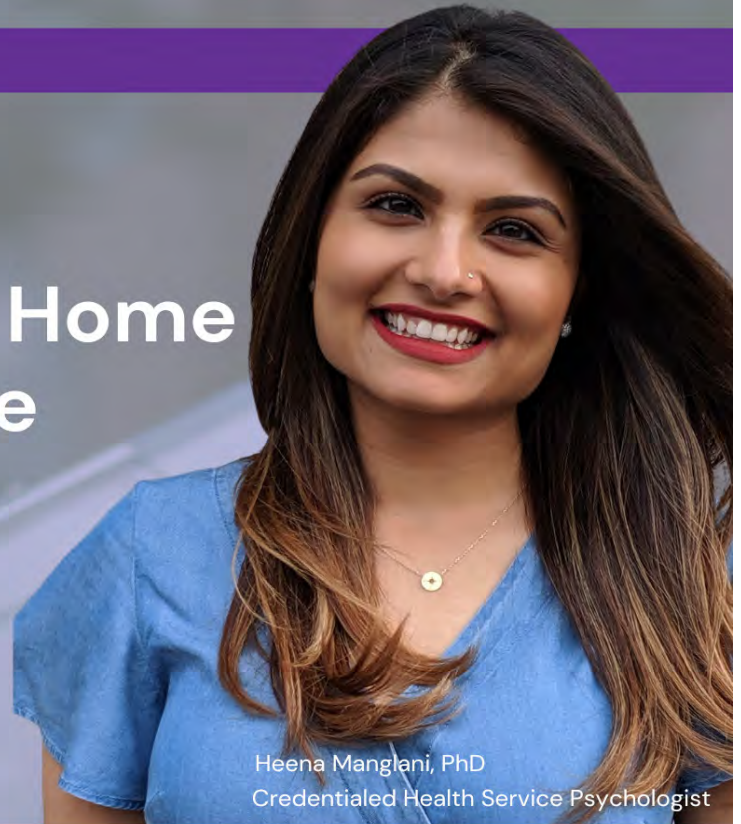
<https://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/about/bylaws>

We encourage those interested to submit their supporting materials by December 1, 2024, to Officer Nomination Chair, Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD at zoe07470@gmail.com.



NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HEALTH SERVICE PSYCHOLOGISTS

The Professional Home for Health Service Psychologists



Heena Manglani, PhD
Credentialed Health Service Psychologist

Licensed psychologists can apply for the HSP
Credential and receive the following benefits:



Monthly Live Clinical Webinars



Access to 250+ Archived CE Courses



Licensure Mobility and
Credentials Banking/Verification



Networking and Partnership Opportunities



Subscription to the *Journal of
Health Service Psychology*



Profile on FindaPsychologist.org and
Premium Placement on Psychology Connect



202-783-7663



nationalregister.org



support@nationalregister.org



"Now Here You Go Again. You Say You Want Your Freedom."



**by Pat
DeLeon,
PhD
former APA
President**

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) will be holding its annual meeting *Bridging Science, Practice, & Policy To Advance Mental Health* in October with recordings to be released without charge in the weeks after their convention. USPHS Surgeon General Vivek Murthy will present the Keynote Address. The three scheduled panels include * Key Social Drivers Affecting Mental Health and Substance Use; * Emerging Science and Innovation

for Therapies; and, * Delivery of Service and Access to Equitable Mental Health Care. Earlier this year, the Surgeon General released his Advisory *Parents Under Pressure*, an outgrowth of his conversations with parents and caregivers across America and a substantial review of the available scientific literature. "Forty-one percent of parents say that most days they are so stressed they cannot function and 48% say that most days their stress is completely overwhelming compared to other adults (20% and 26% respectively)."

APA's 2024 Seattle Convention: One of the most impressive highlights of psychology's Seattle convention this year, which was attended by

approximately 9,700 colleagues, was the genuine enthusiasm of the standing room only crowd participating in Jared Skillings's *State of the Profession* presentation/discussion. "According to the APA *Stress in America* survey, young people are much more stressed out than they were before the pandemic. As many as one-third of young adults rate their stress level at the highest (8, 9, or 10 on a 1-10 scale). What are young people distressed about? The top stressors include money, the economy, housing costs, and personal safety. These issues are often referred to as 'social determinants of health (SDOH),' and psychology has increasingly

You say you want your freedom
Continued on page 12

Call for Division 31 Award Nominations!

Nominations are invited for Division 31 Annual to be given at the 2025 Practice and State Leadership Conference, February 6th-8th, 2025.

Please visit website for award descriptions at

<http://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/awards/index.aspx>

- Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CEPC) Initiative Award
- State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Diversity Award
- Outstanding Achievement by a Psychological Association Staff Member
- Outstanding State, Provincial, or Territorial Psychological Association Award

Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to the Division 31 Awards Chair: Paul T. Korte, Ph.D. at pkorte@paloaltou.edu by November 1, 2024.

Exciting News! The National Register Advocacy Award



**By Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
Division 31
President**

For the past months, I have

been working closely with the National Register to bring very exciting news to our SPTAs: The National Register Advocacy Award! This program will commence in 2025, with recipients to be announced at the Division 31 Social Hour. The program was announced at my Presidential

Address at our 2024 APA Annual Convention. I want to cordially invite you to attend our next Division 31 Town Halls on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, and November 13, 2024, each at 7:00pm ET, to learn more about the program and how to participate.

