

BPA Newsletter

Black Psychiatrists of America



BPA
Newsletter

First Quarter Winter-Spring 2019

Black Psychiatrists of America, Inc.
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, #725
Washington, DC 20006-1811

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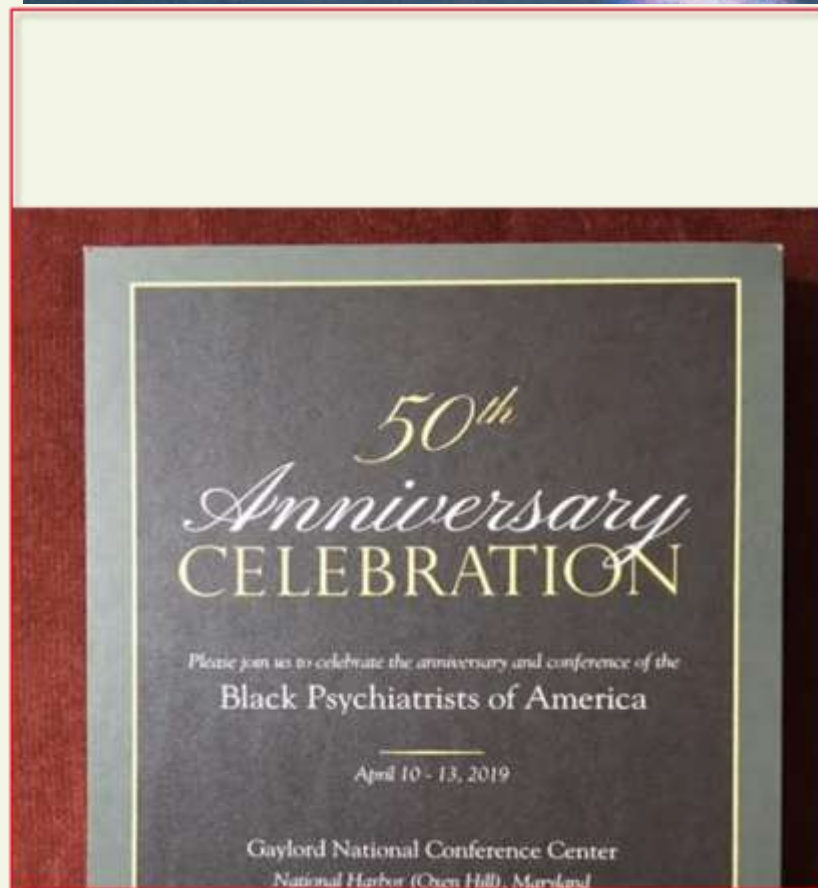
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son

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Patricia Newton MD, MPA, MA Chief
Executive Officer & Medical Director



The 50th Anniversary Conference of the Black Psychiatrists of America was held from April 10-13, 2019 at the Gaylord National Hotel Conference Center in National Harbor, MD with attendees from across the country and one presenter from Uganda (Africa). The conference program content was excellent and received very good reviews from the initial analysis of the evaluation forms at the close of the conference. The conference was approved for a total of 22.5 CME Category 1 credits. Participation from approximately 67 delegates was generally good. One highlight of the conference was the opening session after the initial networking reception where a current patient in treatment was able to tell her story of why treatment works for her and how she has been able to pick up her life after repeated hospitalizations over the years and an early history of sexual abuse. Two movies were screened during the conference and were well received. Report from Dr Newton, Executive Director



Meet the Editor

William B Lawson Md, PhD,
DLFAPA

The Conference was indeed a success. Dr. Billy Jones and Dr. Lightfoot led sessions that highlighted the challenges that faced the creation of the organization, including the implicit bias in the American Psychiatric Association and explicit racism that was pervasive in American culture at the time and is continuing in many ways. That changes have occurred was shown by the participation on the program by Dr. Dilip Jeste past president and first Asian present, and Dr. Altha Stewart the first African American president of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Danielle Hairston assembled an impressive program that showed the many initiatives and efforts that met these early challenges and continue to address new and emerging issues. Dr. Lawson, Editor





*Presidents Past and Present of
the Black Psychiatrists of
America*

At the Anniversary Meeting



MileStones

Dr. Colleen Hawthorne was a guest on "Good Day DC" on Fox 5 News

Dr. Anton Nigusse Bland, medical director for Psychiatric Emergency Services at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, will serve as San Francisco's first ever director of mental health reform.

