

## **2017 APA Election: Slate Of Candidates (Voting begins Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017)**

### **President-elect:**



Rahn K. Bailey, M.D.  
Distinguished Fellow  
rkbailey@wakehealth.com



Altha J. Stewart, M.D.  
Life Member  
astewa59@uthsc.edu

### **Secretary**



Brian Crowley, M.D.  
Distinguished Life Fellow  
bcrowleymd@aol.com



Philip R. Muskin, M.D.  
Distinguished Life Fellow  
prm1@cumc.columbia.edu



Gail E. Robinson, M.D.  
Distinguished Life Fellow  
gail.robinson@utoronto.ca



Robert P. Roca, M.D., M.P.H.  
Distinguished Fellow  
Rroca@sheppardpratt.org

### **Minority/Underrepresented Representative (M/UR) Trustee**



David L. Scasta, M.D.  
Distinguished Life Fellow  
scastadavid@msn.com



Ramaswamy Viswanathan, M.D., DMSc.  
Distinguished Life Fellow  
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### **Area 2 Trustee**



Vivian B. Pender, M.D.  
Distinguished Life Fellow  
Vp52@columbia.edu



Ravi N. Shah, M.D., M.B.A.  
General Member  
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## **Area 5 Trustee**



R. Scott Benson, M.D.  
Distinguished Life Fellow  
R.Scott.BensonMD@gmail.com



Jenny L. Boyer, M.D., Ph.D., J.D.  
Distinguished Fellow  
jennylboyer@hotmail.com

## **Resident-Fellow Member Trustee-Elect (RFMTE)**



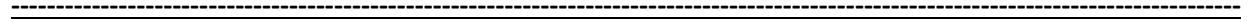
Tanuja Gandhi, M.D.  
Resident-Fellow Member  
tanuja.gandhi@yale.edu



Sarah Kauffman, M.D.  
Resident-Fellow Member  
smkauffman@gmail.com



Benjamin Solomon, M.D., M.B.A.  
Resident-Fellow Member  
Benjamin.solomon@nyumc.org



## **Candidates:**

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

#### **1. Rahn K. Bailey, MD, Distinguished Fellow; Candidate for President-Elect**



#### **Biosketch:**

Rahn Kennedy Bailey received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He completed his residency in General Psychiatry at the University of Texas at Houston, Texas Medical Center Affiliated Hospital. He completed a fellowship in forensic psychiatry at Yale University's Department of Psychiatry, Connecticut.

Dr. Bailey was appointed Chairman and Professor of Psychiatry at Meharry Medical College, Tennessee (2008-'14). He was Executive Director of the Lloyd C. Elam Mental Health Center, Tennessee. He is currently Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, since January 2015

Dr. Bailey is a diplomat of the American Board of Forensic Medicine. He served as Chairman of the AAPL Scientific Program (2005). He was the Director of Forensic Fellowship at Louisiana State University and University of Texas-Houston. He is a member of the American College of Psychiatry, and Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He is currently Chairman of Membership for the APA. He has served as president and member of the board of trustees of the National Medical Association (2012-'13). He was the President of the Tennessee Psychiatric Association (2012-'14).

Dr. Bailey has 50 peer-reviewed publications, 45 Academic Grand Rounds, and four book chapters. His first book was, "A Doctor's Prescription for Healthcare Reform," discussing health care disparities. He has had over \$3M in annual grant funding.

#### **Statement:**

Dr. Bailey's APA presidential candidacy centers on 3 main realms:

1. Membership growth: strategies for which include closer focus on various sub-contingencies of the professional psychiatric community, including the IAPA. This promotes skill development in addressing multicultural mental health needs.
2. Scope of practice: issues of prescription rights, which is a concern for all psychiatrists of all backgrounds.
3. Enhanced reimbursement for psychiatrists, to make it on par with our colleagues in other medical specialties.

2. Altha J. Stewart, MD, Life Member; Candidate for President-Elect



Dear Colleague,

As you know, we are now in the countdown to the final days of campaigning in the APA election before the ballots go out on January 3<sup>rd</sup> so I am sending a final email to ask you to vote for me for President of the APA. I believe that the next APA President needs to understand the breadth of issues facing APA members and I believe I am that person. I have the leadership experience needed to lead the APA through the challenges facing our profession. In my current position as APA Secretary, I have served as an elected member of the Board of Trustees for almost 2 years and sit on the Executive Committee. That means I will hit the ground running, which is essential given the brevity of an APA President's tenure. Those that know me know that I will be accessible, open to hearing from members about their concerns and committed to working to solve problems. I believe I have the leadership skills needed and that my professional experience has prepared me perfectly to serve in this key position. I have the understanding of the APA and demonstrated commitment to the field of psychiatry essential for the future of our organization.