SPTA Updates from Around the Country



**By Jennifer F. Kelly
PhD,
ABPP, Past
President,
APA**

Arkansas

The Arkansas Psychological Association (ArPA) has experienced a transformative year, marked by significant achievements and bold steps toward the future. We successfully hosted our first hybrid event in Spring 2024, bringing together in-person and virtually attendees for impactful discussions and professional growth. At the Practice Leadership Conference, we were proud to have Mara Whiteside, PhD (early career), and Carolyn Herrera, MA (student representative), attend as first-time participants, highlighting the active involvement of our emerging leaders. Under Dr. Mara Whiteside's leadership, we revitalized the ArPA Fellows Committee, approving new

Fellows for the first time in several years. This is a testament to our dedication to recognizing excellence within our community. In an organization-wide revamping effort, we have transitioned to a directorate model, an innovative structure where specialized directors or contracting agencies oversee distinct operational areas. This shift included hiring a former President of ArPA as our new Executive Director, further strengthening our leadership. Our recent collaboration with Mentally Balanced Media, a contracting agency that uses AI-driven mental health media to provide cutting edge content creation, automation, and strategic communications solutions to mental health professionals and organizations, has led to the beginning of a complete overhaul of our website and social media. We are also excited to be developing membership recruitment, engagement, and retention strategies while collaborating with other STPAs on a continuing education event in September. These initiatives underscore

ArPA's commitment to innovation, member engagement, and long-term growth.

British Columbia

The British Columbia Psychological Association has become the largest organization representing psychologists in our province. We continue to support and advocate for the profession of psychology while raising awareness about the diverse and unique expertise of psychologists. Over the last few months, we have welcomed our new Operations Manager and will soon be launching a new website to improve our member experience. We have also refreshed our Strategic Plan, focused on three goals; Professional Excellence, Community Strength and Organizational Growth. In alignment with our strategic direction, we liaised with the former College of Psychologists of BC to develop the competency of primary care psychological services and in the fall, will offer a three-

SPTA updates
Continued on page 18

Please Consider Applying to be an APA Fellow Thru Div. 31



Bruce L. Bobbitt, PhD, LP
Div. 31 Fellowship Committee Chair

Division 31 has a long history of identifying division members who have met the APA criteria to become a Fellow. Since 1995, 62 Division 31 members have been elected to Initial Fellowship status by APA. While the process has not changed, the Committee Division 31 Chair has. I use my space to introduce not only me, but the other two members of the Fellowship Committee. First, however, on behalf of all at Division 31, I thank Donald McAleer, Psy.D., ABPP (Pennsylvania), for ably leading the Committee since 2015. During this time Don shepherded 11 Division 31 members to become APA Initial Fellows.

In addition to me, the other committee members are Ken Bohm, Ph.D (Missouri) and Linda Knauss, Ph.D. (Pennsylvania). Both Ken and Linda are current members of the committee, and I am delighted that they have agreed to continue this important work. Despite being from different parts of the country, and having different career paths, we all share important similarities. All of us have devoted to our primary volunteer governance time to our State psychological associations, serving in multiple leadership roles. All of us have been Presidents of our SPTPA and

all three of us are APA Fellows and Fellows in Division 31. All three of us believe that it is important to identify people at the SPTPA level for this significant APA national distinction. We are also committed to identifying members who might be overlooked, or may think that their accomplishments do not warrant national recognition. It is common for individuals to downplay their own work. Our purpose in outlining the criteria and procedure in this article is to allow all of you to consider engaging in the application process.

APA distinguishes between Initial Fellows and Current Fellows. Initial Fellows refers to those APA members who are elected to Fellowship for the first time. Given the timing of this article, the focus will be on Initial Fellows. Working backwards, the final step in the process is a vote by the APA Council of Representatives (COR) that occurs at the August APA convention. For this year's cycle that vote will occur in Denver, the site of the 2025 convention. Prior to that, the application must be approved by the APA Fellows Committee and the APA Board of Directors. In order to meet that deadline, all material must be provided to APA by Tuesday, February 11, 2025. This packet is sent by the Division Fellowship Chair (now me, in the past, Don). In order to meet this deadline, Division 31 requires that all materials for the application be provided to us by Monday, December 16, 2024.

There are six national criteria

for Fellowship established by the APA. All six must be met. They are:

1. Doctoral degree based in part on a psychological dissertation
2. Prior status as a member for at least one year, and nomination by a division to which the member belongs
3. Active engagement in the advancement of psychology
4. Five years of acceptable postdoctoral experience
5. Evidence of unusual and outstanding contribution or performance in the field of psychology
6. Fellow status requires that a person's work has had a national impact on the field of psychology beyond a local, state or regional level.

Above I outlined the really important parts of these criteria. The applicant must demonstrate not only unusual and outstanding contributions, but contribution that has national impact. This means something is improved in the field of psychology as a result of the applicant's work. Simply listing offices held, papers presented, and publications does not suffice. The work must be unusual, outstanding and have national impact.

In addition, the applicant must be nominated by a division. In the case of our division, this means that the successful applicant must meet the Fellowship Criteria established by Division 31. In addition to being an APA and Division 31 member

Fellow application
Continued on page 19

An Invitation to Participate: Distinguishing Doctoral Level Practice from Master's Level Practice in Psychology



By Bhupin Butaney, PhD, ABPP

Many states are considering changes to their licensing laws to include licensure for master's level practitioners in psychology who can practice independently. This new practitioner would be

different from current masters-level practitioners (e.g., LCSW, LPC, MHC). The new master's level practitioner would be considered "in psychology" and would fall within oversight of psychology boards.

A survey was developed to understand how current practitioners perceive this potential change and its implications, as decision makers decide on the title and scope of practice for the masters-level, licensed practitioner

in psychology.

