

APA Resident-Fellow Member Handbook (Final Draft)

Welcome!

As you start to develop your professional career as a resident/fellow, you may find yourself interested in organized medicine and how to become involved as resident-fellow member (RFM). This document serves as a guide for understanding the various opportunities available. Keep in mind these opportunities may change, and others may develop in the years to come.

Please refer to the Resident-Fellow Member Caucus and/or APA website psychiatry.org/residents-medical-students/residents for most updated information.

-Brooke Olson, MD (Handbook editor, 2025)

Resident-Fellow Member (RFM) Caucus

In early 2025, the Caucus was created to make a definite space for RFMs to regularly meet to receive updates from APA RFM leaders, discuss ideas relevant to RFMs, and learn about opportunities to get involved at APA. This includes supporting the RFM voice within APA, such as presenting at the APA meeting, creating items for the APA Assembly, writing articles, and strengthening advocacy efforts. There are also opportunities to become a leader within the RFM Caucus through an election process. This Caucus is managed by RFMs for RFMs and offers flexibility in ways RFMs can engage in APA efforts based on their interests. As the APA grows and evolves, the RFM Caucus will be the best resource for understanding updates and current opportunities beyond this handbook.

Within the APA table of organization, the RFM Caucus is under the Membership Committee (a Standing Committee), providing an advisory function for the Caucus. This Caucus also works closely with the Council on Medical Education and Lifelong Learning (a Council) to strengthen the visibility of residents and fellows within APA. This handbook will review the APA table of organization in more detail.

For more information, including how to sign up: [Psychiatry.org](https://psychiatry.org) - APA Caucuses

Acronym Glossary

ABPN	American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
ACORF	Assembly Committee of Area Resident-Fellow Members
ACGME	Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
ACROSS	Assembly Committee of Representatives of Subspecialties and Sections
AEC	Assembly Executive Committee
AITs	Action Item Tracking System
AJP	American Journal of Psychiatry
AMA HOD	American Medical Association House of Delegates
AP	Action Paper
APAPAC	American Psychiatric Association Political Action Committee
APAF	American Psychiatric Association Foundation
AMA-RFS	American Medical Association Resident Fellow Section
ASM	Assembly
BOT	Board of Trustees
CAN	Congressional Advocacy Network
CAP	Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
CRCR	Council of Review Committee Residents (ACGME)
DSM	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
ECP	Early Career Psychiatrist
DB/SA	District Branch/State Association
GM	General Member
IMG	International Medical Graduate
JRC	Joint Reference Committee
M/UR	Minority/Underrepresented
RC	Review Committee (ACGME)
RFM	Resident-Fellow Member
RFMT	Resident-Fellow Member Trustee
RFMTE	Resident-Fellow Member Trustee-Elect
PsychSIGN	Psychiatry Student Interest Group Network
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

How to Connect with APA on Social Media

APA:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#)

[X](#)

[Instagram](#)

[TikTok](#)

[YouTube](#)

APA Foundation (APAF):

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#)

[X](#)

[Instagram](#)

APA Communities: community.psychiatry.org/home

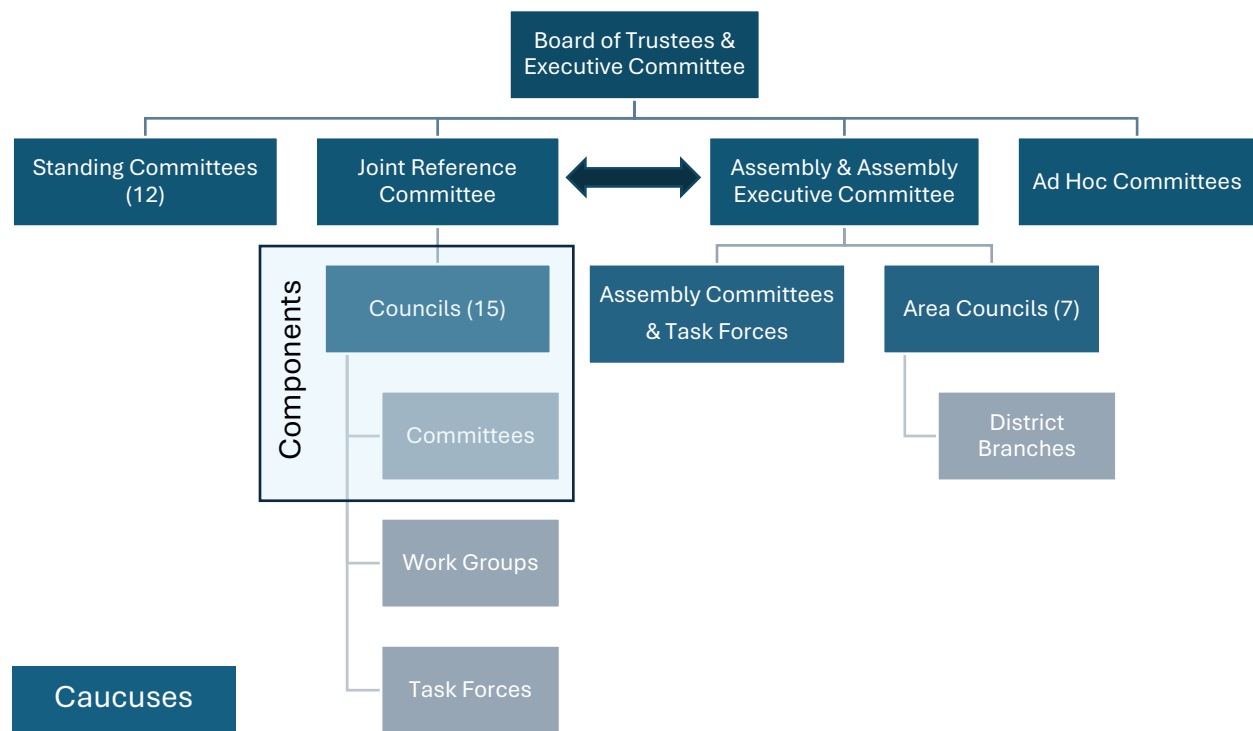
To Join the Chief Resident Listserv: email membership@psych.org

links last updated in Jan 2026

The Basics

The organization of American Psychiatric Association can be confusing at first. Below is a chart to better understand the structure of APA and how the various RFM opportunities fit into the larger organization. Please use this as a reference throughout the document and as you become involved in APA!

