



VA PSYCHOLOGY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

January, 27th 2020

Dear VA Psychologists and VA Psychology Trainees:

We are very pleased to invite you to our **23rd Annual VA Psychology Leadership Conference (VAPLC)** that will be held in **San Antonio, Texas** from **Tuesday, May 19 through Friday, May 22, 2020**. The conference is sponsored by the Association of Veterans Affairs Psychologist Leaders (AVAPL), the American Psychological Association (APA), and APA Division 18: Psychologists in Public Service. The Office of Mental Health Services and Suicide Prevention at VA Central Office also collaborate with the sponsoring organizations to support content for the conference. The theme this year is *“Navigating Multiple Priorities While Enhancing Quality and Access.”*

In line with this year’s theme, we planned presentations within the areas of enhancing quality and access while successfully navigating multiple priorities and demands. We will feature presentations designed to address stress and burnout in light of multiple priorities. As in previous years, some content is designed to target topics relevant to psychology leadership, whereas other content is aimed at mid-career psychologists, early career psychologists, and trainees. We have incorporated smaller breakout sessions throughout the agenda to provide opportunities for less formal, small group interactions that are more conducive to some of the planned topics. We plan to have keynote addresses or panel presentations on topics such as advancements in technology, suicide prevention, Measurement-Based Care, psychology’s role in the VA Whole Health initiative, and diversity issues for psychologists. These are just a few highlights from our exciting agenda!

We are also pleased to announce that we will host a CE workshop, entitled *“Professional Development and Growth Across the Career Span: What’s YOUR Next Move as a VHA Psychologist?”* presented by Drs. Gayle Y. Iwamasa, Jay L. Cohen, Charlotte M. McCloskey, and Christopher G. Watson. This hands-on skill building workshop will provide attendees across the career span with the opportunities to learn, practice, and apply professional and leadership development skills. This workshop will include large group didactics as well as the opportunity to focus on specific skills based on the stage of your career, with a specific focus on ethical leadership, leveraging team diversity, and learning to love the leader within. Topics include

living your professional passion, identifying your personal career path, and giving and receiving feedback.

The committee is still working on additional topics and finalizing the agenda, so be sure to visit the conference website regularly to see the most recent agenda: <http://conference.avapl.org>.

The VAPLC will host a poster session again this year, which has proven to be a popular feature of the conference. The theme for this year's poster session is the same as the conference theme ("*Navigating Multiple Priorities While Enhancing Quality and Access*"), and preference will be given for posters consistent with this theme. Posters may present original research, descriptions of clinical programs, best practices, or implementation of programs within VA. We also welcome and will consider other quality presentations, including research that has been presented elsewhere. Interested presenters should submit proposals via email to Dr. Kaela Joseph, Poster Session Committee Chair at Kaela.joseph@va.gov using the "Poster and Open Plenary Submission Form" found at the conference.avapl.org website. The deadline is **February 14, 2020**.

Finally, we will have an open plenary session. We invite all VA psychologists and psychology trainees to consider submitting a proposal for a brief presentation (10-15 minutes) on novel or innovative best practices for improving mental health care for Veterans. Topics may include, but are not limited to, treatment interventions for disorders for which we do not currently have evidence-based practices (EBP) in VA, alternatives to VA EBPs, initiatives to increase access to or quality of healthcare, or LEAN projects designed to increase efficiency or productivity. We will select three to five proposals for this open session. Proposals should be submitted via email to Dr. Kaela Joseph, Poster Session Committee Chair at Kaela.joseph@va.gov using the "Poster and Open Plenary Submission Form" found at the website. Again, the deadline for consideration is **February 14, 2020**.

In addition, APA will be hosting Internship and Postdoctoral Fellowship Site Visitor Training workshops preceding the conference. These workshops will provide an overview of the new Standards on Accreditation (SoA) and serve as an opportunity for previous site visitors to update their training, as well as for those interested in becoming a new site visitor. The workshops will be held concurrently on Tuesday, May 19 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. See the attached flyer for details on how to register for one of these workshops.

The schedule for the conference is similar to those of recent years; activities will commence on Tuesday, May 19 with an informal evening social hour and registration from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The social hours have always been an ideal time to meet and network with fellow psychologists. Participants should plan to arrive on Tuesday in time for that activity. The main conference starts the morning of Wednesday, May 20 with breakfast at 7:00 a.m. and continues through the end of the day on Thursday, May 21. A social hour will follow the Wednesday and Thursday sessions. Our CE Workshop will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 22, beginning with breakfast at 7:00 a.m.

