

A National Strategic Plan for Asian American Research, Service, and Training

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Research and Service

■ Good news

- Better baseline of knowledge
- More researchers and interested students
- Better use of sophisticated methodologies and analytic procedures
- Get more funding, get research published
- More sensitivity to practice issues and concerns

■ Bad news

- Research not systematic
- Defined by others (NIMH)
- Misunderstandings in publication reviews (e.g., diversity of Asian Americans)
- Needs in research and service subordinate to other ethnic groups

What Needed?

- A National Strategic Plan for Asian American Research, Service, and Training
- May not agree with suggestions but must begin dialogue about issues

Goals

- Set guidelines or standards for research, treatment, and training for Asian Americans. Influence the field. Not typical conference want to set ambitious and challenging agenda
 - Not meant to exclude other ethnic groups but have to define own needs and goals; others have been doing this for us (e.g., court case)
 - Not meant to exclude non psychologists. Focus on psychology because my expertise but issues include psychiatrists, social workers (even sociologists)
- Broad scope: set agenda for future and for national effort for three reasons:
 - Capitalize on having top researchers and pioneers nationally here
 - Need for direction in the field
 - Time is right for setting research directions (critical mass of interested researchers, enthusiastic and committed junior investigators and students, new journal)

Tasks

1. Increase quantity and quality of Asian American research
2. Address journals and publication outlets so more papers on Asian Americans; higher quality reviews, find reviewers, increase understanding of Asian American issues, set priorities for Asian American research
3. Influence our professional organizations such as APA to address Asian American interests and concerns (e.g., accreditation guidelines, representation on boards, committees, council); 80-20 model
4. Influence funding agencies, public and private, local/state/federal (e.g., NIMH, NSF, Ford Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson)
5. Form coalition or organization of Asian Americans in various professional associations (psychology, psychiatry, social work, nursing, sociology)
6. Improve quality and accessibility of mental health services to Asian Americans
7. Affect training programs (university, internships, etc.)
8. Influence media, public stereotypes, knowledge of Asian Americans
9. Affect decision makers and Asian Americans

How Do We Get There?

Research

- **Define Topics for Research**
 - Define areas of research (e.g., topics of greatest academic and practice value, hot areas, systematic and followups)
- **Respond To Urgent Or Contemporary Issues**
 - Regular and periodic research (committee of 100 surveys)
 - Identify teams of experts
 - Relationship between Asian Americans and “homeland”
 - Evidence based practice

Develop Guidelines For Methodology

- Define what state of the methodology is, especially in terms of sampling and questionnaires (sampling small populations; behavioral measures, psychometrics and use of questionnaires—acculturation, identity, racism); qualitative methods, efficacy and effectiveness research or evidence-based practices).
- Indicate how research informs us not only of Asian Americans but about human processes, test generality and universality of theories, role of indigenous psychology.
- Write standards for research, white papers on sampling, use of questionnaires, cross-cultural comparisons, ethnic and minority versus cultural research, available on-line after published in journal (Fred), aggregation versus groups specific research. Not just rehash about problems but feasible means to resolve problems.
- Send write papers to professional organizations, publication sources, media releases, professional Associations

Journals

- Journals publishing not just articles submitted. Invited articles, ones on how to improve research (short improvement pieces like Ed Diener), invited debates, hot button issues
- Form list of reviewers to send to journal editors
- Inform about issues to journal editors
- Innovative ways to disseminate (Fred and Gordy?)

Practice

- Problems and issues faced
- Survey of providers and administrators on what is needed; greatest challenges
- Specific ways to providing better services
- Models of ideal practice to address challenges

Training

- What problems faced by students interested in Asian American research and practice? How can we find out?
- How can we address problems?
- Should we develop minimal standards for research on Asian Americans and train students and young investigators on these standards and distribute them?
- Can we hold training institutes or workshops for students (e.g., Gordy's training)?
- Can we develop guidelines for accreditation and for university programs?
- Would it be possible to form coalition or organization of Asian Americans in various professional associations (psychology, psychiatry, social work, nursing, sociology)?
- How can students gain access to authorities in the field?

Organizational

- Coordinate communications across disciplines
 - Listserver to go beyond AAPA
 - Encourage others to publish in our Journal
 - Joint conferences emphasizing collaboration, networking, and mentoring
- Influencing professional organizations, media, publication sources, media, funding agencies, service providers, decision makers, general public
- Coalitions with other ethnic groups to accomplish tasks