

Members Invited to Apply for New Presidential Task Force on Social Determinants of MH

The theme of the presidential task force for 2021-22 is Social Determinants of Mental Health (SDoMH). We are requesting that APA members who have expertise in the field of SDoMH consider applying to become one of the eight members of the task force. Expertise includes clinical experience, teaching, publications, research or administrative responsibilities, and liaisons with APA components, allied groups, and other professional organizations working in this area. There will be eight work groups that will address major issues of SDoMH. You are welcome to send your CV and a brief summary of your expertise in the area of SDoMH and interest. Please submit your materials to TFSDOMH@psych.org by close of business on **April 26**.

If selected, your tenure would begin on May 3 and conclude at the close of the 2022 Annual Meeting.

Those who are selected will participate in activities of the task force, which will include the following: (1) video calls monthly and as needed; (2) subcommittee work including liaising with APA components, members, and staff; and (3) media participation to educate members and the public. The work of the task force will be conducted via video and email so no travel is involved. The most intense work activity will occur from May to December. It is expected that you will keep your APA membership current.

The mission of the task force is to develop sustainable policies and programs that will bring about change in the psychiatric health care of affected populations consistent with the 2018 APA Position Statement on Mental Health Equity and the Social and Structural Determinants of Mental Health (see below). The Task Force on Social Determinants of Mental Health will build upon the outcome of the Task Force to Address Structural Racism Throughout Psychiatry and existing research to produce tools for action, specifically programs and policy aimed at improving the well-being of our patients, the public, and psychiatrists. The outcome may be used by clinicians, teachers, researchers, and administrators of health care systems and community organizations, among others, to assess social determinants of mental health and improve individual and community well-being.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact TFSDOMH@psych.org.

Thank you for considering service to APA.

Sincerely yours,

Vivian Pender, M.D., President-Elect, APA
Dilip V. Jeste, M.D., Chair of the Task Force on Social Determinants of Mental Health
Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A., CEO & Medical Director

[2018 APA Position Statement on Mental Health Equity and the Social and Structural Determinants of Mental Health](#)

The American Psychiatric Association:

- Supports legislation and policies that promote mental health equity and improve the social and structural determinants of mental health and formally objects to legislation and policies that

perpetuate structural inequities.

- Advocates for the dissemination of evidence-based interventions that improve both the social and mental health needs of patients and their families.
- Urges health care systems to assess and improve their capabilities to screen, understand, and address the structural and social determinants of mental health.
- Supports medical and public education on the structural and social determinants of mental health, mental health equity, and related evidence-based interventions.
 - Urges medical school and graduate medical education accrediting and professional bodies to emphasize educational competencies in structural and social determinants of mental health and mental health equity.
 - Urges psychiatry residency training directors and other psychiatric educators to use systematic approaches to teaching about structural and social determinants of mental health.
 - Supports the training of psychiatrists, in graduate and continuing medical education, in best practices to address the structural and social determinants of mental health and promote health equity.
- Advocates for increased funding for research to better understand the mechanisms by which structural and social determinants affect mental illness and recovery and to develop new evidence-based interventions to promote mental health equity.