We are offering two \$300 scholarships to VA trainees (i.e., VA predoctoral interns and/or VA postdoctoral fellows/residents) who are planning to pursue a career in the VA and who are

willing to assist with administrative support for the conference. Scholarship recipients are selected randomly from trainees who indicate on the conference registration form that they would like to be considered for the scholarship. Those selected will be expected to be present for the entire conference (through Friday) in order to fulfill their duties. Trainees who would like to be considered for the scholarships should register for the conference by **March 13, 2020**. A random selection of the scholarships will be announced by **March 20, 2020**.

This year's conference will be held at **The Westin Riverwalk – San Antonio**, located at 420 West Market Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78205; (210) 224-6500. Please click the Westin logo below to go to our online room reservation webpage. If you call the hotel, please note that you are calling as part of the "2020 VA Psychology Leadership Conference." Our negotiated room rate is \$126/night + 16.75% tax, but please make sure to bring the Texas tax exempt form with you; otherwise, you may be charged at the non-federal rate. This form can be downloaded at: <https://www.comptroller.texas.gov/forms/12-302.pdf>.



Conference registration is as follows:

- AVAPL, APA, and Division 18 members: \$350
- Non-members: \$450
- Postdoctoral fellows: \$150
- Predoctoral interns: \$115

The post-conference workshop will be \$150. Registration fees includes breakfast, lunch, and refreshments on Wednesday and Thursday; and breakfast and lunch on Friday for those who register for the CE workshop. Dinners are on your own and a wonderful chance to socialize and see the sites of San Antonio's River Walk.

Attendees will receive about 12 hours APA-approved CE credits (subject to final APA approval) for attending all of the sessions on Wednesday and Thursday. Those staying for the Friday workshop will receive 6 additional APA-approved CE credits.

Per updated VA Financial Policies and Procedures, Volume XIV, Chapter 10 (December 22, 2016), non-federal conferences no longer require ACES approval! Accordingly, you will not need to register with ACES for this conference.

If you would like to send your registration and payment via check, please send to:

Course name: *VA Psychology Leadership Conference*

Vendor's mailing address:

Association of VA Psychologist Leaders

4150 Clement St. (116B)

San Francisco, CA 94121

Telephone number: 601-364-7871

Email: conference.chair@avapl.org

Please share the above information widely with all VA psychologists (administrators, clinicians, and researchers) and trainees at your station. Information on how to join AVAPL or APA Division 18 prior to the conference (to receive the reduced rate for registration) and additional conference information can be obtained from Katherine M. Dollar, Ph.D., Chair, VA Psychology Leadership Conference Planning Committee (conference.chair@avapl.org).

This is a wonderful conference energized by the dedication, expertise, and vision of VA psychologists nationwide. We are certain you will find it both informative and inspiring, and we look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

Sincerely,



Sam Wan, Ph.D.

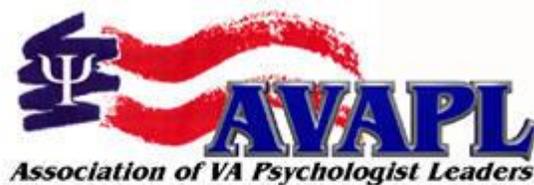
President, Association of Veterans Affairs Psychologist Leaders

Tiffanie Fennell, Ph.D., ABPP

Chair, VA Section, Division 18

American Psychological Association

Sponsoring Organizations



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



Download Letter

To download a PDF version of the Letter of Invitation, [right click here](#) and save the document to your computer's hard drive.

Poster and Open Plenary Submissions

To submit a poster or an open plenary for presentation at the conference, [right click here](#) and save this Poster and Open Plenary Submission Form to your computer's hard drive. Complete the form and e-mail it to Dr. Kaela Joseph.



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

2020 VAPLC: Accreditation Trainings

The APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA) in collaboration with the Association of VA Psychologist Leaders will be hosting internship and postdoctoral site visitor trainings based on the *Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology (SoA)* at the Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio, TX on **Tuesday, May 19, 2020** during the VAPLC.

Become an APA Internship/Postdoctoral Program Site Visitor

8:30 am – 5:00 pm (Registration and breakfast at 8:00 am; Lunch at 12:00 pm)

This full-day training includes both didactic and experiential exposure to the *Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology (SoA)* and the role and functions of the site visitor. For a portion of this training, attendees will separate into *internship-specific* and *postdoctoral-specific* training sessions. Each attendee will join the session that best reflects the type of program (either internship or postdoctoral) that he/she intends on visiting. *7.5 CE credits will be provided to those who attend this training in full. There are no fees to attend.*

For additional information about site visitors and the accreditation process, please visit: <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/visits/process.aspx>

Please email the APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation workshop registration team at apasitevisit@apa.org in order to register for this training. In your email, please specify whether you intend to attend the internship-specific or postdoctoral-specific portion of the training.

750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
(202) 336-5500



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