APA Governance Structure



Typically, RFM opportunities are a part of a larger APA group of general members to ensure that residents and fellows are being represented and have a voice in significant APA meetings and discussions. However, this can result in fragmentation among RFM members of APA on knowing about these various positions as well as having a natural space for communication between these selected RFMs and the overall RFM community.

Board of Trustees (BOT) & Executive Committee

The Board is the governing body of the APA that has the responsibility of formulating and implementing the policies of the APA as well as maintaining the long-term vision of APA operations. Given its vital function, the Board also includes a Trustee from each Area (see *the Assembly section for explanation on Areas*), Trustee-at-Large, Early Career Psychiatrist (ECP) Trustee, Minority and Underrepresented (M/UR) Trustee, two recently past APA Presidents, Parliamentarian, Assembly Speaker-Elect, and three APAF Fellowship Chairs without voting privileges.

The BOT also includes the Executive Committee, which includes the APA President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Assembly Speaker, and CEO/Medical Director.

****Opportunity: Resident-Fellow Member Trustee (RFMT)***

Each year, a Resident-Fellow Member Trustee-Elect (RFMT-Elect) is nationally elected by the RFM community to serve in a position on the APA Board of Trustees (BOT) and be the voice for RFMs at the level of the Board. This is a two-year position. In the first year, the RFMT-Elect attends BOT meetings with the current RFMT without voting privileges. In the second year, the member transitions to the title of RFMT and gains voting privileges during meetings. Meetings occur about 4-5 times per year but may meet more often at the discretion of the APA President. You must be a RFM for both years of the term to serve.

Note: You cannot serve as a RFMTE/RFMT **AND** be an APA/APAF Fellow or RFM Area Rep/Dep Rep concurrently.

Application Deadline: Early September (for a 2-year position starting the following May)

Election: January

More Info: [Psychiatry.org - Resident Leadership Opportunities](https://www.psychiatry.org/resident-leadership-opportunities)

Standing Committees

Standing Committees are in their own separate branch and conduct business affairs of the APA. These Committees are advisory committees and report to the BOT. The number of Standing Committees can change based on the BOT's discretion. The additional committees appointed by BOT are referred to as Non-Standing Committees.

The 8 Standing Committees (and current 4 Non-Standing Committees) are as follows:

Committee on Bylaws	Elections Committee	Ethics Committee	Finance and Budget Committee
Joint Reference Committee*	Membership Committee	Nominating Committee	Tellers Committee
Structural Racism Accountability Committee	Audit Committee	Investment Oversight Committee	Conflict of Interest Committee

**The Joint Reference Committee is unique as it also directly communicates with the Components and the Assembly*

Aside from the JRC, the President designates a chairperson for each committee and fills committee vacancies as they occur.

There is no requirement for RFMs to be appointed to any APA Standing Council, but RFMs can apply to serve. To apply for a position on a Standing Committee, you submit an online application as a “nomination” for a Standing Committee. Typically, the application is open in the fall for an appointment to a specific Committee starting the May of the following year. You must also reapply to be considered for a reappointment.

More information: [Psychiatry.org - Standing Committees](https://www.psychiatry.org/standing-committees)

Joint Reference Committee

The Joint Reference Committee (JRC) is a Standing Committee that acts as a liaison between the Board of Trustees, the Assembly, and the APA’s components (APA Councils and Committees). The Committee reviews items (e.g. action papers, position statements, resource documents) that it receives and then refers each item to the appropriate part of the APA governance, with required periodic updates and/or reports to JRC on activity related to the referred item. The voting members of JRC include the President-Elect (Chairperson), Speaker-Elect (Vice Chairperson), Immediate Past President, one additional

member of the BOT appointed by the President, two additional members of the Assembly, and APA CEO & Medical Director.

Non-voting members include the chairpersons of the Councils as well as a **RFM representative from each of the following Fellowships (3 reps in total): Leadership, SAMHSA or Diversity Leadership, and Public Psychiatry**. These representatives have insights and can provide updates on Action Papers, Position Statements, and other items that JRC reviews. Although the RFM Reps cannot vote, they can offer recommendations during JRC meetings.

APA Councils & Committees

Under JRC, there are the APA Councils and Committees, which are smaller groups of content experts that focus on specific aspects of psychiatric practice, training, research, and other interests of the APA. **Residents/fellows typically interact with these groups when they participate as a part of an APA/APAF Fellowship or ask for feedback on an Action Paper for the upcoming APA Assembly meeting.** Unless you have a connection currently with the Council, the best way to contact a Council is through the assigned APA staff.

Each Council is composed of 12 voting members, including the chairperson. One member of the Council must be an ECP and one member of the Council is selected from the Assembly. Appointments and term duration (1-3 years) vary to maintain continuity on each Council. With approval of the Board, Councils can create and eliminate informal workgroups and act within their area of interest to implement the objectives of APA.

Committees are established within a Council to perform ongoing functions. Each committee is made up of 6 voting members at most. Each Council reassesses the need for a specific committee every three years.

Subcommittees are created at the request of a committee for an ongoing function that falls within the committee's purview. Typically, a subcommittee is made up of six members or fewer.

