



Networking Lunches

In order to increase a sense of community at the Leadership Conference, “Networking Lunches” have been developed and will occur during the lunch segment on the two conference days, Wednesday and Thursday. Each Room will have a specific focus that is described in more detail below. Our goal is to provide you a casual and fun environment to network and establish social connections with fellow psychologists who share like interests. We, the Conference Planning Committee, do hope that you will take this opportunity to attend and participate. No prior knowledge or skills are required – just innate curiosity and a desire to get to know one another better. Please be sure to take this opportunity to get to know your fellow VA psychologists!

Day 1 – Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Women in Leadership: Dr. Janna Fikkan, Dr. Antonette Zeiss, Dr. Lisa Kearney, Dr. Natalie Dong, Dr. Gayle Iwamasa

Where: Navarro Ballroom

Topic: Open for everyone

Goals for the conversation

- Follow up on goals and priority actions generated at last year’s conference
- Main priority actions include: development of a mentorship program; institution of monthly conference calls; and collaboration with the Psychologists of Color and Allies SIG. In addition, we’d like to discuss the issue emerging nationally of women experiencing sexual harassment as it pertains to women in VA.
- Brainstorm how SIG should proceed with these action items and how attendees would like to be involved.

Questions for attendees

- Do you know about the Women in Leadership SIG and have you joined the email group?
 - What challenges have you faced when pursuing or performing in a leadership position in relation to the priority action items? Please select a subgroup most relevant to your challenges/interest for the discussion portion of our networking lunch.
 - How can the SIG support you and how would you like to be involved in the SIG?
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General Lunch Area**Where: Villa**

- No host, no goals, a chance to eat quietly or talk to your colleagues
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Early Career Psychologists:**Dr. Josh Rinker****Where: Zapata**

Goals for conversation

- The ECP Networking Lunch invites VA psychologists in the first ten years of their career (or in the first years with the VA) to engage in networking conversations on specific steps to advocate for their career trajectory of choice.
- Discussion will be open to all with varied career interests. Please consider your local time challenges, administrative needs, personal career interests, needed trainings, assignments, and other activities.

Questions for attendees

- Please consider a project or role you would like to pursue at your facility or within VA. What steps have you already taken in pursuit of this goal? What other obstacles have you faced that have led to job dissatisfaction and burnout?
 - What changes has your facility made recently to increase access or prevent suicide? How effective have these been to date? Could additional involvement by psychologists at your facility improve these changes?
 - What is the role of mentorship in charting a career in a new direction; what have you tried and was it successful? Why or why not?
 - What barriers do you perceive related to getting yourself or others involved with AVAPL or Division 18? What opportunities would you like to know about within VA, AVAPL, or Division 18?
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Mid-Career Psychologists: Dr. Jay Cohen, Dr. Steve Lovette, Dr. Chris Watson**Where: Madero**

Goals for the conversation

- Discuss information gathered during last year's Mid-Career Psychologists lunch and identify issues specific to mid-career psychologists. Specifically discussion about webinar idea. Quarterly calls that may be open discussion or topical...
 - Learn more about attendee goals and career visions for themselves; where they see themselves in 3-5 years and what topics/concerns might be interesting/relevant to them for the future.
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- Solicit participants' ideas about how AVAPL and Division 18 can better serve mid-career psychologists.

Questions for attendees

- What are some of the goals that you have developed for your career, and what has been most helpful to you in reaching some of these goals?
 - In what way has involvement in professional organizations like AVAPL or Division 18 helped you at this point in your career? In what other ways can these organizations support you?
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Day 2 – Thursday, May 31, 2018

General Lunch Area

Where: Navarro Ballroom

Topic: Open

In addition, MH RRTP Managers will be meeting in the Ballroom

MH RRTP Managers: Dr. Jennifer Burden

Psychology Training Directors: Ms. Stacy Pommer and Dr. Jeff Bates

Where: Madero

Goals for the conversation:

- This gathering will invite open discussion of topics relevant to psychology trainees, supervisors, training directors and others who have interest in training.
- The facilitators will provide a brief update from the recent APPIC conference and invite discussions around germane training topics.
- The facilitators will provide a brief overview of current OAA topics, including the TQCVL.

Questions for Training Directors:

- Accreditation: What difficulties (if any) are you having in the area of recruiting and training a diverse group of trainees and staff.
 - Supervision: What percentage of time is provided to training committee members for non-supervisory activities (e.g., didactic preparation/presentations, interviews, recruitment, etc.)?
 - Accreditation: How are sites accomplishing live observation of trainees as described by the Standards of Accreditation?
 - Recruitment/Hiring: What difficulties are sites having in non-competitive hiring their trainees into staff roles?
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Questions for Trainees:

- What difficulties have you had in the hiring process?
 - How can we be helpful to you as you end your training year/what can we do to be more helpful for next year's group of trainees?
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Advocacy: Dr. Heather Kelly, Dr. Kathy McNamara, and Dr. Tiffanie Fennell
Where: Villa**Goals for the conversation**

- A discussion of how and when VA psychologists can be involved in advocacy given the restrictions in place for federal employees.
Exploring the kinds of issues VA psychologists are most interested in advocating about and with whom.

Questions for attendees

- Do you have any experience advocating for your clinical work and/or your research at the hospital/local/state/federal level?
 - What are your concerns about participating in advocacy?
 - If there are clinical and/or research issues that are so important to you that you stay up at night worrying about them, what can you imagine doing about them?
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Psychologists of Color Special Interest Group: Dr. Gayle Iwamasa and Dr. Marcos Lopez
Where: Zapata**Goals for the conversation**

- Introduce new leadership team members
- Summarize current activities
- Planning for next 12 months

Questions for attendees

- What topics/issues would you like to see selected for monthly SIG calls?
 - What are your ideas for future VAPLC presentations?
 - What are your thoughts about how the listserv is being used?
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