Please consider emailing this brief 21-item survey (see link below), which takes less than 10 minutes to complete, to your association members. Once the survey closes, the findings will be shared widely, so decision makers can make data driven decisions that will certainly have an impact on the profession.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2ZR8Z8P>

Division 31 LGBTQIA Support Team



By David Pascale Hague, PhD, Div. 31 LGBTQIA Liaison

There is no denying that in the last several years we have seen an increase in anti-LGBTQIA legislation and policy across the country. Many SPTAs have lobbied and rallied in opposition to these measures and have been able to advocate clearly for LGBTQIA protections and accurate scientific mental health

information, discussing how LGBTQIA equality and protections are GOOD for mental health and our communities as a whole.

As a new support initiative, Division 31 will create an online LGBTQIA Support Team. This team will be a network of experts and allies from across Division 31 membership, with the mission of sharing resources and continuing SPTA efforts to advocate for accurate LGBTQIA scientific information and mental health. Our goal is to support our member SPTAs as they face continued efforts to remove LGBTQIA protections in their states and

territories.

Any SPTA member can nominate an LGBTQIA expert or ally to join the support team. The team will meet bimonthly (or more often as needed) to discuss resources, lobbying, and supportive efforts to counter anti-LGBTQIA policy and legislation.

We encourage you to actively participate in this initiative and nominate someone today. Anyone who has additional questions or would like to provide a nomination can contact Dr. David Pascale Hague at david@claritylex.com. Self-nominations are welcomed!

CESPPA Report and Update



**By Danna
Fowble, ED,
Oklahoma
Psych Assn.
CESPPA
Executive
Committee**

As the CESPPA representative to Division 31, I am sharing several topics of conversation among my colleagues and their SPTA issues and topics:

- CESPPA/SPTA's have been having ongoing conversations about an upcoming joint webinar on CBT covering six essentials for culturally responsive practice, the biggest CBT mistake, and actions/strategies for behavioral and environmental change with Dr. Pam Hays. This is slated for September 20 with many SPTA's opening registration in August.
- Advocacy efforts with APA include the Kids Online Safety Act call to action and ongoing discussions about perspectives on master's licensing in SPTA's which started with a webinar by Division 31 featuring Dr. Peter Oppenheimer, Robin McLeod, and Alex Siegel. The event was recorded and was well attended. This topic continues to be ongoing at APA's upcoming convention including Division 42's survey instrument collecting data that will help guide how APA and others make decisions on whether or not to implement laws in their respective states.
- CESPPA has also been revising its operating manual and providing a Dropbox where shared files on event themes, speaker ideas, and other valuable resources can be shared among each state to enhance the knowledge of their staff, members, and SPTA leadership.
- CESPPA members played an integral role with a Trust SPTA Council helping identify the needs of the SPTA and brainstormed ways to enhance the mutually beneficial relationship between The Trust and SPTA's. As a result, the first product of that conversation is a Trust SPTA Leadership Development Academy Toolkit that became available the last week of July. SPTA's can download the toolkit and utilize the valuable resources to help shape the future leaders of their SPTA.
- CESPPA also discussed in a few settings the APA free membership proposal to SPTA's that could provide exposure for an SPTA event while providing access to their members who ARE NOT members of APA. While this topic requires 10 SPTA's to begin the collaboration, this is still a work in progress for CESPPA without any confirmed program acceptance.

Thank you!

Division 31 would like to say a Big thank you to several state, territorial and provincial psychological associations for their donations in support of our SPTAs. They are:

British Columbia

Guam

Georgia

Indiana

Massachusetts

Montana

Nebraska

New Mexico

Your donations are very valuable and significant to our SPTAs!

With gratitude,
Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
President Division 31

Summary of APA Council of Representatives Meeting



**By Chuck
Hollister,
PhD
APA
Council
Representative**

The APA's Council of Representatives met in Seattle, passing several new clinical guidelines and policy statements, with some areas sparking notable controversy.

New Clinical Guidelines:

Six new guidelines were passed, addressing a range of professional practices. If not available already, expect to see APA publish these guidelines in the near future.

Passed were guidelines on:

- Clinical Practice Guideline for Psychological and Nonpharmacological Treatment of Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain: <https://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/nonpharmacological-treatment-chronic-musculoskeletal-pain.pdf>
- Guidelines for Working with Adults with Complex Trauma Histories: <https://www.apa.org/practice/guidelines/adults-complex-trauma-histories.pdf>
- The Telepsychology Guidelines: <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/telepsychology-revisions>.
- Psychological Evaluations in Child Protection Matters
- Key Considerations for Working with PTSD and Traumatic Stress Disorders

- The Use of Nonhuman Animals in Behavioral Health Projects in School

Policy Statements:

The Council also passed two significant statements:

- Psychology's impact on artificial intelligence.
- Policy on immigrant health.

New Business Items (NBIs):

Three NBIs were passed:

- [Individual, collective, and international trauma recovery. Considering the restorative roles of restitution and reparations](#)
- [APA global ceasefire statement](#)
- [Resolution on supporting psychologist's education and research about, and activism against, violations of girls' and women's human rights globally.](#)

While the session was productive and well managed by APA President Dr. Cynthia de las Fuentes, three areas of controversy stood out:

The Association of Jewish Psychologists (AJP) NBI Withdrawal:

AJP withdrew its New Business Item (NBI) requesting representation in Council as an ethnic psychological association after receiving negative feedback from both the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI) and the Board of Directors (BOD). BAPPI's review was particularly hostile, whereas the BOD's response was less critical. One key argument by the BOD against the NBI was that Jewish representation in

Council was already sufficient, despite the reported fact that no formal survey has been conducted to verify the number of self-identified Jewish members of Council. Also, Jewish Council members do not necessarily see themselves as representing Jewish ethnic interests, but rather the interests of the SPTAs and Divisions that elected them. BOD also questioned whether AJP, which reportedly has over 1,000 members, a number much larger than many of the other ethnic psychological associations on Council, actually represented the Jewish psychologist community. In what seemed like a conciliatory move, AJP was ultimately granted a non-voting representative at the Council.