Task Forces are developed to carry out a specific, time-limited task and are disbanded after the final report. They are composed of up to four members, including the chairperson.

Workgroups are within a Council and usually contains Council members to work specific time-limited projects.

LIST OF APA COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Council on Addiction Psychiatry

Council on Advocacy and Government Relations (CAGR)

Council on Children, Adolescents, and their Families

Council on Communications

- Spanish Language Communications Committee

Council on Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry

Council on Digital Health, Innovation, and Technology

Council on Geriatric Psychiatry

Council on Healthcare Systems and Financing

- Committee on Reimbursement for Psychiatric Care
- Committee on RBRVS, Codes, and Reimbursements
- Committee on Integrated Care
- Committee on Telepsychiatry

Council on International Psychiatry and Global Health

Council on Medical Education and Lifelong Learning (CMELL)

- Committee on Innovation
- Committee on Lifestyle Psychiatry
- Committee on Well-Being and Burnout
- Scientific Program Committee of the Annual Meeting
- Scientific Program Committee of the Mental Health Service Conference
- Vestemark Award Committee

Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities

Council on Psychiatry and Law

- Committee on Judicial Action

Council on Quality Care

- Committee on Mental Health Information Technology
- Committee on Quality and Performance Measurement
- Committee on Practice Guidelines

Council on Research

- Committee on Psychiatric Dimensions of Disaster
- Committee on Climate Change and Mental Health

Council on Women's Mental Health

To apply for a position on a Council or Committee, you submit an online application as a “nomination” for a Council or Committee. Typically, the application is open throughout the fall for an appointment to the Council/Committee starting the following May. You must also reapply to be considered for a reappointment.

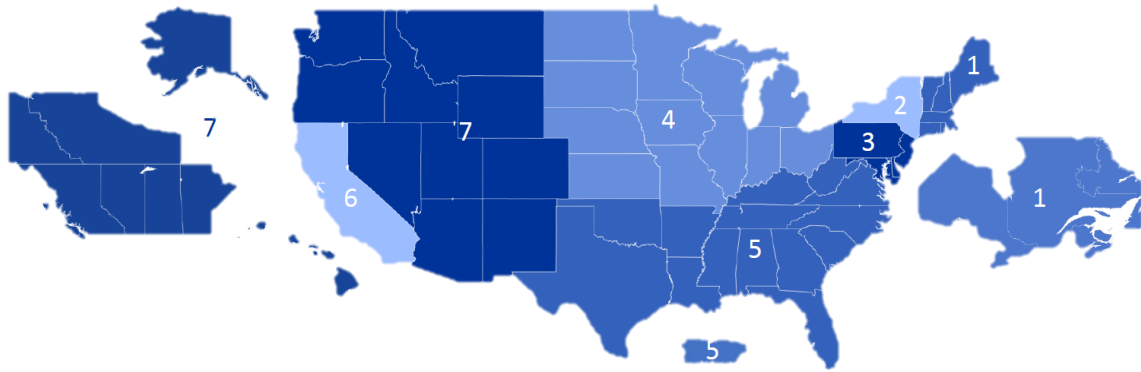
For the most updated information, please visit: [Psychiatry.org - Councils and Committees](https://psychiatry.org/councils-and-committees)

Assembly and Assembly Executive Committee

The APA Assembly is the legislative branch of the APA. The Assembly consists of representatives from each District Branch (DB) or State Association (SA), representatives from approved allied organizations called ACROSS representatives (there are currently 22 ACROSS Reps), and representatives from other Assembly Committees representing specific APA member groups. **There are also two non-voting Minority Fellows in the Assembly (liaisons under ACORF).** The APA Assembly Speaker runs the Assembly meeting under Parliamentary Procedure. The Assembly facilitates the creation of Action Papers (AP), which are then presented and voted on during the Assembly meeting. The Assembly meeting occurs every spring and fall with deadlines for action papers about 2 months prior to the next Assembly meeting. **RFMs can serve as representatives from their DB/SA, elected by the members of their DB/SA. RFMs can also be Area RFM representatives, elected by their Area Council. The details of the election process vary between these groups, so please contact the group directly to learn about the details of their election process.**

For the contact information of your District Branch or State Association, please visit: [Psychiatry.org - District Branches & State Associations](https://psychiatry.org/district-branches-and-state-associations)

There are 7 Area Councils, one Council for each area listed on the map below. Each Council represents the membership of its specific Area. A Council includes DB representatives, ACROSS representatives in the Area, ECP representatives (2), any M/UR representatives in the Area, and **RFM representatives (2)**. The number of representatives per DB/SA is based on the number of voting members within the DB/SA, but each DB/SA will have 1-6 voting representatives in the APA Assembly. The Area Council is managed by one Area Representative and one Area Deputy Representative.



Area 1: New England & E. Canada

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont
Ontario
Quebec & Eastern
Canada

Area 2: New York

Bronx
Brooklyn
Central New York
Genesee Valley
Mid-Hudson
Nassau Suffolk
New York County
New York State
Capital
Northern New York
Queens County
West Hudson
Westchester County
Western New York

Area 3: Middle Atlantic

Delaware
Maryland
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
Washington, DC

Area 4: North Central

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

Area 5: South & Puerto Rico

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Puerto Rico
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Uniformed Services
Psychiatrists
Virginia
West Virginia

Area 6: California

Central California
Northern California
Orange County
San Diego
Southern California

Area 7: West & W. Canada

Alaska
Arizona
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington State
Wyoming
Western Canada

As for the Assembly Executive Committee (AEC), this committee contains the 3 Assembly Officers (Speaker, Speaker-Elect, and Recorder), 2 immediate past Speakers, the Representative and Dep Representatives from each Area Council, and the chair of each membership subgroup committee. **For RFMs, the current ACORF Chair serves as the RFM voice.** The Parliamentarian and CEO/Medical Director can also attend meetings. The AEC oversees the overall function of the Assembly, communicates with the other sections of APA governance, and reviews key items outside of the APA Assembly sessions.

