

Division 54 Diversity Special Interest Group (SIG)

January 2015

I. Diversity SIG Mission

The Diversity SIG promotes the interests of trainees and professionals in pediatric psychology with an interest in issues of diversity, broadly defined (e.g., issues specifically impacting diverse and underserved groups, including those that vary by gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability and SES). The Diversity SIG also strives to foster collaboration among those within the profession who work alongside diverse populations (including children, families, trainees, and diverse professionals).

II. SIG Leadership and Infrastructure

In 2011, the Diversity SIG was developed as a subcommittee of the SPP Diversity Committee (<http://www.apadivisions.org/division-54/leadership/diversity/index.aspx>) – an SPP executive committee established in 2006. As it grew and developed, the Diversity SIG developed its own leadership and infrastructure, which has evolved over time to the following leadership positions:

Diversity SIG Co-Chairs (two positions):

Co-chairs will aid in preside over the agenda for the SIG over their three year-term in communication with the Diversity Member-At-Large for Division 54, the SIG leadership, and the SIG membership. They will work closely with the Diversity Committee, SIG Secretary, and SIG Trainee Members-At-Large to communicate with, provider resources to, and develop initiatives with and for SIG membership related to the mission of the Diversity SIG.

Diversity SIG Secretary:

The SIG secretary will safeguard all archival records of the SIG, will keep minutes of SIG-related meetings, will keep information regarding SIG policies and infrastructure current, will help maintain resources for SIG members on the SIG's website, will work with Division 54 staff to maintain the SIG roster up-to-date and well communicated with the Division, and will in general fulfill the functions of a Secretary in responding to the needs of the SIG's leadership and members.

Trainee Members At Large (three positions):

Trainee Member-At-Large (MAL) positions are held specifically for individuals currently in pre- or postdoctoral training. Trainee MALs will represent student membership within the Diversity SIG, will promote student interests in SIG initiatives, will encourage trainee participation in the SIG, and will work with the SIG Co-Chairs and Secretary in efforts related to the SIG's mission.

All SIG leadership positions are elected by SIG members for a three-year term (coinciding with the Division's Diversity Member-At-Large term). SIG leadership will be elected prior to the Division's Annual Conference (SPPAC – typically in April), and will be considered “elect” (providing opportunity for communication with outgoing leadership) until January following the conference (e.g., SIG Co-Chair Elect Announced in April 2015 and Beginning New Term in January 2016).

III. SIG Membership

Diversity SIG members may contribute to the important work done by the SPP Diversity Committee and SIG, such as reviewing applications for the Diversity Grant award and writing articles for the Progress Notes newsletters to keep SPP members informed about issues related to Diversity.

Any SPP member can join the Diversity SIG. Membership is included in annual dues. Requests to join should be sent to the SPP Administrative Officer (Karen Roberts at apadiv54@gmail.com) who can confirm whether the individual is indeed an SPP member and then provide approval to the SIG chair that the individual is eligible to join.

IV. SIG Meetings

Leadership Meetings: SIG leadership attend all Division 54 Diversity Committee leadership meetings. These calls connect the SIG activities to the work of the Diversity Committee and the Diversity MAL. The Diversity Committee meetings include five annual meetings (in-person meetings at APA in August and at the National Division 54 Conference in April; phone call meetings in October/November, February, and July). In addition to these meetings, SIG leadership hold phone and in-person meetings as needed with the Diversity SIG Co-Chairs to coordinate SIG activities.

Membership Meetings: All SIG members are invited to join two Diversity SIG membership meetings. These include in-person SIG membership meetings at APA in August and at the National Conference in April. SIG membership meetings may include discussion of issues relevant to diversity within clinical, research, and training aspects of pediatric psychology, may provide opportunities to foster and establish collaborations among Diversity SIG members, and/or may provide opportunities for SIG members to present to the membership about their work. In addition, the meetings will include opportunities to disseminate information about the work of the SIG committees to the overall SIG membership. Participation in these meetings will be required of the SIG leadership (or a delegate) but not of SIG members.

V. Priorities/Initiatives

Previous initiatives of the Diversity SIG have included:

Developing a Diversity SIG website with materials for membership to access (or share), including the maintaining a Diversity E-Resource Library,

Reviewing and Awarding Outstanding Diversity-Related Posters at SPPAC,

Developing a Diversity SIG listserv accessible to membership for communicating relevant information and requesting consultation/collaboration within membership,

Development of opportunities for research collaboration through submission of SIG research papers and symposia,

Promotion of SIG member networking/collaboration at SIG meetings, through information about SIG-relevant programming at the Division's Annual Conference (SPPAC), and through the SIG listserv,

And Collaborating with the Diversity Committee on a number of ongoing initiatives including the development of resources for identifying evidence-based assessment tools for diverse populations.