

Ikwunga Wonodi Social Justice and Health Equity in Psychiatry Award

The Maryland Psychiatric Society

To recognize and extend Dr. Ikwunga Wonodi's contributions to psychiatry, the **Ikwunga Wonodi Social Justice and Health Equity in Psychiatry Award** will honor a Resident, Fellow, or Early-Career Psychiatrist who has demonstrated distinction in advocating for human rights and equity in psychiatric care for people with severe mental illness from historically marginalized and underserved communities through teaching, research, clinical work, and/or public health advocacy. This recognition will encourage residents, fellows, and early-career psychiatrists to participate in education, research, mentorship, and culturally diverse activities within psychiatry and to actively incorporate compassion and service into their careers. The honor is designed to reflect Dr. Wonodi's values and contributions to psychiatry and the community. To learn more about the history of the award and Dr. Wonodi's legacy, [click here](#).

Award recipients will receive \$500 which is intended to fund attendance at a conference, presenting research at a conference, aiding in psychiatric research, and/or supporting minorities seeking psychiatric care. Winners will be recognized at the Maryland Psychiatric Society Annual Meeting in April.

Criteria/Eligibility

- Current MPS/APA Member
- Resident, Fellow, or Early-Career Psychiatrist (Seven years or less post training)
- It is not required for applicants to identify as ethnic minorities; however, African Americans, Alaska Natives, American Indians, Asian-Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are especially encouraged to apply.

Selection Criteria

In addition to clinical, research, and education excellence, nominees should show evidence of advocating for human rights and equity in psychiatric care for people with severe mental illness from historically marginalized and underserved communities and exemplify Dr. Wonodi's passion for uplifting others.

Examples include:

- Exemplifies a holistic and culturally responsive approach to patient care in clinical practice.
- Engages in impactful advocacy efforts at the local, national, and international levels: legislative initiatives, community outreach programs, and public awareness campaigns aimed at promoting mental health equity and reducing stigma.
- Advocates for the needs of marginalized communities within healthcare systems, striving to dismantle barriers to access and promote inclusivity in psychiatric services.
- Enacts innovative teaching methodologies that integrate cultural competence and social justice principles into psychiatric education.
- Participates in research projects that shed light on the systemic disparities that exist in access to mental health services among underserved populations.

Application Requirements

- Complete CV
- Cover letter/letter of interest which includes examples of clinical work, research, academic leadership, and advocacy relating to equity in psychiatric care for individuals with serious mental illness from historically marginalized and underserved communities.
- Letters of support are welcomed, but not required.
- Please send complete application packet to mps@mdpsych.org by the specified deadline.
- Applications must be submitted by December 14, 2025.