



APA 2020 DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

Patrick Aquino, MD, FDAPA



It is an honor to be promoted to Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. I would like to thank Drs. Rohn Friedman, Manny Pacheco and Mary Anna Sullivan for their support.

Psychiatry has always been my path in medicine and probably even before then. I chose the University of Maryland for the accelerated psychiatric training that was offered. From my first months in medical school, we were spending time with patients with psychiatric illness in hospital and community settings learning valuable skills of communication, connection and understanding. Many of my mentors are those same professors who introduced me to our sacred profession. My training at the University of Maryland and Sheppard Pratt provided a breadth of experiences in training across psychodynamic psychotherapy, community psychiatry and consultation-liaison psychiatry.

I have always remained curious within our continually growing field. Clinically I was drawn to consultation liaison psychiatry, finishing my training at Massachusetts General Hospital with Drs. Murray, Cassem and Fricchione. There in the trenches we learned the meaning of fellowship—forged through shared experience, learning and purpose. The APA has been a similar community for me over the years. Through the APA I have found new collaborators, colleagues and mentors. I have felt privileged to share in the growth of our profession through representation in our professional organization. The APA and MPS are volunteer organizations and since arriving here in Massachusetts, I have been fortunate to find ways to participate. It has been my honor to represent Massachusetts as the senior representative to the APA Assembly these past years.

Our profession continues to face many challenges locally and nationally. However, the MPS and APA have been fierce advocates for the profession. Through these organizations, I have been able to participate in advocacy for patients and peers, whether through MOC reform, payment initiatives, or clinical innovations. The APA has been a champion of integrating psychiatry and primary care which has been my clinical focus for the past several years. In my current role, we are expanding psychiatry throughout our entire clinical enterprise, representing more than 500,000 patients. We have been fortunate to collaborate with new colleagues and train many more to enter this field, to engage patients in new ways and break down barriers to care.

The honor of Distinguished Fellow definitely does not mark the end of my engagement with MPS or APA; it has strengthened my commitment to ongoing participation and involvement. In the years ahead, I hope to continue to give back to the organizations and colleagues who have given so much to me. I look forward to continuing to work with our new and early career members, to pass on my passion for our organizations and encourage their involvement