Tiffani L. Bell MD was featured in an inaugural AMA magazine "Moving Medicine"

<https://app.svwps.com/americanmedicalassociation/ama/amamag/mag.html>

First African American psychiatrist in Mississippi

Dr. Otrie Bertrelle Hickerson Smith died on Wednesday, December 19, 2019 at Merit Central Hospital. She graduated from Howard University with a degree in Chemistry, medical degree at Howard University College of Medicine in 1962. She completed an internship at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York; residency in psychiatry at Mental Health Institute in Independence, Iowa, post-graduate training and a staff appointment at the prestigious Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas. She accepted an appointment to be Chief Psychiatrist in the Outpatient Department of Public Health and Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry at Howard University College of Medicine. In 1972, she was certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

She took an appointment as a Staff Psychiatrist with the Mississippi Veteran Administration Center and a staff appointment as an instructor in Clinical Psychiatry and Attending Physician at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. In so doing she

On Tuesday, April 30, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) launched a new, emergency taskforce focused on the growing problem of suicide and access to mental health care among Black youth. Chaired by Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), The CBC Taskforce on Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health convened experts in Washington, DC and around the country, raise awareness among Members of Congress and staff, and identify legislative recommendations to address this mental health crisis.

In 2018, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Pediatrics published a report that found that for the first time in the history of such research, the rate of suicides for Black children between the ages of five and 12 has exceeded that of White children, and more than a third of elementary school-aged suicides involved Black children. The taskforce will seek to identify causes and solutions, and will empower a working group of academic and practicing experts led by Dr. Michael Lindsey and the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at New York University, with the goal of developing and producing a report from the Taskforce by the end of 2019.



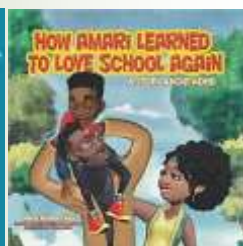
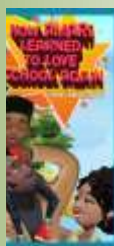
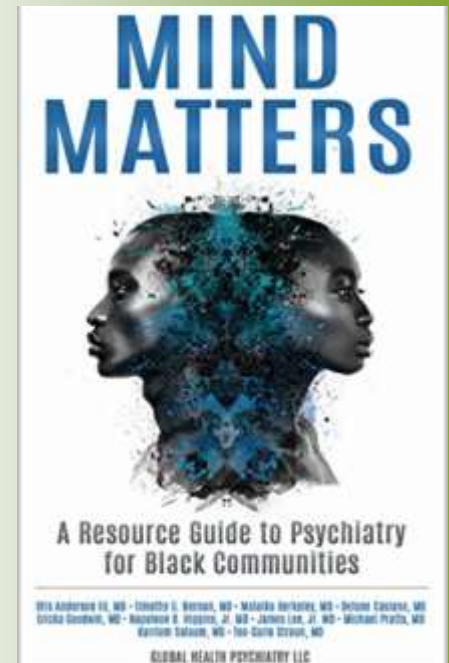
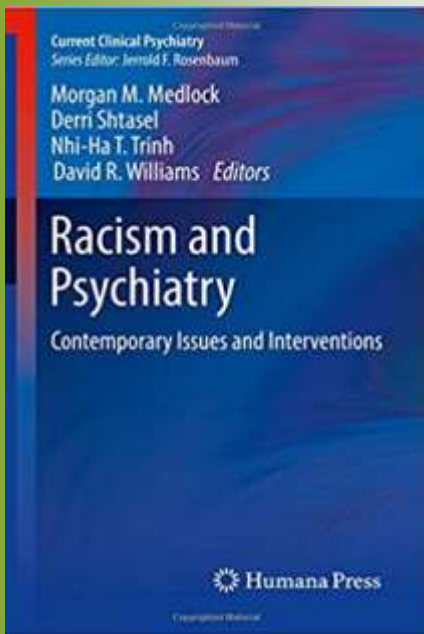
Dr. William Lawson will serve on the working group that will advise the Task Force and Dr. Altha Stewart and Dr. Annelle Primm will provide ongoing consultation to the Task Force

PUBLICATIONS

Samuel Okpaku MD

Essentials of Global Mental Health is available from Cambridge University Press or Amazon.com

Dr. Carl Bell's book **Fetal Alcohol Exposure in the African-American Community** available online free at <https://thirdworldpressfoundation.org/product/pre-order-fetal-alcohol-exposure-in-the-african-american-community/>



How Amari learned to love school Paperback – May 9, 2019

by Ericka Goodwin (Author), Tyrus Goshay (Illustrator)

Published Articles



Mbaba M. Brown SE, Wooditch A, Kiss M, Murphy A, Kumari S, Taxman F, Altice F, Lawson WB. *Prevalence, Diagnosis, and Treatment Rates of Mood Disorders among Opioid Users under Criminal Justice Supervision*. *Subst Use Misuse*. 2018 Jul 26;53(9):1519-1526.