There are many other Assembly Committees for current Assembly representatives only. **Each standing and special interest committee has one assigned RFM representative or deputy representative to serve as the RFM voice. Additional interested Assembly RFM representatives are encouraged to be involved in the Special Interest Committees, if the meeting is open to guests.** Below is the full list of Assembly Committees:

Standing Committees	•Assembly Executive Committee (AEC) •Assembly Nominating Committee •Assembly Committee on Procedures •Assembly Rules Committee •Assembly Awards Committee
Committees of Membership Subgroups	•Assembly Committee of Early Career Psychiatrists (ECPs) •Assembly Committee of Minority and Underrepresented Groups (M/URs) •Assembly Committee of Resident-Fellow Members (RFMs) •Assembly Committee of Representative of Subspecialties and Sections (ACROSS)
Special Interest Committees	•Assembly Committee of Public and Community Psychiatry •Assembly Committee on Access to Care •Assembly Committee on Maintenance of Certification (MOC) •Assembly Committee on Psychiatric Diagnosis and the DSM •Assembly Committee on Social Determinants of Mental Health (SDoMH)

You may also hear about various Assembly work groups and task forces, which vary based on the current Assembly's priorities and the AEC's strategic plan.

A position statement is a public-facing document that provides background information about an issue and APA's official stance on this issue. These statements can be used in advocacy efforts and can be updated over time. Current APA Position Statements are reviewed by relevant APA Councils/Committees every 5 years and brought to the APA Assembly for approval of revisions during the review process. In this scenario, JRC reviews and assigns the Position Statement to a relevant APA component for review and feedback. The Component then returns the revised Position Statement to the JRC for approval. Once approved by JRC, it is referred to the Assembly for a vote of approval. Once approved by the Assembly, then the BOT reviews the Position Statement for final action. After BOT approval, the Position Statement becomes APA Policy and is placed on the online APA's Policy Finder. If not voted through during any part of this process, the Position Statement goes back to JRC and the Component for additional review.

To find position statements, please visit the Policy Finder: [Psychiatry.org - Policy Finder](https://www.psychiatry.org/policy-finder)

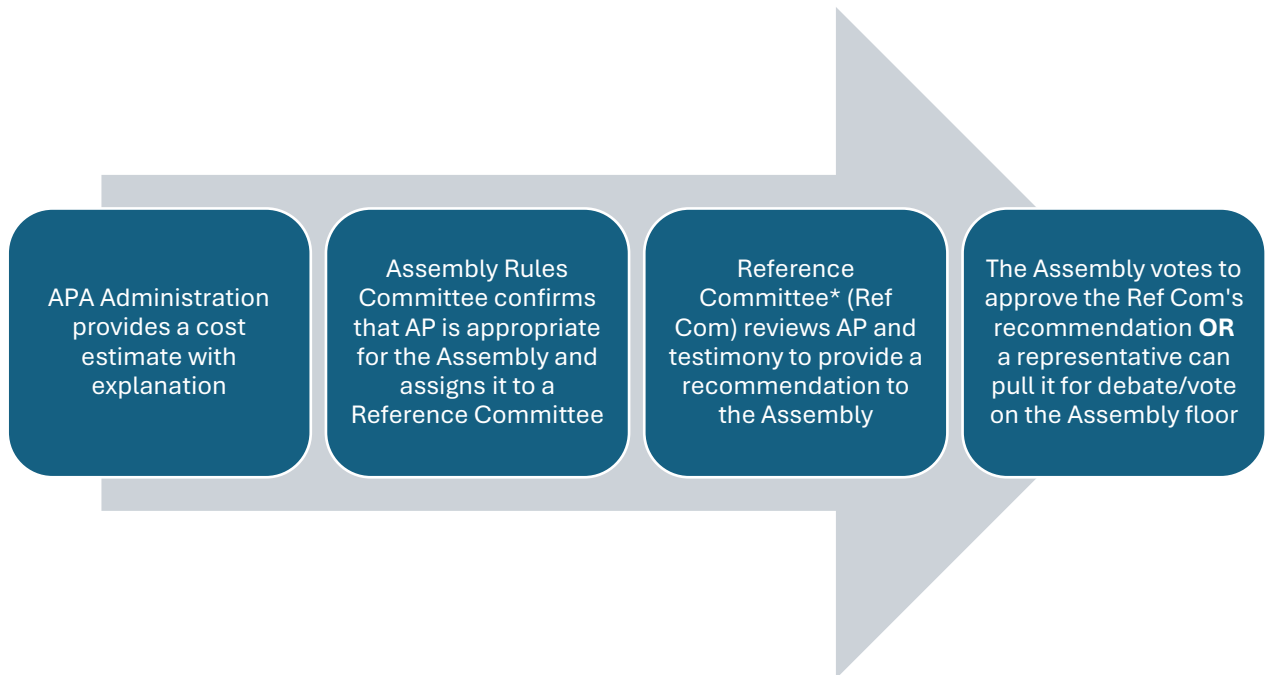
Action Papers (AP) are like “bills” as they provide background on an issue of interest with proposed actions to the APA, such as developing a workgroup, conducting more research, producing a resource document, and creating a position statement. **Any APA member can create an Action Paper, but a current APA Assembly Representative needs to present it for the Assembly to consider. The Assembly Representative does not need to be a RFM, but ACORF is more than happy to support RFMs in creating and presenting an Action Paper.** There is a specific format for Action Papers (*see the key resource below*). A draft action paper can be sent to Area Councils and Assembly Committees for review with feedback and possible endorsement (i.e. the Assembly group unanimously supports the Action Paper as written). APA Councils/Committees can provide feedback as well, but they cannot endorse Action Papers as these APA Components reside outside of the APA Assembly branch.

