



# Asian Neuropsychological Association

1001 Potrero Avenue 7M  
San Francisco, CA 94110

June 14, 2020

## BOARD MEMBERS

President  
Daryl Fujii, PhD, ABPP-CN

President Elect  
Nicholas Thaler, PhD, ABPP-CN

Secretary  
Lauren Mai, PsyD

Treasurer  
Mimi Wong, PhD

Member-at-large  
Jasdeep Hundal, PsyD, ABPP-CN

Student Committee  
Alexander Tan, PhD

Dear ANA and Psychology Community,

The Asian Neuropsychological Association (ANA) denounces violence and asks our community to assist us in supporting our Black colleagues, patients and community members in the wake of the appalling deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others including Rayshard Brooks very recently. We are deeply saddened and angered by the continuous killing of Black persons due to police brutality. The pervasiveness of racial bias in the criminal justice system and the high rate of Black lives lost at the hands of police is a clarion call for national police reform. This is particularly devastating given that the Black community is already disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with higher rates of infection and death. These incidents of death and violence are traumatizing for the Black community, and exposure to these events continues to contribute to disparate harmful physical and psychological health outcomes. ANA is resolute in our efforts to fight against systemic racism and racial health inequities. As a community who understands the injustices borne out of racism, we cannot stand by and be silent. We must listen with empathy, try to understand, raise our voices, and promote efforts to change.

One actionable step ANA has taken is to form a new Advocacy Committee within ANA to promote efforts for change on a larger scale. In addition to our mission of promoting local and national legislation and policy aimed at addressing injustices and disparities in neuropsychological health care for Asians and Asian Americans, we also aim to provide support, both active and in spirit, to those who suffer from societal disparity and injustice within ANA and beyond. ANA has partnered with the Society for Black Neuropsychology and the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society to be part of a larger multicultural coalition of neuropsychologists and trainees devoted to these efforts. We will also advocate with other professional organizations (e.g. American Psychological Association, International Neuropsychology Society, National Academy of Neuropsychology, American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology) to provide an active voice and united front to address racial inequities and disparities in our field.

Another step ANA has taken is to compile a list of resources to support self-education and self-reflection. As the racist actions of Christopher Keys, Patricia Ripley, and Amy Cooper illustrate, although we can outwardly espouse equality among all people, we may harbor hidden prejudices that knowingly or unknowingly lead to hurtful behaviors towards others. These prejudices not only apply to White persons, but can be found in traditional values from many Asian communities that marginalize and at times actively shun Black or dark skin. As has been courageously discussed by members on our listserv, this time of unrest is an opportunity to reflect on our own unconscious attitudes and biases toward people who are different from us. Historically, we have had shameful incidents of Asian-Black racial tension as well as proud examples of Asian-Black solidarity. Self-education can facilitate our ability to

provide affirmative and competent neuropsychological care to our patients, reduce biases in our research, provide needed support to our friends and colleagues, and allow us to bravely stand up to injustices. Our list of resources will be posted to the ANA website and list serve shortly.

We understand this may be a particularly challenging time for our Asian community as many of us may still be actively experiencing and processing the deleterious impacts of the anti-Asian racism related to COVID-19, yet we, as helping professionals, are also called to examine our own prejudices and biases towards others. The Advocacy Committee is formed with the intention to represent the full spectrum of ANA membership and we are here for all members of ANA. We strongly encourage members to communicate to us your thoughts and/or needs via either private or public channels (see below for communication contacts). We are also working on creating new platforms that will allow safe and more casual conversational spaces.

So let this time of crises be an opportunity for us to come together and help change the world and ourselves for the better.

Respectfully,

Asian Neuropsychological Association Board

Advocacy Committee:

Co-Chairs: Farzin Irani - [firani@aaaneuropsych.com](mailto:firani@aaaneuropsych.com) and Christina Wong - [WONGC7@ccf.org](mailto:WONGC7@ccf.org)

Members: Sana Arastu, Michelle Chen, Cecilia Han, Yue (Doris) Hong, Rowena Ng, Vanessa Zhou.