NBI on Test Security:

Another controversy centered on the withdrawal of an NBI proposing to protect the security of psychological test data. The issue arose from a lawsuit in Iowa where a psychologist was ordered to release raw data from an evaluation, raising concerns that public access to test data could compromise the validity and reliability of psychological assessments. Iowa had statutes that were viewed as particularly strong in protecting testing. Some members of APA's scientific community argued for full data transparency, causing a split. Also, a committee charged with vetting policies related to assessments and evaluations felt that they

APA Council summary

Continued on page 17

APA President Dr. Cynthia de las Fuentes and Heiser Award



April Alexander



Sharon Berry



Sara Hunt



Robert Martin



Neil Pliskin



Diana Prescott



Alex Siegel



Kendra Westerhausl



Melanie Wilcox

Other Division 31 Highlights from 2024 APA Convention



Top left, The National Register's Andrew Boucher, shown top center with Div. 31 President Dr. Mayra Ortiz, at top right, Ortiz with Convention Chair Dr. Krithika Malhorta, middle left Psychologist of the Year Dr. Elena Eisman, above Dr. Ortiz's presidential address, bottom row special awards from Div. 31 President Dr. Ortiz.

You say you want your freedom

Continued from page 4

recognized the important role that SDOH plays in well-being, mental health, and functioning in daily life at work and school. According to the nationwide research conducted by the Mental Health America (MHA) organization, in 2022 approximately 20% of adults (that is 1 of every 5 people in the country) were experiencing a diagnosed mental illness. Fifty-five percent of adults with a diagnosed mental illness do not receive treatment. There is high variation in access to care between states. The best access to care in 2022 was rated by MHA as 1. Vermont, 2. Massachusetts, and 3. Illinois. And, Healthcare is increasingly being consumerized. A recent national survey indicated that people in the U.S. in every age category now want the same experience in healthcare as they get from other businesses.”

Jared explained the results of a recent Delphi study, which asked psychologists to anticipate how the psychology field will change. Psychologists reported that “a decade from now master’s level providers with psychology degrees will increase their contribution to psychology. Tele/digital health will increase more than other modalities. Specialization, supervision, leadership, and consultation differentiate master’s and doctoral professionals. Training will include more emphasis on technology and EDI, and more psychologists will work in integrated care.” Jared enthusiastically concluded: “We must continue to strengthen and

grow psychology for the future!”

We were also very pleased at the awarding of a Presidential Citation by APA President Cynthia de las Fuentes to our colleague James H. Bray for his lifetime of dedication to the discipline, the profession, and APA. “Bray is a clinical and family psychologist and a Past President of the American Psychological Association. He is a professor and former Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Texas San Antonio (2017-present). He is also Chairman of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Houston College of Medicine (2023-2024). Previously he was as Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Baylor **College of Medicine (1987-2017) and earlier in his career he was Associate Professor of Psychology** at Texas Women’s University.

“Bray has published more than 190 articles, tests, book chapters, books, and reviews. He serves on the editorial board of several journals and has coedited books on family psychology and psychology in primary care.

“Bray has been active in APA governance since 1988, involved in practice, science, education, and state issues. He served on the Board of Educational Affairs, Rural Health Task Force and Chair of the Committee on Rural Health, Primary Care Task Force, and the State Leadership Organizing Committee. He served as President of Division 43, Society for Couple and Family Psychology.

In addition, he served as Treasurer for four APA Divisions and has been named a Fellow of 14 APA Divisions.

“In his six terms as a Representative on APA’s Council of Representatives representing Division 43, Society for Couple and Family Psychology; Division 50, Society of Addiction Psychology; and the Texas Psychological Association, and also serving on the Board of Directors, he has been a strong voice in APA’s leadership. In 2009, Bray served as President of the Association. His Presidential Initiatives focused on the Future of Psychology Practice, Advancing Psychological Science as a STEM Discipline, and Psychology’s Contribution to Ending Homelessness.

“Bray has been a strong advocate for all of psychology, serving as a Federal Advocacy Coordinator for the Texas Psychological Association; and Division 12, Society of Clinical Psychology; and Division 42, Society for Couple and Family Psychology; a Federal Education Advocacy Coordinator; a member of APA’s Psychology Advocacy Network; the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Child Support and Child Visitation; the National Leadership Coalition for Health Care Reform; the National Health Policy Council; and fundraiser for the Association for Advancement of Psychology. In his home state of Texas, he served as President of the Texas Psychological Association (TPA), contributing to TPA’s efforts to

You say you want your freedom

Continued on page 13

You say you want your freedom

Continued from page 12

negotiate the sunset review of psychology's licensing laws.

"Bray has received numerous awards including Family Psychologist of the Year from the

Society for Couple and Family Psychology, election into the National Academies of Practice for Psychology, and the Karl F. Heiser Presidential Award for Advocacy on Behalf of Professional Psychology from the American

Psychological Association.

"It is in recognition of Bray's lifetime of dedication to the discipline, the profession, and most of all, to our Association that he receives this Presidential Citation." "You will know. Oh, you'll know" (Dreams, Fleetwood Mac). Aloha

What's your magic wand?

Continued from page 1

published the outcome of a survey conducted by The Harris Poll on behalf of the APA (American Psychological Association, 2023). The survey identified those between the ages of 35 to 44 as experiencing the most significant increase in health and mental health conditions. The United States Department of Justice (U.S. Department of Justice, 2023) reported hate crimes being on the rise, with 59.1% being attributed to race, ethnicity, or ancestry, 17.2% to sexual orientation, and 17.3% to religion.

