

## Ramaswamy Viswanathan, MD, DMSc, DLFAPA

<https://rviswa.com/>

### Biosketch

- APA: Board of Trustees: Minority and Under-Represented Groups Trustee, 2017-19; Chair, Bylaws Committee, 2006-07; George Tarjan IMG Award, 2016.
- APA Assembly: Ronald Shellow Award for Outstanding Service, 2017; Representative, Brooklyn DB, 2002-2017, Asian-American Caucus, 1996-2002.
- APA Caucus on MOC Issues: Founding-President, 2012-2017
- Indo-American Psychiatric Association: President, 1996-98; Chair, Board of Trustees, 2013-17; Outstanding Academician Award, 1990.
- Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry: Chair, Committee on C-L Psychiatry.
- APA PAC: Board.
- Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture: Past: Board; Chair, Finance; Co-Chair, Program.
- Board-certified in Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, and Consultation-Liaison, Addiction, Geriatric, and Forensic Psychiatry.
- SUNY Downstate Medical Center: Professor (tenured); Director, C-L Psychiatry, 1998-; Chancellor's Award for Faculty Service Excellence, 2018.
- I collected 800 signatures and initiated the 2011 Referendum against the burdensome ABPN MOC requirements. Then I worked on the APA becoming active in advocating for reducing the financial and other burdens of Board certification and MOC.

### Action Plan

- 1) Decrease third party-imposed, unnecessary burdens on public and private psychiatric practice that waste time, interfere with doctor-patient relationship, and cause frustration for psychiatrists and patients. This includes burdens imposed by certifying and regulatory organizations.
- 2) Promote psychiatrists' and trainees' mental and physical well-being.
- 3) Foster trainees' and early career psychiatrists' professional career development.
- 4) Advocate for increased funding for mental health services and research.
- 5) Advocate for access to quality care, and fight the threat of inadequately qualified people encroaching into psychiatric practice.

International medical graduates (IMGs) comprise 27% of the practicing psychiatrists in the USA, but in the current APA BOT the RFM Trustee and myself are the only IMGs among 20 voting members. I am the only IMG candidate in the current election besides an RFM candidate. Most

IAPA members are IMGs. As an active member of IAPA, I am in a good position to bring IMG, IAPA, and diversity issues to the table, and implement mutual collaboration between APA and IAPA, fighting discrimination and micro-aggression against IMGs and minorities, cherishing diversity, helping trainees take advantage of opportunities provided by APA, and strengthening APA's relationship with the Indian Psychiatric Society.

Thank you for your support.