Key Resource: Action Paper Central- [Psychiatry.org - Action Paper Central](https://www.psychiatry.org/action-paper-central)

This resource includes:

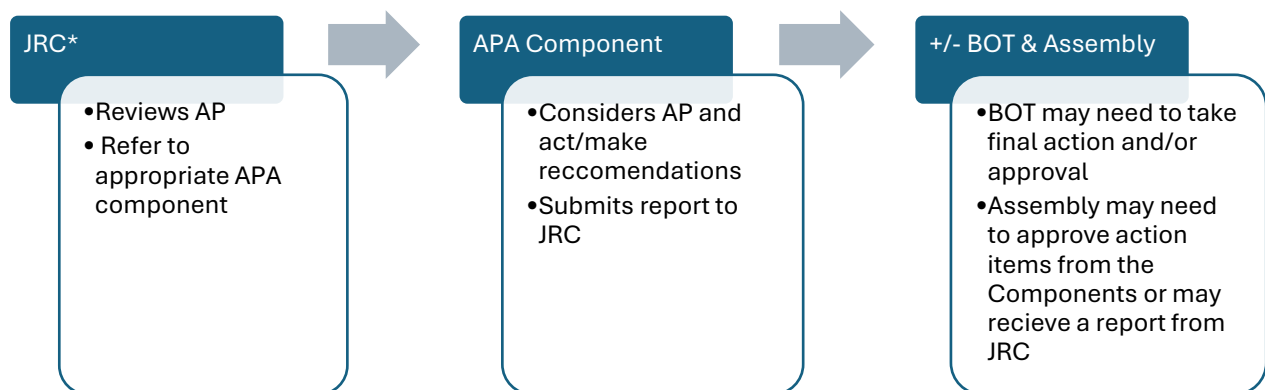
- Action Item Tracking System (AITS), where you can review previously submitted Action Papers/Position Statements or follow the path of a specific Action Paper/Position Statement
- Action Paper Template with instructions
- Resources for writing a successful action paper, including a sample action paper

The Roadmap of an Action Paper (AP) after Submission for Assembly



**Each Reference Committee has an assigned Area RFM member*

The Path of an Approved Action Paper (AP) after the Assembly



**In unique circumstances, Action Papers may be sent directly to BOT for review and action*

****Opportunity: Assembly Committee of Area Resident-Fellow Members (ACORF)***

ACORF is the RFM representation in the Assembly branch of APA. The committee has 14 RFMs, with 2 RFM representatives from each Area. Typically, a RFM is elected by their Area Council (the Area where you are currently training) to serve for two years. The first year is served as the Deputy Representative along with the Representative of your Area to learn about the policy and procedure of the APA Assembly. In the second year, the RFM takes the title of their Area Representative, and they are a leader within the committee for the Deputy Representatives. ACORF members can create and present Action Papers, serve on Assembly Committees, and collaborate on papers/initiatives with other Assembly members. ACORF representatives meet monthly as a committee and are expected to participate in the spring and fall APA Assembly meetings.

The committee is overseen by the ACORF Chair, a current RFM Representative who is elected by ACORF Committee each year. Typically, the immediate past ACORF Chair serves as a mentor to the Committee in a non-voting position. There are also two non-voting Minority Fellows appointed as liaisons by the APA Fellowship. A RFM representative also serves as a liaison to the M/UR Committee.

Application Deadline: Varies by Area Council

More Information: [Psychiatry.org - Resident Leadership Opportunities](https://www.psychiatry.org/resident-leadership-opportunities)

Ad Hoc Committees

These are committees that may be established by the Board to make recommendations for action by BOT. The composition of these committees would be at the discretion of the Board and may or may not require RFM representation.

DSM Steering Committee

The DSM Steering Committee is a group of psychiatrists with expertise in psychiatric nosology, research, and practice with strict adherence to conflict of interest standards. The Committee focuses on active revision of the DSM by reviewing proposals, current research, and public comments to provide recommendations to the APA BOT.

For RFMs interested in participating in the DSM Steering Committee, they can apply for a spot on the DSM Steering Committee as a current APAF fellow. The DSM Committee would

then review the application and make their selection. Outside of this opportunity, RFMs are encouraged to send public comments and propose change to the current DSM to the Steering Committee.

For more information, please visit: [Psychiatry.org - Submit Proposals for Making Changes to DSM-5-TR](https://psychiatry.org/submit-proposals-for-making-changes-to-dsm-5-tr)

APA Caucuses

Caucuses are groups of self-selected members with a special interest that does not require the supervision of a specific APA group, unlike a work group or task force. Caucuses have access to APA Communities to communicate, collaborate, and collect resources. This is where the current RFM Caucus resides within the APA organization. Most caucuses are open to all APA members by joining their page through APA Communities. A few caucuses require you to directly contact the assigned APA staff to join.

APA Communities: community.psychiatry.org/home

Current Caucuses:

Chiefs of Clinical Quality Improvement	Climate Change and Mental Health	College Mental Health	Global Mental Health and Psychiatry	Integrative Psychiatry	Justice Psychiatry
Lifestyle Psychiatry	Maintenance of Certification	Medical Humanities in Psychiatry	Neuromodulation	Pain Management	Psychiatric Leadership and Entrepreneurship
Psychiatrists Treating Persons with Intellectual Disabilities	Psychotherapy	Religion, Spirituality, and Psychiatry	Resident-Fellow Member (RFM)	Rural Psychiatrists	Social Determinants of Mental Health
VA Psychiatrists	American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (M/UR)	Asian-American (M/UR)	Black (M/UR)	Hispanic (M/UR)	International Medical Graduates (M/UR)
LGBTQ (M/UR)			Women (M/UR)	Early Career Psychiatrists (ECP)	

For the most updated Information, please visit: [Psychiatry.org - APA Caucuses](https://psychiatry.org/apacaucuses)

[Psychiatry.org - Minority and Underrepresented \(M/UR\) Caucuses](https://psychiatry.org/minority-and-underrepresented-mur-caucuses)

ADDITIONAL APA RFM OPPORTUNITIES

The next section is an overview of RFM opportunities outside of the traditional APA governance structure.