As psychologists, how competent are we in providing services to our communities impacted by collective trauma? We place significant emphasis on competence, not only in trainings, but throughout our professional careers. As stated by our ethics codes, 2.01(b) Boundaries of Competence and our General Principles, the responsibility lies on each one of us. We are called to Respect People's Rights and Dignity (Principle E) and to do no harm (Principle A: Beneficence and Nonmaleficence). We are called to establish relationships of trust and to be responsible in our work (Principle B: Fidelity and

Responsibility). We are called to be just (Principle D: Justice) (Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, 2017).

We continue to live in a nation that is under stress, experiencing trauma, health disparities, and racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination. I hope we don't live life like the program 'Survivor'... as long as it is not me, I don't truly care. As I was talking to a friend and expressing my deepest concern for mass shootings, Anti-EDI legislation, and hate crimes, the person answered to me, "Well, Mayra, I don't have a magic wand to change the world." I was distraught by the comment, full of mixed feelings (e.g., anger, frustration, and sadness). After a few weeks, however, this comment brought clarity and purpose to my life. It became the main topic of some of my presentations as I realized that each one of us, as psychologists and mental health providers, is the 'Magic Wand' to make changes in our society and expand the access of mental health services to marginalized populations. It is our duty and our purpose to contribute to the lives of those we serve. It is within our ethical principles and standards to respect people's rights and differences. To advocate and be the

voice to strengthen the psychology workforce, to impact government policy, and to undertake this never-ending road of achieving social justice and health equity. My invitation to you today is to walk this road and activate your 'Magic Wand' in mitigating trauma. What would be your magic wand?

References:

American Psychological Association. (2023, November 1). Stress in America 2023: A nation grappling with psychological impacts of collective trauma. [Press release]. <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2023/11/psychological-impacts-collective-trauma>.

American Psychological Association. (2017). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. (2002, amended effective June 1, 2010, and January 1, 2017). Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/ethics/code/>

United States Department of Justice. (2023, November 14). FBI releases 2022 hate crime statistics. [Press release]. <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/hate-crime-statistics>.

Advertise with Us

Focus on 31 invites you to consider advertising in our newsletter. Published three times annually, we reach decision makers throughout the profession. For details, [email](#) the Editor.

Classified Ads: \$10 per line, minimum three lines.

Display Ads: Ads must be in digital format, 300 dpi, .eps, .tif or .pdf. 8x10: \$400; 3x5 Vertical: \$150; 3x2: \$50.

Oppenheimer statement

Continued from page 1

supporting psychologists to create, teach and apply psychological science, and on communicating and advocating for the science and the profession. I want APA to support the professional needs of all psychologists and to build paths for those who want to follow us in the future. I want the membership to feel engaged and be engaged.

Our future profession needs to reflect the diversity of our communities. To do that we need to remove barriers and support students to enter the profession and succeed.

- **I want APA to innovate ways to pay for graduate education so that no one graduates with student debt.**
- **I want our SPTAs to be able to provide direct support to ECPs with programs to help them with licensure and finding good work opportunities.**

Psychologists are facing significant challenges; APA needs to put more effort into addressing them. These are the most pressing issues in the practice realm:

- **APA must address how insurance company tactics impact our ability to practice and motivate psychologists to work outside of insurance.** Psychologists are finding it increasingly difficult to work within the health insurance system, and more and more are choosing to practice outside of insurance. We cannot meet APA's aspiration for psychology

to advance the principles of population health if we are not included in these systems. If we are not involved, we may become irrelevant to these systems.

- **Depressed Insurance reimbursement is a key problem.** We need APA to be more aggressive in addressing reimbursement issues federally and to support SPTAs to do it in their jurisdictions.
- **Corporations are disrupting the behavioral health marketplace.** They are impinging on our ability to work and practice as we choose to best serve our communities. They will make decisions about their business and care in their corporate interests, and not for psychologists or consumers. Psychologists need to understand the implications of choosing to align with these entities and they need strategies to successfully compete in markets infiltrated by these companies.
- **APA intends to endorse licensing master's level clinicians in health service psychology as part of the revision of the Model Licensing Act.** This will impact the future of our profession. Everyone needs to learn about it and have input into the process before decisions are made. We need members of the Board of Directors who have knowledge and experience in this issue to lead the association through this revision process. I have that experience. This is why I

particularly feel compelled to run for the presidency now.

- **For years I have been promoting making APA Governance more transparent and engaging to the membership.** I want APA to webcast all board and committee meetings, and to implement the policy portal as recommended by the Council Effectiveness Workgroup. For over 30 years I have worked with APA, Divisions 31 (State Associations) and 42 (Independent Practice), the Rhode Island Psychological Association, the Rhode Island Board of Psychology, the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and the PSYPACT Commission to support our profession in service of enhancing what psychology and psychologists can do for the public good.

I have served as Council Representative for the Rhode Island Psychological Association and for Division 31. I have chaired three Council caucuses and co-created a fourth addressing the interests of the practice community and STPAs.

I served on the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP), served as a liaison to the Board of Professional Affairs for Divisions 31 and 42, served on task forces, and am now the Director of Professional Affairs for RIPA and Co-chair of the DPA Committee. I have worked with many STPA leaders over issues pertaining to practice, regulation and association management.

Oppenheimer statement
Continued on page 16

Rom-Rymer statement

Continued from page 1

sustain international democratic states amidst authoritarianism; the ongoing battles to provide equitable access to optimal healthcare throughout the world; the widespread gun violence in the U.S. and the concomitant loss of protection from gun violence; the loss of reproductive freedom and the potential loss of previously recognized constitutional rights/hard-won protections; the suffering caused by institutional racism, antisemitism, violence against BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, Jewish, AAPI, and disabled communities.