While I now serve as Secretary, some of you may not know that I have been actively involved in the APA for over 3 decades. I have served on nearly a dozen components over the years since my initial participation as a Falk Fellow in the early 1980's. From 2004 to 2007, during my tenure as the third President of the American Psychiatric Foundation, we raised more than one million dollars annually and developed several of the signature programs that continue to promote the APA as a leader in education and advocacy, including *Typical or Troubled*, Helping Hands grants, Partnership for Workplace Mental Health and the Advancing Minority Mental Health awards. While serving as President of the Black Psychiatrists of America, I represented that organization at the historic 1999 White House Conference on Mental Health, speaking on minority mental health issues and mental health disparities facing minority populations. I am also a past president of the Association of Women Psychiatrists. I am currently Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN and Director, Center of Excellence for Health in Justice Involved Youth. Prior to this, I was Executive Director of Just Care Family Network, a federally funded System of Care program working with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to support children at risk of out-of-home placement, and Director of Systems of Care for the Shelby County Office of the Public Defender. Before that position I was the Executive Director of Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency, one of the largest public mental health systems in the U.S. with a budget of over \$500 million. This was preceded by over two decades working as CEO/Executive Director in large public mental health systems of Pennsylvania and New York, overseeing the management and development of programs for persons with severe mental illness and substance use disorders. A proud native of Memphis, Tennessee, I attended college at Christian Brothers University in Memphis (in the first class of women admitted to the college), completing medical school at Temple University Medical School and general psychiatry residency at Hahnemann University Hospital (now Drexel), both in

Philadelphia. In addition to receiving the American Psychiatric Association *Alexandra Symonds Award* and Wayne State University *Pathfinders in Medicine Award*, in 2006 I was awarded an honorary *Doctor of Laws* degree from Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts.

I'm asking for your vote in the 2017 election for President-Elect and asking that you encourage your colleagues to also vote for me. I've attached a brief biosketch and draft support letter that describes my professional and organizational experiences for your use as you spread the message in support of my campaign for APA President. Additional information is available on my website ([www.draltha.com](http://www.draltha.com)) and please feel free to email me if you have any questions or need additional information. The APA election guidelines are also attached for your review.

Thanks in advance for your support.  
Best regards,  
Altha

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## SECRETARY

### 1. Brian Crowley, MD, Distinguished Life Fellow; Candidate for Secretary



### 2. Philip R. Muskin, MD, MA, Distinguished Life Fellow; Candidate for Secretary



#### Biosketch:

I'm professor of psychiatry and chief of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center. I graduated from Cornell University, The New School for Social Research, and New York Medical College where I was AOA. I did fellowships in Therapeutics and Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry after residency at Columbia, and graduated from the Columbia University Psychoanalytic Center. I'm active as an academic and mentor, publishing 100+ articles, books, and book chapters on a variety of topics. For 38 years I've been in solo private practice of psychiatry, integrative psychiatry, psychotherapy, and psychoanalysis. I've edited several books for American Psychiatric Publishing including the Self-Examination Guide to DSM-5, and edited the new Study Guide for the

Psychiatry Board Examination. I was the first chair of the APA Council on Psychosomatic Medicine and have been on the Scientific Program Committee of the American Psychiatric Association for decades; chairing the 2001, 2002, 2014, 2015, and 2017 meetings.

**IAPA Vision:**

Psychiatry faces numerous challenges as a profession and it is only the power of the APA that can protect the integrity of our field. Many outside entities have gained control over our ability to use our knowledge/experience to treat patients, to force us to study for examinations rather than engage in lifelong learning, and to use EHRs even if such systems are expensive and time-consuming. APA's strength comes from the diversity of its membership and allied organizations. We must enhance our collaborations with allied groups such as IAPA. The role of the APA secretary is to *'work with the Board to set Association priorities and with the Board and the chief executive officer to formulate policy and develop initiatives to advance those priorities.'* My vision is to focus APA efforts to ensure equitable reimbursement for psychiatric care across all sites of treatment (outpatient, inpatient, consultation-liaison) and to maximize APA efforts to reduce the control insurance companies have over psychiatric care, including psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy. We must prevent therapeutic substitution and control generic substitution where appropriate. It is APA's responsibility to provide lifelong learning that integrates with REALISTIC maintenance of certification, not burden psychiatrists with repeated examinations and unnecessary fees.

