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Pratik Bahekar, M.D.

President's Column

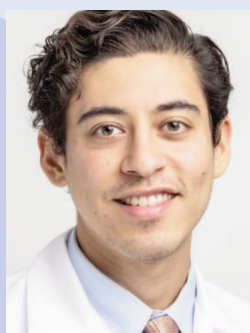
Pratik Bahekar, M.D., President, AGLP

pbahekar@aglp.org

AGLP is entering a new era. The board is vigilant about the impact of changing the sociopolitical environment and has taken several steps to address these concerns. The organization relies on the work products of various committees, including the BIPOC Committee, the Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Committee, the ECP Committee, the Education Committee, the International Members Committee, the AGLP Advocacy Committee, the Medical Student Committee, the Membership Committee, the Non-Binary/Trans Committee, the Resident/Fellow Committee, the Social Media Committee, and the Women's Committee. Everyone is invited to join the committee and push the wheels of progress forward. Each committee has a different mandate. Don't hesitate to contact Roy Harker or any board member if you wish to know more about the committees.

We are hiring a social media manager to increase the organization's visibility and counter online misinformation about mental health care. We are also collaborating with other national organizations to amplify the effects of committee work. The state of AGLP is strong, and new members are joining. AGLP is as strong as our number of members. Please consider spreading the word and encouraging your colleagues to join AGLP.

■ ■ ■



Eric Rafla-Yuan, M.D.

Should AGLP seek recognition and voting ability with the AMA?

Eric Rafla-Yuan, M.D., Vice-President, AGLP

ERafla-Yuan@aglp.org

The AGLP board is considering whether we should pursue recognition as a representative specialty organization by the American Medical Association (AMA). For those who may not have been following along, the AMA has made significant progress on LGBTQ+ issues in recent years. The AMA's immediate past president, Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, became the first openly gay person to serve as the American Medical Association's president upon his inauguration last year. Even more recently, this past June marked the promotion of the AMA LGBTQ+ Advisor Committee to a full AMA section with voting

ability. Actions like these, as well as AMA's increasing body of work on policies promoting LGBTQ+ health, have garnered attention from journalists and activists alike.

In 2013, GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality pursued a seat in AMA's House of Delegates, which as they state on their website, allows GLMA "to have a direct impact on national health policy as well as nominate and endorse candidates for various positions with the AMA." To seek membership in the AMA's House of Delegates, AGLP would need to demonstrate that enough of our members are also AMA members. There are no additional costs or fees for individuals or the organization. However, it may still present a challenge, as psychiatrists are often less likely than other medical specialists to join the AMA.

Do you have any thoughts on this issue? Do you see value in AMA membership as an individual or for AGLP as an organization? Please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know. I can be reached directly at erafla-yuan@aglp.org.

■ ■ ■

The Newsletter of AGLP

Published quarterly from 1512 Spruce Street
#2601, Philadelphia, PA 19102-3707.

The views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the opinions of AGLP. The sexual orientation of any writer or any person mentioned in the Newsletter should not be inferred unless specifically stated. Mailing lists for the Newsletter are confidential, to be used only by AGLP, and do not imply sexual orientation.

INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

Persons wishing to submit articles for publication should send them to the National Office, 1512 Spruce Street #2601, Philadelphia, PA 19102; phone 215-222-2800; E-mail: AGLPeditors@aglp.org. Submissions become the property of AGLP. The Newsletter reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Name, address, daytime telephone number, and a short biographical statement about the author should accompany the submission even if the author requests anonymity in publication (which is discouraged).

ADVERTISING RATES

The Newsletter of AGLP accepts limited advertising depending upon space and applicability to issues affecting psychiatrists who either are part of the LGBTQ+ community or who treat LGBTQ+ patients. The mailing lists for AGLP are confidential and never sold or provided to any vendor.

Full Page Ad	\$450
Half-Page Ad	\$250
Business Card	\$150

Community service announcements are printed without charge, but are accepted only on a limited basis depending upon space limitations and applicability.

