

2021 Update - New Jersey Inter-Mental Health and Psychological Associations Coalition (IMPAC) – Expanding Inclusion

This year, IMPAC focused on discussions of expanding IMPAC, for the purpose of being more inclusive, and as a result the coalition got a little bigger. IMPAC welcomes Jasdeep S. Hundal, Psy.D., ABPP, Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Neurology, Director of Neuropsychology, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Dr. Hundal is a member of the Asian Neuropsychological Association (ANA), and shares that he has a long-standing interest in equity for **Asian-Americans**, particularly those of South-Asian descent and combating the stigma around the idea of model minority. Not often highlighted is a bimodal distribution of wealth, education, and health care utilization among South Asians. He goes on to share that this lack of understanding often limits allocation of needed resources and services. He has a few projects in the infancy stage that may help change some of these opinions. Two projects that are of particular interest to him includes ageing (healthy and otherwise) in the NJ based South Asian Community and developing culturally appropriate normative data tables to better detect cognitive changes on neuropsychological assessments among non-native English Language Speakers. We look forward to our joint efforts in 2022.

The 2022 members of IMPAC will include

2022 LMHANJ President Azara Santiago Rivera, PhD, NCC

2022 NJPA President-Elect, Aida Ismael-Lennon, PsyD

2022 NJABPsi President, Barbara Prempeh, PsyD

Jasdeep S. Hundal, Psy.D., ABPP, Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Neurology, Director of Neuropsychology, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Mission Statement - Through the New Jersey Inter-Mental Health and Psychological Associations Coalition (IMPAC), NJABPsi, LMHANJ, and NJPA join together as equal partners to contribute their unique educational acumen, expertise, experience, and perspectives to obtain synergy as a resource to promote equality in mental health care and to zealously advocate for the mental health needs for the diverse population of the state of New Jersey. This will be accomplished by our respective organizations working together to develop initiatives to educate the public, as well as healthcare providers through training, professional presentations and mobilizing resources as needed to provide counseling and psychological services under emergent circumstances

IMPAC History by LMANJ Past-President Milton A. Fuentes, Psy.D.

In 2016, discussions began between Joseph Connell of NJABPsi, Aileen Torres and Daniel Cruz of LMANJ, and Barry Katz and Hulon Newsome of NJPA about how the three associations could collaborate. This was in effect a listening tour which allowed

for understanding of the mission, structure and operations of each organization, and for exploration of the history of relationships between the organizations.

These early efforts set in motion a preliminary agreement to collaborate based on mutual respect for the respective organizational cultures and missions. The next moment in this evolution occurred at a workshop hosted by the NJPA Executive Board. The workshop was shortened version of Undoing Racism (which is an excellent program by The Peoples Institute for Survival and Beyond). Members of all the associations were in attendance. There was a lot of energy in the room on that day. It was during the debriefing after the workshop that the idea of forming a coalition was raised. With the momentum of this idea, subsequent meetings between the leaders of the three associations resulted in a mission statement, approved by all three associations'' executive boards. The original suggested name of the group was the Inter-Psychological Association Coalition (IPAC); however, the members of the coalition wanted a name that was truly inclusive all the associations' missions, as LMHANJ represented an array of mental health professionals (*e.g., counselors, social workers, and psychologists*).