**3.Gail Erlick Robinson, MD, Distinguished Life Fellow; Candidate for Secretary**



**Biosketch:**

I bring experience and expertise in leadership, education, finances and advocacy:

- Professor of Psychiatry, University of Toronto
- American College of Psychiatrists (ACP): President-Elect 2016
- Group for Advancement of Psychiatry, Board member 2013-2016
- Board Chair, YWCA of Toronto 2007- 2009
- Board Chair, Toronto Committee on Violence against Women and Children 1999-2003
- Founding co-Director, Women's Mental Health Program, University of Toronto (U of T) 1990
- Coordinator of Psychiatric Postgraduate Education, University Health Network
- Management of \$13 million /yr. psychiatric practice plan 1976-2015
- Chair, ACP Committee on Finance 2010-2016
  - Minority and Under-Represented Groups Board Trustee 2013-2017

- Joint Reference Committee 2015-2016
- Women's Caucus Representative 2006-2013
- Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities 2009-2014
- Chair of Committees on: Minority and Under-Represented Groups; Women; and Family Violence and Sexual Abuse 1991-2009
- Assembly member 2007-2013; Executive and Planning Committee 2007-2008

## **GOALS**

- o Fight for health and mental health parity and assure equitable and prompt reimbursement for psychiatrists
- o Strengthen the role and influence of psychiatrists in mental health policy
- o Promote diversity within the organization as well as stressing the importance of meeting the needs of minority, under-represented and underserved groups in society
- o Educate our patients about the etiology, symptoms and treatment of psychiatric disorders so they can be informed participants in their own care
- o Promote the training of psychiatrists in collaborative care models
- o Advocate for our medical students and residents/fellows as they become our colleagues

## **4. Robert P. Roca, MD, MPH, MBA; Candidate for Secretary**



*Having served in the Assembly and as APA Council Chair, I would now love to offer my experience and energy to the service of the APA as Secretary. Please read on for a sketch of my background and a brief statement of my vision. I invite you to email ([rroca@sheppardpratt.org](mailto:rroca@sheppardpratt.org)) or call me (410-938-4323) if you'd like to ask questions or share your views. Best, Bob*

### **Current Leadership Positions**

- Vice President and Medical Director, Sheppard Pratt Health System, Baltimore
- APA Assembly, Maryland District Branch Representative and past Reference Committee Chair
- Chair, APA Council on Geriatric Psychiatry
- APA Representative, Professional and Technical Advisory Committee, The Joint Commission
- Board of Directors, Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry (GAP)
- Member, Maryland State Board of Physicians
- **Past Leadership Positions**
- President and Council Chair, Maryland Psychiatric Society
- President and Board Chair, Baltimore County Medical Association

- Director of Consultation-Liaison and Geriatric Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

### **Educational Background**

- M.D. UCLA School of Medicine, 1978
- M.P.H. UCLA School of Public Health, 1978
- M.B.A. Carey School of Business, Johns Hopkins University, 2008

### **Specialty Training and Certifications**

- Internal Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Geriatric Psychiatry

### **Academic Appointments**

- Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Maryland School of Medicine
- Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

### **What I bring to the APA as Secretary**

- Broad training and decades of experience in the science and art of clinical psychiatry as practiced in outpatient, inpatient, community, and residential settings
- Broad formal training and experience in administration, leadership and the business of medicine
- Years of experience as Vice President/Medical Director of Sheppard Pratt, dealing with the problems facing psychiatry and each of us as practitioners (e.g., reimbursement, recruitment, regulation, maintenance of certification, access to care, stigma, professional liability, violence against clinicians)
- Years of experience in the APA Components as member and Chair
- Years of experience in the APA Assembly and as Reference Committee Chair
- Years of experience representing the APA on quality measurement and standards setting bodies (e.g., NCQA, NQF, The Joint Commission)
- Knowledge of how to work with and within other psychiatric organizations (e.g., AAGP, GAP, ACP)

### **Great Opportunities Ahead for the APA**

This is a very important and exciting moment in American psychiatry. The opportunities to have impact on the evolution of medicine and medical care are greater than ever. The APA needs to ensure that we make the most of these opportunities.