My life's journey as a grandchild of immigrants and my life's work as trauma clinician, forensic expert, legislative advocate, University lecturer, author, state, national, and international leader, uniquely qualifies me to be APA President.

From my Ukrainian grandmother and grandfather, who escaped the murderous pogroms in eastern Europe; my American-born mother and father; and my large, extended family, I learned about the Jewish ideals of a loving commitment to family and to social justice in our larger society.

Rabbi Hillel's maxim: If you are not for yourself, who are you? If you are for yourself, only, what are you? If not now, when? was the foundation of who we were as Jews in 20th century America.

Psychologists, because of our extraordinary education, training, and experience, have an impact, every day, on the lives of those who are suffering in our local, national, and international communities. I

wholeheartedly support the critical work done by applied, clinical, and academic psychologists and I passionately believe in protecting clinical practice, through legislation and the enhancement and broadening of insurance reimbursements, while seeking to expand practice, to include: prescriptive authority; integrated behavioral health in a variety of healthcare and medical settings; telehealth durability; community mental health; population health; and a plethora of collaborative, intersectional relationships among research scientists and scientist-practitioners, working on ways to achieve health equity; dismantle systemic racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, hatred directed at LGBTQIA+ groups; dismantle all structures upholding discrimination, persecution, hate against all minoritized and marginalized groups.

I am committed to listening and responding to the initiatives from our diverse APA communities. I will continue to partner with you so that, together, we are using our APA bully pulpit to amplify our scientific research, work with all media outlets, speak to a broad spectrum of audiences at a diversity of professional Conferences, testify before Congressional Committees, and all other institutional bodies, for maximum impact. We will powerfully speak on behalf of all psychologists!

Throughout my career as clinical psychologist in Chicago and nationally respected forensic psychologist, I have worked with domestic physical violence

and sexual violence survivors and was faculty lecturer, for many years, at The University of Chicago, the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, and Northwestern University, teaching the courtroom role of the forensic psychologist.

Having had broad experience in APA governance, including APA Board; APA Council; Chair of the Council Leadership Team; multiple APA Caucuses Chair; Two-term President of the Illinois Psychological Association; President of Divisions 55 and 56; and as a founder and leader of the International Prescriptive Authority Movement, I understand how to get things done!

My vision for the APA has 8 Foundational Pillars of Action:

- Promote clinical practice; secure APASI financial viability; work closely with SPTA's, ensuring the necessary tools to pass critical legislation, while addressing state legislative erosion of patient privacy rights/the psychotherapist's privilege.
- Emphasize critical importance of scientists/psychological science, infused with DEI initiatives and fulfilling our APA mission to impact our world.
- Highlight the fundamental significance of General Applied Psychology, including applied social psychology, forensics, industrial-organizational, sports and performance

Rom-Rymer statement

Continued on page 17

Oppenheimer statement

Continued from page 14

I have led two actions at APA that have had direct and enduring impact on the functioning of all SPTAs:

- In 2011 Lisa Grossman, Ken Bohm and I with the support of many SPTA leaders successfully opposed the effort to eliminate the “CAPP Grants” (now called Organizational Development Grants) that the small SPTAs continue to rely on to support their basic infrastructure and advocacy. If the grants had terminated, some small SPTAs would not have been able to maintain their essential functions and some possibly would have even folded. APA now has recognized the importance

of these grants by increasing funding.

- In 2017, Chester Copemann, Ken Bohm and I, successfully navigated a bylaws amendment through the Council and the membership votes to ensure that all divisions and SPTAs have voting representation on the Council. With the subsequent inclusion of the Ethnic Psychological Associations (EPAs), now all of APA’s recognized constituencies are finally included as voting members of the Council and with that they have a voice in APA governance.

I have served in the leadership of the Rhode Island Psychological Association since 1996 including serving two terms as President

(1998-1999 & 2014-2015). I have been involved in the Rhode Island Psychological Association’s legislative and advocacy efforts since 1991 and led their advocacy program since 1998. Since 2018 I have served as their first Director of Professional Affairs.

Your vote matters in determining your future as well as the future of our profession, your SPTA and the APA. Please consider which candidate best aligns with your professional interests, the interests of Division 31 and our SPTAs; and vote. I am asking for your #1 vote so that I can continue to address these essential issues facing professional psychologists and the APA. You can read my full platform and biography on my website: <https://www.bbhsri.com/oppenheimer2024>.

Visit the [Division 31 web site](#)
to see these blogs for a variety of communities:
[Diversity Task Force](#)
[Early Career Psychologists](#)
[Ethics Education](#)
[Health Care Reform](#)
[Student Task Force](#)

Rom-Rymer statement

Continued from page 15

- psychology, telepsychology, and the future of work.
- Identify and disseminate vital information on evidence-based and evidence-informed: treatments for the sequelae of Covid-19; preventive measures to avoid future, deadly epidemics/pandemics; prevention of and treatment for addiction disorders.
 - Use our effective scientific evidence to contribute to the eradication of global health

disparities while achieving health equity.

- Facilitate greater access to comprehensive, integrative, mental health care, including Prescriptive Authority.
- Promote global initiatives reducing existential environmental threats/meeting climate refugees' challenges and needs.
- Provide for the continued growth of an inclusive APA, ensuring multidisciplinary, multicultural, multinational, APA leadership with representation from all

minoritized and marginalized communities, including BIPOC, Jewish, LGBTQIA+, AAPI, disabled communities.

