



If Elephants Could Talk

by Beth Salcedo, MD, ADAA Board President

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ADAA's 2019 Annual Conference quickly approaches! The conference tagline "Transcending Cultural, Racial and Socioeconomic Barriers" was a call to action for presenters. We asked and you delivered. Of our over 160 amazing sessions, 75 will address the topic of diversity! Thank you to each and every one of our presenters.

I am thrilled to have Howard C. Stevenson, PhD, from the University of Pennsylvania with us this year for the Presidential Invited Session on Friday morning. "If Elephants Could Talk: Racial Literacy for Healing Racial Stress in Relationships" will be a riveting discussion by one of our most compelling speakers. Don't miss it.

I also would like to send a special thank you to Angela Neal-Barnett, PhD for her dedication to ADAA and its mission, and for the myriad ways in which she guides us all. She and her group will share with us "Black Infant Mortality: Race-Based Stress and Anxiety Among Black Expectant Mothers." They will also present "Recruiting and Retaining Minorities in the Profession, in the Practice and in the Research: Barriers and Solutions Part II," a response to the overwhelming interest and need we observed at #ADAA2018's Ignite Symposium in DC.

Every day of #ADAA2019 promises to keep you all engaged in provocative and captivating discussion regarding the challenges we face every day as researchers and providers of mental health care to the often multiply marginalized clients. As your professional home, ADAA is committed to hearing our members' feedback and meeting our members' needs. Cultural competence is really a process that lasts a lifetime, and ADAA is thrilled to support that process, in many different ways and on multiple levels.

I know you will enjoy what promises to be our best conference yet and please make sure to share your ideas and hopes for what you would like us to focus on at next year's 40th ADAA Conference in San Antonio. If you haven't yet registered – don't delay. You don't want to miss this wonderful learning and networking opportunity. I look forward to seeing you in Chicago later this month!