- We are the experts in the conditions that contribute most to disability and population health. The APA must have a major role in designing the future of health care in America and must drive the implementation of collaborative care to ensure that psychiatrists have the proper roles.
- As “value” enters the marketplace as a factor in reimbursement, we need to be leaders in determining how to measure quality and value.
- As registries and other “big data” formats emerge, we need to figure out how to use these tools to advance knowledge while keeping clearly in focus the importance of the unique stories and circumstances of the individuals who come to us for care.
- As health information exchanges and prescription drug monitoring programs spread, we need to determine how to share information essential for coordination of care while preserving our patients’ privacy.
- All Americans should have access to high quality mental health services. We know that they don’t. Universal access to high quality mental health care should be a major plank in the APA’s advocacy platform.
- Our advocacy efforts have greater impact if psychiatry speaks with one voice. The APA must work with our subspecialties to ensure that we are aligned and mutually supportive. We are in fact stronger together.



- At the same time, the APA is a diverse organization, and we must both embrace and leverage this. Our vitality is proportional to our openness to different experiences and perspectives in the leadership. We are the big tent.
- Our future is in the hands of our younger members. Our vitality is proportional to the active engagement of our Resident-Fellow and Early Career colleagues. We need to create new vehicles of engagement.

I am very enthusiastic about this opportunity to bring my experience and energy to the APA Board as Secretary, and I ask for your support!

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**MINORITY/UNDERREPRESENTED REPRESENTATIVE (M/UR) TRUSTEE:**

1. **David L. Scasta, MD, Distinguished Life Fellow;**  
Candidate for Minority/Underrepresented Representative (M/UR) Trustee



2. **Ramaswamy Viswanathan, MD, DMSc, Distinguished Life Fellow;**  
Candidate for Minority/Underrepresented Representative (M/UR) Trustee



**Dr. Viswanathan (Vis) is a representative in the APA Assembly, and is on the APA PAC Board of Governors. He has served on 18 APA committees, including as Chair of the Bylaws Committee, Vice-Chair of the Council on Member DB Relations, member of the Council on Global Psychiatry, Representative of the Asian American Caucus to the APA Assembly and its MUR Committee, and as the APA representative to the AMA IMG Section.**

**Vis is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Indo-American Psychiatric Association (IAPA), and is on the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture (SSPC).**

**He has trained more than 300 IMG, women, and ethnic minority psychiatry residents, and has mentored many of them in academic and professional development.**

**His research is exploring psychosocial factors related to medical treatment adherence in patients with gynecologic cancers, HIV, and children with sickle cell disease. He will work toward our APA advocating for increased service and research affecting women, minority, and marginalized patients.**

He led a petition drive placing a referendum on our 2011 ballot urging our APA to work against burdensome Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements. That referendum was supported by 80% of the voters. He is the Founding President, Caucus on MOC Issues. In the BOT, he will push for MOC reform, and lessening the financial burden of certification, important issues for most of our members.

To know more about him, please visit: <https://rviswa.wordpress.com>

#### **Biosketch**

- APA: Assembly (Asian American Caucus/MUR, 1996-2002; Brooklyn DB Representative, 2002-present); PAC Board of Governors; President: Caucus on MOC. Past positions: Chair, Bylaws Committee, 2006-07; Vice-Chair, Council on Member DB Relations, 2005-09; Council on Global Psychiatry; Nominating Committee; Committee on C-L Psychiatry and Primary Care Education; APA representative to the AMA IMG Section.
- New York State Psychiatric Association: Secretary; Founding Chair, Sub-Committee on Residents' Scholarly Poster Presentations Contest; Legislative Committee.
- Indo-American Psychiatric Association: Chair, Board of Trustees; Past President; Academician Award Recipient.
- Society for Study of Psychiatry and Culture: Board of Directors; Past: Chair, Finance Committee; Co-Chair, Scientific Program Committee.
- Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry: Chair, Committee on Psychosomatic Medicine; Consultant, Committee on Psychiatry and Religion.
- SUNY Downstate Medical Center: Director, Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry; Chair, Psychiatry Grand Rounds; Faculty Private Practice.
- Board certified in internal medicine, psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry and forensic psychiatry; scheduled for recertification in psychosomatic medicine and addiction psychiatry.