As your President, I will walk courageously, with you, into our future. I will listen to you with respect and compassion and govern boldly. My outreach to all of our many communities will be collaborative and intersectional, with emphasis on scientific evidence, bridge-building, equity, diversity, inclusion, gender and sexual diversity, working together to unravel and solve our world's toughest challenges.

APA Council summary

Continued from page 9

did not have sufficient time to review the NBI. APA agreed to support the Iowa Psychological Association's (IPA) submission of an amicus brief to the Iowa Supreme Court, with Pearson, a major test publisher, also filing a brief. In a very positive move, APA committed to covering IPA's legal fees and to fund future lobbying efforts if needed. They will offer similar help to other SPTAs should they be faced with this same issue in the future. This issue will be revisited in February 2025 by Council.

Global Ceasefire Debate:

The most divisive issue was a global ceasefire NBI, which, after pre-Council feedback, was narrowed through a friendly

amendment to focus solely on the Gaza conflict. This amendment bypassed any discussion on the scope reduction. After a prolonged and heated debate, which was cut short by a Council vote, the resolution passed with about two-thirds support. Other Council items were passed with over 90% support.

However, the item left many dissatisfied. Any summary as to why is likely to be inadequate, but there is value in seeing the large number of perspectives at play. Pro-Palestinian advocates felt, given the seriousness of the Gaza humanitarian crisis, the NBI didn't go far enough in condemning Israel, while members concerned with the impact of this NBI on the Jewish community, especially those with ties to Israel,

expressed concerns about the lack of attention to Israel's security. There were also concerns that the item could fuel antisemitism. Some argued that the Gaza conflict was just one of many global conflicts and that Israel was being unfairly singled out. Members with military backgrounds questioned whether the Council had the expertise to make decisions on ceasefires, while others felt that opposing the item was akin to endorsing war. There was also frustration on the Council listserv over the omission of issues like Hamas's use of human shields and the fate of hostages. Finally, members on other listservs hearing about the NBI expressed that Council's time might be better spent addressing core concerns of psychologists, such as reimbursement and scope of practice issues.

SPTA updates

Continued from page 5

part training series to complete this competence.

Georgia

Summer is a busy time for GPA with the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of a new one. It is also the time for a changeover in leadership. In June the incoming president organized a successful all-day leadership retreat. The agenda for the retreat focused on training for service on the board of a non-profit, including roles and responsibilities; getting to know our new colleagues; and planning for the new year. GPA continues to find new strategies for recruiting and retaining members – at every stage of their professional lives. Toward that end, GPA hired a new member of its staff whose primary responsibility is membership. A major initiative that started last year but continues into this year is the revision of the Policies and Procedures. This process has produced a vigorous discussion of GPA structure and creative ideas to adapt to the new challenges and opportunities for the organization. Plans are underway to establish a sustainable Leadership Academy for GPA. While GPA has had leadership development experiences a few times over recent years, those tended to be idiosyncratic in curriculum as well as structure. The goal of the new initiative is to create a curriculum that is guided by a “core faculty” that will both provide instruction but also evaluate impact. Jennifer Kelly is the chair of the core faculty, and she is joined in that leadership by four long-time

members of GPA who have unique skills in the area of leadership. Recruitment is currently underway with January 2025 as the start date for the initial retreat.

We are very excited about the continued work and success of the Georgia Psychological Foundation and the GPA PAC. Each of these organizations is thriving and finding new strategies to achieve its goals.

Illinois

We are pleased to introduce Dr. Litesa E. Wallace as the new Executive Director of the Illinois Psychological Association (IPA). Last October, our long-time Executive Director, Marsha Karey, announced her decision to retire, a moment that brought both sadness and excitement as she embarks on new ventures. We are fortunate that Marsha has remained with us part-time to assist during our transition. After a comprehensive search, the IPA selected Dr. Wallace, whose background in psychology and legislative work promises to bring fresh perspectives to our organization. As a former Illinois State Representative, Dr. Wallace’s unique blend of experience positions her to significantly advance the needs of psychologists and mental health services across Illinois. We are thrilled to have her at the helm and look forward to the positive impact she will make. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Wallace.

Iowa

The Iowa Psychological Association Marketing Workgroup

has put tremendous time and effort over the past year into rebranding efforts that will culminate with the launch of our new website redesign by the end of this year.

Mississippi

Following the successful efforts of the Mississippi Psychological Association (MPA), a psychology inter-jurisdictional compact was enacted, and PSYPACT became law on July 1, 2024. SB 2157 - History of Actions/Background (state.ms.us). MPA members were invited to participate in an official bill signing with the Governor of Mississippi, Tate Reeves, on July 8, 2024. It was a wonderful opportunity to commemorate MPA’s achievement.

Nebraska

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee of the Nebraska Psychological Association is in its first year and is jumping in with both feet. The committee is identifying avenues within the state association, amongst members, and in the community to address DEI issues. Among avenues already identified, the committee has been most active in advocacy related to local legislation regulating adolescent gender care. Currently, the committee is working with the licensure board and health department to identify and resolve instances of conflict between the regulations and evidence-based best practices and to clarify other areas of vague language in the regulations. Additionally, recent

SPTA updates

Continued from page 19

SPTA updates

Continued from page 18

CE events have focused on Gender-Affirming care. The goal of our efforts is 1) that providers are clear about the new regulations and free of conflict between regulations and best practices and 2) to protect the availability of best-practice care for adolescents seeking gender care.

Oklahoma

Congratulations to Dr. Bobby Martin who was awarded the esteemed Karl F. Heiser APA Presidential Award for Advocacy. This accolade recognizes Dr. Martin's exceptional contributions to the field of psychology and his relentless efforts in advocating for policies that enhance mental health and well-being. Dr. Martin

was recognized at APA's Annual Convention in Seattle. We apologize that the link last week was troublesome. Media coverage was gained as well and are excited that Dr. Martin was celebrated for his hard work.