APA Representatives to the AMA Resident & Fellow Section (AMA-RFS)

The American Medical Association (AMA) Resident and Fellow Section (RFS) is the section of the AMA that represents and advocates for residents/fellows. The APA endorses two resident-fellow positions in the AMA-RFS to serve as a sectional delegate and an alternate sectional delegate for APA at AMA meetings for the House of Delegates (HOD), the legislative branch of the AMA. Representatives must be a current member of AMA and APA as well as remain in residency/fellowship training program during the one-year appointment term (the term starts in November at the conclusion of the Interim Meeting). For RFS delegates who have received endorsement from APA, APA will cover the expenses of attending the meetings.

Representatives submit resolutions (AMA's version of "bills"), assist in the policy review process, attend caucus meetings, and vote during the AMA Annual Meeting (June) and Interim Meeting (November) of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD).

Interested residents and fellows apply through AMA for these positions. The application is an online nomination form, which includes a signed letter of endorsement from APA. Candidates can self-nominate or be nominated by another RFS member up until the Interim Business Meeting. Elections are conducted at the RFS Interim Business Meeting.

For more information, please visit: [Residents & Fellows | American Medical Association](#)

Resident Representative to the ACGME Review Committee for Psychiatry

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has a dedicated Review Committee (RC) for Psychiatry that plays a crucial role in the accreditation process for Psychiatry residency programs. This committee is responsible for evaluating programs to ensure they meet the established standards for graduate medical education. The committee also provides resources and support for accredited programs and those applying for accreditation.

The RC selects one resident member to serve a two-year term with the committee. As part of their role on the RC, the resident member also serves on the Council of Review

Committee Residents (CRCR), which is comprised of all resident members for each specialties' respective review committees.

For more information on the CRCR, please visit: acgme.org/residents-and-fellows/get-involved/acgme-resident-council/

Resident members must be able to attend four meetings each year (2 for RC and 2 for CRCR). Residents can attend either in-person or via Zoom, with all travel expenses covered by the ACGME. Residents also can attend the ACGME Annual Education Conference each year. Preparation for the RC meetings is around 8 to 12 hours. Preparation time for each CRCR meeting is around one hour.

For more about the nomination process for resident members, please visit: acgme.org/about/committees-and-members-selection-process/

AJP Residents' Journal Editorial Board: [AJP Residents' Journal](#)

The American Journal of Psychiatry (AJP) Residents' Journal is an entirely trainee-run journal that publishes online with AJP. This is a wonderful opportunity for residents and fellows interested in scholarly writing and the peer-review process to get hands-on experience, especially those interested in careers in academic psychiatry and scholarly writing. RFMs must be an APA member and in a current residency or fellowship program in the United States or Canada to apply.

There are several available positions on the Editorial Board, with a 1 or 2-year term. The application includes a CV and personal statement sent to the senior deputy editor. The Call for Applications is published in the Journal with role descriptions each year. This publication can be searched for online at <https://psychiatryonline.org/journal/ajp-rj> by typing in "Call for Applications" in the search bar. The deadline can vary year by year, with the deadline typically in March for a position starting the following July.

Micro-Volunteer Opportunities:

This is a newer option where APA members, including RFMs, can contribute to short-term, flexible opportunities that are impactful to APA (*this handbook update was a past micro-volunteer opportunity*). RFMs can develop new connections and ideas as they participate in these micro-volunteer opportunities.

Micro-volunteer opportunities are added at various times, so please check regularly for new opportunities: [Psychiatry.org - Micro-Volunteer Opportunities](#)

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Both the APA and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation (APAF) offer multiple fellowships to develop your training in additional topics of interest. Fellowships have been added over the years based on the RFMs' interest and current trends in the field of Psychiatry. These fellowships are funded by the APA, APAF, and other outside organizations. Each fellowship has its own priorities, management styles, and specific responsibilities. There are combined "All-Fellows" events throughout the year to encourage inter-fellowship collaboration and networking.

Typically, the deadline for these fellowships is in March with notification in May to start the fellowship in July. Fellows must be in good standing in their residency or fellowship to continue to participate in their APA/APAF fellowship. Unless otherwise stated below, these opportunities are open to non-US citizens, non-US residents, and graduates of international medical colleges.

For the most updated information, please visit: [Psychiatry.org - APA/APAF Fellowships](https://www.psychiatry.org/education/fellowships)

APA/APAF Leadership Fellowship

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship

Community Diversity Fellowship

Diversity Leadership Fellowship

Edwin V. Valdiserri Correctional Public Psychiatry Fellowship

Jeanne Spurlock Congressional Fellowship

Psychiatric Research Fellowship

Public Psychiatry Fellowship

SAMHSA Resident Fellowship

APA/APAF Leadership Fellowship

This is a two-year fellowship that focuses on developing and empowering professional leadership skills through opportunities to interact with national leaders in the field, participate in training workshops, and build connections with residents and fellows with similar interests in leadership.

Fellows can attend two APA Annual Meetings and two Fellowship Forums through sponsorship. During the two years, fellows will serve on an APA Council, Committee, or Foundation Initiative to better understand the APA/APAF governing structure. There are also regular scheduled virtual meetings with all leadership fellows to discuss projects and engage with guest speakers.