AGLP National Office

Roy Harker, Executive Director

rharker@aglp.org

1512 Spruce Street #2601

Philadelphia, PA 19102-3707

info@aglp.org

www.aglp.org

Editor's Column Donya Ahmadian, MPH

AGLPeditors@aglp.org



Donya Ahmadian, MPH

Dearest AGLP Family,

I'd like to invite you to share a moment of gratitude and silent reflection with me as you begin reading all the wonderful joys that AGLP has to share with you. There's a saying in a community organization that I frequent in their closing welcome statement, where a staff member greets us cheerily, noting that it is "*it is good to be here together.*" Her saying has always stuck with me. In many places that we gather, in our social or professional lives, we may not be quite sure of our place or sense of belonging. It takes quite some time to build that sense of familiarity and comfort, as we have discussed in previous issues. When we are seeking these efforts and shaping our lives into the landscapes we hope them to be, it can take years before we truly begin to ask ourselves if that deep knowing of connection is felt. At times, we can be so focused on belonging, that we quiet the growing voice in our hearts that is not quite sure we've found our landing place. However, this is all the beauty of discovery and this same beauty is what we get to celebrate, in both conscious and unconscious ways, when we gather together. One very strong example of this is the APA conference in May, where we are surrounded by so many advocates and partners in this shared work, nourishing a sense of intrinsic belonging that is simply *of itself so*.

I see and feel this saying everywhere now (*of itself so*)....in all things, that without forced transfiguration, simply are. In this way, such a thing is admired for its' natural state of being, creating a sense of flow and ease that is found when we are in community. As we reflect upon our time in May, (whether you were in person or in your hearts), and all the wonderful connections we have fostered, we are reminded of this same sense of community that emerges during this unique moments. Through shared purpose and intention, we can foster the beauty of our natural connection to one another. In this time, under one shared space, you shared your work with one another, learned together, grew together, and experienced a rare moment of felt partnership in *real time*.

// **Through shared purpose and intention, we can foster the beauty of our natural connection to one another.**

Although we are now in August, we hope you can return to this shared place on both joyful days, where that sense of flow is felt, and those where we grow weary and it may feel farther to grasp. To recall and bring to mind that no matter the distance, there is family and shared values of which you belong to, always.

Thank you so much for slowing down with me; for taking a moment to reflect on the many things belonging has meant to us at AGLP. We are a part of something greater because our work, devotion, and love for increasing equity and dismantling discrimination is collective. Through this, we've created a space where everyone belongs, and let us continue to dwell in the significance of that.

Yours,

Donya Ahmadian, MPH
(she/her/hers)

■ ■ ■



View this and all AGLP Newsletters by visiting our website at www.AGLP.org. Scan the QR Code to the left to visit the entire archive.

Announcement from Caroline Yi:

Dear AGLP Members,

The Medical Student Committee is seeking Program Directors to both update their residency program database and to have 2-3 as guests on an upcoming Zoom panel focusing on interview tips regarding the upcoming application cycle. Possible dates include September 7th, 14th, or the 21st, depending upon PD availability. If interested, please reach out to Caroline Yi at cyi@som.umaryland.edu.

Queer, Nonbinary, and Trans Committee

Sarah Noble, D.O.

SNoble@aglp.org



Sarah Noble, D.O.

It was so wonderful and inspiring to see everyone in NYC this spring! I was delighted to meet so many trainees and I hope to stay in contact with all of you! We have a lot of work to do to protect LGBTQ+ rights as well as disability and minority rights. We have a supreme court determined to undermine precedent, state legislatures and courts who are building on their prior draconian laws, and a pretty terrifying election coming up. I encourage you all to sign up for Vet-ER and get your patients registered to vote. In addition, come to the Legal Advocacy Committee and Trans/Nonbinary Committee Meetings and help us to create campaigns for change.



PDA Column: NPI Gender Marker Update

Fi Fonseca

fdfonseca9@gmail.com



Fi Fonseca, M.D.