Lawson WB. *Disparities, Fake News, or Just not the Whole Story?* *Natl Med Assoc*. 2018 Aug;110(4):303.

Lawson WB. *What is Health Equity?* *J Natl Med Assoc*. 2018 Dec;110(6):529-530. doi: 10.1016/j.jnma.2018.01.004. No abstract available.

Lawson WB. *Violence Research*. *J Natl Med Assoc*. 2017 Winter;109(4):221. doi: 10.1016/j.jnma.2017.10.002

Lawson WB. *The one hundredth and tenth anniversary*. *J Natl Med Assoc*. 2018 Dec;110(6):529-530. doi: 10.1016/j.jnma.2018.10.017.

Bell CC. *Lessons Learned from 50 Years of Violence Prevention Activities in the African American Community*. *J Natl Med Assoc*. 2017 Winter;109(4):224-237.

Medlock M, Weissman A, Wong SS, Carlo A, Zeng M, Borba C, Curry M, Shtasel D. *Racism as a Unique Social Determinant of Mental Health: Development of a Didactic Curriculum for Psychiatry Residents*. *MedSPORTRAL*. 2017;13. pii: 10618.

Bright CM, Price MA, Morgan RC Jr, Bailey RK. *The Report of the W. Montague Cobb, MHA Health Institute Consensus Panel on the Plight of Underrepresented Minorities in Medical Education*. *J Natl Med Assoc*. 2018 Dec;110(6):614-623.

Sharpe DK, Hall JK, Ochiye S, Bailey RK. *Understanding forensic psychiatry in healthcare practices and collaboration between legal nurse consultants and physicians*. *Med Leg J*. 2018 Mar;86(1):32-35. doi: 10.1177/0025817217740299.

AMERICAN
PSYCHIATRIC
ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
May 18-22, 2019 • San Francisco



Last meeting of Altha
Stewart MD First
African American
President of the
American Psychiatric
Association

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONVENTION
AND SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY

JULY 27-31, 2019

HONOLULU,
HAWAII

Are you the future Director of the Psychiatric Emergency Program?

There are plenty of skills that medical training does a superb job of preparing you for in your career.

But there's no class on knowing when to walk away from a bad situation... especially when it's a job you've poured your heart & soul into but you've come to realize isn't serving you anymore.

Polaris Placement specializes in helping mission-driven medical professionals find roles that actually fulfill their needs - personal, financial, and aspirational.

So here's your chance to make that change you deserve:

In this role, you'd be the **Director of the Psychiatric Emergency Program** at one of the academic medical center systems serving New York City.

Essentially, this role will be dedicated to leading the Emergency Psychiatry services for the healthcare system that serves a diverse community in **Brooklyn, NY** that is comprised of West African and Afro-Caribbean immigrants, African-Americans, Hispanic South Americans and other world cultures.

About half of the Psychiatrists are also West African or African-American.

Hence someone who shares the same African culture as the majority of the community and the Psychiatry staff could be an excellent candidate, provided they meet all the other requirements.

It reports directly to the Chair of Psychiatry, you will have open-door access to the key decision-maker who can mentor and support you. So it could be a great option for those seeking their first leadership role.

This is a full-time, Monday - Friday daytime role. There's **no required on-call**, but you could moonlight in the ED to supplement your income.

Quick stats:

6,456 annual visits

Cadre of 5-8 after-hours moonlighting psychiatrists

2 Psychiatric Residents and 2 NPs on days

QUALIFICATIONS:

Board Certified in Psychiatry and a valid NYS medical license (or eligible to obtain one)

Recent or current Emergency Psychiatry background strongly preferred.

Prefer bi-lingual Spanish or Creole, though not required.

A genuine desire to provide evidenced-based, quality care to an underserved population.