#### **My vision regarding APA and how APA can work closely with IAPA as an organization.**

- I will strengthen APA's relationship and collaboration with IAPA and other allied and diversity-oriented organizations.
- When I was the Secretary of IAPA, I started the tradition of annually inviting the President-Elect of the APA to the Fall Meeting of IAPA. This and other measures that I and others implemented have considerably strengthened the ties between APA and IAPA.
- I have mentored several IAPA members to ascend into leadership positions and make significant contributions in the APA.
- I got the support of APA's Office of Diversity and Health Equity and organized an IAPA conference on mental health of Indian Americans.
- I will work toward our APA advocating for increased service and research affecting women, minority, and marginalized patients.
- I will work with our APA to promote the professional, academic, organizational and personal development of minorities, IMGs, women, and LGBTQ members, and fight discrimination against them.
- I led a petition drive placing a referendum on our 2011 ballot urging our APA to work against burdensome Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements. That referendum was

supported by 80% of the voters. In the BOT, I will push for MOC reform, and lessening the financial burden of certification, important issues for most of our members.

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**AREA 2 TRUSTEE:**

1. **Vivian B. Pender, MD, Distinguished Life Fellow  
Candidate for Area 2 Trustee**



2. **Ravi N. Shah, MD, MBA, General Member  
Candidate for Area 2 Trustee**



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**AREA 5 Trustee**

1. **R. Scott Benson, MD, Distinguished Life Fellow  
Candidate for Area 5 Trustee**



**Candidate Statement:**

The upheaval in the political landscape in November came with assurance that healthcare reform will change direction. This new political landscape will impact our efforts to deliver quality psychiatric care, fund our research efforts, and spread the advances in psychiatric care to the clinic. To take advantage of these challenges psychiatrists must band together as a community and speak with one voice on the important issues. In the upheaval it is critical for the APA, the IAPA, and other organizations of psychiatrists to align our mission and our goals. Working shoulder to shoulder we are more effective.

Our efforts contributed to the passage of federal legislation demanding parity for mental illness treatment. And in December we saw passage of the "21st Century Cures Act" which included important legislation for our patients and their families.

We won--at least in Congress. Now we face more pressures at the state level where insurance companies are asking tough questions about the treatments which our patients need. The APA needs to work with organizations like IAPA which have a strategy for advocacy, can communicate effectively with members, and have education programs enhancing the quality and value of mental health services.

During my service on the Board of APA I was a strong advocate for a reinvigorated Council on Global Psychiatry and this Council has opened new links with IAPA and through the IAPA to other organizations serving International Medical Graduates.

And the Board adopted a revised strategic plan that has a strong statement for supporting and increasing diversity within the APA. The IAPA has been an important source for APA leaders through your effective education and mentoring programs. These programs will serve as a model as the APA pushes for an end to disparities in mental health care.

I have earned a reputation as an effective communicator. This will continue to be a focus if I am re-elected Area Trustee. And, of course, I am available to you, eager to learn more about your organization; and connecting you to resources in your DB and the APA that can help find a solution.

To reach me - [R.Scott.BensonMD@gmail.com](mailto:R.Scott.BensonMD@gmail.com)

To learn more - [www.RScottBensonMD.com](http://www.RScottBensonMD.com)

Thank you for this opportunity. And I would appreciate your vote.

**2. Jenny L. Boyer, MD, Distinguished Fellow  
Candidate for Area 5 Trustee**



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## **RESIDENT-FELLOW MEMBER TRUSTEE-ELECT (RFMTE)**

### **1. Tanuja Gandhi, MD, Resident-Fellow Member Candidate for RFMTE**



### **BIOSKETCH**

Tanuja Gandhi is an enthusiastic resident who completed her psychiatry residency training from the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia and is currently a Forensic Psychiatry fellow at Yale. In future, she intends to pursue Child Psychiatry and in the long term, advocate for mental health internationally.

Tanuja became involved with the APA and the IAPA during her residency years and continues to serve as an APA Diversity Leadership fellow and as a Member-In-Training representative of the IAPA. Over the years, she has served in various leadership positions and been the recipient of several awards including the IAPA's Mentor-Mentee Award, Ruth Fox Scholarship, Resnick Award, Resident Achievement Award by the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society and the Outstanding Psychiatric Resident Award.

As a Resident-Fellow Member Trustee (RFMTE), Tanuja aims to engage and promote trainee involvement from a district to an international level, with the APA. Her experience of work with the APA, familiarity with minority issues, advocacy and leadership skills make her uniquely qualified to represent RFM's on the APA Board of Trustees.

### **MY VISION REGARDING APA & HOW APA CAN WORK CLOSELY WITH IAPA**

The IAPA has played an integral role in my growth as a resident and clinician through opportunities for education, mentorship and support. As an organization, the IAPA provides a platform for growth, mutual support, mentorship and collaboration.