We don't have a professional development or advocacy update for you in this newsletter issue. Instead, we welcome the start of the academic year with new medical students, new residents and fellows, and new early career psychiatrists. This time of year is one for us to recommit to our goals of advocating for our profession and for our patients, and to take a moment to reflect upon ways in which we can support the field in moving forward by creating change while continuing to nurture and cultivate what already exists, building upon the strengths of the past. In a similar vein, we also wanted to spotlight advocacy efforts by Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality- also known as GLMA (previously known as the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association). Originally open only to physicians, residents and medical students, in 2002, GLMA expanded its mission and currently represents the interests of LGBTQ+ health professionals of all kinds, as well as LGBTQ+ patients and families. All of us with a license to practice within the US have National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) and the new and exciting update is that you can change your gender marker - which now includes an X unspecified option thanks to GLMA's efforts with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services! GLMA hosted a webinar to educate folks about this. This webinar also addresses why it is important for NPI profiles to have the gender marker X option, and future implications of this change. You can find the GLMA webinar about this at: https://glma.org/past_webinars_npi_profile_upd.php and you can update your NPI at: <https://npes.cms.hhs.gov/> Please share this information widely with your gender diverse colleagues and mentees as you settle into this new academic year.



Pearls of Wisdom Requests

In this space, we will feature brief words of wisdom from our AGLP family. These pieces may be testimonies of lived experiences, words of advice, mentorship, previous works you have written, calls to action, and beyond. We would love to feature you. Please submit anything you'd like to share, no matter the length, to donyaahmadian91@gmail.com!



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AGLP REPRESENTATIVE TO THE APA ASSEMBLY (ACROSS)
Kevo Rivera, M.D. hellodactorkevo@gmail.com



Support AGLP today! Upgrade to a Patron Level Membership

AGLP derives 13% of our budget from members who support us at the patron level. Your additional support helps finance the social and educational events we have planned for the San Francisco APA. AGLP fosters a community of LGBTQ+ psychiatrists who can advocate for our patients and find support for ourselves, and organize cutting edge educational programming. If you become a patron, you will be invited to our VIP reception on Monday May 22 at 6pm.

Additionally, you can donate to our medical student travel fund to help fund medical students to come to the APA conference. You can donate to the John O'Donnell Medical Student Travel Fund by clicking on [this secure link](#). Or contact Roy Harker at RHarker@aglp.org. See www.aglp.org for more information.

■ ■ ■

APA 2024 Mental Health Services Conference

Baltimore, MD, Sept. 26-28, 2024



Baltimore Hilton - Inner Harbor
401 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

REGISTER TODAY...>

RESERVE YOUR ROOM ...>

■ ■ ■

AGLP Executive Fall Business Meeting

Saturday, September 28, 2024
9:00am to 12:00noon

Zoom Virtual Conference

Registration Required: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

REGISTER NOW...>

Or Register through the AGLP website at www.aglp.org

■ ■ ■



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS 2024

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Ezra Axinto-Fletcher
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Michelle Tong, M.D.
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Mika Verner
Gunter Wagner, M.D.
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Stanley Yantis, M.D.

Time Capsule

Step into our Time Capsule, a nostalgic journey through past newsletter highlights. Together, we can re-visit and celebrate the stories that continue to inspire our journey together.

First, we will be exploring David Scasta, MD's piece, the "March on Washington," from the December 1987 issue.

WE WERE THERE!



Capitol Mall during the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, October 11, 1987. Story and pictures on Pages 6-7.



1780



Pennsylvania Avenue on the way to the Capitol



Viewing the Great Quilt memorializing victims of AIDS



Staging Area at the White House Ellipse

December, 1987; XIII(4)

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

David Scasta, M.D.

There is no way to describe what a spine tingling thrill it was to march behind the banner of AGLP onto the Capitol Mall filled with hundreds of thousands of gay men and women. Although the park police estimated the crowd at 200,000, it was clearly an underestimate. I was in Washington during the NOW march a year earlier. The Mall totally swallowed the estimated 80,000 marchers. With this march, however, the Mall was packed. March organizers estimated that over 500,000 people participated. CBS Radio reportedly estimated over 800,000. AGLP stood in line for three and a half hours before a position could be found in the line. We were joined by the Association of Lesbian and Gay Psychologists, the National Association of Social Workers, and the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights. Our numbers waxed and waned throughout the day as people left to visit friends in other groups. Many AGLP members marched with their city delegations and other local gay groups. Despite the dispersion, we had about 25 people under the banner. Several more split the distance between AGLP and AAPHRA since they belonged to both groups.