One of the Fellows will be able to sit on the APA BOT as a non-voting member each year.

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship

This is a two-year fellowship with a focus of fostering a resident/fellow's interest of child and adolescent psychiatry into a career and/or involvement in APA/APAF. This includes learning about the latest research and treatment in CAP, interacting with leaders in the CAP field, and networking within this subspecialty of psychiatry.

Fellows can attend two APA Annual Meetings and two Fellowship Forums through sponsorship. During the two years, fellows will serve on an APA Council, Committee, or Foundation Initiative to better understand the APA/APAF governing structure. There are also regular scheduled virtual meetings with all CAP fellows to discuss projects and engage with guest speakers.

One of the Fellows will be able to sit on the APA BOT as a non-voting member each year.

Community Diversity Fellowship

This is a one-year fellowship for residents who are committed to serving minority and vulnerable populations. Individuals who are members of underrepresented populations are strongly encouraged to apply, but any interested resident is welcome to apply. In addition to the professional development component seen in other APA/APAF Fellowships, the Community Diversity Fellowship also has a field placement element in a traditionally underrepresented community mental health setting for up to 15 hours per month.

Fellows can attend one APA Annual Meeting and one Fellowship Forum through sponsorship. During the year, fellows will serve on an APA Council, Committee, or Foundation Initiative to better understand the APA/APAF governing structure. There are also regular scheduled virtual meetings with all community diversity fellows to discuss projects and engage with guest speakers.

Note: This fellowship is only offered every other year.

Diversity Leadership Fellowship

This is a two-year fellowship to engage residents who are interested in minority and vulnerable populations to improve mental health care for these at-risk populations. Individuals who are members of underrepresented populations are strongly encouraged to apply, but any interested resident is welcome to apply.

Fellows can attend two APA Annual Meetings and two Fellowship Forums through sponsorship. During the two years, fellows will serve on an APA Council, Committee, or Foundation Initiative to better understand the APA/APAF governing structure. There are also regular scheduled virtual meetings with all diversity leadership fellows to discuss projects and engage with guest speakers.

One of the Fellows (either SAMHSA or Diversity Leadership Fellow) will be able to sit on the APA BOT as a non-voting member each year.

Edwin V. Valdiserri Correctional Public Psychiatry Fellowship

This is a two-year fellowship to engage residents who are interested in public, community, or forensic psychiatry and want to receive additional experience, training, and mentorship in a correctional setting. This Fellowship also requires 40 volunteer hours in a correctional facility per year.

Fellows can attend two APA Annual Meetings and two Fellowship Forums through sponsorship. Additionally, fellows can attend either the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL) Annual Meeting or the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) Annual Conference. During the two years, fellows will serve on an APA Council, Committee, or Foundation Initiative to better understand the APA/APAF governing structure. There are also regular scheduled virtual meetings with all correctional public psych and public psych fellows to discuss projects and engage with guest speakers.

One of the Fellows (either Edwin Valdiserri or Public Psychiatry Fellow) will be able to sit on the APA BOT as a non-voting member each year.

Jeanne Spurlock Congressional Fellowship

This is a one-year fellowship for resident/fellows or early career psychiatrists (1-7 years beyond residency/fellowship) who have an interest in child and/or minority mental health advocacy. This is a unique fellowship as Fellows work on Capitol Hill in a congressional or senate federal office for 10 months.

Fellows can attend one APA Annual Meeting and one Fellowship Forum through sponsorship. During the year, fellows will also serve on an APA Council, Committee, or Foundation Initiative to better understand the APA/APAF governing structure.

Note: Fellows must be either U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Public Psychiatry Fellowship

This is a two-year fellowship to engage residents who are interested in public or community psychiatry. This Fellowship provides opportunities to interact with leaders in the field, participate in training workshops, and build connections with residents and fellows with similar interests in public/community psychiatry.

Fellows can attend two APA Annual Meetings and two Fellowship Forums through sponsorship. During the two years, fellows will serve on an APA Council, Committee, or Foundation Initiative to better understand the APA/APAF governing structure. There are also regular scheduled virtual meetings with all correctional public psych and public psych fellows to discuss projects and engage with guest speakers.

One of the Fellows (either Edwin Valdiserri or Public Psychiatry Fellow) will be able to sit on the APA BOT as a non-voting member each year.

Psychiatric Research Fellowship

This is a two-year fellowship for senior residents with at least 50% protected time for research or early career psychiatrist who is interested in health services/policy-related research study using national data housed at the APA. Through this Fellowship, there are opportunities to present research at 1 or more APA meetings as well as additional

opportunities to attend additional meetings for networking and professional career development.

Fellows can attend two APA Annual Meetings and two Fellowship Forums through sponsorship. There are also in-person meetings at APA headquarters to work with APA mentors. During the two years, fellows will serve on an APA Council, Committee, or Foundation Initiative to better understand the APA/APAF governing structure. There are also regular scheduled virtual meetings with research mentors at APA and/or their institution.

SAMHSA Resident Fellowship

This is a one-year fellowship for residents and fellows interested in providing culturally sensitive mental health care and serving marginalized communities to help address mental health inequities. Fellows create their own *Addressing Mental Health Inequities Capstone Project*, where fellows work with their psychiatry residency training program to develop and implement projects focus on improving mental health access in different communities. Fellows will also participate in the LEAD Institute Training Program to strengthen their knowledge of leadership and cultural competency.

Fellows can attend the Spring Leadership Summit in Washington DC and the APA Annual Meeting. During the year, fellows will serve on an APA Council, Committee, or Foundation Initiative to better understand the APA/APAF governing structure. There are also regular scheduled virtual meetings with all SAMHSA fellows to discuss projects and engage with guest speakers.

