Candidate Statements for 2027 NMPA Election

President-Elect

Keely Lundy, PhD

Current Chair of Early Career Psychologist Committee (2025-26). Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Clinical Educator Track, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine, University of New Mexico

I am honored to be nominated for the position of President-Elect for the New Mexico Psychological Association (NMPA). I have always been a proponent of local service and advocacy and regularly encourage my peers and trainees to get involved with this organization. I hope to increase the engagement of both current and prospective members, especially targeting initiatives to bring young and potential leaders into NMPA. I look forward to coordinating a conference in 2027 that is focused on sustaining each other and our community through various efforts, including consultation, supervision, and collaboration.

Treasurer

Denise Rodriguez Esquivel, PhD, DBSM

I would be honored to contribute my time, skills, and commitment to an organization that plays an important role in supporting and advancing our profession. I have a strong appreciation for the work of NMPA and the values it provides to its members and to the broader community of psychologists in our state. Serving as Treasurer would be an opportunity for me to give back, support NMPA's continued success, and help ensure that its financial resources are managed responsibly and in alignment with its mission and priorities.

I have been a licensed psychologist in the state of New Mexico since 2014. I am one of two board certified behavioral sleep medicine specialists in the state. I am the integrated behavioral health specialist in the Sleep Disorders Center at the University of New Mexico Hospitals, where I also serve as a psychologist manager for Integrated Behavioral Health.

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Ethics Committee

Jorge Varela, PhD

I completed my doctoral studies in clinical psychology in 2000 and have been continuously licensed (Alabama, Texas, New Mexico) since 2001. My career comprises 9 years of service in the U.S. Air Force and 17 years as a member of the faculty in the Department of Psychology and Philosophy at Sam Houston State University, which included service as Director of Clinical Training for the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology and Department Chairperson. Since June 2025, I have been a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of New Mexico, where I serve as Vice-Chair for Education, Director of the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Internship, and deliver professional services through the Division of Forensic Behavioral Sciences.

I consider it an obligation to contribute to our profession and our professional community; service on the Ethics Committee is among the best ways to fulfill these obligations. I hope my years of experience in practice and teaching can benefit my fellow New Mexico psychologists. Each of us who practices health service psychology has encountered ethical dilemmas, sometimes very challenging dilemmas. We often work in isolation, especially those of us working in rural areas, and having a fellow psychologist to discuss our concerns can be of tremendous value when navigating ethical challenges. I have benefitted from consultation with colleagues in the past and hope to provide the same for my fellow psychologists in New Mexico. Also, as a recently arrived New Mexican and new NMPA member, I would like to involve myself in the psychology community. Serving on the Ethics Committee provides a way to connect with colleagues around the state and discover points where we can support each other's professional services and professional growth.

Member at Large

Laura Lundy PhD, ABPP-CN, MSCP

I have previously served on the Board of NMPA as the APA Public Education Campaign Chair from 2017 through 2021, and as the President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President from 2022 through 2024. While in those roles, I – along with several other members – created the Neuropsychology Division within NMPA, and after a bit of a hiatus, we are actively promoting the group with the goal of recruiting new members and providing an educational and supportive community for New Mexico neuropsychologists. I enjoyed both my Board roles

greatly and had hoped to be able to continue to participate in some capacity with NMPA again in the future. As the demands of my professional career have increased and diversified over the past few years, I think that the Member-at-Large position would be a perfect fit for my interests in promoting the work of NMPA while allowing me to manage my time efficiently across activities.

Regarding my professional background, I am a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist and I have worked in a variety of settings during my training and as an independent practitioner, including in private practice (both joining a pre-existing practice and starting my own), as a staff neuropsychologist and director of clinical training at UNMH Center for Neuropsychological Services, and as an independent contractor for several of our Native American Pueblos. I currently am the co-owner of Desert Sage Neuropsychology & Psychotherapy in Albuquerque, where I perform both clinical and forensic evaluations. I also earned an MSCP degree, have passed the Psychopharmacology Exam for Psychologists, and am currently accumulating supervised clinical experience hours toward becoming a prescribing psychologist.