

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Neuroscience Training in Psychiatric Residency Training

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2024

Approved by the Assembly, May 2024

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“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

Issue:

An essential element of the mission of the American Psychiatric Association is to promote excellence in psychiatric education and training in order to foster the highest quality of care for individuals with mental disorders, including intellectual disabilities, neurocognitive disorders, and substance-related disorders and their families. The increase in clinically applicable neuroscience knowledge has created a need for continued residency curricular development. The APA is already a partner in the National Neuroscience Curriculum Initiative, an NIMH-funded multicenter project that aims to create an accessible web-based set of materials to support residency training (www.nncionline.org/). The APA must take a leadership role in advocating for the necessary psychiatric training to prepare future psychiatrists to meet the behavioral health needs of Americans.

APA Position:

A comprehensive understanding of neuroscience and its application to psychiatric treatment should be one of the core requirements of psychiatric training.

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