OPA celebrated OCU's accomplishment of the PsyD accredited program on August 16, 2024, on the OCU campus.

Fellow application

Continued from page 6

the psychologist must have made unusual and outstanding contributions in ONE or MORE of the following four areas (summarized):

1. Development of exemplary programs
2. Leadership in organized psychology
3. Publication or dissemination of information
4. National policy development or political action

Please note that I emphasized that you must meet one or more of the above four areas, though, the more the better. The Division 31 Criteria can be found at: <http://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/membership/fellows/index.aspx>

In order to be considered, you need to get a few things done by December 16th. First, you need to fill out the APA online tool - called the APA Fellows Portal. This portal is NOW open and if you are interested you can begin the process at any time. In addition to providing documentation mentioned above, the tool will

ask for your educational history, a current curriculum vitae, and a self-statement. Even though the tool does not require the self-statement, Division 31 does require that you write a statement that connects the dots regarding accomplishments and impact. This also assists me in writing a summary that is turned in with the entire corpus of information. You also must provide three endorsers who are current APA Fellows who can speak to how your work meets the criteria. Please include at least one endorser who is Fellow of Division 31, if possible. Again, the more the better, and we will assist you in identifying Division 31 Fellows. We will work with you on this requirement.

Here is the link to the APA Portal: <http://www.apa.org/members/your-membership/fellows/apply.aspx>

As you enter the APA Fellows website you will find a variety of tools to assist you and your endorsers.

One of the main purposes of laying all of this out is for you to engage in the process. Though not

required, if you think you would like to pursue this opportunity, please reach out to me directly to review what you are thinking about applying. Ken, Linda and I would like to be resources to assist you, answer questions and help make the process more manageable.

Please send me a direct email message about your questions, and thinking, as you approach this process: b-bobbitt@comcast.net.

The process for Current Fellows is quite different. In short, once you are an APA Fellow, you simply need to express your interest in adding Division 31 to your Fellowship portfolio. At that point we will outline to you the process for accomplishing this. The bottom line is that you do NOT need to reproduce the Initial Fellowship process. That only needs to be done once. Direct any inquiries about becoming a Current Fellowship to me at the above email.

One behalf of the Division 31 Fellowship Committee, I encourage you to pursue Fellowship. We are here to assist you at every step of the way.



APA Division 31 Committee Chairs

Executive Director

Connie Paul, Ph.D.
5154 Stage Road, Suite 102
Memphis, TN 38122
Phone: 901-372-9133
TPAMember@juno.com

Awards

Paul Korte, PhD
Phone: 573-355-2084
pkorte@paloaltou.edu

Communication

Terrence Koller, PhD
Phone: 847-475-5551
tjkoller@gmail.com

Convention Program

Krithika Malhotra, Ph.D.
Phone: 617-717-4369
krithika.malhotra@gmail.com

Diversity

Keisha Ross, PhD
Phone: 314-652-4100 x 55401
drkeishaross@gmail.com

Division Advocacy Partner

Jennifer Smith, PsyD
Phone: 404-808-0101
jennifersmithatl@aol.com

ECP and Students

Ryan Flinn, PhD
Phone: 402-575-7016
ryanelliottflinn@gmail.com
Kymbriona Taylor, E ED
Phone: 708-296-5964
ktaylor@mail.missouri.edu

Fellowship

Bruce Bobbitt, PhD, LP
Phone: 612-418-1952
b-bobbitt@comcast.net

Heiser Award

Elena Eisman, EdD
Phone: 617-680-5302
elena.eisman@gmail.com

Membership

Dinelia Rosa, PhD
Phone: 646-283-2589
rosa@exchange.tc.columbia.edu

Newsletter Editor

Zoe Proctor-Weber, PhD
Phone: 727-398-6661, x4678
zoe.proctor-weber@va.gov

Newsletter Managing Editor

Diane Slaughter, APR, Fellow
Phone: 304-984-0308
info@homesteadcomms.com

Nominations/Elections

Paul Korte, PhD
Phone: 573-355-2084
pkorte@paloaltou.edu

Website Manager

Andy Benjamin, JD, PhD, ABPP
Phone: 206-616-6220
gahb54@u.washington.edu

Liaisons & Task Forces

APA Advocacy Liaison
Felicia D. Smith, PhD
drfsmith@gmail.com
APA Interdivisional Healthcare
Elena Eisman, EdD
elena.eisman@gmail.com
BPA
Peter Oppenheimer, PhD
pmoppenheimer@bbhsri.com

Committee of State Leaders

Raymond Folen, PhD, ABPP
hpaexec@gmail.com
CWP

Kamieka Gabriel, PhD
kamieka@outlook.com

Diversity Leadership Program

Jennifer Kelly, PhD, ABPP
jfkphd@aol.com

Early Career Psychologists

Ryan Flinn, PhD
ranelliottflinn@gmail.com

Integrated Care Task Force

Stella Nelms, PhD
stella.d.nelms@emory.edu
Natalie Pilipenko, PhD, ABPP
np2615@cumc.columbia.edu

Integrated Primary Care

Paul Korte, PhD
pkorte@paloaltou.edu

Integrated Specialty Care

Kathleen Ashton, PhD, ABPP
ashtonl@ccf.org

LGBT Concerns Office/Comm on Sexual Orientation-Gender Div.

David Pascale Hague, PhD
dbha222@uky.edu

Regulatory Task Force

Peter Oppenheimer, PhD
pmoppenheimer@bbhsri.com

Rural Health

Emily Selby-Nelson, PhD
Emily.Selby.Nelson@cchswv.org