

## DIVERSITY CORNER: NEW COLUMN

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Above all, psychological clinical science is dedicated to the integration of empirical methods into the practice of mental health treatments, and the advancement of clinical psychology as an applied science. But only slightly beyond these core value lies another lauded and cherished ideal: Diversity. From psychology training programs to licensing board requirements to NIMH guidelines regarding sampling methods and beyond, our field recognizes and appreciates that race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, religion, language, socioeconomic status, age, geography, nationality, physical ability, and other factors can indelibly shape human experiences and must be considered in the context of our work.

Consonant with this value, earlier this year SSCP undertook to sample its membership to examine how diverse, in fact, we truly are. Admittedly, the survey instrument did not assess for many important aspects of diversity (such as those noted above). Nevertheless, the sobering results from the survey, which was completed by approximately 1/3 of SSCP members (n = 184), suggest that we are a rather homogenous group (see Table below).

#### Diversity of SSCP Members

<b>Race</b>		<b>Sexual Orientation</b>		<b>Gender</b>	
White	161	Heterosexual	154	Female	114
Asian	10	Bisexual	11	Male	69
African American	5	Gay	9	No response	1
Multi-Racial	4	Lesbian	4		
Pacific Islander	1	Other	4		
No response	3	No response	2		

These results seem to indicate that a disparity exists between our value of diversity and the degree to which diverse populations are represented by our membership. More broadly, they were viewed as a symptom of a greater problem: While our field gives much lip service to the importance of diversity, its representation – in real terms! – within psychological clinical science remains minimal, if not dismal.

To this end, under Bethany Teachman's leadership, SSCP formed its very own Diversity Committee in April of this year, including the following founding members:

- David H. Rosmarin, McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School (Chair)
- Ben Hankin, University of Denver (Representative to SSCP board)
- Joye Anestis, University of Southern Mississippi (Member)
- Joseph P. Gone, University of Michigan (Member)
- Sarah Tarbox, Yale University (Member)
- Susan Lin, University of Hawaii (Student Member)
- Adam Miler, George Mason University (Student Member)
- Yesel Yoon, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Student Member)

The SSCP Diversity Committee was charged with the following two tasks: (1) To enhance and increase the diversity of SSCP membership, and (2) to further the mission of psychological clinical science as it applies to diversity issues.

The committee's first initiative is this very column, "The Diversity Corner," which will be repeated in each issue of Clinical Science. Planned future columns include interviews with successful clinical scientists from diverse backgrounds, features of recent research on the science of diversity as it applies to clinical psychology, and "how to" guidelines about promoting diversity within SSCP and more broadly.

Beyond this contribution, SSCP's Diversity Committee has already conducted a review of diversity initiatives by other organizations within our field (e.g., APA, ABCT), and generated a list of potential initiatives to implement, including: (1) Compiling lists of evidence-based treatments and assessment tools that have been implemented with diverse groups; (2) Assembling a special issue for a peer-reviewed clinical science journal on diversity-related issues; (3) including a section on the SSCP website about diversity; and other ideas as well. As a precursor to implementation, however, an informal interview process is now underway with the leadership from APA Division 12, Section VI (Clinical Psychology of Ethnic Minorities) and APA division 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race) and other prominent psychologists who study diversity and are not (yet) SSCP members to determine why they have yet to join our ranks. Ultimately, it is hoped that these initiatives will go beyond the ubiquitous "awareness-raising" when it comes to diversity, and create measurable outcomes that will make us all proud.