We arrived on the Mall in the late afternoon and quickly became tired of standing around. About 5:00, I resolved to leave and was on my way out when I saw the Philadelphia contingent swing onto the Mall. I decided to wait to cheer my home town on. I cheered...and cheered...and cheered and finally stopped but still they kept coming. Hundreds of yards of people waving pink flags with liberty bells on them. It took forever for the 3000 people to pass. I am sorry that I missed the sight of Los Angeles, with a delegation of over 30,000 people, parading into the Mall earlier in the day.

I will never forget the reaction of one black woman - with an obvious histrionic streak - who pressed her hands to her head, bent up and down at the waist, and delightedly shrieked, "Oh, my God! Psychiatrists too! I don't believe it!" But for me, nothing compared to the sense of camaraderie and pride that I felt at the beginning of the day when we entered with our banner into the staging area of the Ellipse to the applause and cheers of those all around us. We have been detached from our community for a long time. It was good to be welcomed home.

It was truly a magnificent march - covered on *Nightline*, "Person of the Week," and the front page of many newspapers across the country. It was probably the largest collection of gay people in history. We must not let the spirit die.

AGLP 2024 Award Winners

Presented by Amir Ahuja, M.D., President of AGLP, in San Francisco



Robert Kertzner, M.D., (center), receives the 2024 APA John Fryer M.D. from APA President Petros Levounis, M.D. (right), and Howard Rubin, M.D. (left), Chair of the Fryer Award Committee. The John E Fryer, MD, Award honors an individual whose work has contributed to the mental health of sexual and gender minorities. It was named for John Fryer, the psychiatrist who appeared as "Dr. H. Anonymous" at the 1972 APA meeting and helped move forward the process of removing the diagnosis of homosexuality from the DSM. The Award was funded by AGLP members, a matching grant from the Gill Foundation, and a bequest from AGLP founding member Frank Rundle, MD.



Richard Dudley, Jr., M.D. receives the AGLP 2024 Distinguished Service Award, AGLP's first designated award, given to an individual for outstanding contributions to the LGBTQ+ community. Over the years, it has been awarded to AGLP members whose work extends past the reach of the organization, to supportive APA officials, and to public figures.



Jack Drescher, M.D., receives the award for **Amy Hoffman, M.D.**, recipient of the 2024 Barbara Gittings Award, created in 2010. The award is presented each year to a woman who demonstrates exceptional leadership and advocacy for LGBTQ+ issues.



Amir Ahuja, M.D., receives the 2024 James Paulsen Award from Pratik Behakar, M.D., incoming President of AGLP. The James Paulsen Award, created in 1996, is presented annually to an AGLP member who has made significant contributions to the ongoing life of the organization.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED AGLP IN 2023 AND 2024

EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION

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NAME: _____

DEGREE: _____ PREFERRED (NICK) 1ST NAME: _____

- ☐ FULL MEMBER - \$315 ☐ MEMBER OF THE APA
☐ RESIDENT - \$65
☐ MEDICAL STUDENT - \$0
☐ EARLY CAREER - \$140 (1ST 3 YEARS OUT OF TRAINING)
☐ FRIEND/ALLY - \$110
☐ INTERNATIONAL (OUTSIDE US AND CANADA) - \$140 (US CUR.)
☐ FOUNDING (PATRON LEVEL) - \$1,000
☐ PATRON (PATRON LEVEL) - \$500
☐ SPONSORING (PATRON LEVEL) - \$375

IF A STUDENT OR RESIDENT, DATE OF COMPLETION: _____

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APPLICATION FORM

CAUCUS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PSYCHIATRISTS AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

(CLGBTP is the official APA minority caucus for lesbian, gay and bisexual psychiatrists. Membership lists are maintained by the APA; confidentiality is not assured. Membership is free.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

APA Membership Status: _____

Please enroll me in the Caucus of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Psychiatrists.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Send this form to: Office of Membership
American Psychiatric Association
1000 Wilson Boulevard • Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209

YOU MAY ALSO UPDATE YOUR ONLINE MEMBERSHIP PROFILE AT WWW.PSYCHIATRY.ORG BY CHECKING OFF THE APPROPRIATE CAUCUS(ES) IN QUESTION 3FA "APA CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP" IN SECTION 3: CURRENT PRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES.



Next year, Los Angeles will host the APA/AGLP Annual Meeting, May 17 - May 21, 2025.



Fill out this application, or scan this QR code, and become part of our community!