The changing face of modern psychiatry highlights newer challenges that we face as a profession. In addressing the challenges, I believe that it would be important to advocate for psychiatric representation at every step of the health-care decision process including at our legislative bodies and allied organizations. The APA and IAPA can work together in identifying areas of work and barriers to mental health advocacy. As we face the critical issue of a workforce shortage, the APA and IAPA can also work together in developing and supporting culturally sensitive collaborative care models, opportunities for partnership and foster the growth of trainees in Psychiatry.

If elected, Resident-Fellow Member Trustee-Elect (RFMTE) of the APA, I will advocate for enhanced

opportunities for all trainees through focus on inclusion of Technology in Clinical Practice, Collaborative & Integrated Care models, Mental Health Policy & Advocacy and Training, Mentorship, & Professional Development.

I am committed to working with all the residents and fellows to best represent their needs and interests on the APA Board.

So, I urge all the members to exercise their right to vote as an APA member!

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**2. Sarah Kauffman, MD, Resident-Fellow Member  
Candidate for RFMTE**



**Biosketch:**

I was born and raised in San Diego, California and received my undergraduate degrees in both Theater and Health Promotion from the University of Southern California. After college, I worked around the country on research projects in La Jolla, Houston, and Chicago before matriculating at the University of California, San Diego for medical school. During medical school, I was involved in leadership at our multi-site free clinic, our integrative and holistic medicine interest group, and on numerous outreach and advocacy projects. I also lobbied on behalf of the California Medical Association both locally and at the state level. I was honored to give the commencement speech at my medical school before moving to New York to join the psychiatry residency program at Columbia. At Columbia, I am the resident representative on several committees including the Resident Quality and Patient Safety Committee and the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Room Committee.

**Statement:**

Advocacy for patients with mental illness and their families is my passion as I experienced first hand the effect of a psychiatric diagnosis when my younger brother was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Through personal and professional experiences, I have learned how important it is to advocate for our patients and teach them how to be their own champions. I will use this position to teach my fellow trainees how to empower patients and their families to take charge of their recovery. I will also pursue advocacy for vulnerable populations, such as refugees, the incarcerated, and the homeless. Specifically, I will expand our collective knowledge about the challenges faced by our most at-risk patients and work to enhance educational and advocacy opportunities while working with the IAPA to assist in providing advocacy for vulnerable multi-cultural patient populations as well. Finally, advocate for my fellow residents as their representative on several departmental committees at Columbia and I will work to provide a space within the APA for my fellow trainees to receive both the support they need to thrive and the resources they need to advocate for themselves. This will include working closely with the IAPA and similar organizations that provide mentorship and professional development programs.

**3. Benjamin Solomon, MD, MBA, Resident-Fellow Member  
Candidate for RFMTE**



**Biosketch:**

I am a PGY2 psychiatry resident at NYU School of Medicine. I grew up in Setauket, NY, on Long Island, with two psychiatrists for parents and two younger brothers. I majored in Neuroscience at Dartmouth College before going to NYU where I completed a dual degree program and received my MD and MBA. I have had a long standing interest in healthcare systems and have worked with the World Health Organization on Alcohol Policy and the Centers for Disease Control on epidemiological field work. I have also held numerous leadership positions in medical school and in residency focusing on educational experiences and promoting diversity. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to apply my experiences to creating a stronger, more inclusive APA.

**Statement:**

Diversity is a unique strength of American psychiatry that enables to better care for and advocate for our patients. The IAPA is one of the pivotal players in organized psychiatry that keeps this commitment to diversity strong. It is important that the APA draw upon the leadership and expertise of the IAPA to provide mentorship for the diverse set of trainees in the U.S. The IAPA also can play a critical role in addressing cultural, economic and political barriers that prevent Indo-Americans from accessing mental healthcare by tapping into the advocacy infrastructure of the APA. I firmly believe that it should be a key aim of the APA should be to empower disenfranchised populations. This means foster diversity within our profession and promoting cultural competency to ensure that *all* patients receive a high quality of care. The APA should ensure equal career opportunities for psychiatrists regardless of gender, ethnicity, national origin and sexual orientation. Practically, this means that we need carefully gather and analyze data on salary differences and hiring practices that may vary among these groups and address any differences. For more information on my vision for the APA, please see my website at [benjaminsolomonmd.com](http://benjaminsolomonmd.com).