Note: Fellows must be U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, or Non-Citizen Nationals.

COMPETITION AND AWARDS

MindGames Residency Team Competition: [Psychiatry.org - MindGames](https://www.psychiatry.org/mindgames)

This is APA's national residency team competition, where residents can test their knowledge. Each program can choose three residents to participate in a team. There is a qualifying online exam in January/February. The top three teams will be selected to compete during the in-person MindGames competition at the APA Annual Meeting in May.

Resident Recognition Award: [Psychiatry.org - Resident Recognition Award](#)

Research Colloquium for Junior Investigators: [Psychiatry.org - Research Colloquium for Junior Psychiatrist Investigators](#)

External Funds and Awards: [Psychiatry.org - External Fellowships and Awards](#)

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

APA Annual Meeting: [APA Annual Meeting](#)

The annual meeting occurs in May over 4-5 days. Each Annual Meeting has a theme that is selected by the current APA President with a notable keynote speaker. This is an amazing opportunity to learn from content experts, network with others from across the country and the world, and contribute by presenting sessions, presenting a poster, or participating in RFM Caucus activities during the Annual Meeting. There are also paid courses and EduTours that may be of interest to you as a RFM.

Tracks: Within the Annual Meeting, there are tracks, which are recommended session/activity itineraries based on a shared interest or targeted audience. Some previous tracks have been Advocacy, Research, Health Equity, Community Psychiatry, Clinical Updates, RFMs, and IMGs. These tracks can guide your conference experience.

Ambassador Program: RFMs and medical student members that sign up early and fulfill the program requirements may receive free registration for the Annual Meeting and a certain number of hotel nights. Requirements include giving a presentation with pictures and a verification form of the completed presentation. The presentation is focused on increasing the awareness of work done by the APA Foundation.

For more information, please visit: [Foundation Ambassadors](#)

State Advocacy Conference

This conference is hosted every other year by APA to develop legislative strategies to engage legislators at the state level. Typically, the conference involves information about current mental health care topics in multiple states and presentations from top APA advocates on how to engage lawmakers through our state advocacy efforts. The State Advocacy Conference typically happens in-person over a weekend in the fall in the Washington, DC area. Information about the conference is sent out by email and would be known by the RFM Caucus, once available. Many RFMs attend this conference. With the

focus on state legislation, there are no scheduled meetings with legislators during the conference. However, this is a good opportunity to schedule meetings with federal legislators while you are in the DC area for the conference.

Federal Advocacy Conference

This conference is hosted every other year (alternates yearly with the State Advocacy Conference) to develop advocacy skills and tactics for engaging legislators at the federal level. This Conference provides presentations from key presenters with knowledge of working on the Hill and hand-on advocacy experience. In addition to learning about current federal issues and advocacy skills, members will be able to meet with their legislators during the Conference. The Federal Advocacy Conference typically happens in-person over 2 days in the fall in the Washington, DC area. Information about the conference is sent out by email. Many RFMs attend this conference as well.

ADVOCACY

Advocacy can take many forms. RFMs join APA with a varied range of advocacy experiences. The mix of expertise and creativity drives innovation for RFMs to explore non-traditional options for advocacy efforts for a greater impact. To better understand the efforts of APA, particularly through the APA Advocacy branch, here are some key resources:

Advocacy Action Center: [Psychiatry.org - Advocacy Action Center](https://www.psychiatry.org/advocacy-action-center)

You will find the latest information on APA's advocacy efforts, including advocacy initiatives, statements from APA leadership, and recent news coverage.

Congressional Advocacy Network (CAN): [Psychiatry.org - Congressional Advocacy Network](https://www.psychiatry.org/congressional-advocacy-network)

The Network is a political grassroots network. CAN advocates are contacts for their Congress legislators, so APA can quickly convey its message throughout Congress when important issues arise. Advocates are supported by APA staff to meet and build connections with legislators. A RFM can become a Congressional Advocate.

Advocacy Alerts and Monthly Updates

Advocacy Alerts are alerts sent out by APA Advocacy to flag and facilitate time-sensitive advocacy actions for the APA membership. Members need to sign up to receive these alert emails. Any communication with congressional members makes a difference.

The Monthly Updates are sent as a monthly e-newsletter to provide the most recent information on current issues and initiatives at the various levels of government.

Sign up here: [Sign Up for Advocacy Alerts and Monthly Advocacy Update](#).

APA Political Action Committee (APAPAC)

This committee is the political arm of the APA and raises funds through voluntary contributions of APA members, executives and administrative personnel of APA, and other permitted parties. These funds are then distributed by the Committee to support federal office candidates and political committees to advance Psychiatry and psychiatric services. Committee members tend to be high-dollar APAPAC contributors with experience in the political landscape and APA advocacy.

To learn more or contribute, please visit: [APA-PAC](#)

Psychiatry Online: [Psychiatry Online](#)

In addition to providing information to RFMs, RFMs can contribute to the various publications on Psychiatry Online- Psychiatric News, journals beyond the Residents' Journal (under AJP), guidelines, podcasts, etc. The editors of these publications are looking for content and would like to connect with you to share your knowledge with other APA members and beyond. There is a "submit content/article" button under each journal and Psychiatric News.

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) Resource Guide:

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) are individuals who completed their medical school education outside the United States. To support the unique needs and challenges of IMGs, the JRC created an IMG Work Group to create resources, grouping the resources by career milestone. Due to the regulations involved in medical education and healthcare work, modifications at the federal and state levels can greatly affect IMGs' ability to partake in educational and work opportunities in multiple facets. With the fluidity and complexity of these regulations, please reach out to the RFM Caucus, fellow IMGs, and/or legal counsel for the most updated information on specific questions.

IMG Resource Guide: [Psychiatry.org - International Medical Graduates Resources](#)