Position Statement on Diversity

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2017
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POSITION:
Cultural diversity includes issues of race, sex, language, age, country of origin, sexual orientation, religious/spiritual beliefs, social class, and physical disability. Cultural diversity also includes knowledge about cultural factors in the delivery of mental health care and in patient health-related behavior.

Despite efforts to increase cultural diversity among psychiatrists, data from the AAMC and other sources indicate the serious continued under-representation of certain ethnic minority groups among U.S. medical students, medical school facilities and departments of psychiatry and practicing clinicians. Some ethnic minority clinicians have been found to treat ethnic minority socio-economically impoverished populations at a substantially greater rate than non-minority clinicians.

Therefore, the American Psychiatric Association supports the development of cultural diversity among its membership and within the field of psychiatry (including in under-graduate and graduate medical education, in faculty education, in research, in psychiatric administration, and in clinical practice) in order to prepare psychiatrists to better serve a diverse U.S. population.

Authors:
Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities