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HISTORY AND FUTURE OF ASIAN AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY

FREDERICK T. L. LEONG

SUMIE OKAZAKI

E. J. R. DAVID

The primary purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the history of Asian American psychology by examining (a) the history of the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA), (b) recent developments in the AAPA, and (c) substantive areas of Asian American psychological research. The second purpose of this chapter is to engage in a forecasting of the future of Asian American psychology by using the Delphi method, and this constitutes the last section of the chapter.

HISTORY OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The AAPA, founded in 1972, has played a central role in defining Asian American psychology as a scholarly field of its own, in serving as a key advocate in multicultural and ethnic minority psychology, and in collaborating with allied disciplines to define and implement culturally competent mental health services to Asian

American populations. Of course, Asian American psychology, as a field, encompasses figures and activities beyond the organization and the membership of the AAPA. However, a historical review of the association—particularly its activities in the early years—provides insight into the hallmark of Asian American psychology, notably the intersection of science, practice, and advocacy.

Founding of the Association

The AAPA was founded on December 10, 1972, by a group of Asian American psychologists and other mental health professionals in the San Francisco Bay area. The new organization was initially referred to as the Association of Asian American Psychologists. Interviews with the founders, Derald W. Sue and Stanley Sue, were conducted for the AAPA history monograph (Leong, 1995) by Frederick Leong and Diane Fujino, respectively. Here, we summarize the key points made by the Sue brothers as they recalled the founding of the organization. Derald Sue

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served as the AAPA's first president. He recalled, with humor, that because the organization was so small when founded, there were no formal elections for the leadership positions. He was appointed by the group to take on the presidency because he was the older of the Sue brothers.

Around the time that the association was being formed, Derald Sue had been working as a psychologist at the University of California, Berkeley, counseling center. He described in the interview that many Chinese American students were using counseling services and that many of their presenting concerns revolved around identity issues and the conflicts they felt between traditional Asian values and Western values. Derald Sue also felt that his graduate training had not prepared him adequately for working with Asian American clients and clients of other minority backgrounds.

Both Stanley Sue and Derald Sue recalled that the sense of isolation among Asian American mental health professionals and scholars served as a primary impetus for forming the AAPA. The Sue brothers began meeting and discussing their common concerns with other Asian American mental health professionals in the San Francisco Bay area (master's-level counselors, social workers, educators, and psychologists). The organization started out locally. Stanley Sue and his graduate students, Rod Kazama and Davis Ja, decided to start the process of forming a national organization by going through the American Psychological Association (APA) directory and using the surnames to identify psychologists of possible Asian ancestry, then sending letters to assess their interests in joining a new organization. The organization of AAPA was modeled after the Association of Black Psychologists. They were also aware that Latinos were planning to form their own organization.

Stanley Sue recalled in the interview (Leong, 1995) that in the early 1970s, Asian Americans lacked visibility within the APA and that African American psychologists were the primary forces in articulating the concerns of ethnic minorities within the larger APA. Between 1969 and 1970, Robert Chin—one of the early members of the AAPA—was serving as the president of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), an international group of psychologists, allied scientists, students, and others who share a common interest in research on the psychological aspects of

important societal problems. Stanley Sue also became active in SPSSI (and went on to serve as its president in 1990–1991). At Chin's suggestion, Stanley Sue requested a grant (in the amount of \$250) from SPSSI to support the newsletter mailings for the new organization (noted in the January 1974 newsletter).

Advocacy and Alliance Building

In the next developmental stage of the AAPA, the leaders aimed to increase their visibility at the national level through the APA. The initial goals of the AAPA, according to Stanley Sue, were to promote knowledge about Asian American psychology and to influence public policies and programs. The interviews with the Sue brothers (Leong, 1995) and the archival records of the AAPA, such as the newsletters and early communications among its members, reveal the critical significance of the relationship between the AAPA and the APA. Thus, we first review the climate of the APA at the time as a backdrop against which the AAPA's advocacy on behalf of Asian American psychology took place.

The late 1960s to early 1970s was a time when the APA, as a national organization, was beginning to grapple with the diversification of psychology. Pallak (1992) characterized the period from 1970 to 1975 for the APA as rife with internal political conflicts that derived partly from growth and diversity in its membership, with the resulting conflict dominating the APA's resources. In 1968 (according to Smith, 1992), the board of directors asked George Albee to head a conference on the recruitment of minority students into psychology. In 1970, the APA Council of Representatives authorized a three-year loan (later forgiven) to assist the Black Students' Psychological Association and the Association of Black Psychologists to develop a headquarters office. In 1971, the ad hoc Committee on Social and Ethical Responsibility was established, and in 1972, this ad hoc committee was institutionalized as the Board on Social and Ethical Responsibility for Psychology (BSERP).¹ Smith (1992) characterized these movements as a legacy of Kenneth B. Clark's APA presidential term of 1971. In 1974, the APA Minority Fellowship Program was established through funding from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH).

In the formative years of the AAPA, its leadership identified the APA boards and standing committees that were seen as allies in articulating the concerns of Asian Americans and ethnic minorities within the APA. In his interview (Leong, 1995), Derald Sue described the Committee on Equal Opportunity in Psychology (CEOP), established in 1963, as the “ethnic/racial minority conscience” of APA. Derald Sue also recalled that when he presented the argument for a greater representation of Asian Americans in the APA governance, members of BSERP grilled him with questions concerning why Asians should be considered a minority group. Derald Sue’s letter to the BSERP, in which he advocated in detailed and forceful manner the need for Asian American representation on this important board, was reproduced in its entirety in the July 1974 issue of the AAPA’s newsletter. Eventually, Derald Sue was asked to join the CEOP of the APA. The CEOP had representatives from Asian American, African American, Latino, and American Indian psychology organizations or groups.

In the interview (Leong, 1995), Derald Sue recalled how he and Stanley Sue learned to advocate in such a way as to create the perception of power and influence. As representatives of the AAPA, Derald and Stanley Sue, as well as other AAPA board members, articulated to the APA that Asian Americans had concerns that were similar to those of African Americans (e.g., underrepresentation on journal editorial boards, on APA boards and committees, and on the APA Council of Representatives, which was the policy-setting body of the APA). In retrospect, Derald Sue acknowledged that he and Stanley Sue, at various times, acted as if they had a great deal of influence (e.g., by presenting themselves as members of the AAPA), thereby giving both themselves and the AAPA more legitimacy. The AAPA became an institution to which other psychology bodies (e.g., APA, Association for Psychological Science) turned to for guidance and input regarding Asian American psychological issues.

In 1978, under the helm of Brewster Smith, the APA convened the National Conference for Increasing Roles of Culturally Diverse People in Psychology, held near Washington Dulles International Airport and more informally known as the Dulles Conference. At this three-day conference, a number of ethnic minority

psychologists met with APA officials to discuss ways to restructure the APA to enhance participation of ethnic minority psychologists. Stanley Sue recalled that, initially, representatives of various ethnic minority groups could not agree on how to accomplish better representation of ethnic minority voices in the APA, but after some heated debates, a compromise was forged and all groups agreed to be sensitive to one another’s concerns. That Dulles Conference resulted in the formation of the ad hoc Committee on Cultural and Ethnic Affairs. Reiko True and Robert Chin, representing the AAPA, were appointed to this committee and advocated for the formation of the Board of Minority Affairs (BEMA). BEMA was established by the bylaw amendment voted by the general membership of the APA and began its activities in 1981 (Smith, 1992).

Going beyond the APA, the AAPA leadership also sought to influence public policy on a national stage. Stanley Sue discussed that the AAPA became aware that a President’s Commission on Mental Health had been formed (circa 1977–1978) by President Jimmy Carter. Because the commission did not initially solicit participation of the AAPA or its members, the AAPA leadership mobilized their allies to protest the absence of Asian American representation on the commission. The AAPA obtained the help of Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, who then nominated an Asian American psychologist to be appointed to the commission in case of vacancy. Herbert Z. Wong (who was, at the time, the director of the Richmond Maxi Center, an NIMH-funded outpatient mental health facility in San Francisco) was appointed by the president of the AAPA to make a presentation on behalf of the organization and the Asian American community regarding the mental health needs of this population. Robert Chin and Stanley Sue were eventually asked to serve on that subpanel on the President’s Commission on Mental Health.

Advocacy Through Scholarship

Paralleling the founding of the AAPA was the development of the pioneering scholarship of Stanley Sue, who was not only active as an advocate of Asian American issues in the field but also the major figure in building the scholarly foundation

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for Asian American psychology research. Stanley Sue recalled that at his first faculty position at the University of Washington, Ned Wagner, who was a full professor and the director of clinical training, strongly encouraged him to conduct research on Asian Americans. In addition, there were several key publications in the early to mid-1970s that the AAPA organizers authored in order to articulate the unique psychological issues facing Asian Americans to the field at large. In 1973, the *Journal of Social Issues* (the journal of the SPSSI) published a special issue of the journal, guest-edited by Stanley Sue and Harry Kitano and titled "Asian Americans: A Success Story?" In the same year, Derald Sue edited a special issue of the *Personnel and Guidance Journal* titled "Understanding Asian-Americans: The Neglected Minority." Stanley Sue credited Fred Strasburger, who was a member of the APA BSERP and also on the editorial board of the *American Psychologist*, for publishing a paper by Stanley Sue, Derald Sue, and David Sue (1975) on psychological issues facing Asian Americans. Stanley Sue believed because of the journal's prominence and wide circulation, the publication of this article resulted in tremendous publicity to Asian American issues in psychology.

Key People in the Organization

Since its establishment, the AAPA has seen the leadership and involvement of a number of Asian American psychologists (and in its early days, Asian American psychiatrists, social workers, and other mental health professionals), who have been committed to the advancement of Asian American welfare and concerns. Table 2.1 lists the AAPA presidents and their terms of service. Notably, Christine Hall was the first woman elected (in 1995) to serve as AAPA president. Her presidential term was followed successively by three other women in this leadership role.

Although it is beyond the scope of the present article to list all the AAPA members who served in various leadership capacities throughout its first three decades, there are a few key figures whose work and activities in service of the association are particularly noteworthy. Table 2.2 displays the recipients of the Asian American Psychological Association Outstanding Contributions Awards. These are the individuals who have made a significant contribution to the

Table 2.1 Asian American Psychological Association Presidents (1972–2005)

<i>Term</i>	<i>President</i>
1972–1975	Derald Sue
1975–1979	Robert Chin
1979–1982	Albert H. Yee
1982–1984	Harry Yamaguchi
1984–1988 ^a	Herbert Z. Wong
1988–1990	Katsuyuki Sakamoto
1990–1991	David S. Goh
1991–1993	Nolan W. S. Zane
1993–1995	S. Andrew Chen
1995–1997	Christine C. Iijima Hall
1997–1999	Reiko Homma True
1999–2001	Gayle Y. Iwamasa
2001–2003	J.-C. Gisela Lin
2003–2005	Frederick Leong
2005–	Alvin Alvarez

a. Due to incomplete archival records, the start and end dates of Wong's presidential term are uncertain. There are records that indicate that Yamaguchi finished his term in summer 1984, that Wong was serving as the president in 1985 and 1986, and that Sakamoto's term was 1988–1990.

science and practice of Asian American psychology as well as the education and training of Asian American psychologists.

Publications of the Asian American Psychological Association

The archival records of the AAPA indicate that from 1972 to 1979, the association produced newsletters consisting primarily of the news of the association and its activities, editorials, and occasional publications of research or conceptual articles. Derald Sue edited the newsletters between 1972 and 1975, followed by Roger Lum. In 1979, the association renamed its communication the *Journal of the Asian American Psychological Association*. The inaugural journal issue listed a team of editors (Robert Chin, Tim Dong, Roger Lum, Stanley Sue), and the reason for the change from the newsletter to the journal format is cited as arising from a newly elected board of directors who "felt that a journal would not only attract more articles of high quality and interest but that it would be a better reflection of the actual content" (Asian American Psychological Association, p. 2). The journal was published by the organization and

Table 2.2 Asian American Psychological Association Outstanding Contributions Awards

<i>Year</i>	<i>Recipients (Awards)</i>
1985	Robert Chin (Distinguished Contribution)
1987	Patrick Okura & Richard M. Suinn (Distinguished Contribution)
1989	Derald Sue (Distinguished Contribution)
1990	Stanley Sue & Reiko Homma True (Distinguished Contribution)
1991	Bertram Brown & Chalsa Loo (Distinguished Contribution)
1992	S. Andrew Chen (Distinguished Contribution) Derald W. Sue & Stanley Sue (Lifetime Achievement)
1993	Harry Yamaguchi (Distinguished Contribution)
1994	Nolan W. S. Zane (Distinguished Contribution)
1995	Alice F. Chang (Distinguished Contribution)
1996	Maria P. P. Root (Distinguished Contribution)
1997	Yoshito Kawahara (Distinguished Contribution)
1998	Frederick Leong & Katsuyuki Sakamoto (Distinguished Contribution)
1999	Gayle Iwamasa (Early Career) Gordon C. N. Hall (Distinguished Contribution) Richard M. Suinn (Lifetime Contribution)
2000	Sumie Okazaki (Early Career) Christine Iijima Hall (Distinguished Contribution)
2001	Christine J. Yeh & Jeannette Hsu (Early Career) Jean Lau Chin (Distinguished Contribution)
2002	Richard M. Lee (Early Career) George Hong (Distinguished Contribution) Reiko Homma True (Okura Community Leadership) Ford Kuramoto (Friend of AAPA) Patrick Okura (Presidential Award)
2003	Bryan S. K. Kim & Jeanne Tsai (Early Career) John Moritsugu (Distinguished Contribution) Reiko Homma True (Lifetime Achievement) Luke Kim (Friend of AAPA) Allen Ivey (Presidential Award)
2004	Alvin Alvarez (Early Career) Larke N. Huang & Jeffrey S. Mio (Distinguished Contribution) Alice F. Chang (Lifetime Achievement) Barbara W. K. Yee (Okura Community Leadership) Paul B. Pedersen (Friend of AAPA) Anthony Marsella & James Jones (Presidential Award)
2005	Kevin Chun and Barry Chung (Early Career) Yu-Wen Ying (Distinguished Contribution) Richard Suinn (Okura Community Leadership) Norman Anderson (Friend of AAPA) Daniel Inouye and Ruby Takanishi (Presidential Award)

Note: The AAPA awards began in 1985 with Robert Chin as the first recipient. No awards were given during some years because the AAPA conference was not held annually during the early 1980s, and the awards were given during the conference.

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contained some original pieces as well as reprints of papers by association members that had appeared in other publications. Albert Yee assumed the editorship of the journal during his presidency (1979–1982). Between 1983 and 1989, Martin R. Wong assumed the editorship of the journal and began soliciting and publishing original pieces, including brief articles by Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga (of Hawaii), in the 1984 issue, calling for greater political action in Asian American communities.

In 1990, the association once again changed the format of its regular communication with its members. In resuming the regular publication of the association newsletter (now titled *Asian American Psychologist*), the association leadership planned to use the newsletter to communicate the association's news and to use the journal and monograph format to publish research and theory pieces. Jeffrey S. Tanaka was appointed as the journal's editor at the time, but no issues were published between 1990 and 1992, at the time of Tanaka's untimely death, or subsequently. The history monograph written by Frederick Leong in 1995 is the only monograph published by the AAPA to date.

Significant Conferences for the Field

For Asian American psychologists, one of the key conferences that helped coalesce the field was the San Francisco conference on Asian American mental health. In 1971, as a result of contacts among K. Patrick Okura (then executive assistant director of NIMH), James Ralph (chief of the Center for Minority Mental Health Programs), and the Asian American Social Workers Organization, NIMH agreed to fund the first national conference on Asian American mental health. This 1972 conference, which was held in San Francisco, was intended to convene 81 delegates from throughout the nation to examine the mental health needs and priorities of Asian Americans. Conference organizers expected another 300 to 400 persons as participants/observers. However, more than 600 individuals attended, giving rise to much conflict and tension. Demands emerged for giving all participants voices as delegates, and tensions developed between different factions, for example, grassroots constituency versus agency

professional groups. The more-militant versus the less-militant approaches to confronting the governmental agencies were discussed. Underlying the tension were feelings of frustration and anger over years of inadequate services and programs for Asian and Pacific American communities. Details concerning some of the problems and tensions of that conference were documented in Sue and Chin (1976) and also briefly reviewed by Sue and Morishima (1982).

Another landmark conference was the 1976 National Asian American Psychology Training Conference. With encouragement from Patrick Okura, who was the executive assistant to the NIMH director as well as on the board of the AAPA, Stanley Sue wrote a conference grant proposal to the NIMH to convene a national conference on the training of mental health service providers to serve Asian American communities. After two years of planning, the conference was held in Long Beach, California, on July 31–August 1, 1976. Albert H. Yee, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at California State University, Long Beach, and on the AAPA board, was instrumental in securing the conference site. The report of the conference (Sue & Chin, 1976) details both the process and the substantive content of the conference. The report contains a number of recommendations for training of psychologists to deliver mental health services to Asian Americans (e.g., increase the number of bilingual, bicultural trainees; establish a training center specific to meeting the needs of Asian American clients; explore alternative models of psychological treatments for Asian Americans rather than rely solely on Western models of psychotherapy, etc.).

More than a quarter of a century after the first Asian American mental health conference was held in San Francisco in 1972, the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) convened an Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Summit on July 10–12, 1999, in Washington, D.C. This conference was the brainchild of a Vietnamese American psychiatrist, Tiffany Ho, who worked at CMHS. Leaders from government, academia, and the community were invited to this summit to discuss the mental health needs of Asian Americans and Pacific

Islanders across the country. A strategic planning committee was formed, and in July 2000, the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA) was formed with D. J. Ida as its executive director.

Finally, at the 2005 AAPA annual convention in Washington, D.C., the association celebrated 20 years of consecutive annual conventions. The 1985 convention was chaired by Nolan Zane, with Herbert Wong as president. Before 1985, the AAPA had held sporadic conventions according to where APA was holding its annual convention. Whenever APA had chosen to hold their conference in a city with significant numbers of Asian Americans (e.g., San Francisco, Los Angeles, or New York), AAPA was able to get sufficient turnout to hold their conference. Ironically, the decision in 1985 to hold an annual AAPA convention, regardless of which city was hosting the APA convention, resulted in a certain level of continuity and stability that led to considerable growth in the association which, in turn, led to a sufficient turnout at each convention.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ASIAN AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

With the move to an annual convention format, as well as a tremendous increase in the number of younger members, the AAPA became a very stable organization that saw considerable growth during the past two decades. The membership of AAPA grew from 229 members in 1984 to close to 500 members in 2005. Within this shift toward a younger membership, a variety of activities were developed to meet the needs of these members, including the establishment of a book sale at the annual convention that provides the funds to support scholarships that enable selected students to attend and present at the annual convention. This was followed by the establishment of the mentor-mentee lunch at the annual convention, the dissertation awards, and presentations of the student awards at the annual awards banquet. At the same time, K. Patrick Okura and his wife, Lily Okura, established the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation, which funded a fellowship that enabled many younger AAPA members to learn

about advocacy and public policy issues in Washington, D.C.

At the same time, the awards program of the Asian American Psychological Association also witnessed a parallel growth and expansion. As shown in Table 2.2, the AAPA award program began with the presentation of the Distinguished Contributions Award to Robert Chin in 1985. Before then, awards were not given consistently because the association was not yet holding conventions on an annual basis. From 1985 to 1998, the major award given out by the association was that of the Distinguished Contributions Award. In 1991, during the presidency of Nolan Zane, Frederick Leong had noted that the association would be celebrating its 20th anniversary at the 1992 convention, and the decision was made to give a Special Presidential Award to Derald Sue and Stanley Sue. It had been a tradition within AAPA that the winner of the Distinguished Contribution Awards would become chair of the Awards Committee the following year. In 1998, Leong was appointed as chair of the Awards Committee and with the support of President Reiko True, he decided to expand the awards program by instituting the Early Career Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1999, the first Early Career Award was given to Gayle Iwamasa and the first Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Richard Suinn. After some discussion, it was also decided that the Special Presidential Awards given to our AAPA founders, Derald Sue and Stanley Sue, be redesignated as Lifetime Achievement Awards. The awards program continued to grow with the addition of the Friend of AAPA Award, the Okura Award, and the Presidential Awards.

In 1995, Christine Hall was elected as the first female president of the Asian American Psychological Association. This was followed by three consecutive female presidents: Reiko True (1997–1999), Gayle Iwamasa (1999–2001), and J.-C. Gisela Lin (2001–2003). During Hall's presidency (1995–1997), she made it her presidential goal to improve the structure and functioning of the association. Many of her initiatives have helped stabilize the association. These initiatives included establishing a headquarters for AAPA in Phoenix, Arizona, with a permanent mailing address and voice mail;

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creating the secretary/historian position, which was filled first by Sumie Okazaki; and regulating the renewal of membership more closely. In addition, Christine Hall, with the help of Richard Kim, launched the Web site of the AAPA in April 1996. Until that point, the association newsletter had been the primary form of communication and news for the membership. The AAPA Web site has continued to grow and has become a focal point of communication for the association. A couple of years earlier, the association had also established a Listserv as another forum for member communication. This Listserv was first hosted by Richard Suinn at Colorado State University and eventually transferred to Alvin Alvarez at San Francisco State University.

In 1997, Reiko True became the president of the AAPA and brought financial stability to the association with several significant financial contributions to the annual convention (which was the biggest budget item). At that same time, the AAPA Executive Committee also voted to formally recognize the Division on Women. This was also the time when the association lent its support for the appointment of Bill Lann Lee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Other association activities spearheaded by True included supporting (a) the formation of regional and networking groups, (b) the National Multicultural Summit and Conference, and (c) publication of *Guidelines for Research with Ethnic Minority Communities* (Council of National Psychological Association for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests, 2000) (with Stanley and Derald Sue writing the lead article), a monograph in the series published by the APA and by the Council of National Psychological Association for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests of which AAPA is a member.

Reiko True was succeeded by Gayle Iwamasa as president of AAPA in 1999 in an election whereby Iwamasa (president) and Kawahara (vice president) ran as a joint-slate. Iwamasa took the initiative during her presidency to further improve the structure and functioning of the association. This included consulting with an attorney and getting the association incorporated, as well as obtaining tax-exempt status. At the same time, she firmly established the procedures for offering

continuing education credits as part of the annual convention while continuing with the tradition of organizing regional conferences, including one in San Diego. Iwamasa also undertook some significant changes to the association bylaws.

J.-C. Gisela Lin became the president of AAPA in 2001 and oversaw the 30th anniversary celebration of the AAPA's founding with a major celebration at the 2002 annual convention in Chicago. This celebration included a reception and a symposium during the APA's annual convention. During her presidency, Lin established the K. Patrick Okura Community Leadership Award and the Dissertation Award. She also supported the trial run for a special discussion forum for student members, moderated by Tai Chang. Lin's major presidential initiative was the commissioning of the association's comprehensive needs assessment in 2001–2002 to aid in long-term and strategic planning for the AAPA. The results of this needs assessment is reported in the winter 2003 issue of the *Asian American Psychologist*, the AAPA newsletter. The results of the needs assessment were also presented and discussed at a town hall meeting at the 2002 AAPA convention in Chicago.

During his presidency from 2003 to 2005, Frederick Leong had the primary goal of improving the structure and functioning of the association. This was accomplished by the passage of several important bylaw changes. The first bylaw change involved establishing a new category of membership of fellows, which recognizes distinguished members for outstanding and unusual contributions to Asian American psychology. As part of that process, AAPA also grandfathered in some members as fellows of the association. The decision was made to automatically grant fellow status to the most distinguished members of our association, namely our Lifetime Achievement Award winners, Distinguished Contributions Award winners, as well as past presidents of the association (see Tables 2.1 and 2.2). At the 2005 AAPA convention, with Gordon Hall as chair of the Fellows Committee, D. J. Ida and Allen Ivey were inducted as the new fellows of the association.

The second major bylaw change that was passed involved the formation of the Council of Past Presidents (COPP). Together with the

fellows category, the COPP was established to recognize the important contributions that these "senior" members of our association can make. It was envisioned that future presidents and executive committees of the AAPA could benefit from the advice and wisdom of the COPP. The third and final bylaw change was to create a mechanism for formation of new divisions. With the leadership of Alice Chang and others, the Division on Women was formed in 1996. The Division on Women has been an important and integral part of AAPA. In addition, there are plans under way for the formation of a student division under the leadership of Szu-Hui Lee. It is hoped that with the passage of these bylaws, some group of like-minded members who would like to organize themselves to share information, resources, and support can take advantage of this new mechanism. Although this did not require a bylaw change, a fourth and equally important structural change that Fred Leong made during his term of office was to initiate the association's policies and procedures manual.

Leong's other accomplishments during his presidency included the launching of this book, the second edition of the *Handbook of Asian American Psychology*, with several members of the executive committee as coeditors (Inman, Ebreo, Yang, Kinoshita, and Fu) and many AAPA members as contributing authors. The royalties from this handbook will be donated to AAPA. Another significant development during this particular administration of the AAPA was the production and distribution of the Digital History Project (DHP). Leong initiated the DHP when he began to notice that some of the historical documents of the association were gradually being lost. With the help of the secretary/historian, Irene Kim, Leong had all of the documents within the AAPA historical archives scanned and digitized onto CD. The DHP CD was then distributed to all members of the executive committee and made available to both members and nonmembers for a nominal price.

SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF ASIAN AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

A historical review of Asian American psychology would not be complete without an analysis

of the substantive content areas of the field. Referring again to the history monograph by Leong (1995), we find that he had used the bibliography by Leong and Wittfield (1992), titled *Asians in the United States: Abstracts of the Psychological and Behavior Literature 1967–1991*, as the basis for identifying the content areas that have been most heavily researched with regard to Asian American psychology for that period. Using the topic classification provided by PsycINFO, Leong (1995) found that the most frequently researched area written about in journal articles was social processes and social issues, which constituted 22.9% of the journal articles on Asians published between 1967 and 1991. This, in turn, was followed by health and mental health treatment and prevention (19.3%), educational psychology (11.5%), and psychological and physical disorders (10.6%).

To examine possible convergences in this pattern, Leong (1995) also analyzed the dissertation literature on Asians in the United States between the years 1967 and 1991. Consistent with the findings for the journal articles, the primary area covered by dissertations was also that of social processes and social issues, which constituted 28.7% of that literature. However, this was closely followed by educational psychology (25.8%), which was double that of the journal articles. In addition, unlike the journal articles, 13.4% of the dissertations focused on developmental psychology, as opposed to only 9.5% of the journal articles. In summary, it appeared that social processes and social issues were the most heavily researched areas of Asian American psychology during that period. On the other hand, considerably more attention was focused on health and mental health treatment and prevention within the journal articles than within the dissertation studies. Dissertation topics tended to focus more on developmental psychology and educational psychology. The journal articles tended to focus on treatment and prevention, psychological and physiological disorders, and, to a lesser extent, educational psychology.

The relative amount of attention devoted to treatment, prevention, and psychological disorders is important in light of continuing criticism that the AAPA, like the APA, has been dominated

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by clinical and counseling psychologists. Thus, it appears that the journal literature from 1967 to 1991 appears to mirror the specialty training and background of the AAPA membership. However, it should be noted that this is a complex problem, and we cannot assume a direct linkage between these two trends. For example, the lower level of coverage of the “clinical” topics among dissertations may be due to the fact that those studies (which require access to clinical populations) may be more difficult for doctoral students to undertake.

Leong (1995) proposed that another way of obtaining an overview of the research content of Asian American psychology was to identify the leading contributors to the Asian American psychological literature from the years 1967–1991. He suggested that in examining these individuals for their primary areas of research and contribution, we might identify the more popular specialty areas within the field. In examining the citation at the end of the Leong and Wittfield volume (1992), it was discovered that the leading contributors to the Asian American psychological literature were Ronald C. Johnson (22 articles), Joseph Westermeyer (19), Stanley Sue (18), David Kinsey (18), Craig T. Nagoshi (13), Anthony Marsella (11), Harry H. Kitano (11), Donald Atkinson (10), Jacquelyn H. Flaskerud (10), Frederick T. L. Leong (10), Kay Midlan (10), and Joe Yamamoto (10).

Leong (1995) noted that, with few exceptions, most of these researchers focused on mental health issues of Asian Americans. For example, Joseph Westermeyer’s work was primarily focused on immigrant and refugee mental health, whereas Stanley Sue’s work was focused on Asian American mental health, community issues, and mental health treatment. David Kinsey also researched immigrant and refugee issues, and Anthony Marsella researched issues related to mental disorders among Asian Americans.

Before the formation of the AAPA and the pioneering work of Stanley Sue, Derald Sue, and their colleagues, much of the psychological research on Asian Americans was conducted by a handful of social scientists, such as Abe Arkoff at the University of Hawaii, Harry Kitano at UCLA, and Stanley Fong at San Francisco

State University. Most of this early research was published in the 1960s and is reviewed in Sue and Morishima’s (1982) book on the mental health of Asian Americans.

Moving to a higher level of analysis, another perspective on substantive content within Asian American psychology would be to analyze the PsycINFO coverage of the topic over the past decade and a half. Using 1991 as the starting point, as Leong and Whitfield (1992) covered literature until that period, we find 1,834 entries on Asians from 1967 to 1991. Incidentally, Asians, rather than Asian Americans, is the preferred indexing term in PsycINFO because there are Asians in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Brazil, and many other countries. We could then plot the growth of the field by various time periods from 1991. Using the time periods established by the PsycINFO database, we found that the number of entries devoted to Asians grew from 1,834 in 1967–1991 to 2,739 in 1994, which was a 49% increase. It continued to grow from 2,739 entries in 1994 to 3,558 entries in 1997 (another 29% increase), from 3,558 to 4,147 in 1999 (16% increase), from 4,147 to 5,148 in 2002 (24% increase), and finally from 5,148 to 6,045 in 2005 (17% increase). Put differently, the coverage of Asians in the psychological literature as represented in PsycINFO grew 229% in the 14 years from 1991 to 2005.

Another perspective on the coverage of substantive areas is to review the various books that have been published on this topic. Although there have been numerous books published on Asian Americans from the perspective of Asian American Studies (e.g., Kitano and Daniels’s *Asian Americans: Emerging Minorities*, first published in 1988 with subsequent editions published in 1995 and 2000), our present focus is on books with a psychological focus. The first two volumes on this topic were published by Stanley Sue and his colleagues: (a) *Asian Americans: Psychological Perspectives*, coedited by Stanley Sue and Nathaniel Wagner in 1973; and (b) *Asian Americans: Social and Psychological Perspectives, Volume 2*, coedited by Russell Endo, Stanley Sue, and Nathaniel Wagner in 1980. With the increasing attention paid to this population and the growing literature, Stanley Sue obtained a grant with James Morishima

from the NIMH to provide an overview to the Asian American mental health literature. The *Handbook of Asian American/Pacific Islander Mental Health, Volume 1* (1980) was published by NIMH with Morishima, Sue, Teng, Zane, and Cram as coeditors. This volume was essentially an annotated bibliography, with Volume 2 providing the critical analysis of the literature. Volume 2 was later published as the now classic *Mental Health of Asian Americans* by Stanley Sue and James Morishima (1982). An updated annotated bibliography titled *Asians in the United States: Abstracts of the Psychological and Behavioral Literature, 1967–1991* was later coedited by Leong and Whitfield (1992) and published by APA as part of the bibliography series on racial and ethnic minority groups. Incidentally, the Morishima et al. NIMH bibliography contained 401 entries, whereas the Leong and Whitfield bibliography covered 1,750 entries. As mentioned earlier in this chapter, a recent search of the PsycINFO database found 6,045 entries on Asians as of October 2005. This tremendous growth in the literature probably parallels the fact that Asian Americans have been one of the fastest-growing ethnic minority groups in the United States, with projections that they will move from 10.9 million in 2002 to 37 million in 2050.

While the Sue and Morishima (1982) volume on the mental health of Asian Americans has remained a classic in the field, other volumes had also begun to emerge. For example, Laura Uba published her *Asian Americans: Personality Patterns, Identity, and Mental Health* in 1994, which many have considered to be an update and successor to the Sue and Morishima (1982) volume. Some years later, Uba (2002) published *A Postmodern Psychology of Asian Americans: Creating Knowledge of a Racial Minority*, a volume in which she suggested that Asian American psychology can move in a new direction by incorporating a postmodern perspective into our scholarship and teaching. Other volumes were devoted to specialty topics within Asian American psychology, for example, Zane, Takeuchi, and Young's (1994) volume on health psychology, titled *Confronting Critical Health Issues of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans* (Sage). Other examples of specialty books include Kurasaki, Okasaki, and Sue's (2002)

Asian American Mental Health: Assessment Theories and Methods, which focused on assessment, and Evelyn Lee's (1997) *Working With Asian Americans: A Guide for Clinicians*, which focused on therapy and treatment. One of the most recent additions to the book literature is *Asian American Psychology: The Science of Lives in Context*, coedited by Gordon C. Nagayama Hall and Sumie Okazaki (2002). The chapters for this book were presented at a one-day "think-tank" meeting during the 2000 AAPA convention, and the feedback and comments from the think-tank participants were incorporated into the final versions of the chapters. Of course, one knows that most fields of inquiry have actually matured when they launch a handbook, and this occurred with the publication of the first edition of the *Handbook of Asian American Psychology* (Lee & Zane, 1998). The second edition of the *Handbook of Asian American Psychology*, in which this present chapter appears, was an AAPA presidential initiative of Frederick Leong with several members of his executive committee (Arpana Inman, Angela Ebreo, Lawrence Yang, Lisa Kinoshita, and Michi Fu).

FORECASTING THE FUTURE

Despite the tremendous advances and accomplishments of Asian American psychology in its first three decades, there are many areas in Asian American psychology that need further research and clinical attention. In this section, we describe the results of a survey of the experts in the field regarding important areas for future development in Asian American psychology.

Method

As the forecasting tool, we used the Delphi polling method (Linstone & Turoff, 1975; Turoff & Linstone, 2002). Consistent with the first step of the Delphi method, a pool of identified experts (23 AAPA charter fellows) was contacted by e-mail, telephone, or both² to ask for their participation. On agreement, a telephone interview was scheduled and conducted with each of the respondents. Participants were also given the option of responding to the interview

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questions in writing instead of through the phone interview. Respondents were asked their opinions regarding the future of Asian American psychology, the field's progress in important research topics, service availability and delivery, education and training of psychologists, and understudied populations, among many other topics. The interviews were recorded for later analyses.

Based on an analysis and synthesis of the initial interviews, items were generated to create a three-part questionnaire. Part 1 (40 items) asked about the experts' thoughts regarding the field's progress and interest in the next 10 years in various topics, issues, or areas pertaining to theory, research, and practice. For example, "Within the next 10 years, how much progress (in terms of research, publications, knowledge base, approved grant applications, approved research funding, community programs, services, interest) do you think the field of Asian American psychology *WILL* have regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Asians?" Part 2 (17 items) is divided into two sections and asked the experts about (Section 1) their thoughts regarding how much the field will increase or decrease the number of various training opportunities and (Section 2) their thoughts regarding the field's progress and interest in the next 10 years in various topics, issues, or areas pertaining to the training and preparation of psychologists. For example, (Section 1) "Within the next 10 years, how much do you think the field of Asian American psychology *WILL* increase or decrease the number of training workshops on Asian American psychology?" and (Section 2) "Regarding the training and preparation of psychologists within the next 10 years, how much progress (in terms of workshops, seminars, classes, doctoral programs, internships, etc.) do you think the field of Asian American psychology *WILL* have addressing culturally appropriate research methods?" Part 3 (26 items) asked about participants' thoughts regarding AAPA's progress and interest in the next 10 years in various topics, issues, or areas that are of concern to the organization. For example, "Within the next 10 years, how much progress do you think the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA) *WILL* have in its efforts to bring Asian American psychology into mainstream psychology?"

Except for the items in Section 1 of Part 2, the respondents were given five answer choices for all items: No progress, with significant decrease in interest and activity; No progress, with slight decrease in interest and activity; Very little to no change; Good progress, with continued interest and activity; and Significant progress, with increased interest and activity.

For Section 1 of Part 2 (Training and Preparation), the answer choices were Significant decrease, Slight decrease, No change, Slight increase, and Significant increase.

Immediately following each of the three parts, the respondents were asked to rate the top five most important topics, issues, or areas they think *SHOULD* be given more attention by the field or by the AAPA (for Part 3).

Results and Discussion

Nineteen AAPA charter fellows agreed to respond to the interview questions, either through the telephone or by writing. After analysis and synthesis of their responses and development of the questionnaire items, the survey was sent to all of the charter fellows regardless of whether they participated in the interview round. The survey round yielded 19 respondents (11 males and 8 females), the majority of them being Chinese American descent ($n = 12$).²

Overall, the predictions of the panel were optimistic, suggesting that they viewed Asian American psychology as continuing its progress across all of its endeavors. To identify the aggregate ranking of all the topics, issues, or areas that the experts believe will experience significant progress and are the most important, we gave numerical weights to the experts' predictions. Specifically, a response of "No progress, with significant decrease in interest and activity" was weighted as 1, "No progress, with slight decrease in interest and activity" was weighted as 2, "Very little to no change" was weighted as 3, "Good progress, with continued interest and activity" was weighted as 4, and "Significant progress, with increased interest and activity" was weighted as 5. (Note: The same weighting system was also used for Part 2, Section 1, with "Significant decrease" = 1, "Slight decrease" = 2, etc.). This coding system was also used for the parts of the questionnaire in

which the panel was asked to select and rank-order the top five topics, issues, or areas they think *SHOULD* be given more attention, with a first place vote = 5 points, second place = 4 points, third place = 3 points, fourth place = 2 points, and fifth place = 1 point.

Part 1. Theory, Research, and Practice

According to the panel, the topic, issue, or area that they predicted would experience the most amount of progress within the next 10 years is cultural competence (see Table 2.3). Fifty-two percent of the experts believed that cultural competence will experience “Significant progress, with increased interest and activity.” An additional 37% predicted “Good progress, with continued interest and activity” on cultural competence in the next 10 years. Rounding out the top five topics, issues, or areas in terms of Asian American psychological theory, research, and practice were multiracial Asian Americans; multiethnic Asian Americans; biculturalism/bicultural competence, and cultural identity. Also shown in Table 2.3 are the topics, issues, or areas that need the most attention. According to the panel, cultural competence was the most important topic, issue, or area that needs to be addressed, followed by empirically supported treatments, culture-specific constructs (e.g., neurasthenia, loss of face, etc.), Asian coping styles, and cultural identity.

Part 2. Training and Preparation of Psychologists

The panel predicted that the number of doctoral students specializing in Asian American psychology will increase significantly within the next 10 years. They also predicted that the number of training workshops in Asian American psychology, seminars or classes in Asian American psychology, doctoral programs with faculty specializing in Asian American psychology, and predoctoral internships specifically tailored for Asian American psychology will increase within 10 years. On Section 2, the panel predicted that the training and preparation topic, issue, or area that will experience the most amount of progress is cultural competence in service delivery, receiving a “Significant progress, with increased

interest and activity” prediction from 26% of the panel and a “Good progress, with continued interest and activity” prediction from an additional 68%. Ranked second through fifth were ethnic-specific competence, culturally appropriate research methods, clinical skills development, and empirically supported treatments. Table 2.4 presents the training opportunities (Section 1) and topics, issues, or areas (Section 2) that the panel believed deserve more attention. Cultural competence in service delivery topped the list, followed by culturally appropriate research methods, empirically supported treatments, clinical skills development, and ethnic-specific competence.

One major theme that arises from these results is the relative importance that the panel of experts placed on the need for current and future psychologists to become more culturally competent in all aspects of their professional careers. More specifically, these results indicate that current and future psychologists need to learn and utilize Asian-specific and culturally appropriate techniques and strategies in both research and service settings.

Part 3. Social/Organizational

According to the panel, within the next 10 years, AAPA will have the most progress in its efforts to attract new members into the organization, receiving a “Significant progress, with increased interest and activity” prediction from 26% of the panel and a “Good progress, with continued interest and activity” prediction from an additional 63%. Completing the top five were to become more inclusive of other Asian groups, become more sensitive to women’s issues, attract young people into the discipline, and improve the scientific basis of Asian American psychology. Table 2.5 displays the topics, issues, or areas that the panel believed deserve more AAPA attention. The top five are to improve the political basis of Asian American psychology, improve the scientific basis of Asian American psychology, become more inclusive of other Asian ethnic groups, bring Asian American psychology into mainstream psychology, and politically advocate for issues affecting Asian American communities.

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Table 2.3 Rankings of Topics, Issues, or Areas in Terms of Theory, Research, and Practice

<i>Predictions Within the Next 10 Years</i>			<i>Topics, Issues, Areas Needing Attention</i>		
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Topic, Issue, or Area</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Topic, Issue, or Area</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
1	Cultural Competence	84	1	Cultural Competence	44
2	Multiracial AA	78	2	Empirically Supported Treatments	24
2	Multiethnic AA	78	3	Culture-Specific Constructs	19
2	Biculturalism	78	4	Asian Coping Styles	17
5	Cultural Identity	77	4	Cultural Identity	17
6	Multiracial Marriages	76	6	Multiethnic AA	12
7	Family Issues	75	6	Family Issues	12
8	The Elderly	74	6	Domestic Violence	12
9	Immigrant Populations	73	9	Multiracial Marriages	11
10	AA Females	71	10	Multiracial AA	10
11	LGBT	71	10	Immigrant Populations	10
12	South Asians	71	10	Development of Culture-Specific Assessment Instruments	10
12	Expressions of Cultural Values	71	13	The Elderly	9
12	Domestic Violence	71	13	Expressions of Cultural Values	9
15	Acculturation	70	13	Acculturation	9
16	Empirically Supported Treatments	69	16	Racism	8
16	Parenting Issues	69	17	Youths and Gangs	7
16	Substance Abuse	69	18	AA Males	6
19	Youths and Gangs	68	19	AA Females	5
19	Development of Culture-Specific Assessment Instruments	68	19	Substance Abuse	5
21	Vietnamese Americans	67	21	Contemporary Oppression	4
21	Asian Coping Styles	67	21	Parenting Issues	4
21	Culture-Specific Constructs	67	21	Media Portrayal of Asians	4
21	Generation Gaps	67	24	Stigma of Mental Disorders	4
25	Racism	66	25	Biculturalism	3
25	Contemporary Oppression	66	25	Underutilization & Termination	3
25	Stigma of Mental Disorders	66	27	LGBT	2
28	Filipino Americans	65	27	Racialization	2
28	Media Portrayal of Asians	65	27	How AA Communities Function	2
28	Sexual Risk Behaviors	65	30	Generation Gaps	1
31	Underutilization & Termination	64	31	Extended Families	0
32	AA Males	63	32	Asian Refugees	0
33	Asian Refugees	62	32	Filipino Americans	0
33	Racialization	62	32	South Asians	0
33	How AA Communities Function	62	32	Vietnamese Americans	0
36	Transnationalism	61	32	Lao	0
37	Extended Families	60	32	Transnationalism	0
38	Lao	58	32	Historical Oppression	0
39	Historical Oppression	54	32	Colonization	0
40	Colonization	49	32	Sexual Risk Behaviors	0

Note: AA, Asian Americans; LGBT, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender.

Table 2.4 Rankings of Opportunities, Topics, Issues, or Areas in Terms of Training and Preparation

<i>Predictions Within the Next 10 Years</i>			<i>Opportunities, Topics, Issues, or Areas Needing Attention</i>		
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Training Opportunities (Section 1)</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Opportunities, Topic, Issue, or Area</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
1	Doctoral Students Specializing in AA	77	1	Cultural Competence in Service Delivery	60
2	Training Workshops on AA Psychology	75	2	Culturally Appropriate Research Methods	55
2	Seminars or Classes in AA Psychology	75	3	Empirically Supported Treatments	29
4	Doctoral Programs With Faculty Specializing in AA Psychology	67	4	Clinical Skills Development	26
4	Predocutorial Internships Tailored for AA	67	5	Developing Ethnic-Specific Competence	20
6	Postdoctoral Internships Tailored for AA	66	6	Seminars or Classes in AA Psychology	19
6	Predocutorial Training Grants for AA Research	66	6	Doctoral Programs With Faculty Specializing in AA Psychology	19
8	Postdoctoral Training Grants for AA Research	64	8	Training Workshops on AA Psychology	16
			9	Experimental Research Paradigms	10
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Topic, Issue, or Area (Section 2)</i>	<i>Total Points</i>			
1	Cultural Competence in Service Delivery	80	10	Indigenous Psychology Research Paradigms	9
2	Developing Ethnic-Specific Competence	76	11	Postdoctoral Training Grants for AA Research	7
3	Culturally Appropriate Research Methods	74	12	Predocutorial Training Grants for AA Research	4
4	Clinical Skills Development	73	12	Self-Examination of Prejudice	4
5	Empirically Supported Treatments	71	14	Predocutorial Internships Tailored for AA	3
6	Consciousness Raising	69	14	Postdoctoral Internships Tailored for AA	3
6	Experimental Research Paradigms	69	16	Consciousness Raising	1
8	Indigenous Psychology Research Paradigms	67	17	Doctoral Students Specializing in AA	0
9	Self-Examination of Prejudice	60			

Note: AA, Asian Americans.

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Table 2.5 Rankings of Social/Organizational Topics, Issues, or Areas

<i>Predictions Within the Next 10 Years</i>			<i>Topics, Issues, Areas Needing Attention</i>		
<i>Rank</i>	<i>Topic, Issue, or Area</i>	<i>Total Points</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Topic, Issue, or Area</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
1	Attract New Members	79	1	Improve the Political Basis	38
2	Be More Inclusive of Other Asians	76	2	Improve the Scientific Basis	36
2	Be More Sensitive to Women's Issues	76	3	Be More Inclusive of Other Asians	28
2	Attract Young People Into AA Psychology	76	4	Bring AA Psychology Into Mainstream Psychology	25
5	Improve the Scientific Basis	74	5	Politically Advocate for AA Community	21
6	Create Systematic Mentoring	73	6	Have Research Influence Policy	19
7	Improve the Political Basis	72	6	Attract New Members	19
7	Politically Advocate for AA Community	72	8	Create Systematic Mentoring	17
7	Have Research Influence Policy	72	9	Reestablish a Scientific Journal	13
10	Pay More Attention to Asians and Asian Issues	71	10	Collaborate and Make Alliances With AA Community Organizations	12
10	Bring AA Psychology Into Mainstream Psychology	71	11	Educate the Mainstream About Variability in AA Population	10
10	Collaborate and Make Alliances With Other Ethnic Minority Organizations	71	12	Attract Young People Into AA Psychology	9
13	Be More Inclusive of Pacific Islanders	70	13	Be More Inclusive of Pacific Islanders	6
13	Increase Representation Outside of California	70	14	Collaborate and Make Alliances With Other Ethnic Minority Organizations	4
15	Increase the Visibility of AAPA in the Media	69	14	Improve AA Community's Perception of Psychology	4
16	Collaborate and Make Alliances With AA Community Organizations	68	16	Pay More Attention to Asians and Asian Issues	3
16	Make Information More Easily Accessible to AA	68	16	Be More Sensitive to Women's Issues	3
16	Improve AA Community's Perception of Psychology	68	16	Reach AA in Areas With Low Concentration of AA	3
19	Educate the Mainstream About Variability Within AA Population	67	16	Make Information More Easily Accessible to AA	3
19	Educate AA About Variability Within AA Population	67	16	Make Better Connections With the Younger Generations	3

19	Make Better Connections With the Younger Generations	67	22	Increase the Visibility of AAPA in the Media	2
23	Integrate Multiple Disciplines Into the Field of AA Psychology	66	23	Clearly Disseminate Knowledge to AA Communities	2
23	Reestablish a Scientific Journal	66	24	Collaborate and Make Alliances With Organizations in Asia	1
25	Reach AA in Areas With Low Concentration of AA	62	24	Increase Representation Outside of California	1
26	Collaborate and Make Alliances With Organizations in Asia	60	26	Educate AA About Variability Within AA Population	0

Note: AA, Asian American; AAPA, Asian American Psychological Association.

Three major themes arise from these results: (a) AAPA, as an organization, needs to increase the number of its members and address the needs of its current members; (b) AAPA needs to solidify its political influence through several strategies; and (c) AAPA needs to become more responsive to the needs of the Asian American community. Based on the initial interviews, an overwhelming majority of the experts believe that although attracting new and younger members into the organization or Asian American psychology is important, AAPA also needs to address the concerns of its current members. For instance, many fellows pointed out that many non-Chinese or non-Japanese members feel neglected in both social (e.g., conference activities) and academic (e.g., research activities) settings. It was also a common sentiment among the fellows that the AAPA needs to further strengthen its political influence by increasing collaboration with other ethnic organizations, having research play a more influential role in public policy, and further legitimizing the status of Asian American psychology by increasing the scientific sophistication of its research activities. Finally, the experts also believe that it is important for AAPA, in terms of its activities (e.g., research, service), to become more connected and responsive to issues that Asian American communities perceive as important. Becoming more culturally attuned to the issues and concerns of the community may facilitate an improvement in how Asian American communities perceive psychology and psychologists.

CONCLUSION

Our review of the history of Asian American psychology has shown that AAPA has been at the center of this movement. From a small group of Asian psychologists who met informally in California back in the early 1970s, AAPA has grown to an association with close to 500 members. Some of the leading members of AAPA have played significant roles in advancing the welfare of Americans at the national level. For example, Stanley Sue was involved in the President Carter's Mental Health Commission and more recently authored a chapter for the Surgeon General's Report on Culture, Race, and Ethnicity. Larke Nahme Huang served on the current President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. We even had one of our members serve as a president of APA (Richard Suinn, 1999). Our Delphi poll also confirmed that AAPA will remain an active and vibrant association concerned with advancing the welfare of Asian Americans through psychology for the foreseeable future.

NOTES

1. In 1991, the Board for the Advancement of the Public Interest in Psychology (BAPIP) replaced BSERP and BEMA. This merger was accomplished by James M. Jones, the executive director of the Public Interest Directorate (Smith, 1992).

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2. We gratefully acknowledge the following AAPA charter members who participated in the Delphi poll in the interview (I) and survey (S) rounds: Alice Chang (I, S), S. Andrew Chen (I, S), Jean Lau Chin (I, S), David Goh (I, S), Christine Iijima Hall (I, S), Gordon C. N. Hall (I, S), George Hong (S), Larke Nahme Huang (I), Gayle Y. Iwamasa (S), Yoshito Kawahara (I, S), Frederick Leong (I, S), J.-C. Gisela Lin (I, S), Chalsa Loo (I, S), Jeffrey S. Mio (I, S), John Moritsugu (I, S), Maria P. P. Root (I), Derald W. Sue (I, S), Stanley Sue (I, S), Reiko Homma True (I, S), Herbert Z. Wong (I, S), and Nolan W. S. Zane (I, S).

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